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**THE GENDER DIFFERENCES OF RED BLOOD CELL DISTRIBUTION WIDTH IN PATIENTS WITH CORONARY HEART DISEASE**

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Peng Qiang, Su Hai, Wang Ji-Wei, Wu Qiang-Hua, Chen Xiao-shu. The Second Affiliated Hospital and Cardiovascular Institute of Nanchang University

**Objective** To observe the changes of RDW in patients with coronary heart disease (CHD).

**Methods** 287 CHD patients diagnosed by coronary angiography were selected from Jun. 2007 to Jun. 2008. Meanwhile, 286 hypertensive patients and 502 healthy adults were enrolled as control group. Red blood cell count (RBC), Haemoglobin (HGB), red blood cell distribution width (RDW-CV) was detected by full automatic haemocyte analyser (Sysmex XE-2100).

**Results** Compared with hypertension and normal control group, the RDW of CHD group significantly increased. There was no difference between the male RDW in three groups. But the RDW of female CHD subgroup was higher than those of female hypertension and normal subgroups (13.5±0.8 vs 13.0±0.6 vs 13.1±0.8, p<0.05). Meanwhile, the RDW of female CHD subgroup was higher than that of male CHD subgroup also (15.5±0.8 vs 13.1±0.7, p<0.05).

**Conclusion** The RDW in CHD group has gender differences and only female RDW significantly increase.

**CHANGES IN EXPRESSION LEVELS OF SERUM ACTIVIN A IN PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE AND ITS CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

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Liu Miao, Wei Qin, Liu Yuxia. Department of Cardiology, Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, Jilin University Jilin, China

**Objective** The cytokine of the TGF-β superfamily called “activin A” regulates a wide variety of biological events. Recently, it is discovered that ACT-A has played an important role in the occurrence and the development of heart failure, such as promoting myocardial fibrosis and cardiac remodelling. In this paper, we detected the expression levels of serum activin A (ACT-A) in patients with heart failure and compared with brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) to discuss the changes in them and its clinical significance.

**Methods** Patients with CHF were divided into two groups according to the left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and E/A value: LVEF<45% group (Group HFREF, 62 cases), normal LVEF and E/A