**HIGHER PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS REPORTED IN SUBJECTS WITH MITRAL VALVE PROLAPSE IS RELATED TO HIGHER PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENDER WITH MITRAL VALVE PROLAPSE AND NOT DUE TO PRESENCE OF MITRAL VALVE PROLAPSE**

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Background: Higher prevalence of reporting physical symptoms and mitral valve prolapse (MVP) have been documented in females. Furthermore, higher prevalence of symptoms is suggested in patients with MVP. The goal of this study was to evaluate independent association between MVP and reporting physical symptoms using an echocardiographic screening database in the United States.

Method: The Anthony Bates Foundation has been performing screening echocardiography in high schools across the United States for the prevention of sudden death since 2001. A total of 4,141 subjects were screened between the ages of 4 and 79 years with a mean age of 23 and median age of 16 year. The presences of physical symptoms and gender were correlated with the presence of MVP.

Results: Total prevalence of MVP was 0.9%. It was significantly higher among female subjects (1.6%, vs. 0.4%, p=<0.0001, OR 2.1, CI 1.2-3.6). Female subjects had significantly higher prevalence of reported physical symptoms (42.1% vs. 21.5%, p<0.0001). We also found significantly higher prevalence of reporting physical symptoms in subjects with MVP (47.2% vs. 29.8 %, OR 2.10, CI 1.09-4.06, p=0.023). However, this association was not present after adjusting for female gender in multivariate analysis (OR 0.63, CI 0.32-1.2, p=0.18)

Conclusion: We found higher prevalence of physical symptoms reported in subjects with MVP but this was related to higher prevalence of female gender with MVP and not due to presence of MVP.