SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Table S1. Demographic, ECG, laboratory, and clinical findings in subjects of the study population with or without a QTc>500 msec.

	Cut-off 500 ms		
Characteristic	QTc<500	QTc>500	*p*
Total, n	1067 (98.3%)	18 (1.7%)	-
Demography:			
Age, years	71 [63-75]	70 [65-77]	0.580
Males, n	982 (92.0%)	16 (88.9%)	0.960
Race			
Caucasians	709 (66.6%)	7 (38.9%)	**0.012**
African Americans	284 (26.6%)	7 (38.9%)	
Others	74 (6.9%)	4 (22.2%)	
ECG findings:			
Heart rate, bpm	79 [70-90]	82 [73-92]	0.293
QRS, ms	89 [82-97]	90 [88-101]	0.217
Laboratory data:			
Potassium <4.0 mEq/l, n	229 (24.9%)	7 (46.7%)	0.104
Calcium <8.5 mg/dl, n	**45 (4.9%)**	**6 (40.0%)**	**<0.001**
Magnesium <1.8 mg/dl, n	104 (11.3%)	3 (20.0%)	0.523
CV risk factors/diseases:			
Smoking, n	461 (43.2%)	10 (55.6%)	0.419
Hypertension, n	250 (23.4%)	6 (33.3%)	0.483
Diabetes mellitus, n	603 (56.5%)	11 (61.1%)	0.880
Myocardial infarction, n	**241 (22.6%)**	**11 (61.1%)**	**<0.001**
Angina pectoris, n	201 (18.8%)	3 (16.7%)	1.000
LVH/heart failure, n	130 (12.2%)	4 (22.2%)	0.356
Autoimmune rheumatic diseases, n	25 (8.2%)	36 (9.6%)	0.
Drugs:			
Alpha-blockers, n	667 (62.5%)	8 (44.4%)	0.186
Anesthetics, n	92 (8.6%)	2 (11.1%)	1.000
Antianginal, n	330 (30.9%)	5 (27.8%)	0.976
Antiarrhythmics, n	118 (11.1%)	3 (16.7%)	0.710
Antibiotics, n	1036 (97.1%)	18 (100.0%)	0.984
Anticonvulsants, n	763 (71.5%)	11 (61.1%)	0.481
Antidepressants, n	839 (78.6%)	12 (66.7%)	0.350
Antiemetics, n	592 (55.5%)	11 (61.1%)	0.812
Antifungals, n	369 (34.6%)	6 (33.3%)	1.000
Antihistaminics, n	855 (80.1%)	13 (72.2%)	0.593
Antihypertensives, n	450 (42.2%)	8 (44.4%)	1.000
Antimalarials, n	159 (14.9%)	1 (5.6%)	0.439
Antipsychotics, n	401 (37.6%)	8 (44.4%)	0.726
Antivirals, n	445 (41.7%)	8 (44.4%)	1.000
Beta-blockers, n	722 (67.7%)	12 (66.7%)	1.000
Bronchodilators, n	724 (67.9%)	8 (44.4%)	0.065
Calcium blockers, n	671 (62.9%)	10 (55.6%)	0.695
Diuretics, n	771 (72.3%)	16 (88.9%)	0.193
Muscle relaxants, n	716 (67.1%)	10 (55.6%)	0.435
Sedatives, n	739 (69.3%)	12 (66.7%)	1.000

ECG: electrocardiogram; QTc: heart rate-corrected QT-interval; LVH: left ventricular hypertrophy.
Values are expressed as median [interquartile range], or frequency count (percentage).
Differences between the two groups were evaluated by the Mann-Whitney test or the Chi-squared test.
Statistically significant ($p<0.05$) differences in variables are reported in bold.

Table S2. IL-6 levels in subjects of the study population with or without a QTc>500 ms.

	Cut-off 500 ms		
Characteristic	QTc<500	QTc>500	*p*
Total, n	1067 (98.3%)	18 (1.7%)	-
IL-6, pg/ml	12.3 [4.4-47.3]	24.0 [11.2-41.0]	0.144
IL-6 ranges			
<5 pg/ml, n	304 (28.5)	2 (11.1)	0.246
5-25 pg/ml, n	369 (34.6)	7 (38.9)	
>25 pg/ml, n	394 (36.9)	9 (50.0)	

QTc: heart rate-corrected QT-interval; IL-6: interleukin-6.

Values are expressed as median [interquartile range], or frequency count (percentage).
Differences between the two groups were evaluated by the Mann-Whitney test or the Chi-squared test.

Table S3. Frequency of QTc>500 ms in subjects of the study population stratified by increasing ranges of IL-6 levels.

	IL-6, pg/ml			
Characteristic	**<5**	**5-25**	**>25**	***p***
Total, n	306	376	403	-
QTc>500 ms, n	2 (0.7%)	7 (1.9%)	9 (2.2%)	0.246

IL-6: interleukin-6; QTc: heart rate-corrected QT-interval; LVH: left ventricular hypertrophy.

Values are expressed as frequency count (percentage).
Differences between the two groups were evaluated by the Chi-squared test.

Table S4. Median QTc values by time interval between ECG and IL-6 assessment in subjects of the study population

Time interval between ECG and IL-6 assessment	n	QTc (ms)			
		IL-6<5 pg/ml	IL-6 5-25 pg/ml	IL-6 >25 pg/ml	*p*
Any	1085	429 [414-447.25]	440 [422-456]	444.5 [426-461]	**<0.001**
≤ 7 days	260	428.5 [408.6-445.2]	442.0 [422.5-453.7]	450.8 [429.7-469.5]	**<0.001**
≤ 1 day	56	431.5 [405.0-468.9]	448.0 [429.0-478.0]	472.5 [454.8-505.0]	**0.013**

IL-6: interleukin-6; QTc: heart rate-corrected QT-interval; ECG: electrocardiogram.

Values are expressed as median [interquartile range].
Differences between the groups were evaluated by the Kruskal-Wallis test.