Dear Editor,

We read the article “Heart rate turbulence in masked hypertension and white-coat hypertension.” by Song et al1 with interest. The authors have concluded that Heart Rate Turbulence (HRT) parameters in Masked hypertension (MH), White-coat hypertension, Essential Hypertension (EH) patients were significantly lower compared with Normotensive (NT) patients.

We know that, in addition to heart rate turbulence, Deceleration Capacity (DC) is mediated by the autonomic nervous system and serve as marker of autonomic tonic activity as in HRT2-5. Furthermore, data from the Framingham cohort and a subset of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) cohort suggest that individuals with decreased Heart Rate Variability (HRV), that is as a marker of autonomic nervous system, have an increased risk of developing hypertension, although results are inconsistent across measures of HRV and gender6,7.

So, I think that, if patients with MH, WCH, EH and NT were assessed with HRV and DC in addition to HRT parameters, this study might completely reflect autonomic function in these population.

Conflict of Interest
The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

S. Iscen
Cardiology, Diyarbakir Military Hospital, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Corresponding Author: Sinan Iscen, MD; e-mail: dr.iscen@hotmail.com