Belligere.Kempegowda.Spoorthi, Amritha.Ashok.Nair, N.Gerasimcuk

**CORONARY HEART DISEASE ETHICAL ISSUES**

Coronary artery disease is blockage of the coronary arteries, the blood vessels that provide blood to the heart. Much of the coronary artery disease people experience is caused by atherosclerosis, which is also known as hardening of the arteries. Coronary artery disease can develop slowly and take decades before it produces symptoms, or it can come on suddenly. Left untreated, it can lead to angina or acute myocardial infarction. Treatment for coronary artery disease can include lifestyle changes, medications, or surgical and minimally invasive procedures.

Symptoms: During the early stages, coronary artery disease has no symptoms. Erectile dysfunction can be an early indication of the condition before it causes symptoms. When symptoms occur, they can include:

-Stable angina;

-Unstable angina;

-Acute myocardial infarction; and

-Sudden cardiac death.

Causes and risk factors: The primary cause of coronary artery disease is atherosclerosis. Risk factors include: Heredity, Age, Smoking, Being overweight, Hypertension, High levels of blood liquids, Eating a diet high in fat and cholesterol, Diabetes mellitus, Excessive alcohol use, Metabolic Syndrome, Sleep apnea, Emotional stress, Lack of exercise, Use of stimulants or other recreational drugs.

Diagnosis: Tests used to diagnose coronary artery disease include:

-Electrocardiogram (ECG);

-ECG stress test;

-Nuclear stress test;

-Echocardiographic stress testing;

-Blood test;

-Cardiac catheterization and angiography; and

-CT angiography.

Medications: Antihypertensives, Lipid lowering drugs, Antiplatelet therapy, Anticoagulant therapy.

Heart disease is a complex condition that is a leading cause of death worldwide. It is often seen as a disease of affluence, yet is strongly associated with a gradient in socio-economic status. Its highly complex causality means that many different facets of social and economic life are implicated in its aetiology, including factors such as workplace hierarchy and agricultural policy, together with other well-known factors such as what passes for individual 'lifestyle'. The very untangling of causes for heart disease thus inevitably raises social, moral and political issues.