

SUMMARY

The responses to exercise of 100 normal controls and of 41 patients with definite evidence of serious cardiac or pulmonary disease were studied. It appeared that the exercise tolerance tests in common use among physicians are of extremely little value as an aid in detecting cardiac or pulmonary disease. The results of the study are confirmatory of the opinion of many cardiologists that the response to functional tests of the heart depends on physical fitness and stability of the autonomic nervous system rather than on the presence or the absence of cardio-respiratory disease.