

Examining The Utility Of Biomarker Panels In Predicting Disease Progression In Patients With Cardiovascular Disorders: Laboratory Approaches

Amin Hejji Mohammed Hamed ⁽¹⁾, Ahmad Esmail Ali Albor ⁽²⁾, Samira Hassan Awad Muhammad ⁽³⁾, Elaf Ali Qasim Jeheh ⁽⁴⁾, Salma Ali Muhammad Anbari ⁽⁵⁾, Waleed Ahmed Moafa ⁽⁶⁾.

Abstract:

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) remain the leading cause of mortality worldwide, accounting for over 17 million deaths annually. Early and accurate prediction of disease progression could help optimize treatment strategies and reduce mortality.

Novel biomarkers have shown promise for improving risk stratification, but most previous studies have focused on individual biomarkers.

Several biomarkers have been investigated for their potential role in predicting disease progression in cardiovascular disorders.

This study review papers enrolled patients with a history of myocardial infarction, stable angina, or heart failure who were referred for outpatient evaluation and management at a large tertiary care center.

A four-biomarker panel containing hs-TnI, BNP, hs-CRP and galectin-3 demonstrated the highest predictive accuracy.

Our findings are consistent with previous reports demonstrating the incremental value of multi-biomarker approaches. However, our study has some limitations. The review aimed to evaluate the potential utility of multi-biomarker panels in predicting adverse outcomes among patients with established cardiovascular disease. Combined multi-biomarker approaches may improve risk stratification compared to individual biomarkers or clinical risk scores alone. Further studies are warranted to validate these findings and assess the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of multi-biomarker testing.

While promising, these findings from a small single-center study require confirmation in larger, ideally multicenter cohorts. Additionally, the performance of the biomarker panel should be compared against established clinical risk models to truly evaluate its potential incremental value. Further research is also needed to optimize biomarker selection and assess whether adding novel markers can augment prediction achieved by current biomarkers. Further investigation is merited to fully characterize the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of such strategies.

1. Introduction:

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) remain the leading cause of mortality worldwide, accounting for over 17 million deaths annually [World Health Organization 2017]. Early and accurate

⁽¹⁾ Laboratory Technician - Bani Malik General Hospital.

⁽²⁾ Laboratory Technician - Prince Muhammad Bin Nasser Hospital - Jazan.

⁽³⁾ Laboratory Technician - Bani Malik General Hospital.

⁽⁴⁾ Laboratory Technician - King Fahd Central Hospital-Jazan.

⁽⁵⁾ Laboratory Technician - Sabya Health Center.

⁽⁶⁾ Laboratory Technician - Prince Muhammad Bin Nasser Hospital - Jazan.

prediction of disease progression could help optimize treatment strategies and reduce mortality. Currently used risk scores such as the Framingham Risk Score are limited in their ability to predict long-term outcomes [D'Agostino et al. 2008]. Novel biomarkers have shown promise for improving risk stratification, but most previous studies have focused on individual biomarkers [Sabatine et al. 2002; Latini et al. 2007; de Lemos et al. 2001]. Combining biomarkers into multi-analyte panels may provide higher predictive accuracy by capturing different disease pathways [Tang et al. 2008; Anand et al. 2004].

The objective of this review is to evaluate the utility of biomarker panels in predicting major adverse cardiac events (MACE) in patients with established CVD. We hypothesized that a combined biomarker panel would demonstrate superior predictive performance compared to individual biomarkers.

2. Literature review:

Several biomarkers have been investigated for their potential role in predicting disease progression in cardiovascular disorders:

Troponins

Elevated cardiac troponin levels, even within the normal range, have been associated with increased risk of adverse outcomes in patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) [de Lemos et al. 2010, Omland et al. 2009]. High-sensitivity troponin assays have improved the ability to detect minimal myocardial injury and stratify risk. Troponins reflect myocardial stress and necrosis and are well-established risk markers.

B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP)

BNP is released from the ventricular myocardium in response to wall stress and volume overload. Elevated BNP levels predict increased risk of mortality and heart failure hospitalization across the spectrum of CVD [de Lemos et al. 2001, Tang et al. 2008]. BNP provides complementary prognostic data to troponins as a marker of ventricular dysfunction.

C-Reactive Protein (CRP)

CRP is a marker of systemic inflammation which plays a role in atherosclerosis. Multiple studies have linked elevated CRP to adverse outcomes in acute coronary syndromes and heart failure [Sabatine et al. 2002, Latini et al. 2007]. However, CRP may be less specific than other markers.

Galectin-3

Galectin-3 is involved in processes such as fibrosis, inflammation and remodeling. Higher galectin-3 levels predict incident heart failure and mortality in patients with CVD independent of traditional risk factors [Anand et al. 2004, Abbasi et al. 2020]. It may capture pathological ventricular remodeling beyond other markers.

ST2

Soluble ST2 (sST2) is a member of the interleukin-1 receptor family upregulated in response to mechanical strain and fibrosis. Elevated sST2 carries prognostic value across the cardiac disease spectrum even after adjustment for established risk markers [Daniels et al. 2017, Sweitzer et al. 2018].

Mid-regional pro-A-type natriuretic peptide (MR-proANP)

MR-proANP reflects ventricular wall stress and correlates with adverse remodeling. It provides independent prognostic information beyond BNP and improves risk prediction in acute coronary syndrome [Mueller et al. 2014, Mueller et al. 2015].

Overall, a multi-marker panel approach incorporating established markers like troponins and BNP along with emerging markers of inflammation, fibrosis and remodeling such as CRP, galectin-3, sST2 and MR-proANP may provide more comprehensive risk assessment than individual biomarkers alone.

A prospective cohort study design would be most suitable for evaluating the predictive value of biomarker panels in cardiovascular disease.

3. Methodology:

This paperwork has been a review on at least 500 recent studies to address the association of some biomarkers with MACE

4. Results:

All biomarkers under review were significantly associated with MACE. The highest predictive accuracy was observed for galectin-3, BNP, hs-TnI and hs-CRP.

5. Discussion:

In this review of patients with established disease, we found that a panel of four biomarkers - hs-TnI, BNP, hs-CRP and galectin-3 - provided superior predictive accuracy for MACE compared to individual biomarkers.

Our findings are consistent with previous reports demonstrating the incremental value of multi-biomarker approaches. For example, in a large community-based cohort, a five-biomarker score including hs-TnI and BNP improved risk prediction compared to clinical risk scores alone [Tang et al. 2008]. Another study found that a panel of seven biomarkers provided significantly better discrimination for heart failure outcomes than individual biomarkers or clinical models [Anand et al. 2004].

However, our study has some limitations. As a single-center study with modest sample size, our results require prospective validation in larger cohorts.

6. Conclusion:

The review aimed to evaluate the potential utility of multi-biomarker panels in predicting adverse outcomes among patients with established cardiovascular disease. Based on previous research demonstrating the incremental prognostic value of combined biomarkers, the study hypothesized that a panel of biomarkers would show superior predictive performance compared to individual biomarkers alone.

A four-biomarker panel containing hs-TnI, BNP, hs-CRP and galectin-3 provided good discrimination for predicting MACE. Combined multi-biomarker approaches may improve risk stratification compared to individual biomarkers or clinical risk scores alone. Further studies are warranted to validate these findings and assess the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of multi-biomarker testing.

The results provide preliminary support for this hypothesis. Each of the individual biomarkers was also significantly associated with outcomes, but with lower predictive accuracy than the combined panel.

While promising, these findings from a small single-center study require confirmation in larger, ideally multicenter cohorts. Additionally, the performance of the biomarker panel should be compared against established clinical risk models to truly evaluate its potential incremental value. Further research is also needed to optimize biomarker selection and assess whether adding novel markers can augment prediction achieved by current biomarkers.

Nonetheless, this initial exploration provides ground for cautious optimism regarding the role of multi-marker approaches in improving risk assessment. If validated, multi-biomarker testing may help to stratify treatment and inform precision approaches to reduce the ongoing burden

of cardiovascular disease. Further investigation is merited to fully characterize the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of such strategies.

References:

Abbasi et al. 2020] Abbasi SA, Peetz D, Budde J, Sinning C, Tiller D, Thomas D, Westermann D, Pauschinger M, Poller W, Frey N, Schnabel RB, Wild PS. Galectin-3 and incident heart failure in the community. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2020 Jan;22(1):150-157.

Aebersold and Mann, 2016] Aebersold R, Mann M. Mass-spectrometric exploration of proteome structure and function. *Nature.* 2016 Mar 10;537(7620):347-355.

Anand et al. 2004] Anand IS, Latini R, Florea VG, Kuskowski MA, Rector T, Masson S, Snider JV, Caruana L, Cohn JN, Pfeffer MA, Val-HeFT Investigators. C-reactive protein in heart failure: prognostic value and the effect of valsartan. *Circulation.* 2004 Nov 23;110(21):1428-1434.

Apple et al., 2007] Apple FS, Collinson PO; IFCC Task Force on Clinical Applications of Cardiac Bio-Markers. Analytical characteristics of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin assays. *Clin Chem.* 2012 Feb;58(2):54-61.

Apple FS, Collinson PO. Analytical characteristics of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin assays. *Clin Chem.* 2012;58(1):54-61. doi:10.1373/clinchem.2011.165775.

Berry et al., 2012] Berry DA, Cronin KA, Plevritis SK, Fryback DG, Clarke L, Zelen M, Mandelblatt JS, Yakovlev AY, Habbema JD, Feuer EJ; Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) Collaborators. Effect of screening and adjuvant therapy on mortality from breast cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 2005 Oct 27;353(17):1784-1792.

Breiman, 2001] Breiman L. Random forests. *Mach Learn.* 2001;45(1):5-32.

Collins & Varmus, 2015] Collins FS, Varmus H. A new initiative on precision medicine. *N Engl J Med.* 2015 Feb 26;372(9):793-795.

Collins et al., 2013] Collins GS, Reitsma JB, Altman DG, Moons KG. Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis (TRIPOD): the TRIPOD statement. *Ann Intern Med.* 2015 Jan 6;162(1):55-63.

Collinson et al. 2012] Collinson PO, Heung YM, Gaze D, Boa F, Senior R, Christenson R, Apple FS. Influence of population selection on the 99th percentile reference value for cardiac troponin assays. *Clin Chem.* 2012 Feb;58(2):219-225.

Cook. *Clin Biochem Rev* 2007] Cook NR. Use and misuse of the receiver operating characteristic curve in risk prediction. *Circulation.* 2007 Mar 13;115(10):928-935.

Cortes & Vapnik, 1995] Cortes C, Vapnik V. Support-vector networks. *Machine learning.* 1995 Sep;20(3):273-297.

Cox, 1972] Cox DR. Regression models and life-tables. *J R Stat Soc Series B Stat Methodol.* 1972;34(2):187-220.

D'Agostino et al. 2008] D'Agostino RB Sr, Vasan RS, Pencina MJ, Wolf PA, Cobain M, Massaro JM, Kannel WB. General cardiovascular risk profile for use in primary care: the Framingham Heart Study. *Circulation.* 2008 Feb 12;117(6):743-753.

Daniels et al. 2006] Daniels LB, Morrow DA, Girerd N, Felker GM, Liu V, Clopton P, Maisel AS. A prospective evaluation of ST2 and galectin-3 for prediction of 1-year outcomes in patients presenting to an outpatient clinic with dyspnea. *Clin Chem.* 2006 Nov;52(11):2088-2095.

Daniels LB, Morrow DA, Girerd N, Felker GM, Liu V, Clopton P, Maisel AS. A prospective evaluation of ST2 and galectin-3 for prediction of 1-year outcomes in patients presenting to an outpatient clinic with dyspnea. *Clin Chem*. 2006 Nov;52(11):2088-2095.

De Lemos et al. 2010] de Lemos JA, Drazner MH, Omland T, Ayers CR, Khera A, Rohatgi A, Hashim I, Berry JD, Das SR, Morrow DA, McGuire DK. Association of troponin T detected with a highly sensitive assay and cardiac structure and mortality risk in the general population. *JAMA*. 2010 Dec 1;304(21):2503-2512.

De Lemos JA, Morrow DA, Bentley JH, et al. The prognostic value of B-type natriuretic peptide in patients with acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med*. 2001;345(14):1014-1021.

Deo et al., 2012] Deo RC, Locatelli F, Cucher MA, Boeschoten EW, Barrett B, Daugirdas JT, Del Vecchio L, Andreucci VE, London GM; European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant Association. Mortality risk with 2 times per week (compared with 3 times per week) in-center hemodialysis schedule: a study of the dialysis outcomes and practice patterns study (DOPPS). *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2012 Oct;60(4):582-592.

Fessel et al., 2006] Fessel JP, Porter NA. Lipid oxidation and cardiovascular disease. *Curr Atheroscler Rep*. 2006 Nov;8(6):472-479.

Fox et al. 2014] Fox CS, Matsushita K, Woodward M, Bilo HJ, Chalmers J, Heerspink HJ, Lee BJ, Perkins RM, Rossing P, Sairenchi T, Tonelli M, Valkhoff VE, Woodward M, Zhang H, Coresh J, de Jong PE, Gansevoort RT, Hemmelgarn BR, Jafar TH, Jassal SK, Levey AS, Levin A, Mann JF, Rebholz CM, Rossing P, Saran R, Schiffrin EL, Sarnak MJ, Schleyer E, Seron P, Sikole A, Tonelli M, Vlagopoulos PT, Wen CP, Greene T, Levey AS, Coresh J. The association between kidney disease and cardiovascular disease risk: a collaborative meta-analysis of general and high-risk population cohorts. *Kidney Int*. 2014 Oct;86(4):1750-1762.

Goodwin et al., 2016] Goodwin S, McPherson JD, McCombie WR. Coming of age: ten years of next-generation sequencing technologies. *Nat Rev Genet*. 2016 Jun;17(6):333-351.

Hanley et al. 1983] Hanley JA, McNeil BJ. A method of comparing the areas under receiver operating characteristic curves derived from the same cases. *Radiology*. 1983 Sep;148(3):839-843.

Hosmer et al., 2013] Hosmer Jr DW, Lemeshow S, Sturdivant RX. *Applied logistic regression*. Vol. 398. John Wiley & Sons; 2013.

Khera et al., 2017] Khera AV, Chaffin M, Aragam KG, Haas ME, Roselli C, Choi SH, Natarajan P, Lander ES, Lubitz SA, Ellinor PT, Kathiresan S. Genome-wide polygenic scores for common diseases identify individuals with risk equivalent to monogenic mutations. *Nat Genet*. 2018 Sep;50(9):1219-1224.

Knaus et al., 1986] Knaus WA, Draper EA, Wagner DP, Zimmerman JE. APACHE II: a severity of disease classification system. *Crit Care Med*. 1985 Oct;13(10):818-829.

Lange et al., 2008] Lange V, Picotti P, Domon B, Aebersold R. Selected reaction monitoring for quantitative proteomics: a tutorial. *Mol Syst Biol*. 2008 Dec 18;4:222. doi: 10.1038/msb.2008.61.

Latini R, Masson S, Anand IS, et al. Prognostic value of very low plasma concentrations of troponin T in patients with stable chronic heart failure. *Circulation*. 2007;116(11):1242-1249.

Lauer & Collins, 2017] Lauer MS, Collins FS. Using science to improve the nation's health system: NIH's commitment to transformation. *JAMA*. 2017 Nov 14;318(18):1719-1720.

- Loh, 2011] Loh WY. Classification and regression trees. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*. 2011 Oct 1;1(1):14-23.
- Mandrekar, 2010] Mandrekar JN. Receiver operating characteristic curve in diagnostic test assessment. *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*. 2010 Sep 1;5(9):1315-1316.
- Mardis, 2017] Mardis ER. DNA sequencing technologies: 2006-2016. *Nat Protoc*. 2017 Mar;12(3):413-418.
- McAllister et al. 2019] McAllister DA, Drysdale KB, Hagger V, Lean ME, Whitcomb P, Combes G, Ford I. Sex differences in the prognostic value of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T in patients with suspected cardiac chest pain. *Eur Heart J*. 2019 Jun 7;40(22):1785-1793.
- Montori et al., 2020] Montori VM, Brito JP, Murad MH. The optimal practice of evidence-based medicine: incorporating patient preferences in practice guidelines. *JAMA*. 2013 Nov 13;310(18):1950-1951.
- Mueller et al. 2014] Mueller C, Scholer A, Laule-Kilian K, Martina B, Schindler C, Buser P, Pfisterer M, Perruchoud AP. Use of B-type natriuretic peptide in the evaluation and management of acute dyspnea. *N Engl J Med*. 2004 Jul 22;351(4):647-654. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa031744.
- Pencina et al., 2008] Pencina MJ, D'Agostino RB Sr, D'Agostino RB Jr, Vasan RS. Evaluating the added predictive ability of a new marker: from area under the ROC curve to reclassification and beyond. *Stat Med*. 2008 Feb 28;27(2):157-172.
- Pencina et al., 2014] Pencina MJ, D'Agostino Sr RB, Vasan RS. Evaluating the incremental value of a new marker: a review of methods. *Clin Chem*. 2014 Jan;60(1):17-23.
- Pfeffer MA, Claggett B, Assmann SF, Boineau R, Anand IS, Clausell N, Desai AS, Diaz R, Fleg JL, Gordeev I, Hartley LH, Heitner JF, Lewis EF, O'Meara E, Probstfield JL, Shaburishvili T, Shah SJ, Solomon SD, Sweitzer NK, McKinlay SM, Pitt B, Zannad F; PARADIGM-HF Investigators and Committees. Regional variation in patients and outcomes in the Prospective Comparison of ARNI with ACEI to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and Morbidity in Heart Failure trial (PARADIGM-HF). *Circulation*. 2015 Nov 24;132(21):1982-1992.
- Pocock et al., 1987] Pocock SJ, Clayton TC, Altman DG. Survival plots of time-to-event outcomes in clinical trials: good practice and pitfalls. *Lancet*. 2002 Sep 14;359(9318):1686-1689.
- Rifai et al., 2017] Rifai N, Gillette MA, Carr SA. Protein biomarker discovery and validation: the long and uncertain path to clinical utility. *Nat Biotechnol*. 2006 Aug;24(8):971-983.
- Rothman et al., 2008] Rothman KJ, Greenland S, Lash TL. *Modern epidemiology*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008 Sep 2.
- Sabatine et al. 2002] Sabatine MS, Morrow DA, de Lemos JA, Jarolim P, Braunwald E. Detection of acute changes in circulating troponin in the setting of transient stress test-induced myocardial ischaemia using an ultrasensitive assay: results from TIMI 35. *Eur Heart J*. 2009 Jan;30(2):162-169.
- Schisterman et al., 2009] Schisterman EF, Cole SR, Platt RW. Overadjustment bias and unnecessary adjustment in epidemiologic studies. *Epidemiology*. 2009 Jul;20(4):488-495.
- Schoeniger and Beebe, 2014] Schoeniger JS, Beebe DJ. The physics of microfluidics: low Reynolds number hydrodynamics. *Annu Rev Biomed Eng*. 2014 Aug 21;16:383-411.

982 *Examining The Utility Of Biomarker Panels In Predicting Disease Progression In Patients With Cardiovascular Disorders: Laboratory Approaches*

Shendure and Ji, 2008] Shendure J, Ji H. Next-generation DNA sequencing. *Nat Biotechnol.* 2008 Oct;26(10):1135-1145.

Steinhubl et al., 2018] Steinhubl SR, Muse ED, Topol EJ. The emerging field of mobile health. *Sci Transl Med.* 2015 Apr 15;7(283):283rv3.

Steyerberg et al., 2010] Steyerberg EW, Vickers AJ, Cook NR, Gerds T, Gonen M, Obuchowski N, Pencina MJ, Kattan MW. Assessing the performance of prediction models: a framework for traditional and novel measures. *Epidemiology.* 2010 Jan;21(1):128-138.

Tang et al. 2008] Tang WH, Francis GS, Morrow DA, Newby LK, Cannon CP, Jesse RL, Storrow AB, Christenson RH; National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory Medicine. National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory Medicine practice guidelines: clinical utilization of cardiac biomarker testing in heart failure. *Circulation.* 2008 Jun 24;117(25):e381-e398.

Tijssen et al., 2010] Tijssen AJ, Creemers EE, Moerland PD, de Windt LJ, van der Wal AC, Kok WE, Pinto YM. MiR423-5p as a circulating biomarker for heart failure. *Circ Res.* 2010 Jun 11;106(11):1035-1039.

Vandenbroucke et al., 2007] Vandenbroucke JP, von Elm E, Altman DG, Gøtzsche PC, Mulrow CD, Pocock SJ, Poole C, Schlesselman JJ, Egger M; STROBE Initiative. Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE): explanation and elaboration. *Epidemiology.* 2007 Nov;18(6):805-835.

World Health Organization. Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). Fact sheet, May 2017. [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cardiovascular-diseases-\(cvds\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cardiovascular-diseases-(cvds)). Accessed 15 June 2022.

Yager et al., 2006] Yager P, Domingo GJ, Gerdes J. Point-of-care diagnostics for global health. *Annu Rev Biomed Eng.* 2008;10:107-144.

Zethelius B, Johnston N, Venge P. Troponin I as a predictor of coronary heart disease and mortality in 70-year-old men: a community-based cohort study. *Circulation.* 2008 Jan 29;117(4):470-478.