INTRODUCTION

Unstable angina is associated with a high incidence of acute myocardial infarction and sudden death within 6 months ***(Mulcahy et al.,1985)***, however, little information about heart rate variability (HRV) in patients with unstable angina is available. Preliminary studies suggest that HRV may be depressed ***(Huang et al.,1994)*** and this finding may be of prognostic significance ***(Loricchio et al., 1994).***

Decreased indices of HRV have shown great value as a predictor of mortality in various clinical syndromes. After myocardial infarction decreased HRV was reported to be an independent risk factor for mortality. In addition, among survivors of acute myocardial infarction, it was shown that decreased HRV predicted both death and arrhythmic events with great sensitivity and specificity than conventional predictors such as left ventricular ejection fraction ***(Bigger et al., 1992).***

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this study is to measure the different indices of heart rate variability (H.R.V) in patients with unstable angina and to assess its relation to different clinical, echocardiographic and coronary angiographic findings in these patients.