

Supplementary material

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Footnote: *hypertension was defined as systolic BP ≥ 140 or diastolic BP ≥ 90 mmHg

Footnote: *Models included sex, age, quadratic age, interaction between heart rate and sex, social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, beta-blockers prescription, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, diabetes II and BMI measured at baseline (stratification by primary care practice). Blood pressure medication variable consisted of BNF codes that refer to diuretics, b-blockers, calcium channel blockers and ACE inhibitors prescription.

INTRODUCTION

Table S1 Summary of cohort studies examining associations of resting heart rate with the onset of CVDs in healthy populations

Author	Country	Design and methods						Endpoints			Results		
		Data sources		Year of study initiation	Sample size	Age	Gender	Mortality only outcomes	N of non-fatal specific diseases	Description of shape of association	Estimates reported for 70-79bpm	Test for sex interaction	Reported comparison and main findings
		Population	EHR										
Kannel et al.(1987)¹	USA	●	○	1948	5,209	35-95	Both	●	0	○	○	○	Per 1bpm increase Finding: No evidence of threshold or association was found.
Gillum et al. (1991)²	USA	●	○	1971	5,995	45-74	Both	●	0	○	○	●	Reference level: <74bpm. Finding: High risk of all-cause, CHD and CVD death for HR>84bpm
Shaper et al (1993)³	UK	●	○	1969	7,735	40-59	Males	●	0	○	●	○	Reference level: <90 Findings: high statistically significant risk of IHD morbidity and mortality and SCD for ≥90bpm but not for 70-to -89
Mensink et al. (1997)⁴	Germany	●	○	1982	4,756	40-80	Both	●	0	○	○	○	Per 20bpm increase Findings: Men: all-cause and CVD mortality HazR=1.7 and 1.7 Women: HazR=1.4 and HazR=1.3 respectively
Benetos et al.⁵ (1999)	France	●	○	1970	19,386	40-69	Both	●	0	○	○	●	Reference level: 60-80bpm In men increased risk for CV, all-cause and non-CV death and CAD events for HR>100bpm. No stroke risk <i>Women: insignificant increased risk for CVD & stroke.</i>
Greenland et al. (1999)	USA	●	○	1967	33,781	18-74	Both	●	0	○	○	○	Per 12 bpm increase associated with increased risk of CHD, CVD mortality in men but <i>not consistently in all ages for women</i>
Palatini et al. (1999)⁶	Italy	●	○	1983	1,938	>65	Both	●	0	○	○	○	Reference level 1st quintile (non-specific values) Elder Men/women (for all-cause mortality, 5 th quintile: RR=1.21/1.13), Cardiovascular mortality: RR=1.55/1.08

Kristal-Boneh et al. (2000)⁷	Israel	●	○	1985	3,527	43	Males	●	0	○	○	○	Reference level: 70-79bpm For >90bpm: All-cause mortality RR=2.23 CVD mortality: RR=2.02. For 80-89bpm no effect was found
Seccareccia et al. (2001)⁸	Italy	●	○	1984	2,533	40-69	Males	●	0	○	●	○	Reference level: <60bpm For ≥90 bpm: All-cause HazR = 2.67 CVD mortality: HazR=2.54 Non-CVD mortality :HazR=2.87
Jouven et al. (2001)⁹	France	●	○	1967	7,746	42-53	Males	MI fatal, SCD	2	○	○	○	For 1 SD increase of HR: Sudden death: HazR=1.28 (1.06-1.61) Fatal MI: HazR=1.05 (0.95-1.16) (multivariable)
Fujiura et al (2001)	Japan	●	○	1977	573	40-64	Males	●	0	○	●	○	Reference level: 60-69bpm For >90bpm: mortality risk :RR=2.68
Okamura et al. (2004)	Japan	●	○	1981	8,800	30	Both	stroke	1	○	○	○	For 11bpm increase: CHD+HF, non-CV and all-cause death: insignificant for both men/women. For highest quartile (HR>74bpm vs <60bpm), CHD+HF HazR=3.99 in younger men. HR not associated with cerebral infarction, cerebral haemorrhage
Tverdal et al. (2008)¹⁰	Norway	●	○	1985	379,843	40-45	Both	●	0	●	○	●	In HR>95bpm vs <80bpm and every 10bpm: SCD insignificant In HR >95bpm vs <65bpm: Stroke death insignificant in both sexes, CVD and IHD death significant only in men
Hsia et al. (2009)¹¹	USA	●	○	1993	129,135	50-79	Women	stroke	1	○	○	○	Reference level 1 st quintile (<62bpm) For HR>76bpm: MI or coronary death: HazR=1.68 Stroke: HazR=1.23 For HR 71-76bpm (4 th quintile), mild risk of HazR=1.21 in both
Cooney et al. (2010)	Finland	●	○	1972	21,853	25-74	Both	●	0	○	○	○	For each 15 bpm: CVD, CHD and total mortality significant in men/women, MI (non-fatal)+CHD death insignificant for men

													>90bpm vs <60bpm was associated with a 2-fold increased risk of CVD mortality in men and 3-fold increased risk in women
Jensen et al. (2012)	Denmark	●	○	1976	6,518	56.2	Males	●	0	○	○	○	For every 10bpm HR: CVD mortality: HazR=1.21. All-cause HazR=1.15
Jensen et al. (2013) ¹²	Denmark	●	○	1970	2,798	63	No	●	0	○	○	○	Reference level: <50bpm 5 th quintile(>90bpm):All-cause mortality risk: HazR=3.06
Nanchen et al. (2013) ¹³	Netherlands	●	○	1993	4,768	≥55	Both	HF	1	○	○	○	Per 10 bpm in men, risk of HF: HazR=1.14 (1.03–1.27) No association found in women
Opdahl et al. (2014)	USA	●	○	2000	6,814	45-84	Both	HF	1	○	○	●	Per 1bpm: Heart failure incidence: HR=1.04(1.02-1.06), Quartile analysis reference level: <57bpm For >69bpm (4 th quartile): HR=3.76 (2.00–7.07). Risk consistent for 2 nd , 3 rd quartiles.
Woodward et al. (2014) ¹⁴	Asia-Pacific region	●	○	-	112,680 (12 cohorts)	51 (mean)	Both	Heart Failure death, Total, haemorrhagic, ischaemic, unclassified stroke	5	●	○	●	For 80p (4 th quartile) v <65 bpm HR=1.44 (1.29–1.60) for CV and 1.54 (1.43–1.66) for total mortality Similarly for ischemic and haemorrhagic stroke HR=2.08 for HF (1.07–4.06) and CHD HR=1.11 lower (0.93–1.31)
CALIBER study	UK	●	○	1997	233,970	>30	Both	●	11	●	●	○	Reference level: <60bpm Heart rates >80bpm have an increased risk of heart failure and unheralded coronary death and a risk of sudden cardiac death for heart rate >90bpm. No association with CAD endpoints, cerebrovascular, or peripheral vascular diseases. Apparent threshold for effect on SCD with the linear association confined to heart rate values >85bpm. In UCD no association with women was found

Abbreviations: HER, electronic health records; HazR, Hazard Ratio; HR, heart rate; Q, quintile; CAD, coronary artery disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; MI, myocardial infarction; HF, heart failure; AF, atrial fibrillation; SCD, sudden cardiac death; In test sex interaction: ● denotes tested and women had similar results as men; ○ denotes weaker associations in women; ○ denotes no testing

METHODS

Figure S1. Study Flow diagram

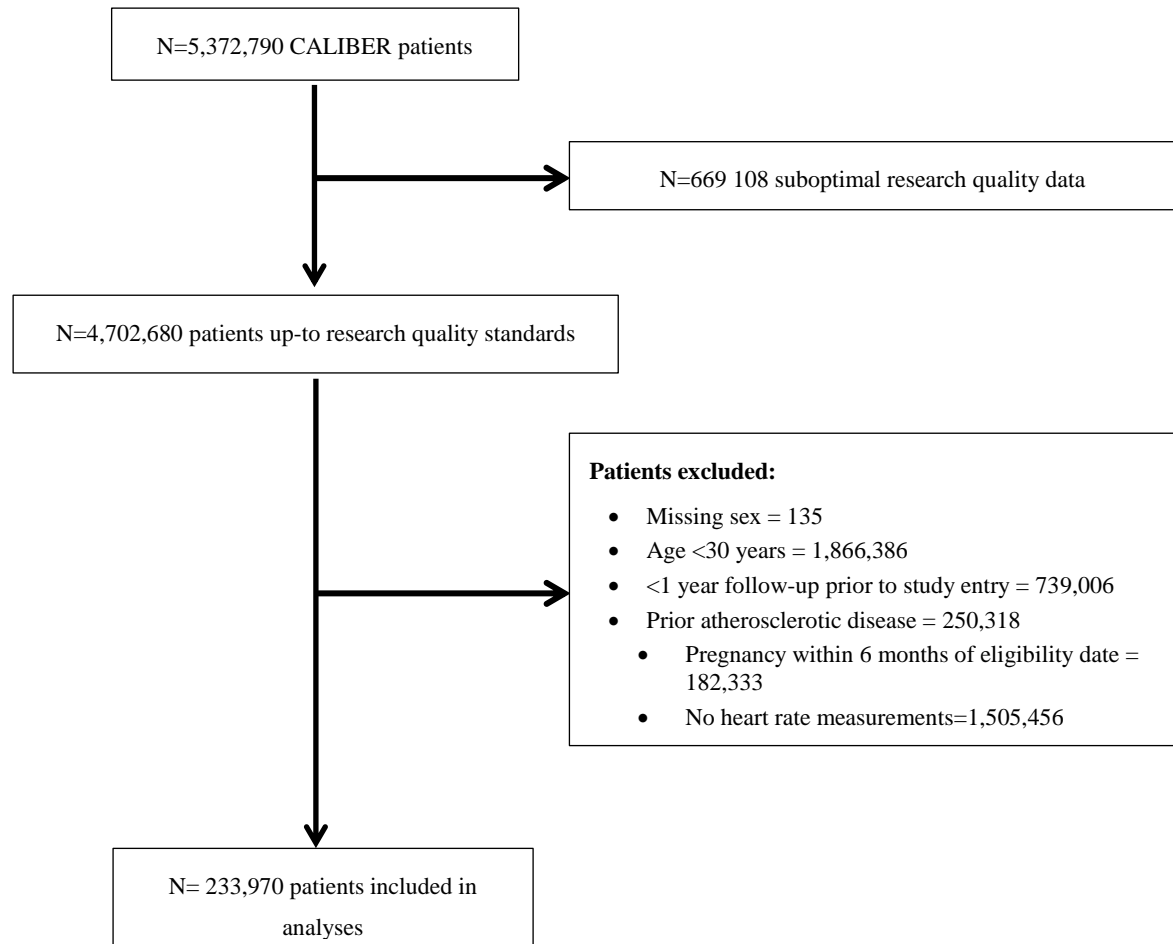
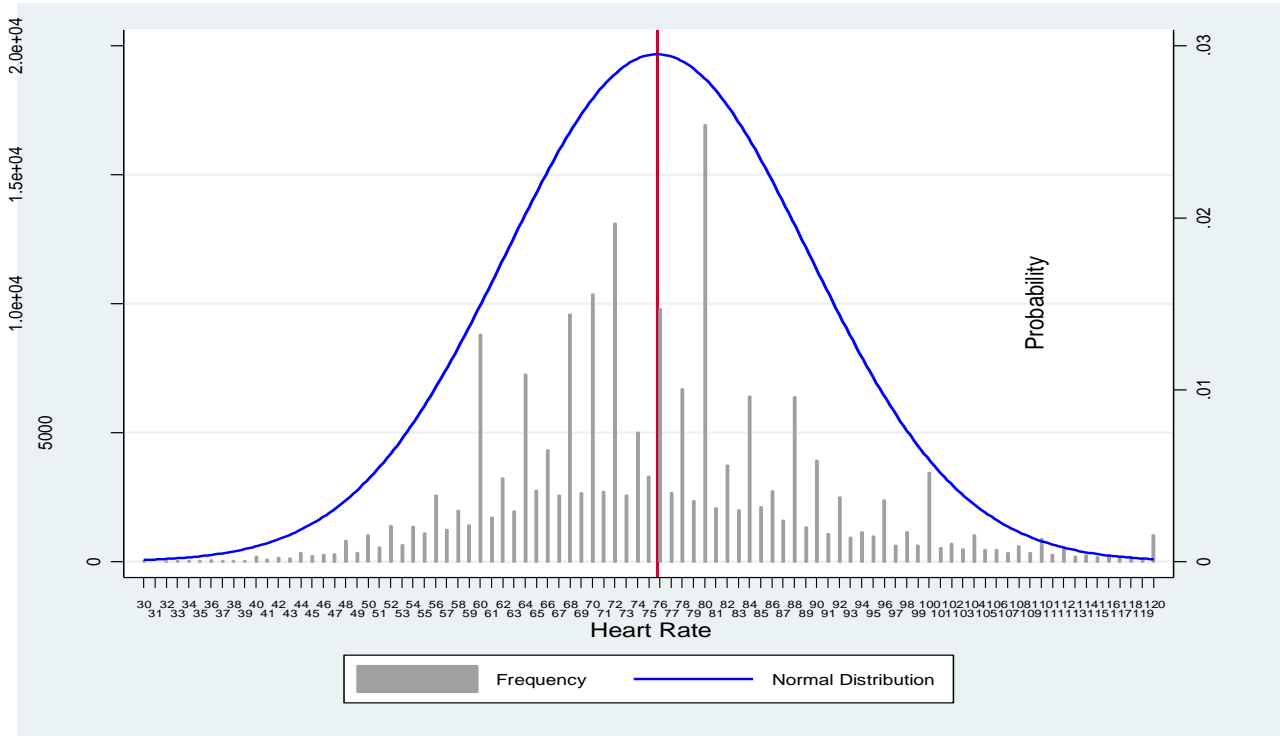
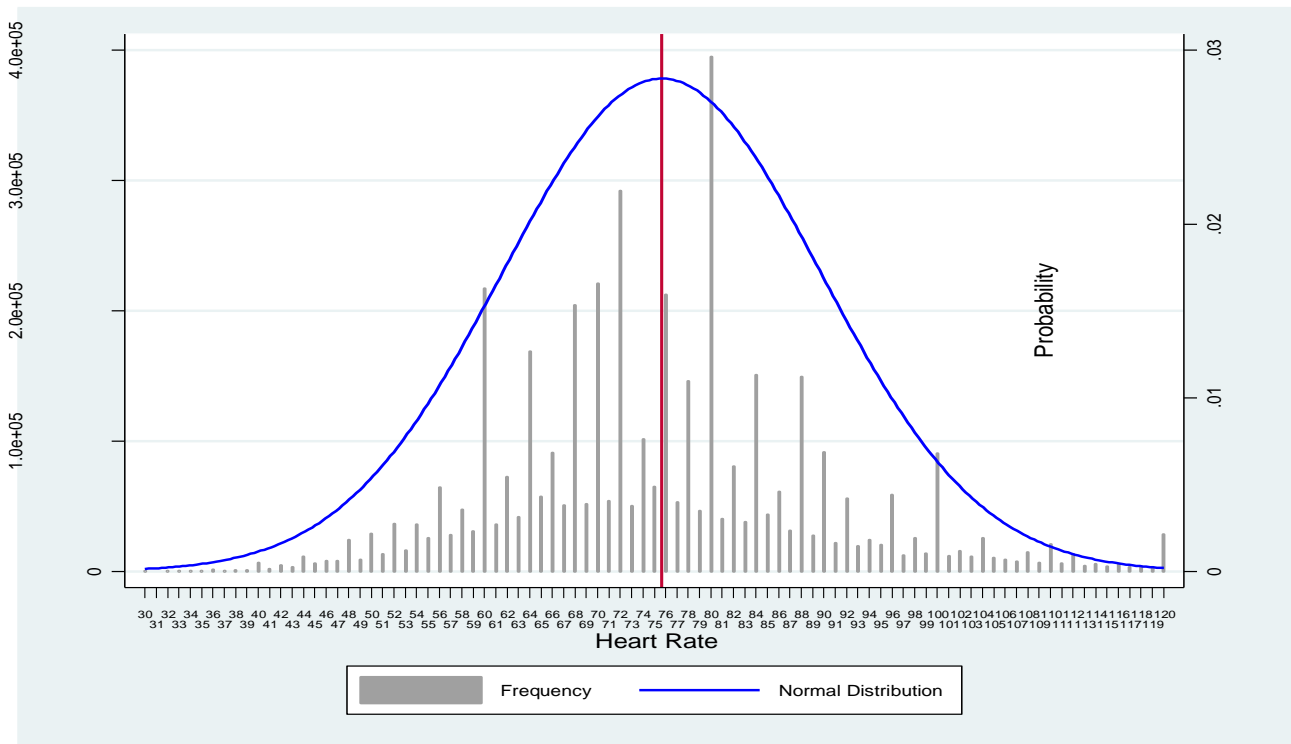


Figure S2. Heart rate distribution in people with heart rate measured a) on the same day as blood pressure recording, b) different date from blood pressure recording



a



b

S3. Multiple imputation

Baseline risk factor data appeared to be missing at random after adjusting for major confounders (e.g. age, sex, systolic blood pressure, etc.). Hence, multiple imputation was implemented using multiple chained equations¹⁵ as implemented in the *mi impute chained* algorithm in the statistical package Stata (v13), to replace missing values in exposure and risk factor variables. Imputation models were estimated separately for men and women and included:

- i) all the baseline covariates used in the main analysis (age, quadratic age, smoking, diabetes, beta-blockers prescription, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, triglycerides, haemoglobin, creatinine, BMI and social deprivation) including outcomes;
- ii) prior (between 1 and 4 years before study entry) and post (between 0 and 1 year after study entry) averages of continuous covariates in the main analysis;
- iii) baseline measurements of covariates not considered in the main analysis (diastolic blood pressure, alcohol intake, family history of CHD);
- iv) baseline medications (statins, blood pressure lowering medication, aspirin, C-channel blockers, B-blockers);

We checked whether the imputations were plausible by comparing plots of the distribution of observed and imputed values of all variables. Non-normally distributed variables were log-transformed for imputation and exponentiated back to their original scale for analysis. Five multiply imputed datasets were generated, and Cox models were fitted to each dataset. Coefficients were combined using Rubin's rules.

RESULTS

Baseline characteristics

Table S3. Baseline characteristics of patients with and without resting heart rate recording in primary care

	Heart Rate non recorded	Heart rate recorded
	Mean (% proportion)	Mean (% proportion)
Demographic factors		
Age at entry (years)	46.2	58.3
Women, %	44.8	56.2
Non-white ethnicity, %	29.7	26.8
Deprivation (most deprived quintile), %	19.6	22.9
Clinical biomarkers and risk factors		
Heart rate (continuous) (bpm)	-	76.52
Systolic blood pressure, (mmHg)	129.9	139.8
Diastolic blood pressure, (mmHg)	78.7	81.6
High density lipoprotein cholesterol, (mmol/L)	1.40	1.43
Low density lipoprotein cholesterol, (mmol/L)	3.30	3.18
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	5.45	5.33
Creatinine $\mu\text{mol/L}$	85.4	88.0
BMI (kg / m^2)	26.3	28.2
<i>Smoking</i>		
Non-smokers, %	60.0	60.8
Ex-smoker, %	13.7	15.7
Current smoker, %	26.2	23.3
Diabetes type 2, %	1.24	5.26
Medication		
Beta blockers, %	4.12	14.3
Calcium channel blockers, %	2.35	11.9
Blood pressure lowering medication, %	22.3	56.4
Statins, %	1.79	11.4
Aspirin, %	1.60	8.61

Table S4. Age adjusted hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases and composite endpoints

Outcomes	N of events	<60bpm	60-69bpm	70-79bpm	80-89bpm	>90bpm	P-value for sex
			HR	HR	HR	HR	
CARDIAC							
Stable Angina							
Men	823	1.00(ref)	1.06[0.81-1.38]	1.20[0.931.55]	1.41[1.08-	1.19[0.88-	0.0012
Women	750	1.00(ref)	0.60[0.45-0.81]	0.59[0.45-0.78]	0.68[0.52-	0.60[0.44-	
Unstable Angina							
Men	429	1.00(ref)	0.69[0.49-0.98]	0.97[0.70-1.35]	0.93[0.66-	1.20[0.84-	0.0471
Women	528	1.00(ref)	0.89[0.61-1.30]	0.82[0.57-1.18]	0.95[0.66-	0.80[0.54-	
Myocardial infarction							
Men	1,113	1.00(ref)	1.16[0.92-1.46]	1.22[0.97-1.54]	1.34[1.06-	1.54[1.20-	0.5274
Women	908	1.00(ref)	0.98[0.72-1.34]	1.05[0.78-1.41]	1.09[0.81-	1.05[0.77-	
Unheralded coronary death							
Men	530	1.00(ref)	1.07[0.71-1.59]	1.70[1.16-2.48]	2.23[1.53-	3.33[2.26-	0.0252
Women	555	1.00(ref)	0.86[0.58-1.29]	0.97[0.66-1.42]	1.09[0.74-	1.34[0.90-	
Heart Failure							
Men	1,038	1.00(ref)	1.18[0.89-1.56]	1.65[1.26-2.16]	2.12[1.62-	3.38[2.57-	0.0015
Women	1,502	1.00(ref)	0.78[0.61-1.00]	0.81[0.64-1.03]	1.19[0.94-	1.60[1.26-	
Sudden cardiac death/							
Men	442	1.00(ref)	0.90[0.62-1.29]	1.00[0.70-1.43]	1.16[0.81-	2.50[1.76-	0.5181
Women	285	1.00(ref)	0.86[0.47-1.56]	1.04[0.59-1.82]	1.23[0.70-	2.38[1.37-	
Coronary heart disease (NOS)							
Men	1,038	1.00(ref)	0.75[0.61-0.93]	0.88[0.72-1.08]	0.82[0.66-	0.95[0.75-	0.6825
Women	883	1.00(ref)	0.87[0.66-1.15]	0.89[0.68-1.16]	0.75[0.57-	0.76[0.57-	
CEREBRAL							
Transient Ischaemic Attack							
Men	659	1.00(ref)	0.87[0.66-1.15]	0.84[0.64-1.11]	1.17[0.89-	1.07[0.78-	0.0457
Women	1,010	1.00(ref)	0.94[0.71-1.26]	0.98[0.75-1.29]	0.90[0.68-	1.05[0.78-	
Subarachnoid Haemorrhage							
Men	30	1.00(ref)	0.59[0.16-2.23]	1.08[0.33-3.54]	1.18[0.34-	0.75[0.17-	0.9369
Women	97	1.00(ref)	0.57[0.21-1.50]	0.82[0.34-2.01]	1.11[0.46-	0.80[0.31-	
Intracerebral Haemorrhage							
Men	136	1.00(ref)	0.92[0.48-1.76]	0.96[0.51-1.82]	1.29[0.68-	1.96[1.01-	0.2066
Women	194	1.00(ref)	0.94[0.47-1.88]	1.18[0.62-2.26]	1.26[0.65-	1.18[0.59-	

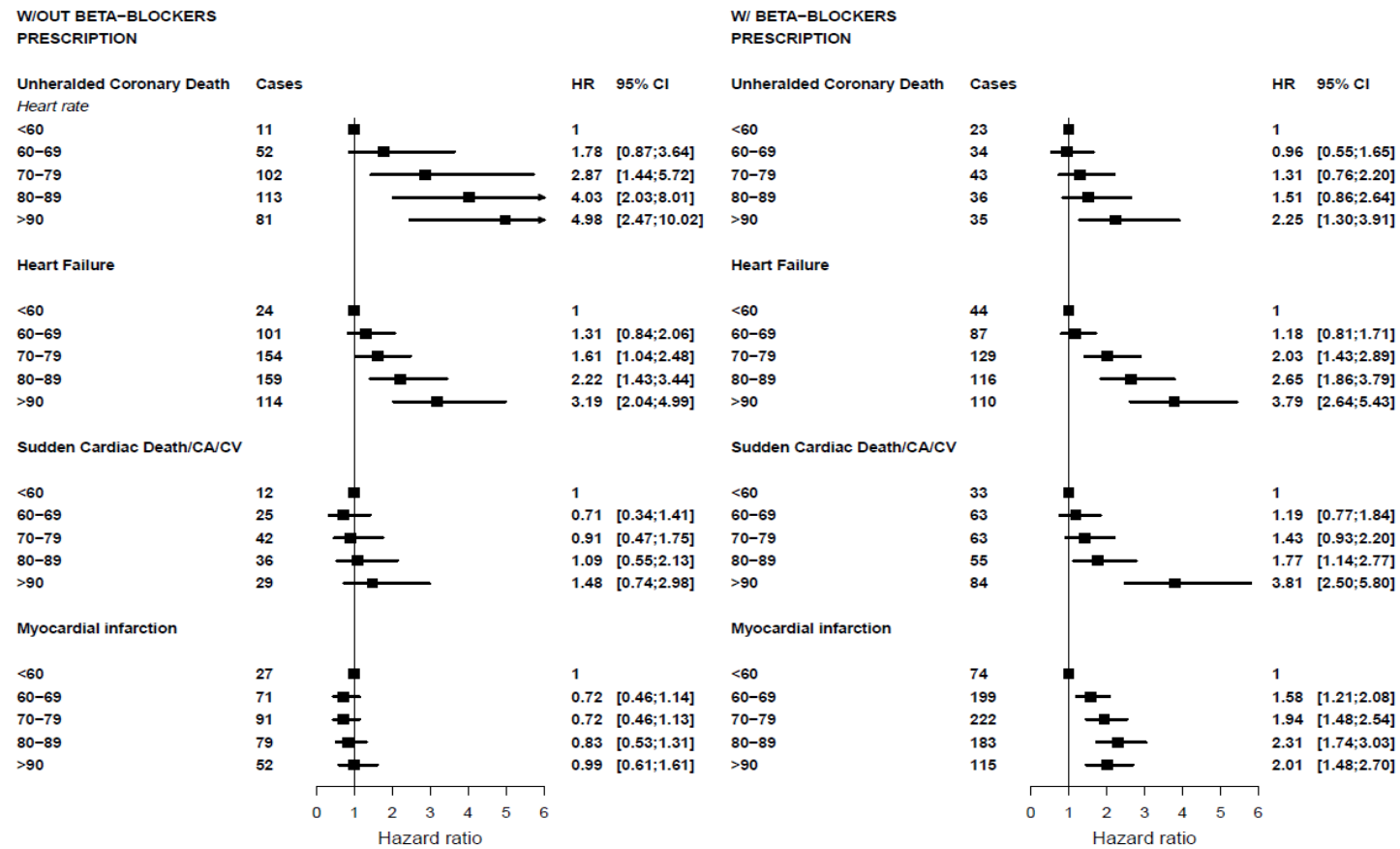
<i>Ischaemic Stroke</i>							
Men	489	1.00(ref)	0.77[0.56-1.06]	1.04[0.77-1.41]	1.03[0.75-	0.98[0.68-	0.2459
Women	780	1.00(ref)	0.89[0.66-1.21]	0.82[0.61-1.10]	0.75[0.56-	1.03[0.76-	
<i>PERIPHERAL</i>							
<i>Peripheral Arterial Disease</i>							
Men	685	1.00(ref)	1.52[1.11-2.08]	1.53[1.12-2.09]	1.93[1.41-	1.80[1.27-	0.0127
Women	802	1.00(ref)	0.83[0.60-1.15]	0.97[0.71-1.32]	0.94[0.69-	1.21[0.88-	
<i>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm</i>							
Men	320	1.00(ref)	0.86[0.58-1.29]	0.96[0.65-1.43]	1.16[0.77-	1.07[0.67-	0.4348
Women	150	1.00(ref)	0.68[0.33-1.38]	0.84[0.43-1.63]	0.71[0.36-	1.04[0.51-	
<i>COMPOSITES</i>							
<i>Total CVD events</i>							
Men	12,439	1.00(ref)	1.02[0.95-1.09]	1.18[1.10-1.26]	1.41[1.32-	1.71[1.59-	<0.0001
Women	15,942	1.00(ref)	0.97[0.90-1.05]	1.00[0.93-1.08]	1.14[1.06-	1.36[1.26-	
<i>CVD mortality</i>							
Men	1,613	1.00(ref)	1.05[0.86-1.28]	1.25[1.03-1.51]	1.55[1.28-	1.75[1.43-	0.0001
Women	2,369	1.00(ref)	1.01[0.83-1.22]	0.92[0.77-1.10]	1.10[0.92-	1.08[0.89-	
<i>All-cause mortality</i>							
Men	3,968	1.00(ref)	1.22[1.06-1.40]	1.66[1.45-1.89]	2.12[1.86-	3.10[2.70-	0.0124
Women	7,023	1.00(ref)	1.28 [1.11-1.48]	1.49 [1.30-1.71]	1.73 [1.51-	2.50 [2.18-	

Note: CA-SCD, sudden cardiac death and cardiac arrest; CI, confidence interval. Hazard ratios adjusted for age

[†] P-values from Wald test for sex/heart rate interaction

Sensitivity analysis

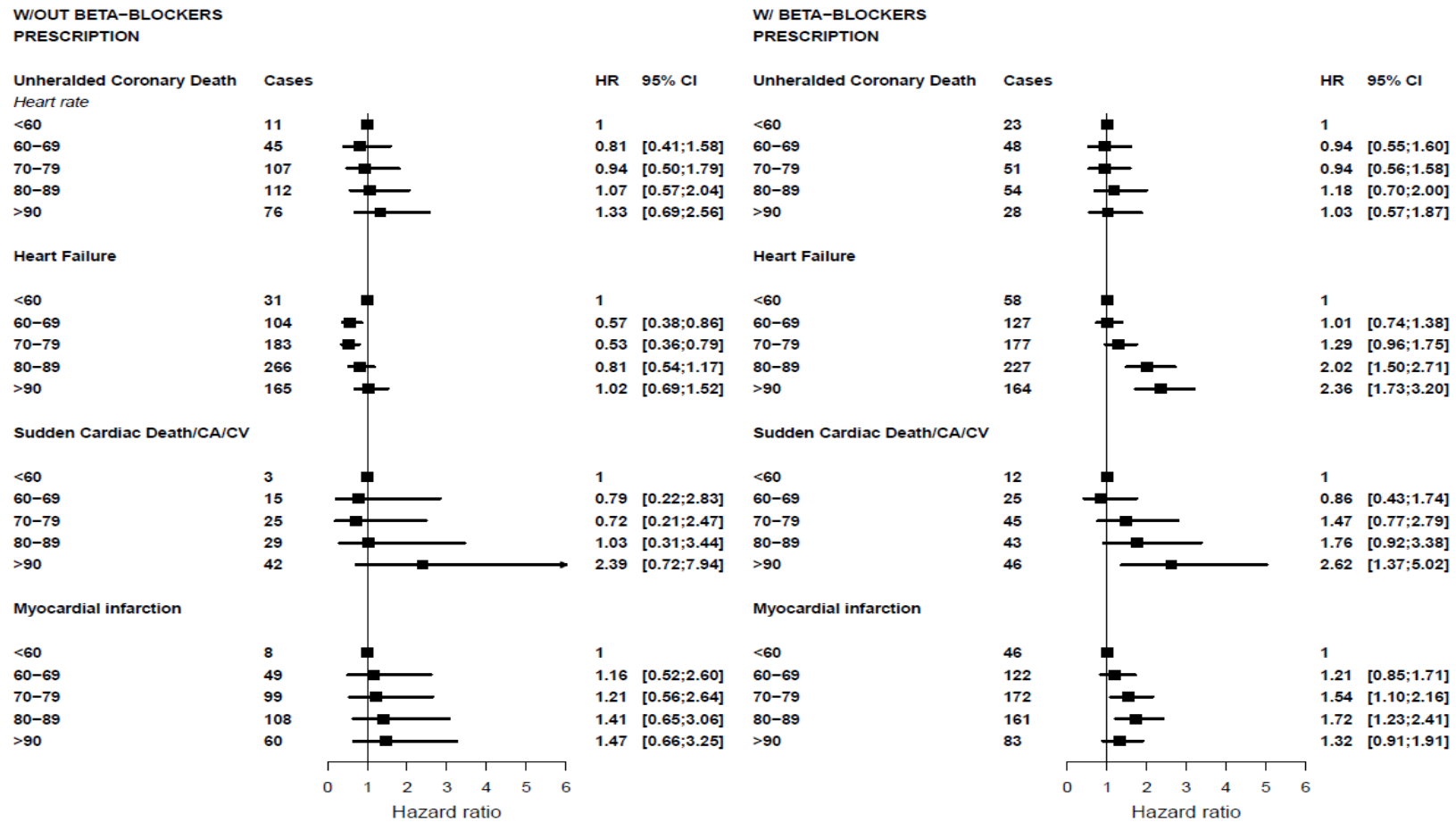
Figure S3. Multivariable adjusted* hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of heart failure, unheralded coronary death, sudden cardiac death or ventricular arrhythmia and myocardial infarction in men without a beta-blocker prescription (N= 65,866) at baseline, vs men with a beta-blocker prescription (N= 32,325)



Note: CI, confidence interval; HR, Hazard ratio; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

*Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, type 2 diabetes and BMI (covariate data imputed)

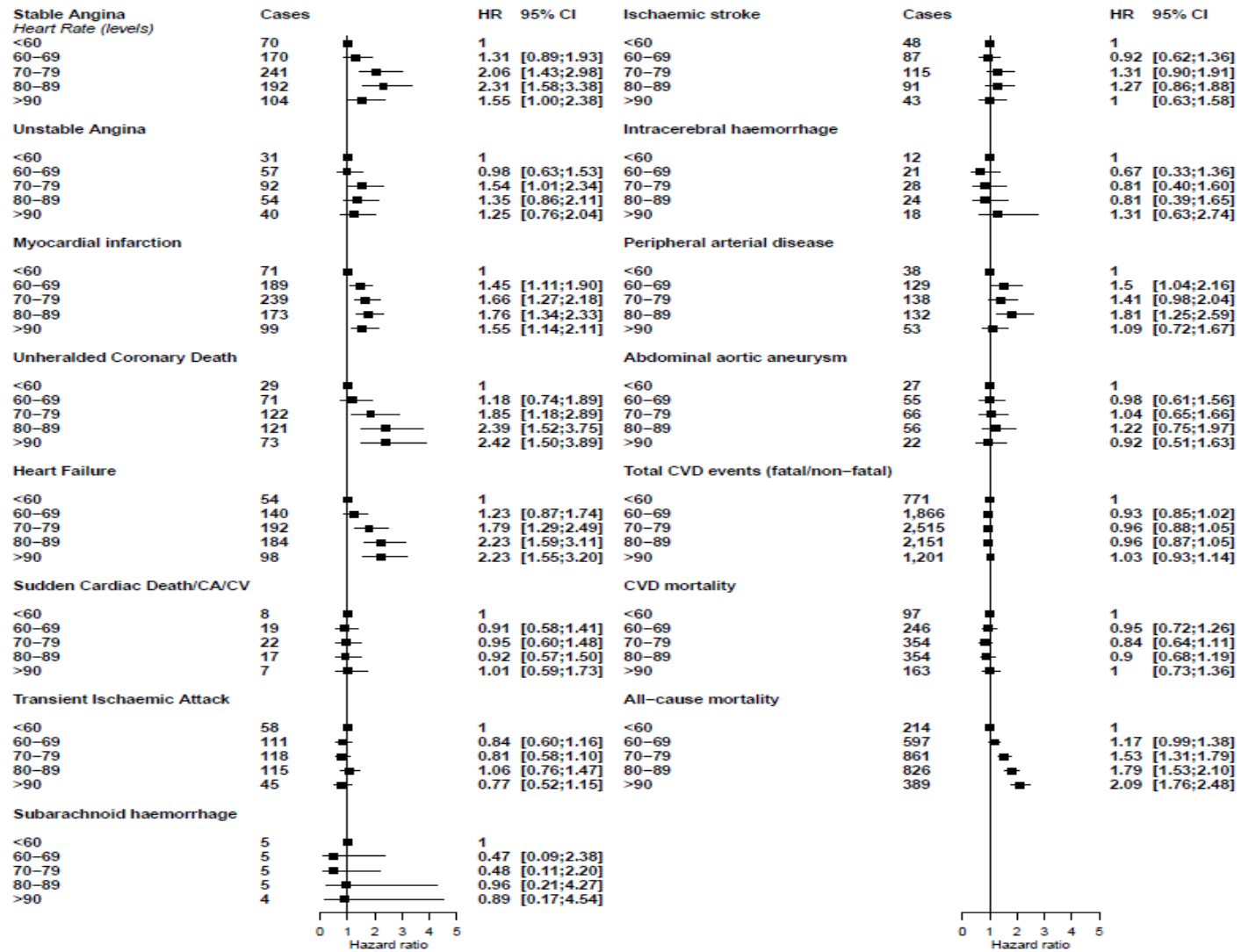
Figure S4. Multivariable adjusted* hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of heart failure, unheralded coronary death, sudden cardiac death or ventricular arrhythmia and myocardial infarction in women without a beta-blocker prescription (N= 87,399) at baseline, vs women with a beta-blocker prescription (N= 48,200)



Note: CI, confidence interval; HR, Hazard ratio; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

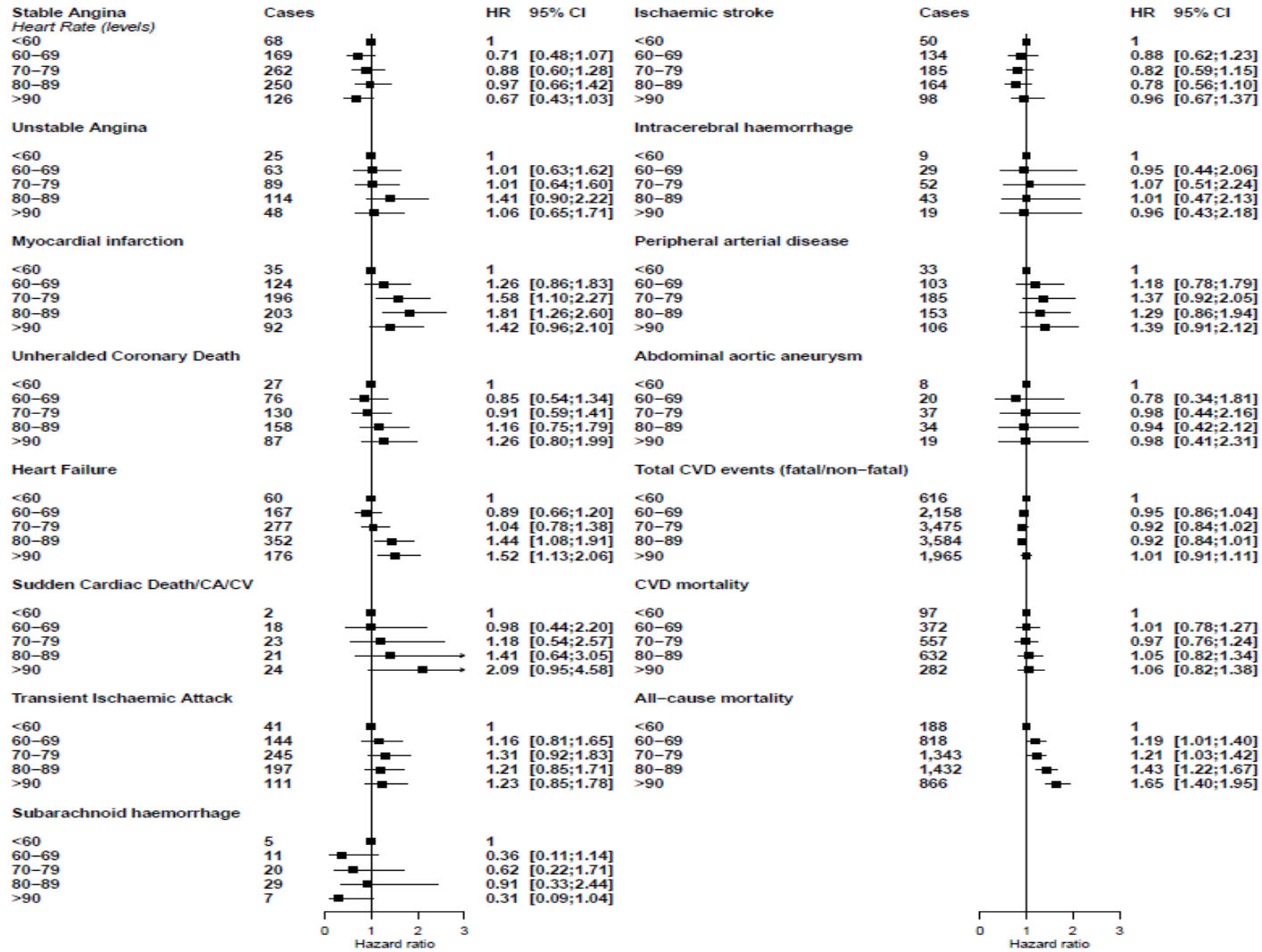
*Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, type 2 diabetes and BMI (covariate data imputed)

Figure S5. Hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases and composite outcomes in men after exclusion of cardiovascular events during the first year after heart rate measurement (N=77,843)



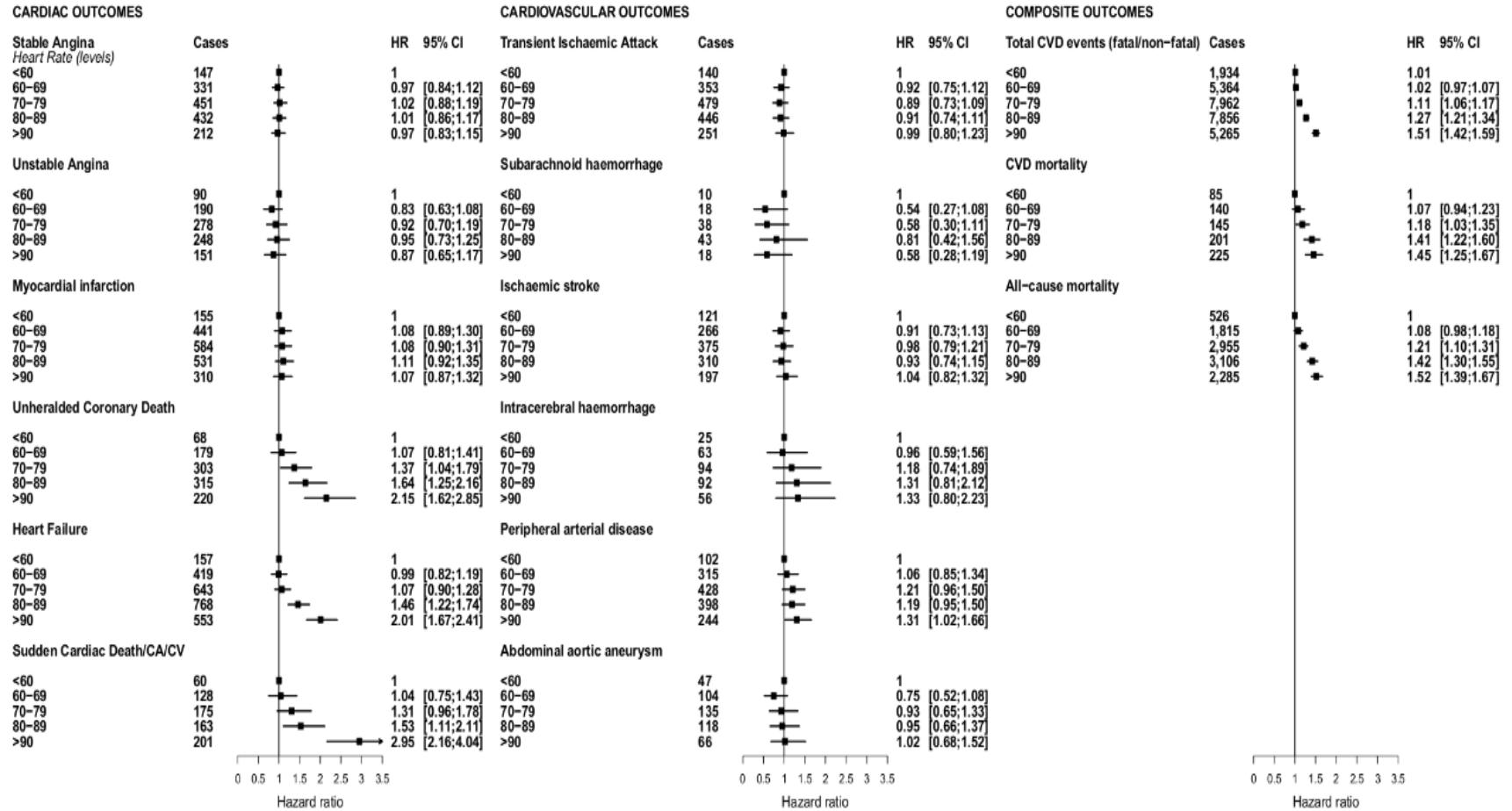
Note: Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, diabetes 2 and BMI measured at baseline (covariate data imputed); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratios; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

Figure S6. Hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases and composite outcomes in women after exclusion of cardiovascular events during the first year after heart rate measurement (N=110,113)



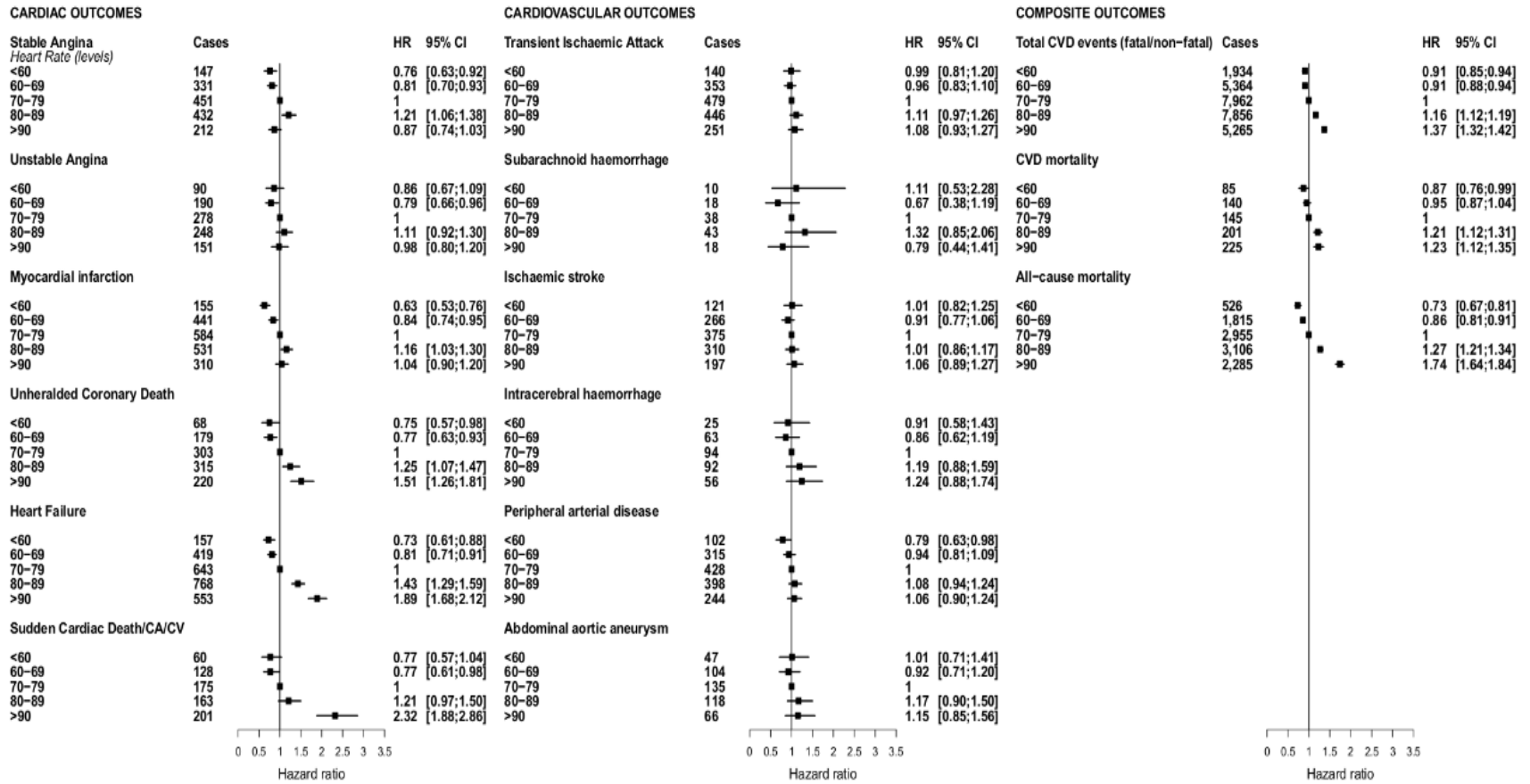
Note Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, diabetes 2 and BMI measured at baseline (covariate data imputed); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratios; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

Figure S7. Hazard ratios for the association between average repeated heart rate and the initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases and composite outcomes in men and women (N=233,970)



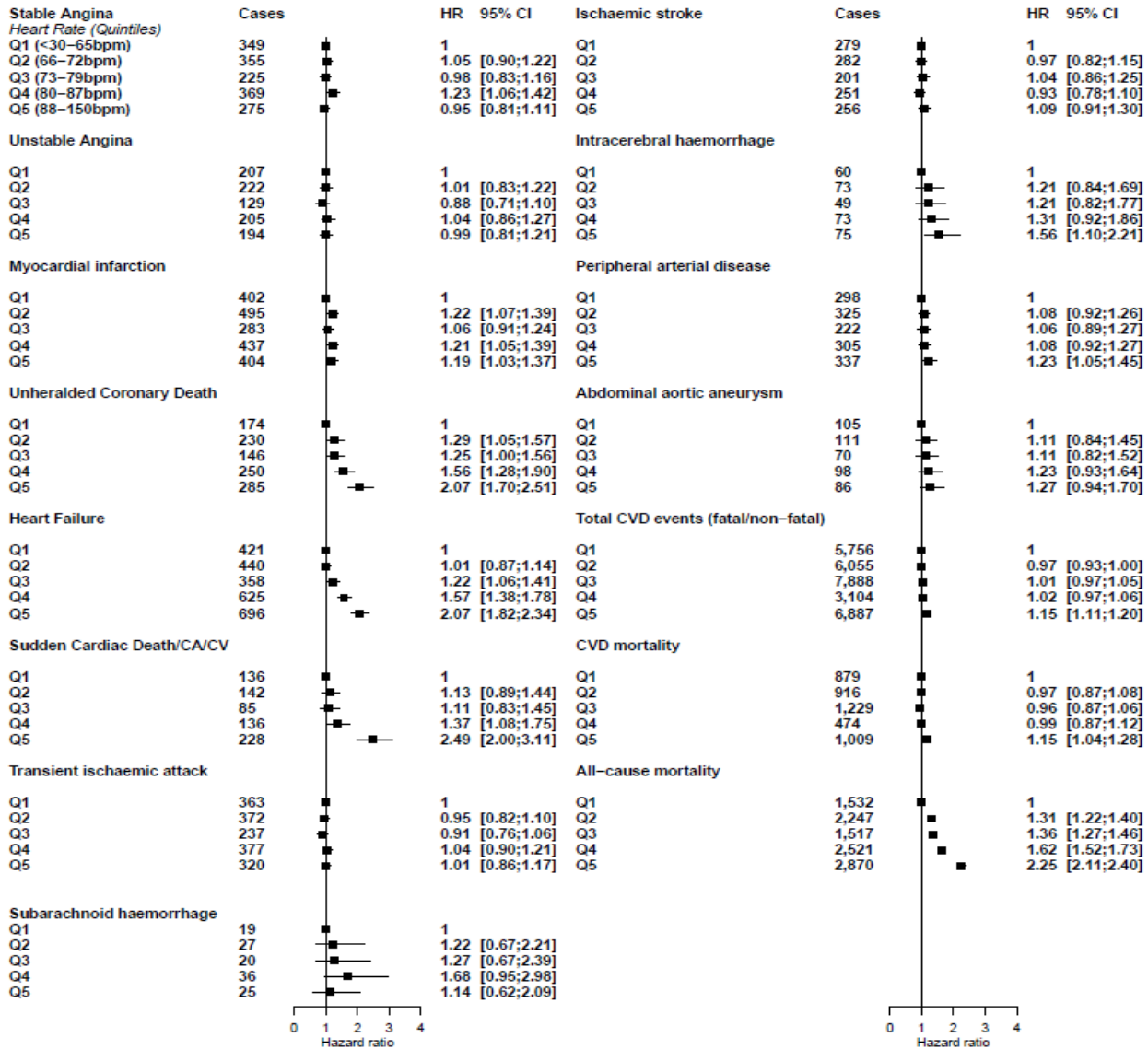
Note Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, diabetes 2 and BMI measured at baseline (covariate data imputed); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratios; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

Figure S8. Multivariable adjusted* hazard ratios for the association between heart rate and the initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases and composite outcomes in men and women (N=233,970) using as heart rate reference level 70-79bpm



Note *Hazard ratios from models stratified by primary care practice and adjusted for age (continuous and quadratic terms), social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, diabetes 2 and BMI measured at baseline (covariate data imputed); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratios; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

Figure S9. Hazard ratios (95% CIs) for the association between heart rate quintiles in 12 cardiovascular diseases and mortality



Note: Hazard ratios adjusted for sex, age, quadratic age, interaction between heart rate and sex, social deprivation, smoking, systolic blood pressure, beta-blockers, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, diabetes II and BMI measured at baseline (stratification by primary care practice (data imputed); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratios; CA, Cardiac Arrest; CV, Cardioversion

Table S5. Hazard ratios (95%CI) for a 10bpm increase in the clinical RHR for those with a heart rate of 65bpm or more
10 bpm increase above 65bpm

Outcome	CALIBER	CALIBER [†]	Woodward et al.
	N=185,150		N=97,704
Total mortality	1.11 (1.09-1.13)	1.18 (1.15-1.22)	1.40 (1.33-1.48)
CVD death	1.10 (1.07- 1.13)	1.18 (1.13-1.23)	1.42 (1.30-1.55)
Heart Failure death	1.16 (1.05-1.27)	1.28 (1.09-1.49)	1.67 (1.06-2.64)
CVD*	1.08 (1.06-1.09)	1.13 (1.10-1.16)	1.36 (1.26-1.47)
CHD*	1.05 (1.03-1.07)	1.08 (1.04-1.12)	1.18 (1.03-1.35)
Total stroke*	1.02 (0.99-1.05)	1.04 (0.99-1.09)	1.32 (1.17-1.48)
Subarachnoid Haemorrhage	0.94 (0.81-1.08)	0.90 (0.71-1.14)	1.29 (1.07-1.57)
Ischaemic stroke*	1.03 (0.99-1.08)	1.05 (0.98-1.13)	1.28 (1.06-1.56)
Unclassified stroke*	1.02 (0.98-1.05)	1.03 (0.97-1.09)	1.44 (1.16-1.78)

*Fatal and nonfatal events combined; RHR: resting heart rate, bpm: beats per minute; CHD: Coronary heart disease. Estimates are adjusted for age and systolic blood pressure.

[†]After correction for dilution bias using the method of MacMahon and Peto¹⁶

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