Background/Study Objectives: Since the last National Survey on HBP in Nigeria more than 10 years ago, a lot of socio-economic changes have occurred in Nigeria; and more so the WHO has lowered the cut-off point for the definition of HBP (BP $\geq 140/90$ mmHg). The objective of this study is therefore to assess the present burden of HBP in a rural Nigerian Population in terms of prevalence; and ECG evaluation of hypertensive subjects.

Study Design: Case-Control Study

Method: A total of 1800 subjects aged 15 years and above were recruited in Imezi Owa, a rural community 25km away from Enugu, the state capital. They had their biodata, anthropometric measurements and BP recorded under standard conditions. Half of the hypertensive subjects and an equal number of healthy subjects all matched for age and sex had ECG evaluation.

Result: The prevalence of HBP was found to be 16.7%. There was significant positive correlation between BP and age, weight and BMI among the subjects. The ECG evaluation showed significant abnormalities in hypertensive subjects when compared with healthy subjects.
Conclusion/Recommendation: There is a rising prevalence of HBP in our rural population. The ECG is still a useful tool in the cardiac assessment of the hypertensive patient. There is need for frequent BP measurements and health education on lifestyle modification among the rural populace. The ECG should remain a basic and standard investigation for HBP amongst rural Nigerians.