1133-153 Relationship Between Serum Cholesterol Levels and Development of Arterial Hypertension in the Population of the Bresigiglia Heart Study
Claudio Borghi, Ada Dormi, Antonio Gaddi, Ettore Ambrosioni, St. Ospeda-Malpighi Hospital, Bologna, Italy
Background. Hypertension (HTN) and high serum cholesterol (HC) level are often com-
ined in the same subject where they contribute to the overall cardiovascular risk profile. HC is associated with an impaired vascular function and an oversaturation of vascular ancillar molecules, which can contribute to the development of HTN. Aim of the present study was to investigate the role of HC, if any, in the development of HTN in the Bresigiglia Heart Study. Methods. 1820 normotensive subjects (50/50) of 1972 were divided according to total serum cholesterol (T-Chol) tertiles and followed for 12 years to evaluate the proportion of patients developing HTN defined as SBP and/or DBP > 140/90 mmHg and/or therapy for HTN. Results. After adjustment for the main confounding factors (family history of HTN, age, BMI, sex, diabetes) the rate of HTN was significantly increased in subjects with T-Chol > 239 mg/dl both after 6 (1980) and 12 (1984) years of follow-up (p<0.001 vs. other sub-
groups). The rate of development of HTN was enhanced in the two older subgroups of subjects (50-59 and >59 years). Conclusion. These data suggest that HC could substantially contribute to the development of HTN and strongly support the role of lipid lowering drugs and particulary statins in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease.

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