



# Lab Briefings Webinar



Christopher W. Farnsworth, PhD, DABCC

May 14, 2025



**WashU** Medicine

# **Beyond the Label**

## **Novel Applications of Cardiac Biomarkers**

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Washington University in St. Louis

# Disclosures

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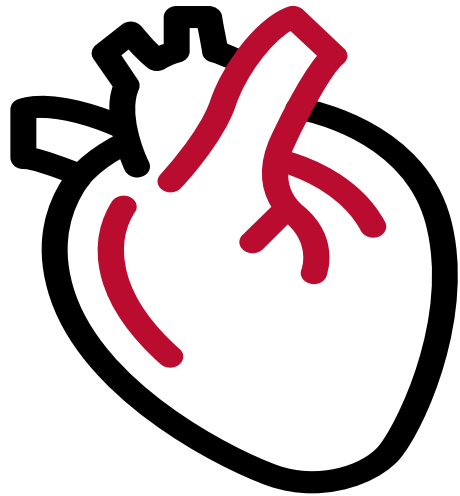
## Research funding from:

Abbott Laboratories  
Beckman Coulter  
Roche Diagnostics  
Sebia  
The Binding Site  
Siemens Healthineers  
Cepheid  
Qiagen

## Consulting & Advisory Boards

Werfen  
Abbott Laboratories  
Cytovale  
Roche Diagnostics  
BD

# Learning Objectives



01

Explain the primary clinical applications of troponin and natriuretic peptides.

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02

Evaluate the emerging and non-traditional uses of cardiac biomarkers in clinical practice.

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03

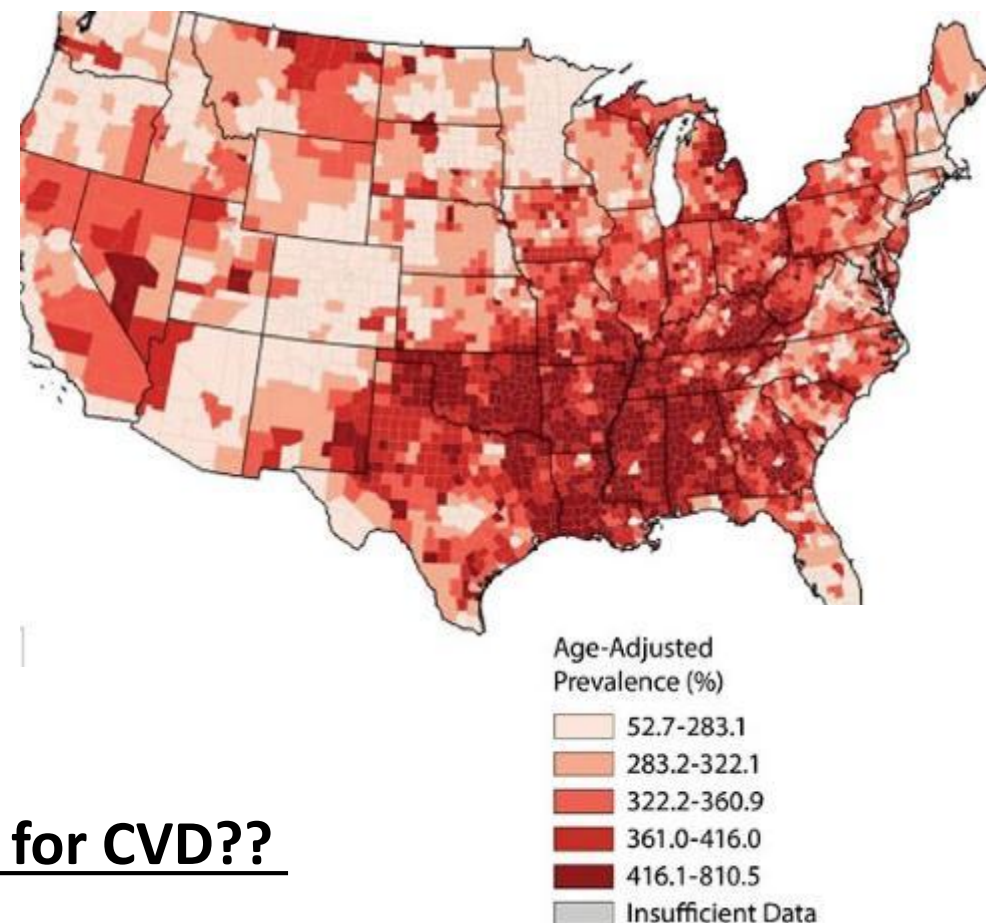
Recognize key limitations and gaps in the literature related to biomarker cutpoints and clinical study design.

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# Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is leading cause of US mortality

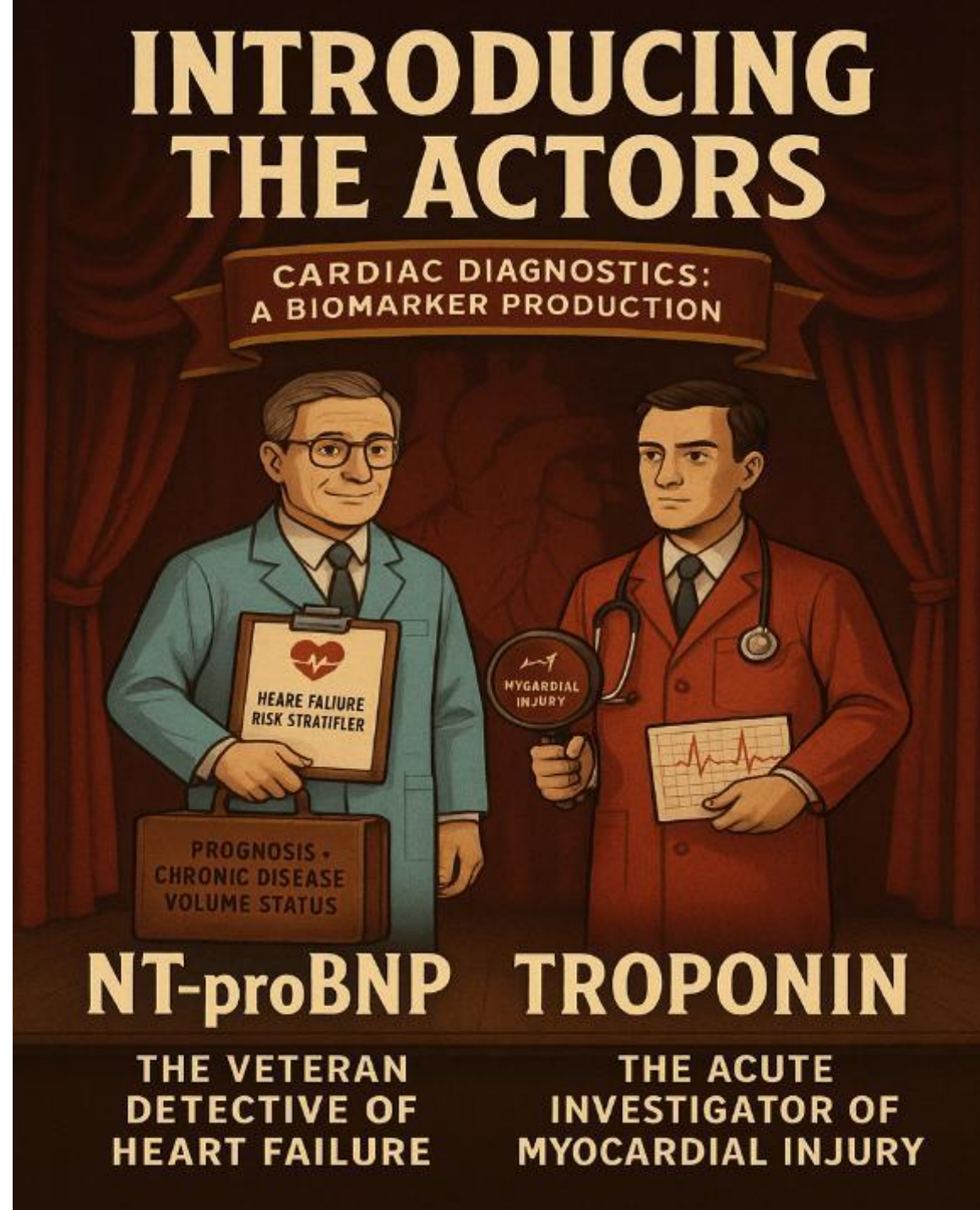
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- 702,880 people in 2022 died from CVD
  - ~20% of all deaths in 2022
- Primarily due to myocardial infarction (MI), heart failure (HF), and arrhythmia
- Risk factors: diabetes, obesity, inactivity, excessive alcohol use



**Can we use biomarkers to detect patients at risk for CVD??**

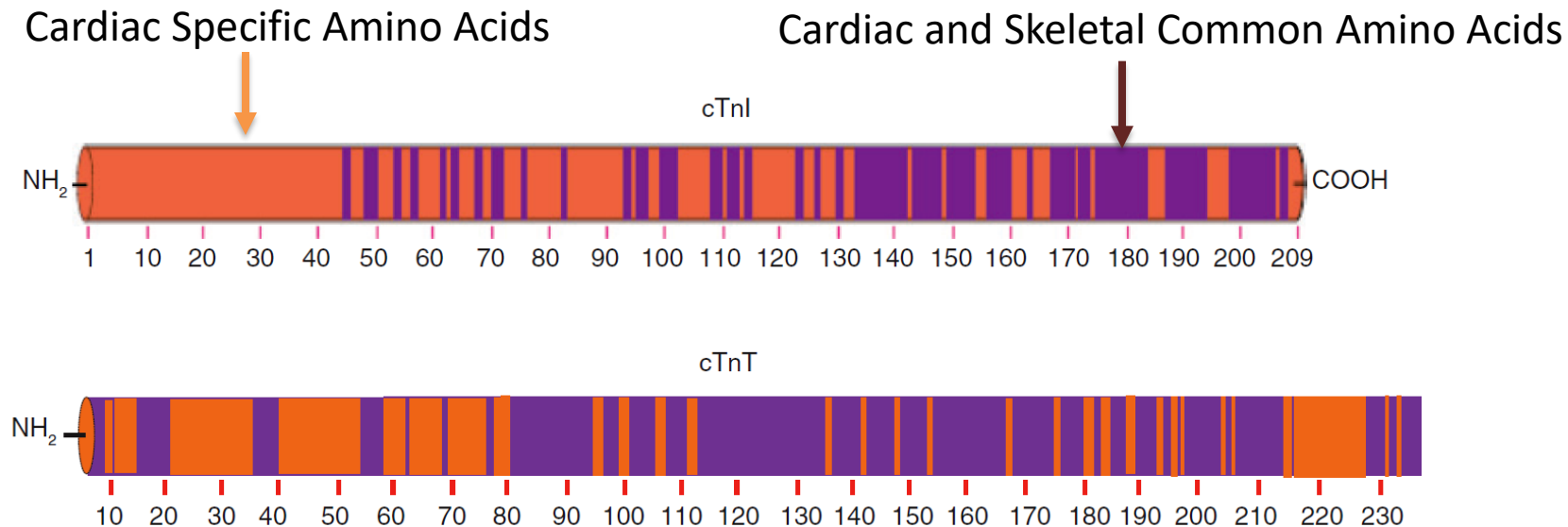
## Introducing the Biomarkers



# Cardiac troponin (cTn) is associated with cardiac injury

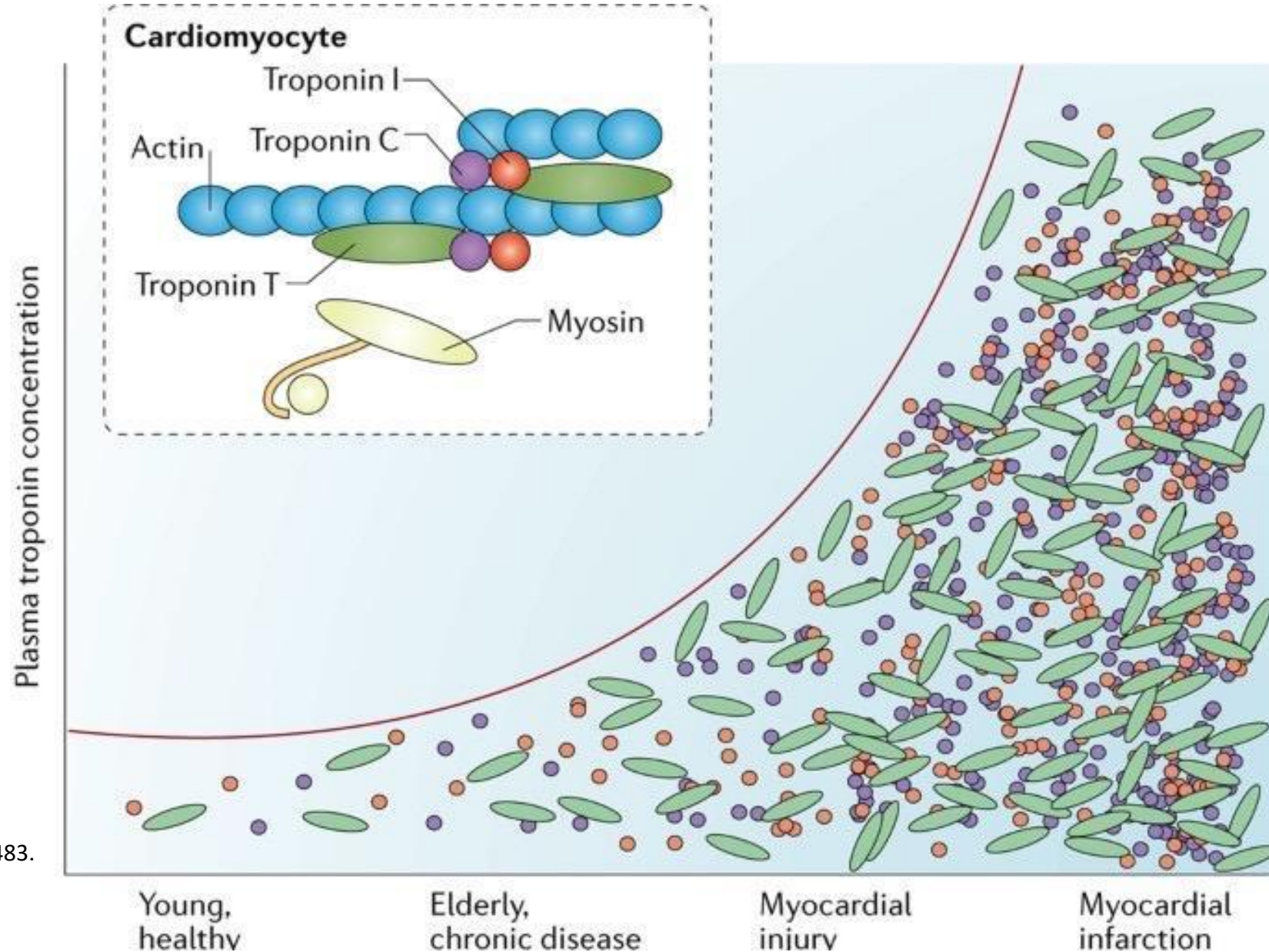
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- cTns are **cardiac tissue specific**
  - Not expressed in any other tissue
- cTn assays **are specific** for myocardial injury





# Troponin function and elevation after injury





# Myocardial Injury = Elevated cTn

## Criteria for myocardial injury

Detection of an elevated cTn value above the 99th percentile URL is defined as myocardial injury. The injury is considered acute if there is a rise and/or fall of cTn values.

**99<sup>th</sup> % URL = 99<sup>th</sup> percentile upper reference limit**

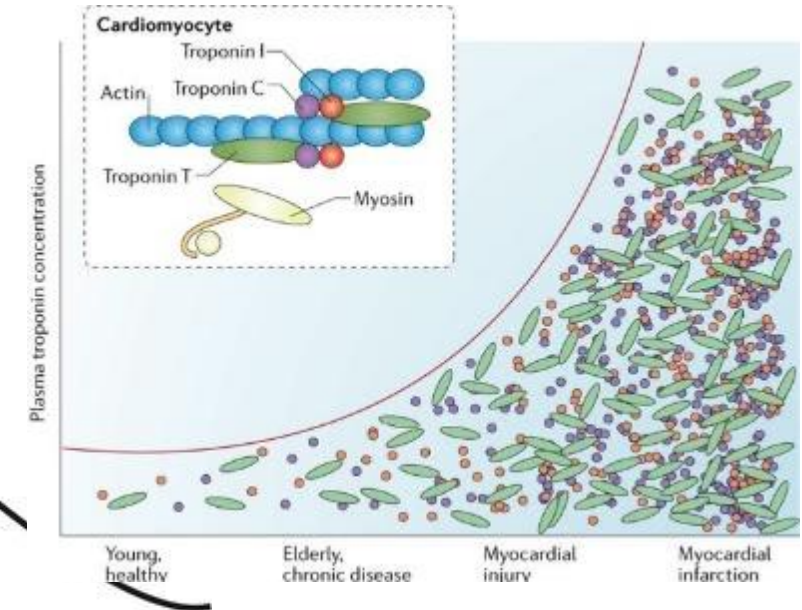
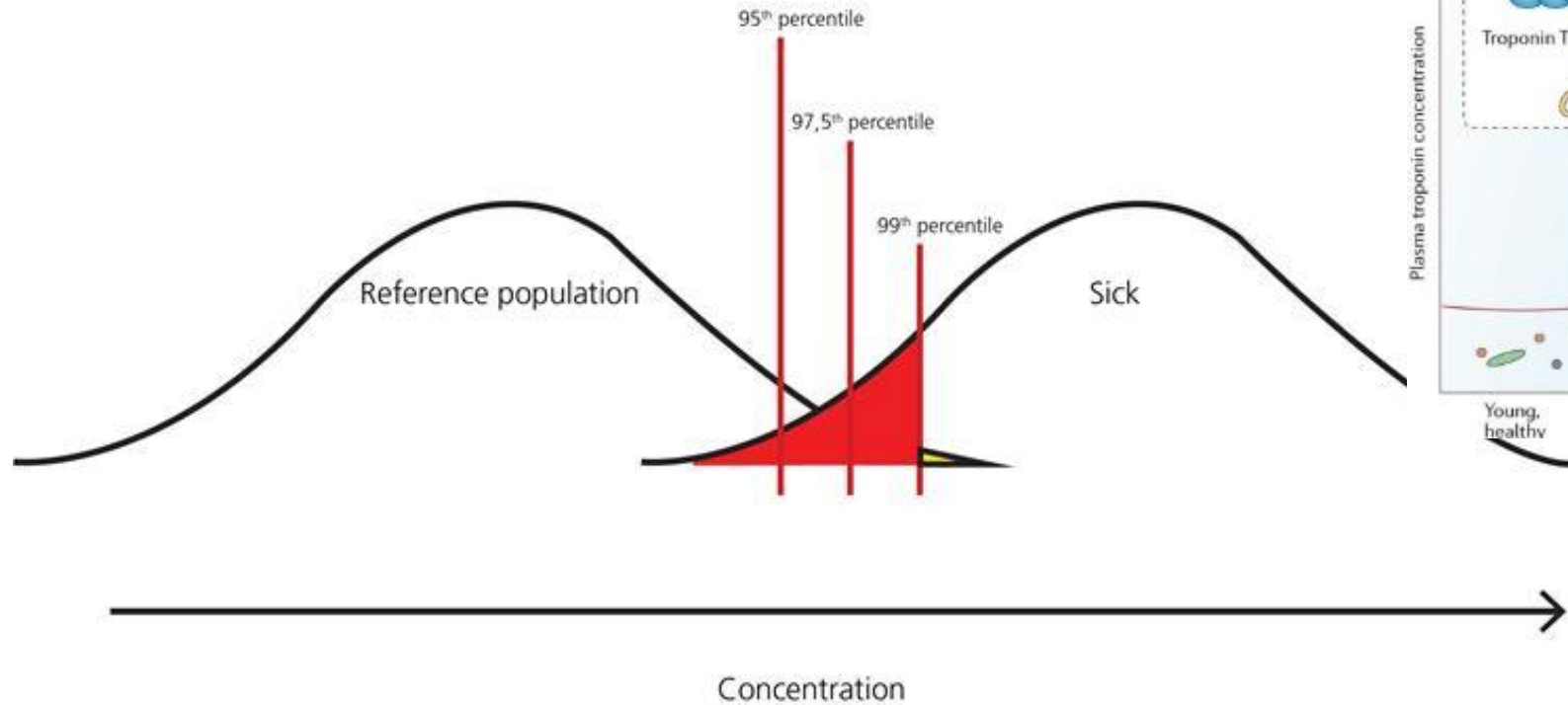
**Myocardial Infarction = acute myocardial injury + Ischemia**

J Am Coll Cardiology 2018;72: 2231-64.

# Defining “Healthy” and the 99<sup>th</sup> % URL?

99<sup>th</sup> % is universally endorsed as reference cutoff for myocardial injury

- Higher cutoff = missed diagnoses
- Lower cutoff = decreased specificity



# IFCC

## Recommendations for deriving the 99<sup>th</sup> % URL

- 400 males
- 400 females
- 4 lots of reagent
- 18—80 years old

Clin Chem 2022;68: 1022-30.

Table 1. Conditions that should be excluded from the reference population.

Condition	Screening tool
All known cardiovascular or cardiac diseases	Reported in questionnaire
Treatment for hyperlipidemia	Medication reported in questionnaire
Treatment for hypertension	Medication reported in questionnaire
Subclinical heart disease	Exclude if NT-proBNP >125 ng/L or BNP >35 ng/L (38)
Diabetes	Treatment (including diet) reported in questionnaire Exclude if HbA1c $\geq 48$ mmol/mol ( $\geq 6.5\%$ ), fasting glucose $\geq 7.1$ mmol/L (126 mg/dL), 2 hour plasma glucose during oral tolerance test (100 g) or a randomly measured glucose $\geq 11.1$ mmol/L (200 mg/dL) (39)
Chronic renal disease	eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> or urine albumin/creatinine ratio > 3 mg/mmol (>30 mg/g) (40)
Abnormal BMI	<18 m <sup>2</sup> /kg or >35 m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Smoking	Reported in questionnaire
Chronic disease that could affect the heart (cancer, lung, liver, unstable or nontreated thyroid disease, autoimmune diseases)	Reported in questionnaire
Recent acute hospitalization (within the last 3 months)	Reported in questionnaire
Pregnancy	Reported in questionnaire
For biotin sensitive assays only: Ongoing treatment with biotin (within one week)	Reported in questionnaire

NT-proBNP, N terminal pro brain natriuretic peptide; BNP, Brain natriuretic peptide; HbA1c, Hemoglobin A1c; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.

# Reference intervals will depend on the population assessed

And the instrument that you use...

## Sex-Specific 99th Percentile Upper Reference Limits for High Sensitivity Cardiac Troponin Assays Derived Using a Universal Sample Bank

Fred S. Apple,<sup>a,\*</sup> Alan H. B. Wu,<sup>b</sup> Yader Sandoval,<sup>c</sup> Anne Sexter,<sup>d</sup> Sara A. Love,<sup>a</sup> Gary Myers,<sup>e</sup> Karen Schulz,<sup>f</sup>  
Show-Hong Duh,<sup>g</sup> and Robert H. Christenson<sup>g</sup>

	Abbott Architect		Roche 801		Siemens Vista		Ortho Clinical Vitros	
	Male 99%	Female 99%	Male 99%	Female 99%	Male 99%	Female 99%	Male 99%	Female 99%
Manufacturer	34	16	22	14	55	33	19	16
Universal Sample Bank	20	13	16	10	68	44	16	5

426 men and 417 women

Exclusions: questionnaire for CVD, NTproBNP > 125 ng/L, eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

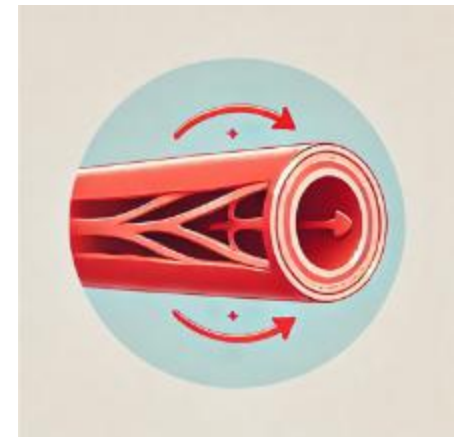
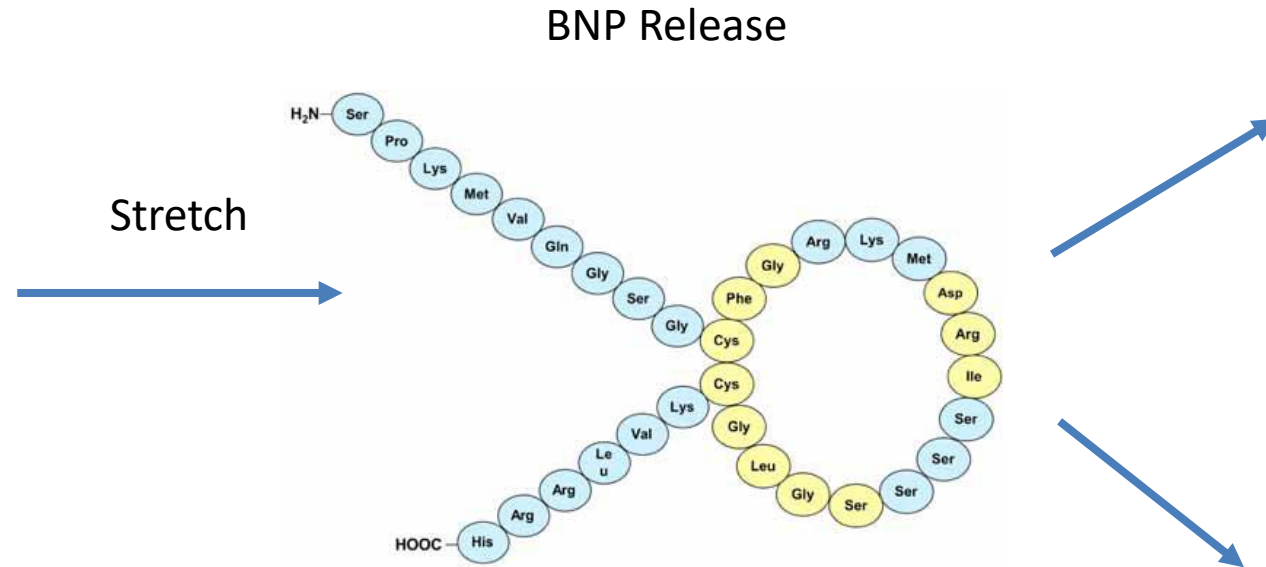
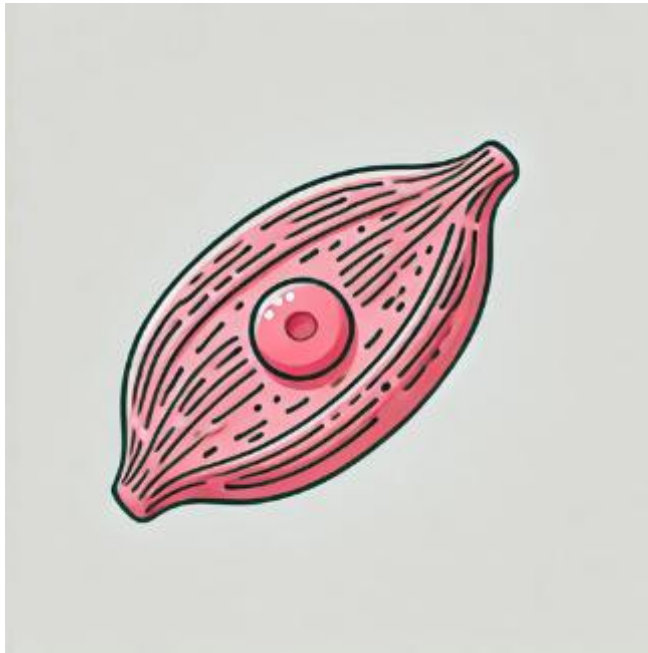
*Clin Chem* 2020;66:434-444.  
*Am J of Med* 2016;129:354-365.

# Take home for troponin elevations

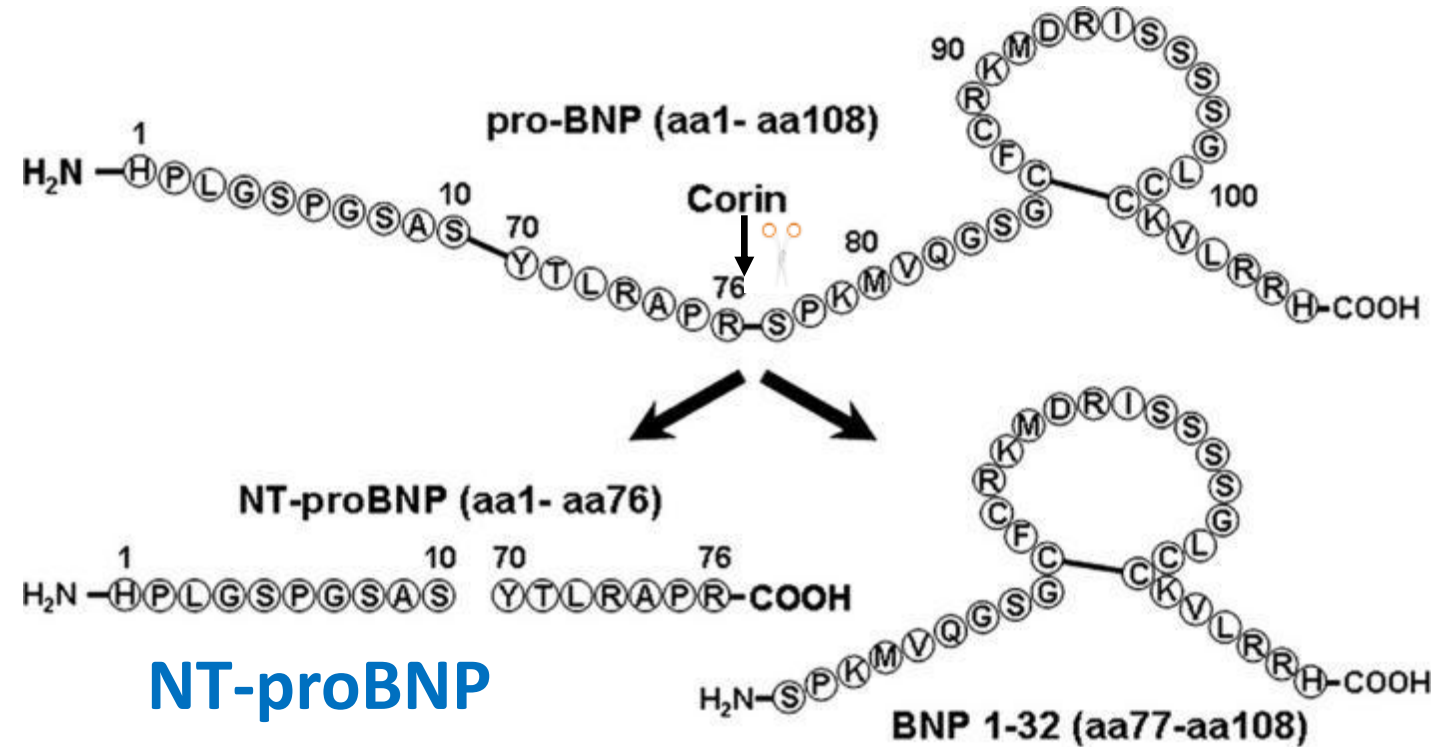
- Troponin elevation is due to myocardial injury
- Definition of elevation may vary based on a host of variables
- 99<sup>th</sup>% Upper reference limit varies dramatically between assays



# Natriuretic Peptides (NPs) and Myocardial Stretch



# NP Biochemistry

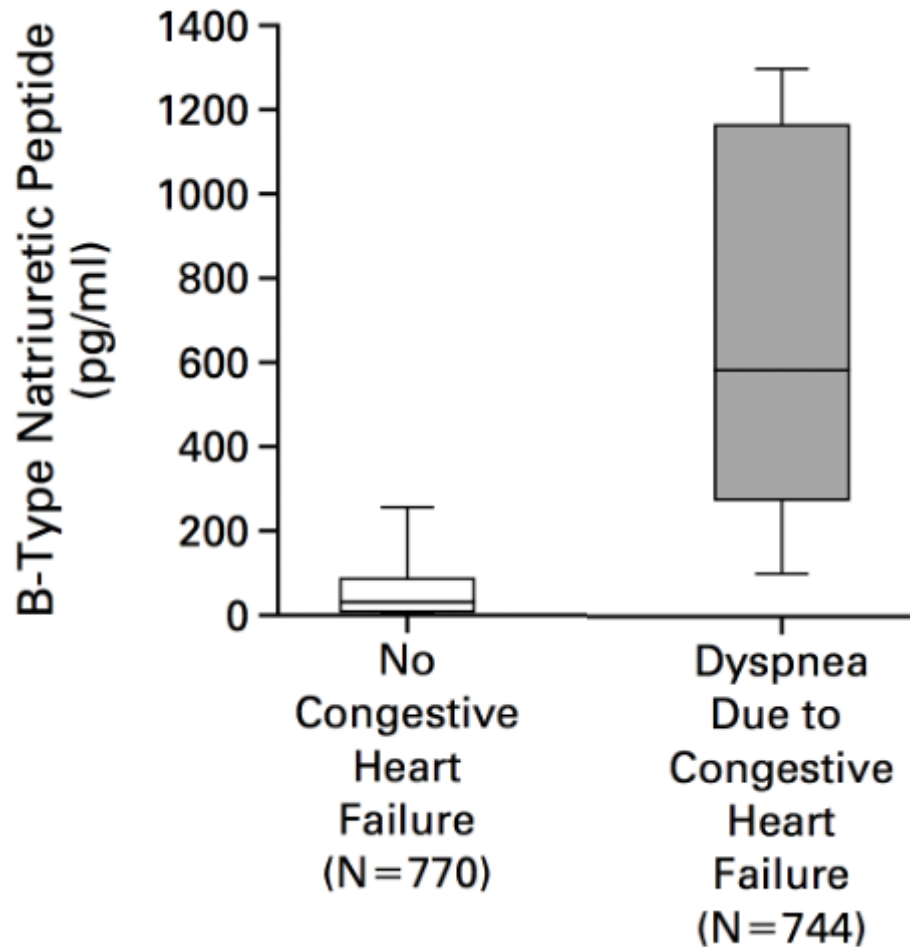


**NT-proBNP**  
**Biologically Inactive**

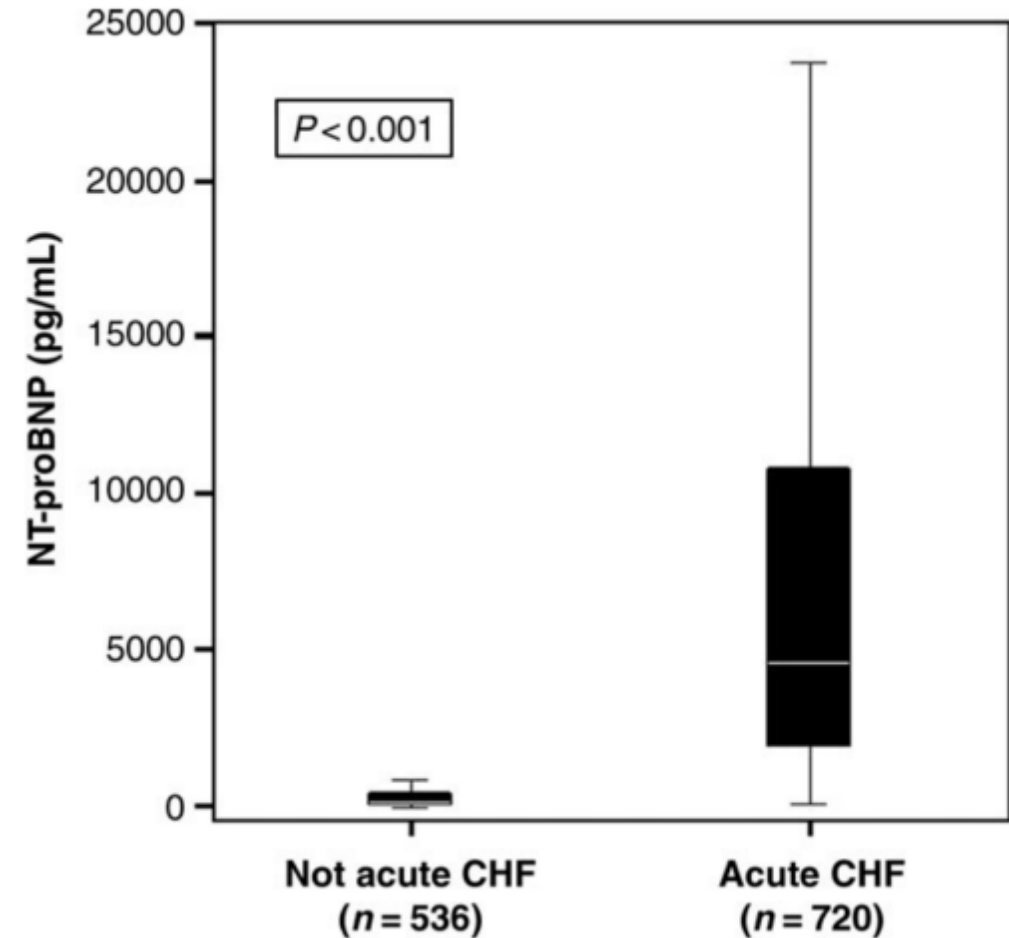
**BNP**  
**Biologically Active**

**Produced 1:1 Molar ratio**

# Performance of NP's for Diagnosis of Heart Failure



**BNP: Sensitivity = 90%,  
specificity = 76%**



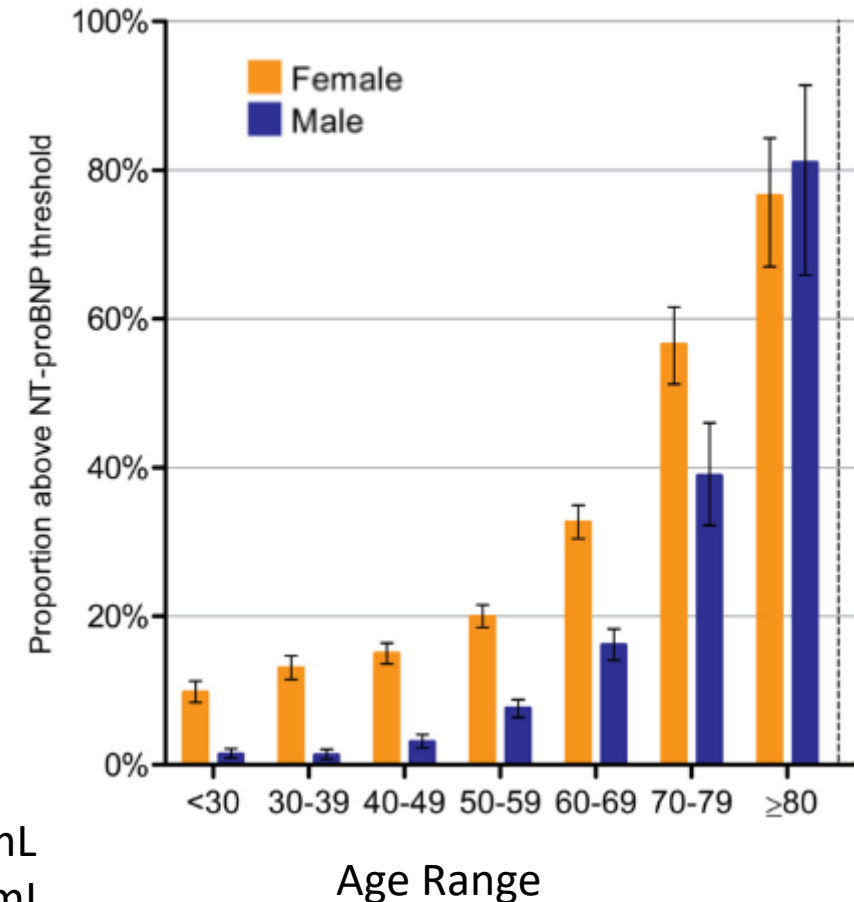
**NT-proBNP: Sensitivity = 90%,  
Specificity = 84%**

# Identifying the ideal NP thresholds

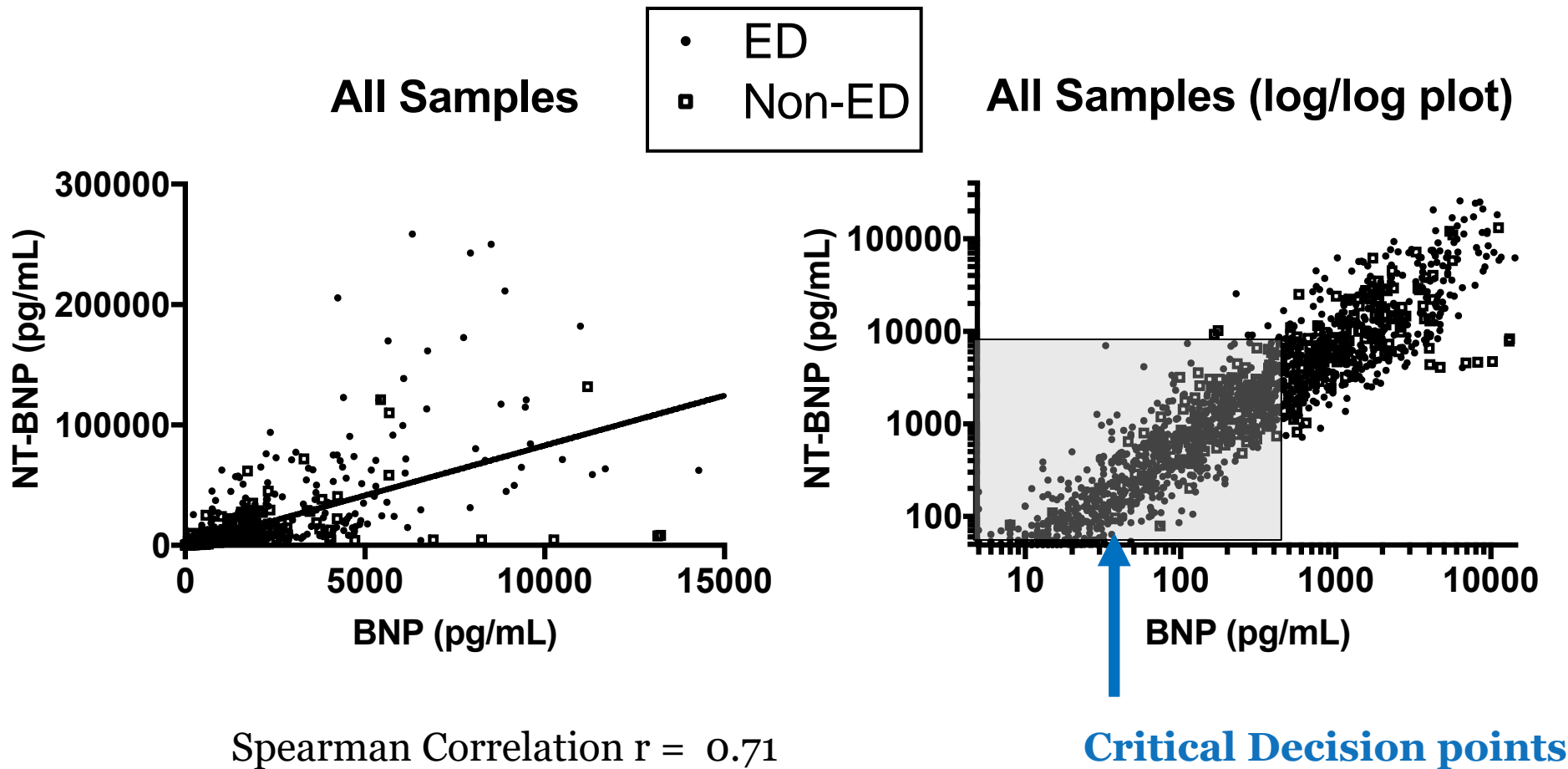
**Table 7** Natriuretic peptide levels supporting definition of heart failure

	Ambulatory	Hospitalized/ decompensated
BNP, pg/ml	≥35	≥ 100
NT-proBNP, pg/ml	≥ 125	≥ 300

NT-proBNP Manufacturer Reference interval = Males < 75 = 64 pg/mL  
Females < 75 = 95 pg/mL



# Modest correlation between BNP and NT-proBNP



Kappa (95% CI)

0.70 (.69-.72)

933 (72%)

Concordant

340 (26%)

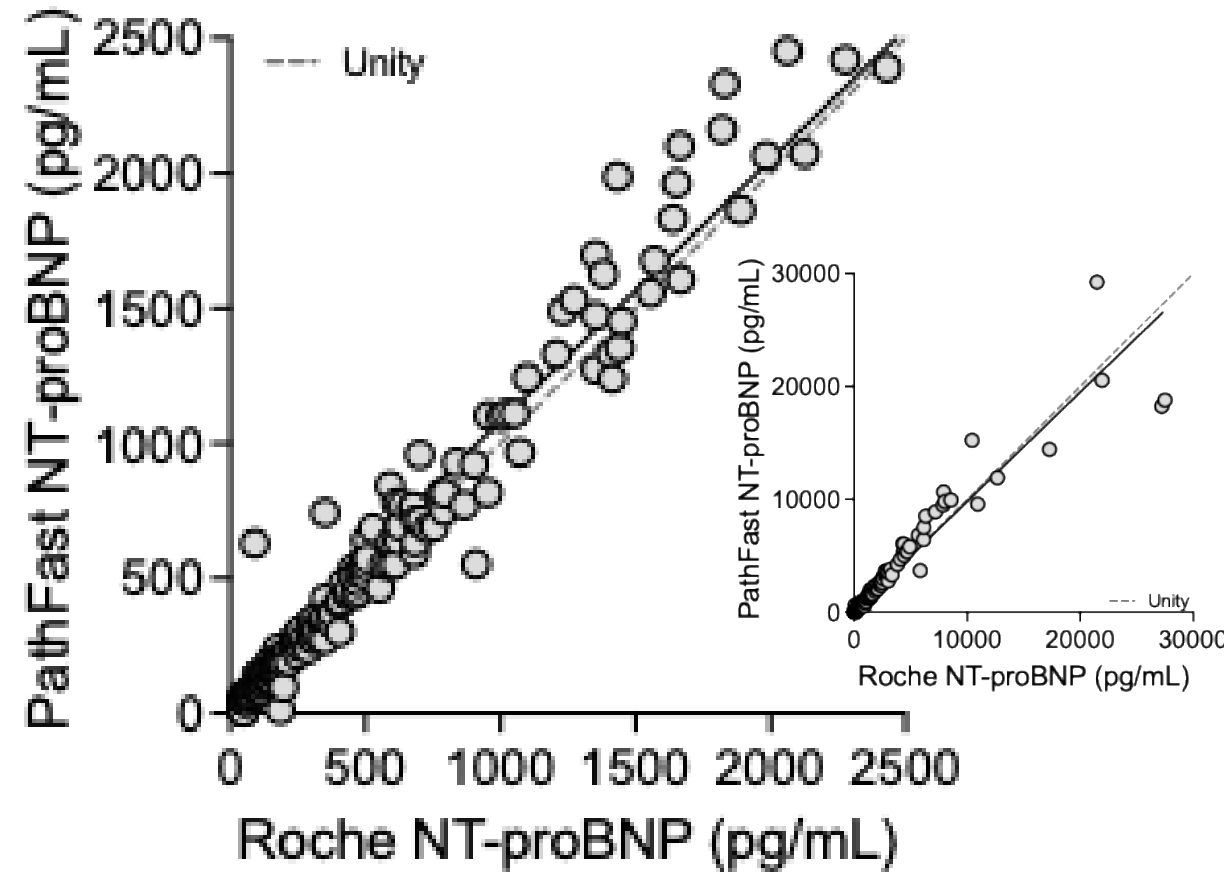
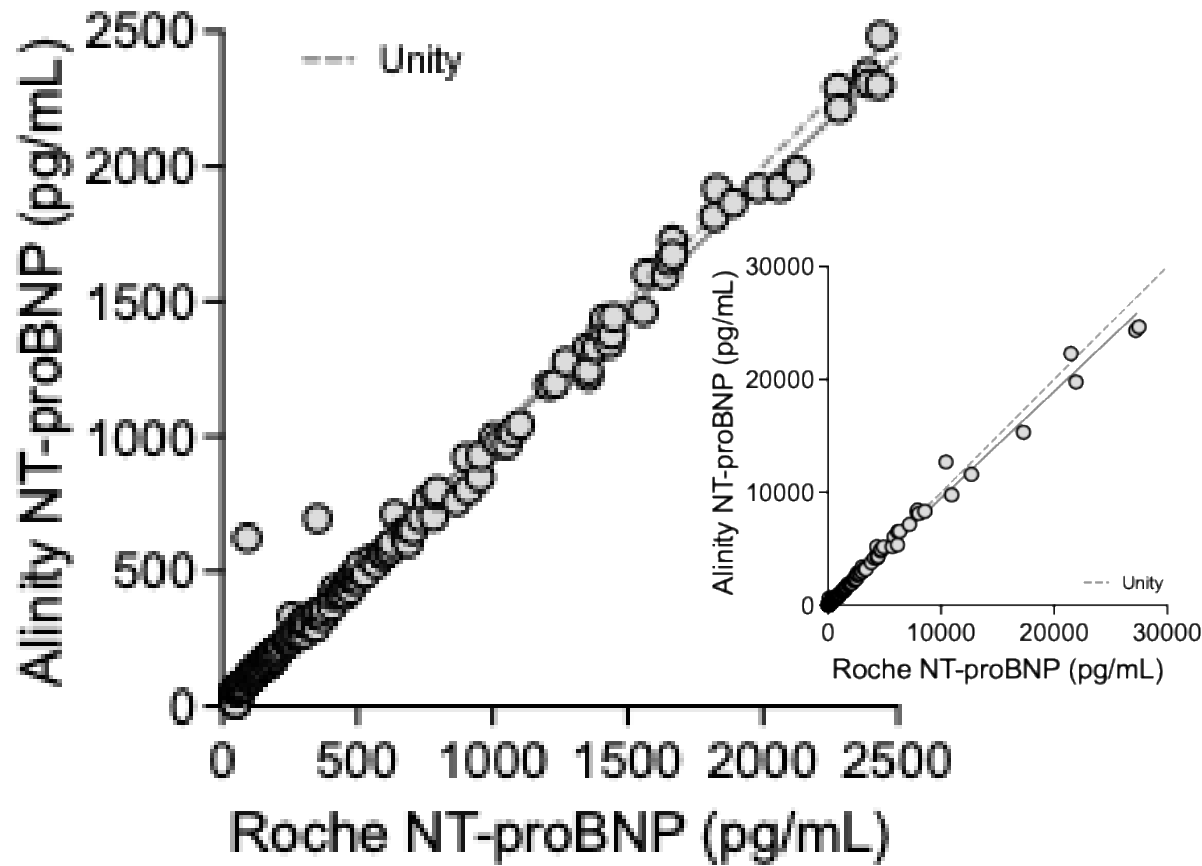
Partially  
Discordant

23 (2%)

Fully  
Discordant



# Excellent correlation between NT-proBNP assays

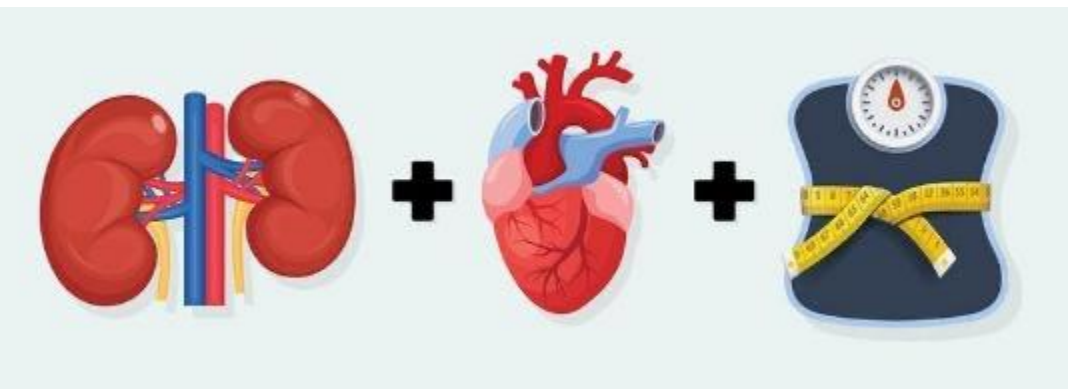
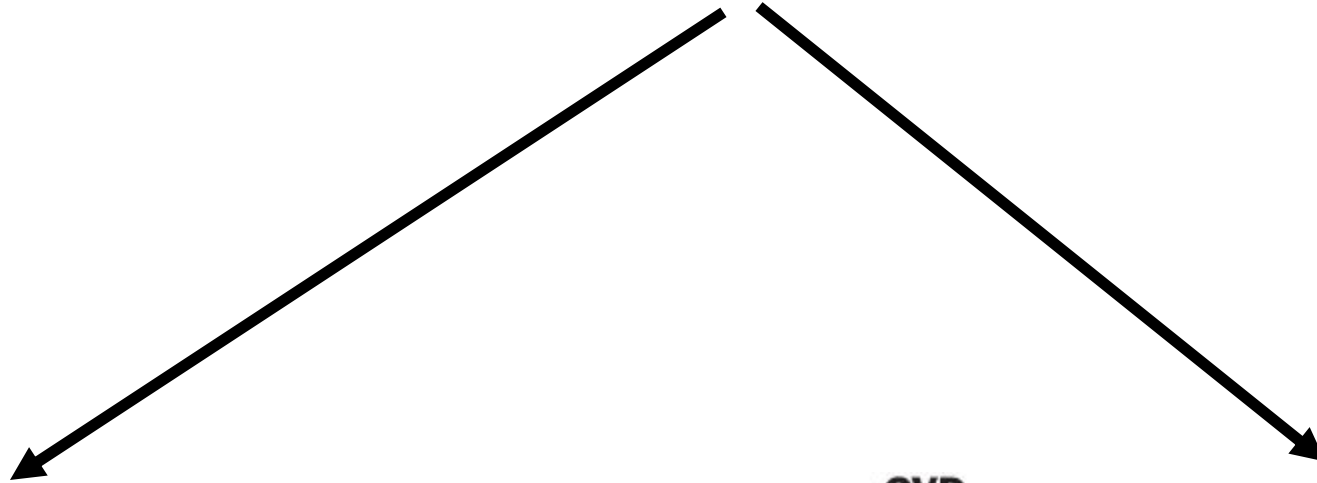


Spearman Correlation  $R = 0.99$

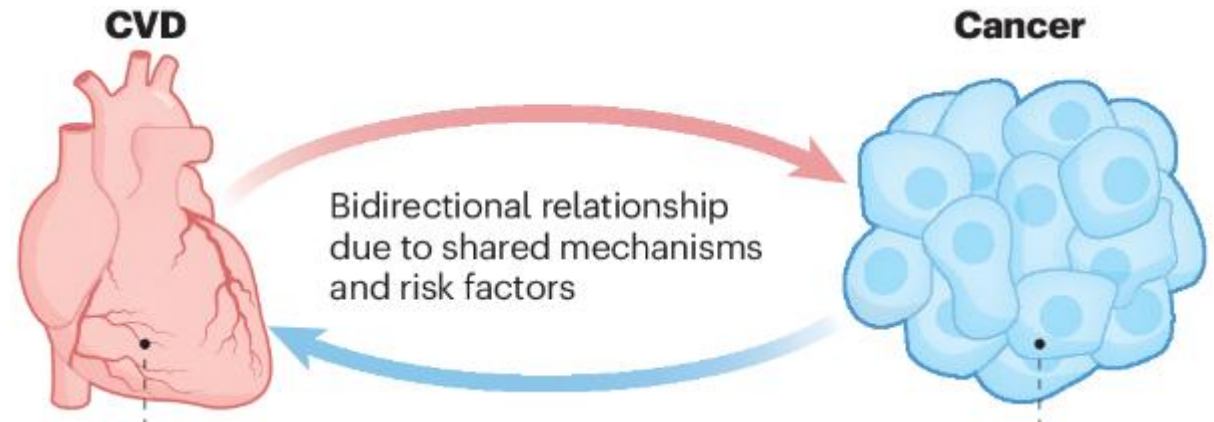
# **Take home for NP elevations**

- NP elevation is due to cardiomyocyte stretch
- Definition of elevation may vary based on a host of variables
- Excellent agreement between NT-proBNP assays
- Limited correlation between BNP and NT-proBNP assays

# Utility of Cardiac Biomarkers:

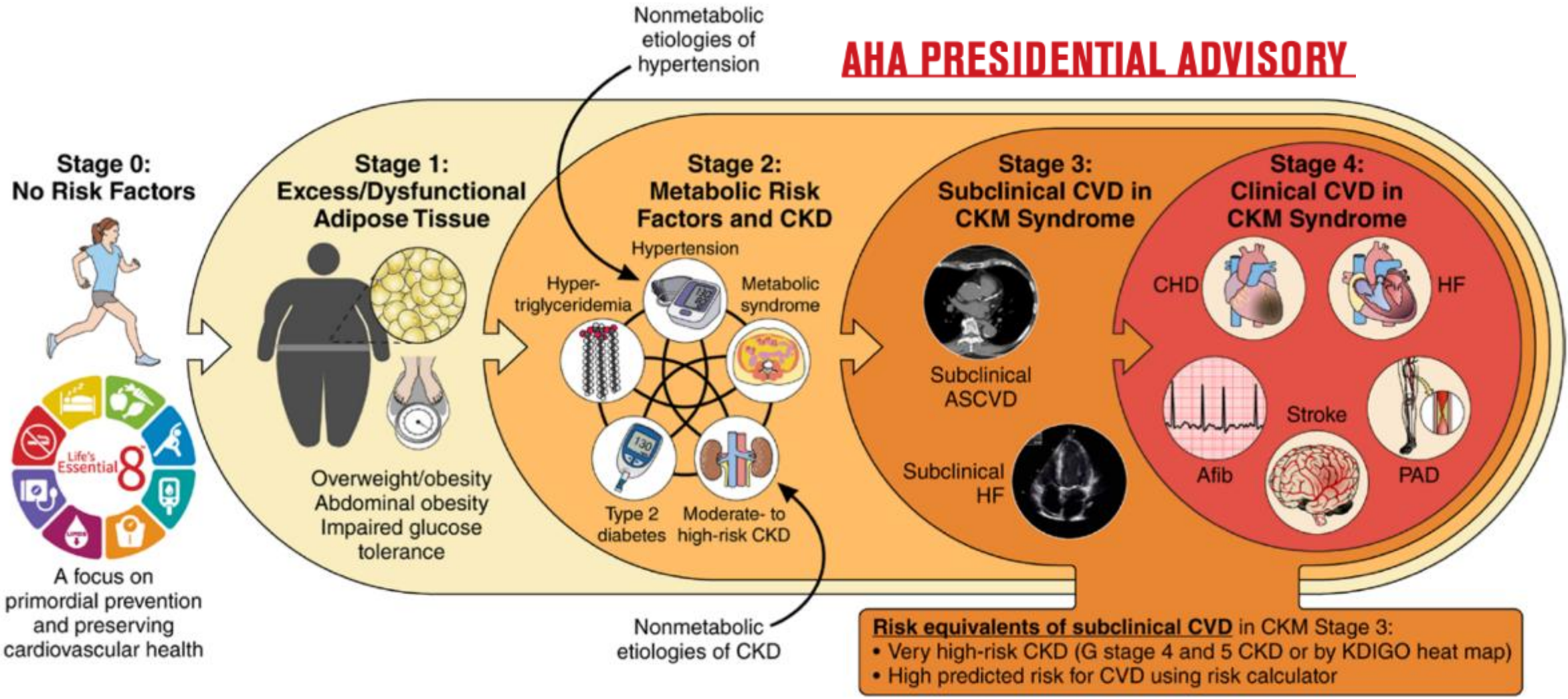


**Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic Syndrome**



**Cardio-Oncology**

# Use case 1: Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome



# Biomarkers are supported by multiple consensus documents

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## Circulation

Volume 148, Issue 20, 14 November 2023; Pages 1636-1664  
<https://doi.org/10.1161/CIR.0000000000001186>



## AHA SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS

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### **A Synopsis of the Evidence for the Science and Clinical Management of Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association**

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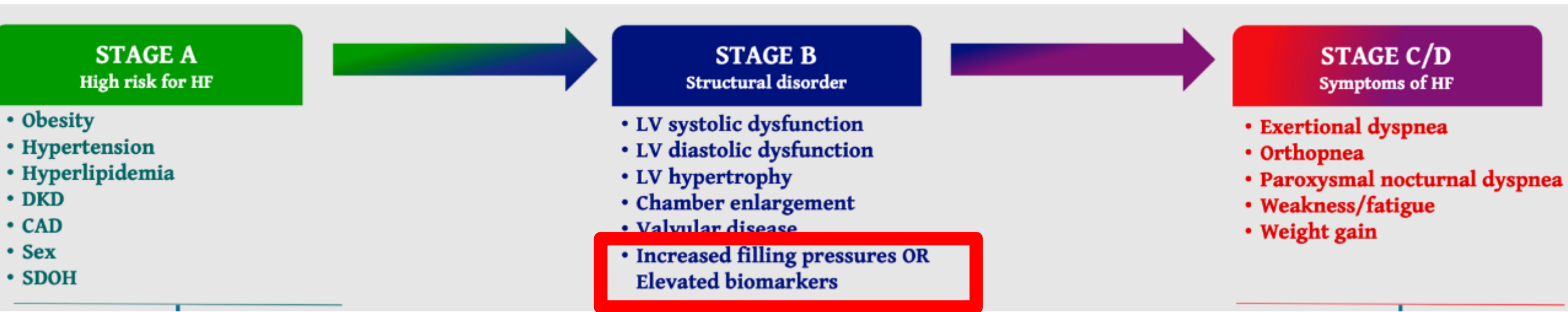
#### Subclinical HF diagnosed by:

**“Elevated cardiac biomarkers (NT-proBNP  $\geq 125$  pg/mL, hs-troponin T  $\geq 14$  ng/L for women and  $\geq 22$  ng/L for men, hs-troponin I  $\geq 10$  ng/L for women and  $\geq 12$  ng/L for men”**

.....



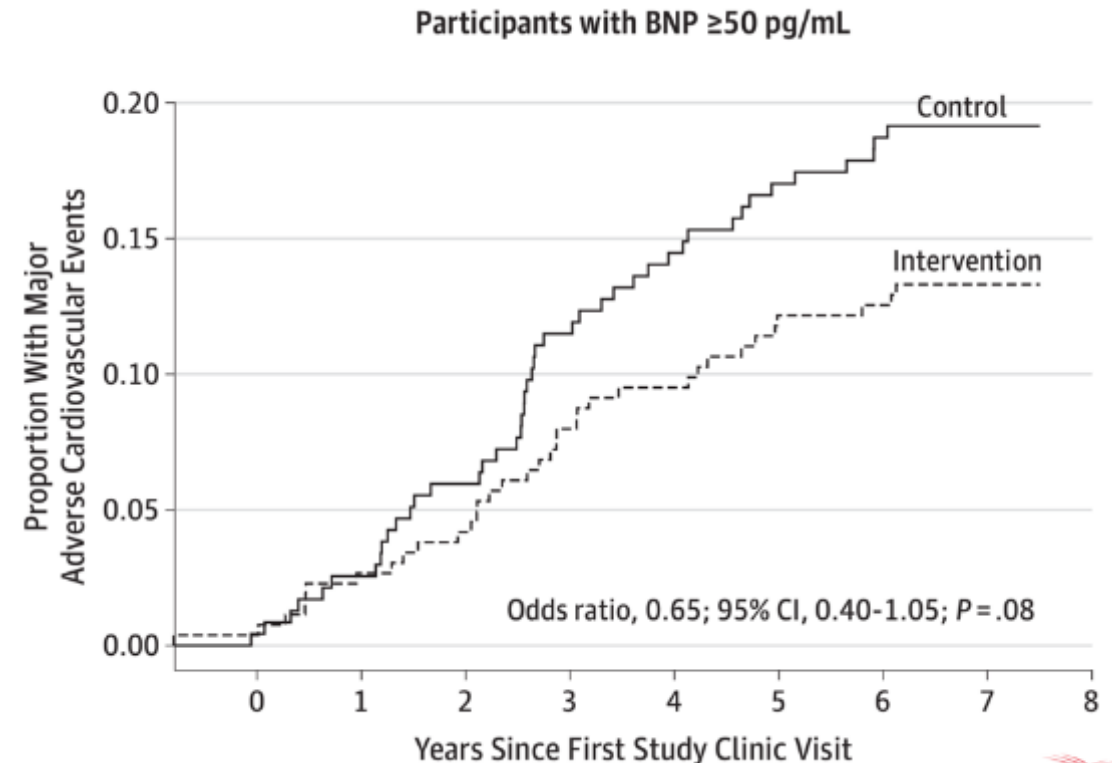
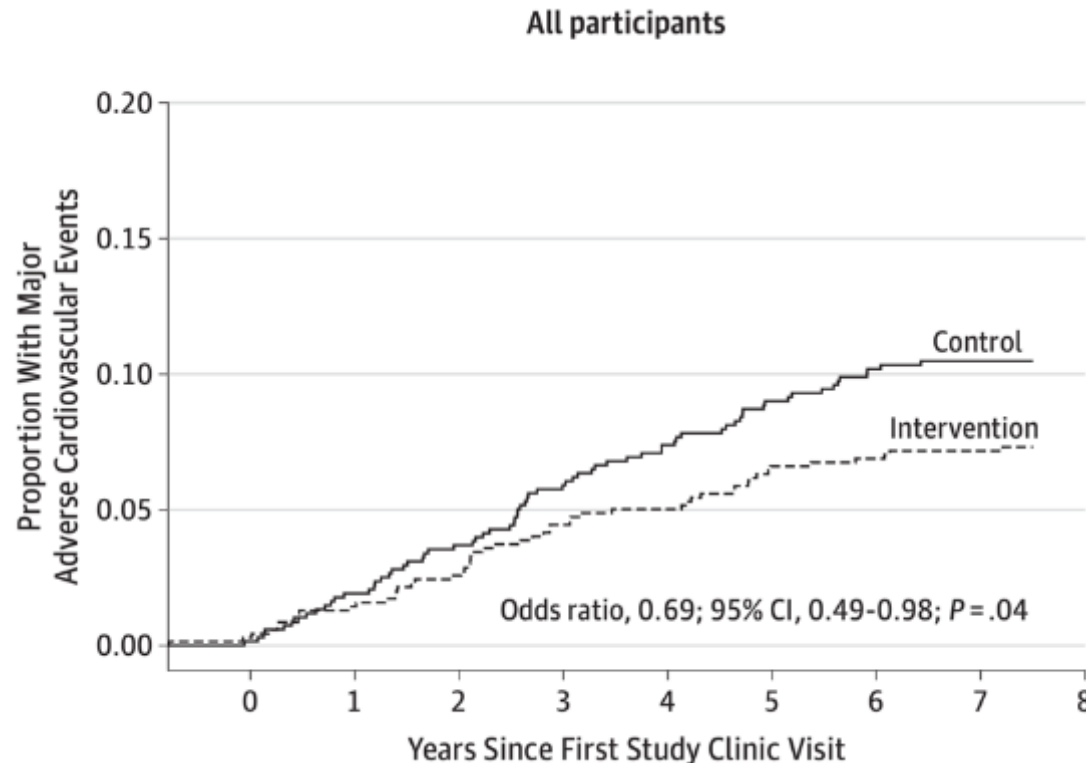
# American Diabetes Association Consensus Statement



**“...the biomarker thresholds for clinical use include a BNP  $\geq 50$  pg/mL, NT-proBNP  $\geq 125$  pg/mL and a hs-cTn  $> 99^{\text{th}}$  % URL”**

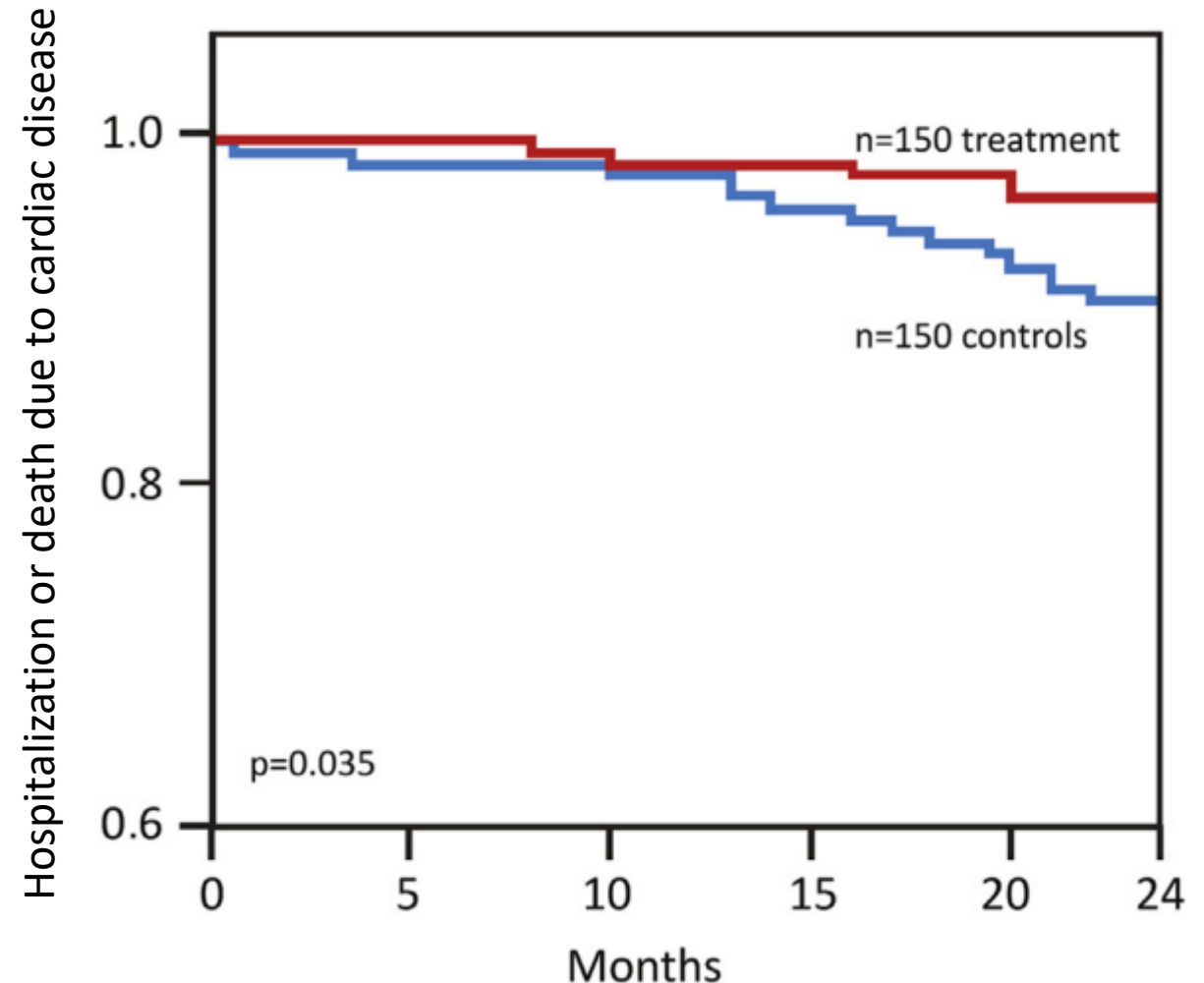
# STOP-HF Trial: BNP screening improves outcomes

- 1,374 patients with CVD risk factors
- Randomized to Standard of care vs. screening with BNP
  - BNP  $\geq 50$  pg/mL referred to cardiovascular specialist



# PONTIAC study: Reduced cardiac events in diabetics

- 300 patients with Type 2 Diabetes
- NT-proBNP > 125 pg/mL
- Standard of care treatment vs. up-titration of renin-angiotensin system (RAS) antagonists and betablockers



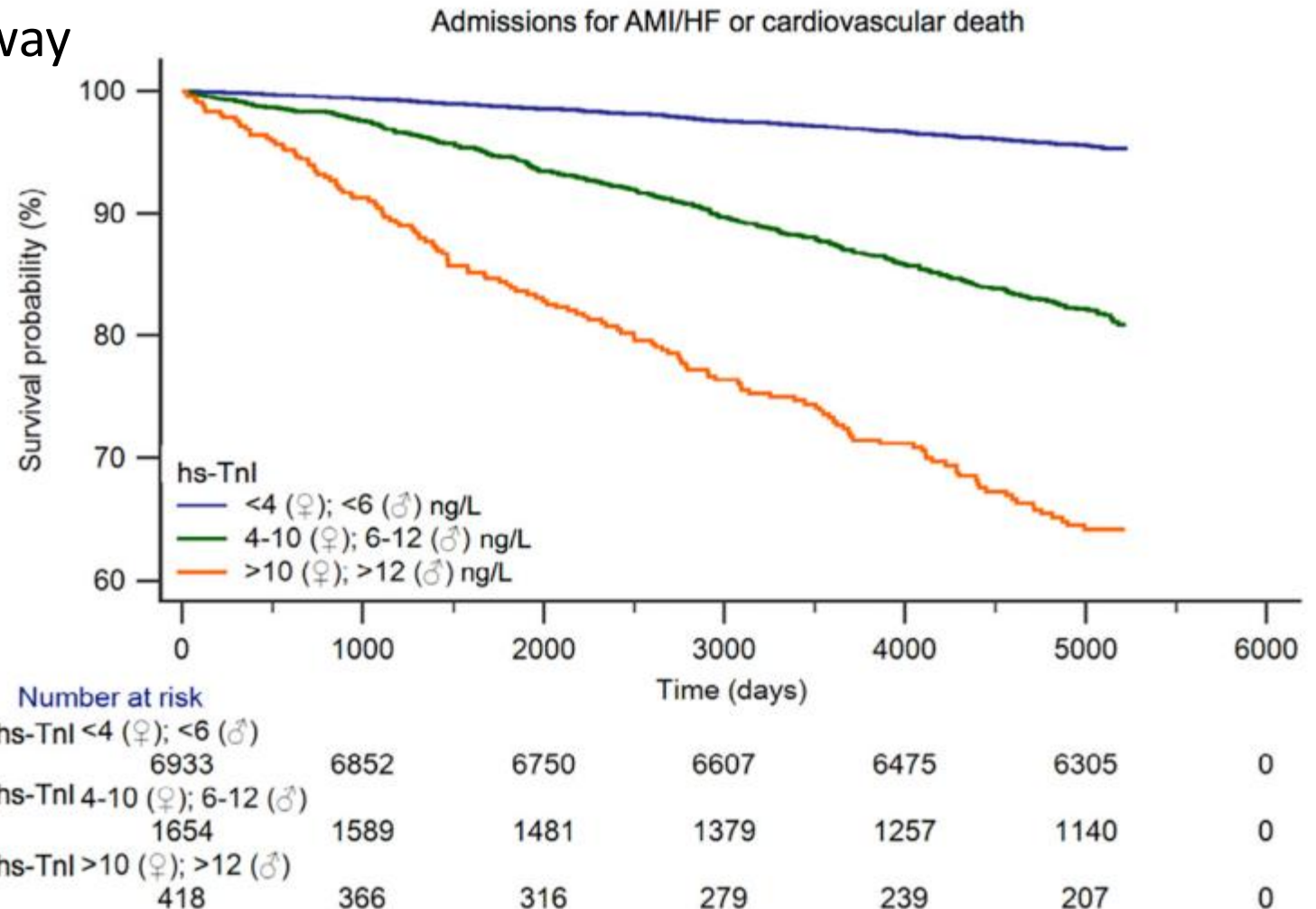
**Reduced hospitaliation / death. Hazard Ratio of 0.351 (0.127-0.975)**

# Measurable cTn = worse outcomes in healthy outpatients

- 9005 healthy subjects from Norway
- All samples tested for hs-cTnI
- Pts. w/ known CVD excluded
- 99<sup>th</sup> % males = 34 ng/L
- 99<sup>th</sup> % females = 16 ng/L

**> 10 ng/L females**

**> 12 ng/L males**



# Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome

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Circulation

Volume 148, Issue 20, 14 November 2023; Pages 1636-1664

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“there is limited clarity on how best to target cardiac biomarker measurements in the population, the frequency of such testing, and appropriate next diagnostic steps (eg, echocardiograms) when elevated cardiac biomarkers are identified. ” .....



# Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome

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**Are risk-based screening strategies effective?**

# What are the risk factors for elevated troponin?

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- 1,304 outpatients w/ physician ordered A1c
- Measured high sensitivity cTnI
- Clinical data obtained from medical record

 Cardiac Troponin to Adjudicate Subclinical Heart Failure in Diabetic Patients and a Murine Model of Metabolic Syndrome

Hannah M. Brown,<sup>a</sup> Nicholas C. Spies ,<sup>a</sup> Wentong Jia,<sup>a</sup> John Moley,<sup>a</sup> Sydney Lawless,<sup>a</sup> Brittany Roemmich,<sup>a</sup> Jonathan R. Brestoff ,<sup>a</sup> Mark A. Zaydman,<sup>a</sup> and Christopher W. Farnsworth <sup>a\*</sup>

# What are the risk factors for elevated troponin?

---


- 1,304 outpatients w/ physician ordered A1c
- Measured high sensitivity cTnI
- Clinical data obtained from medical record




**59 (8.0%) of females had cTnI > 10 ng/L**

**31 (4.2%) of females had cTnI > 99th% URL (sex specific)**

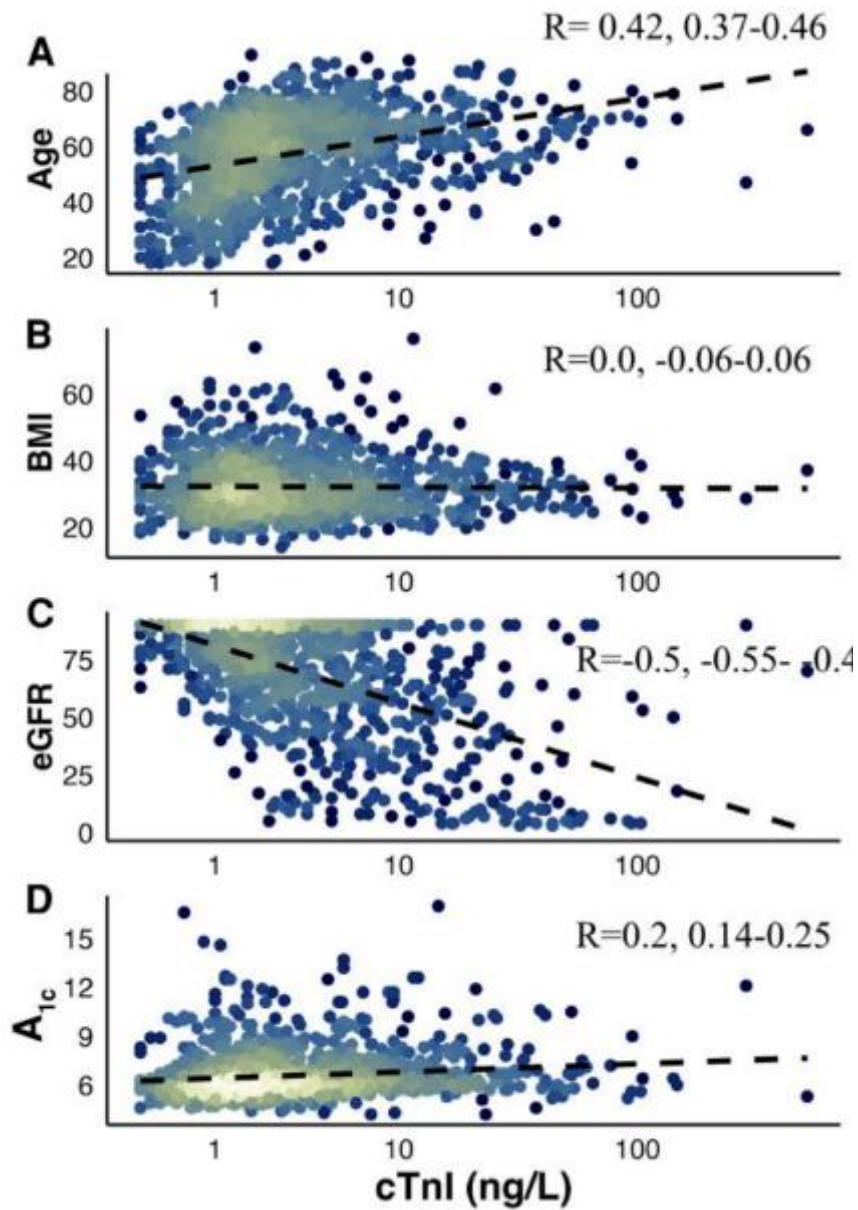
**88 (15.7%) of males had cTnI > 12 ng/L**

**23 (4.1%) of males had cTnI > 99%URL (sex specific)**

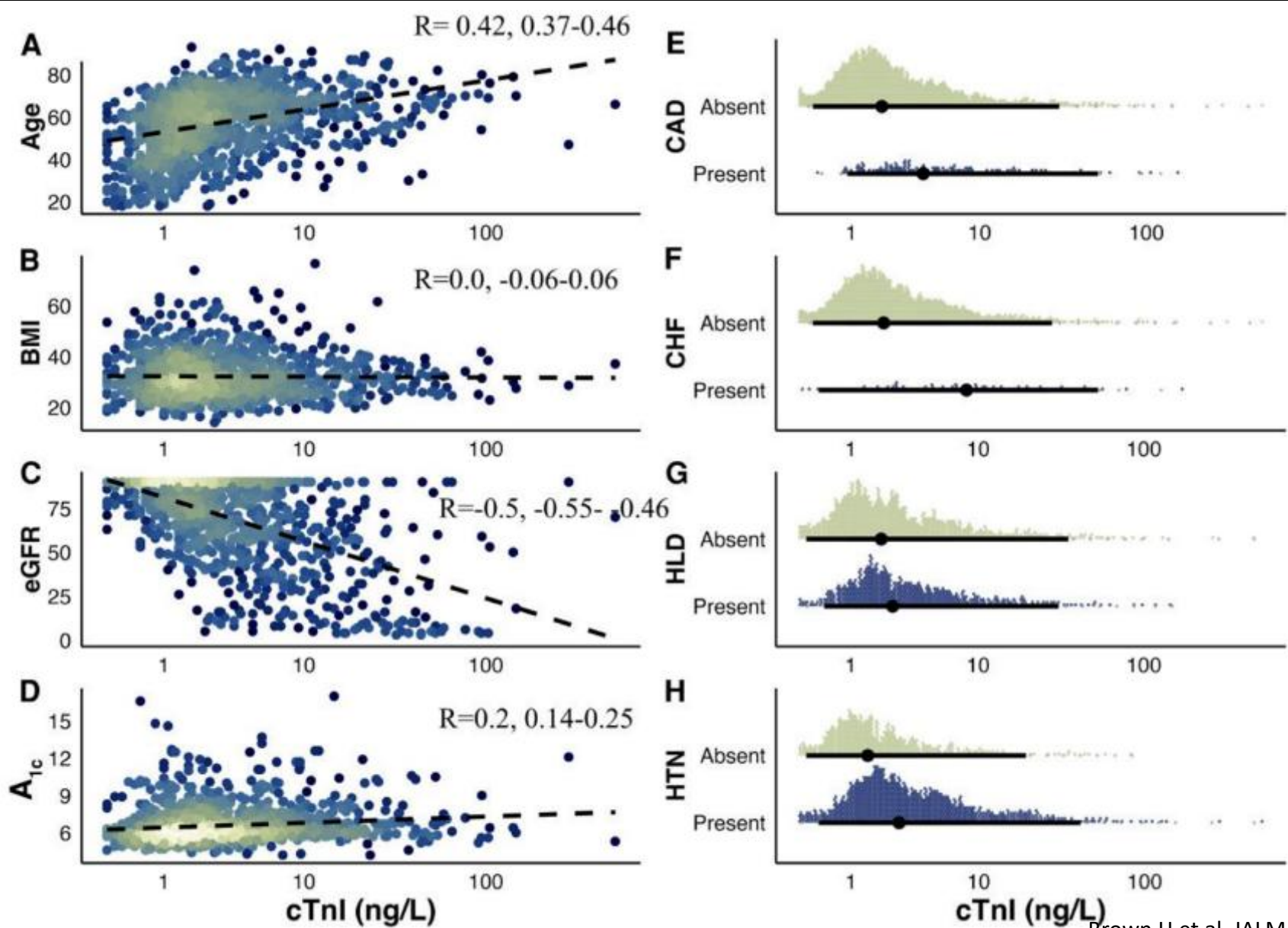
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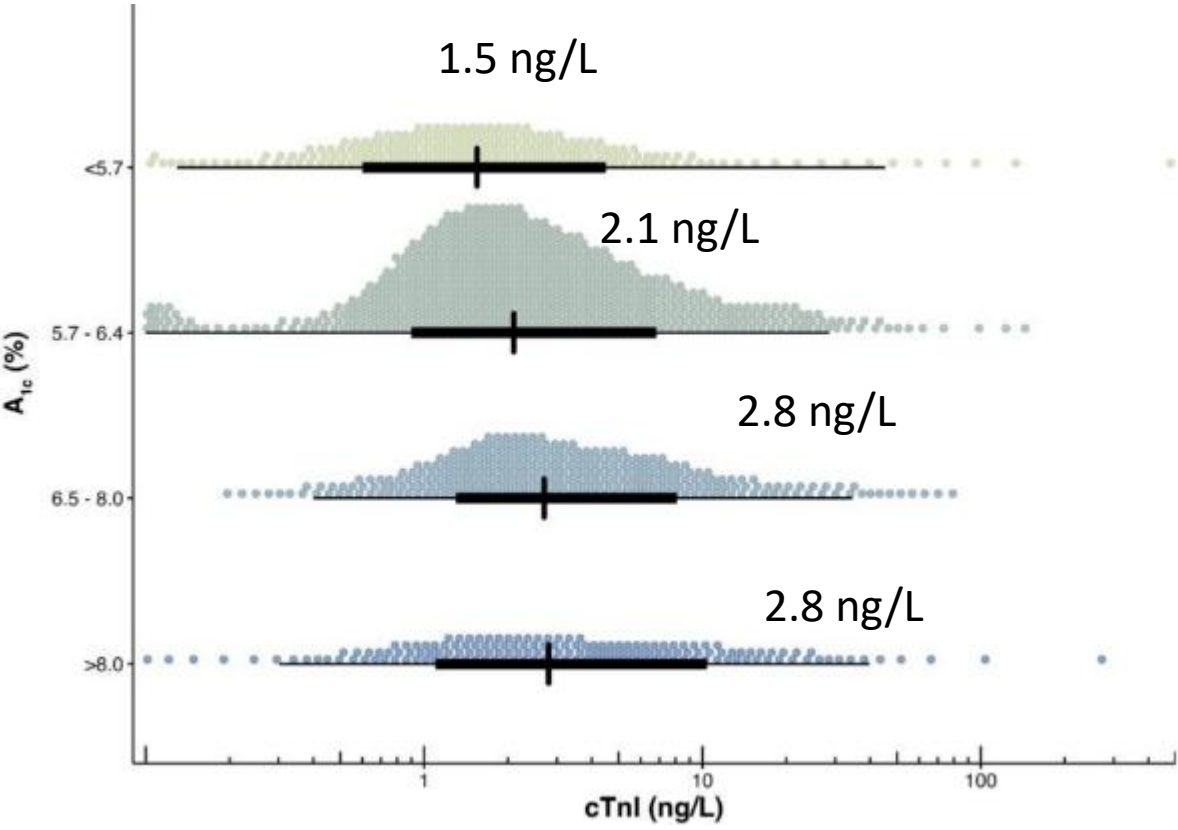
# Age, eGFR, A1c, and prior CVD associated with elevated cTnI



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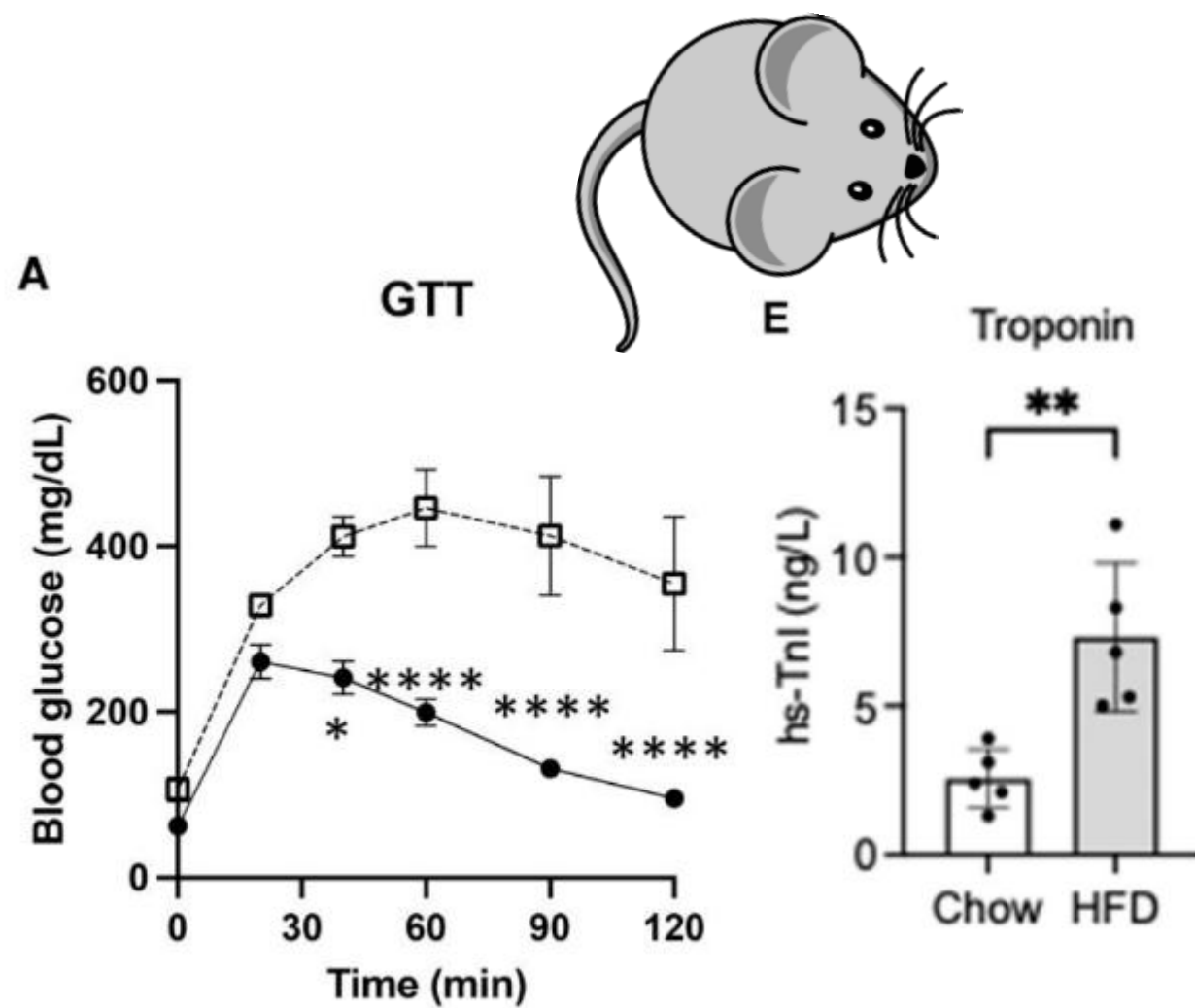
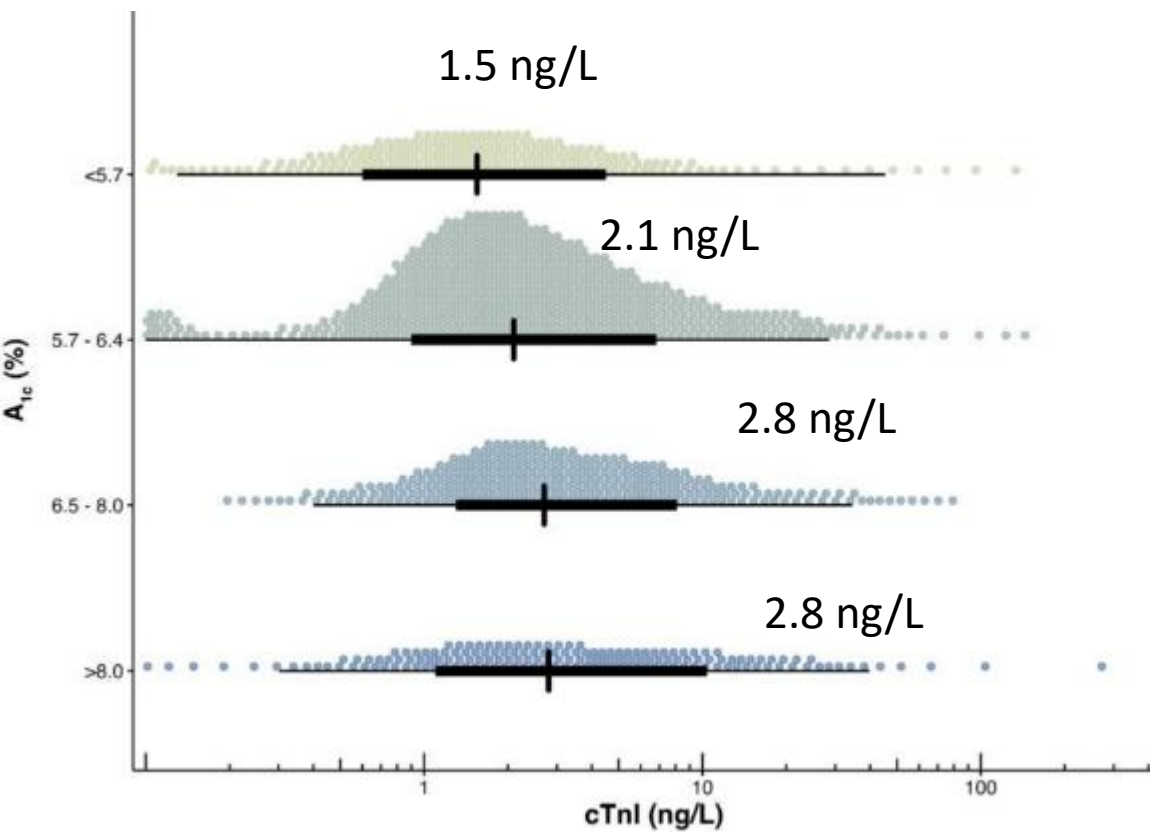


# Increased A1c and hyperglycemia associated with elevated cTnI





# Increased A1c and hyperglycemia associated with elevated cTnI

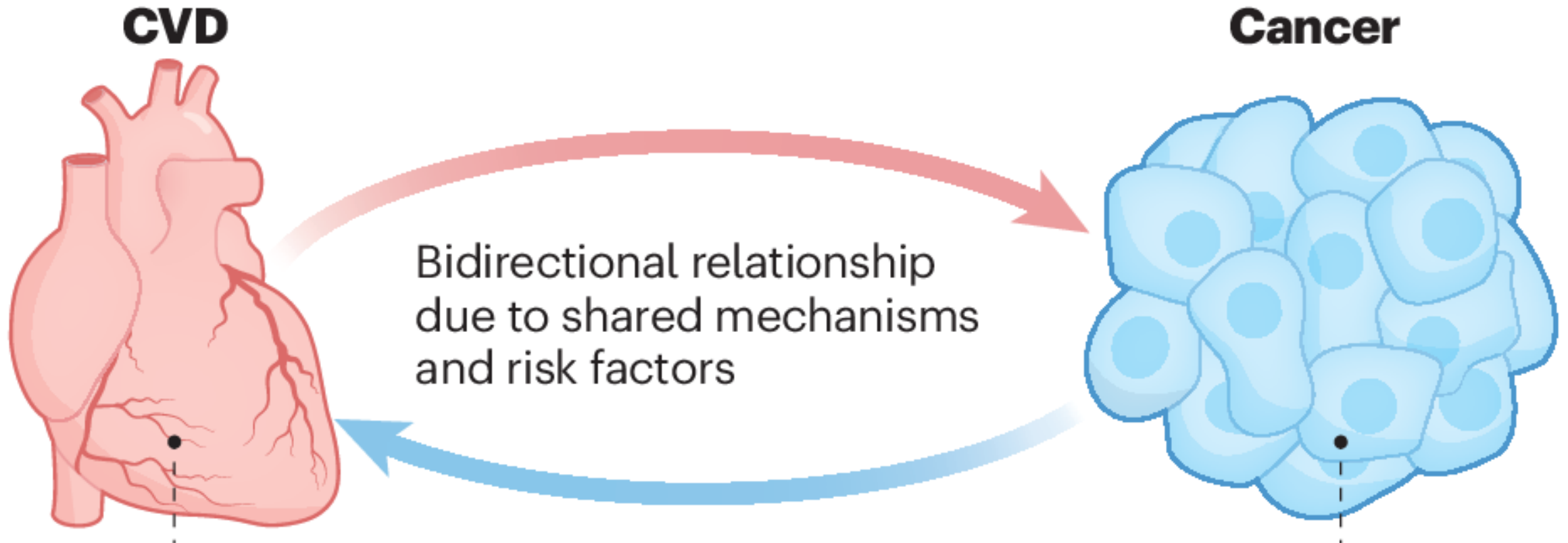


# Utility of cardiac markers in CKM syndrome

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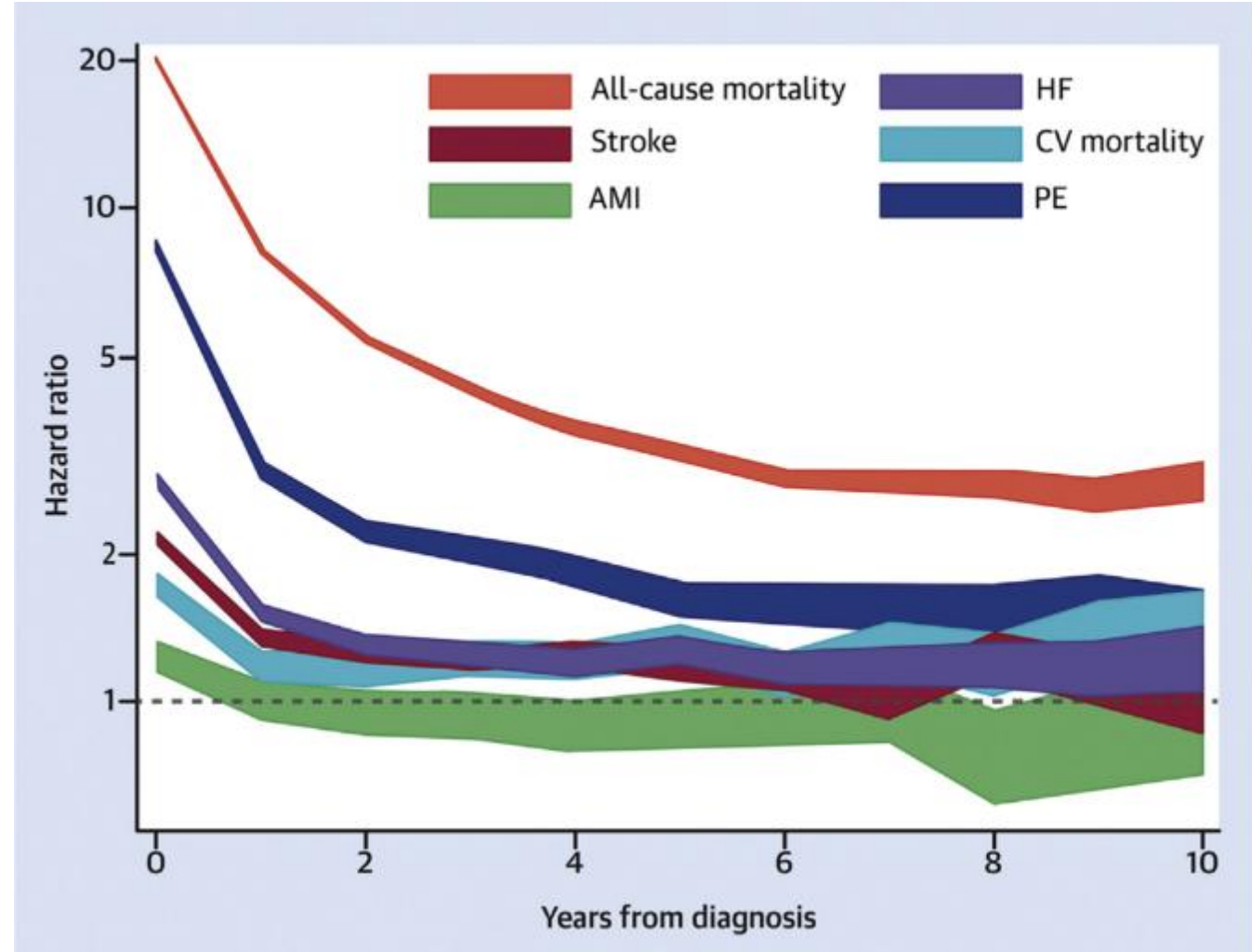
1. Both BNP/NT-proBNP and cTn prognosticate outcomes and progression to HF
2. Ideal thresholds for each have not been fully elucidated
3. The risk factors that warrant screening in diabetics/pre-diabetics are not fully known
4. The frequency of screening (and who to screen) is not yet fully elucidated

# Use Case 2: Cardiac biomarkers in cardio-oncology



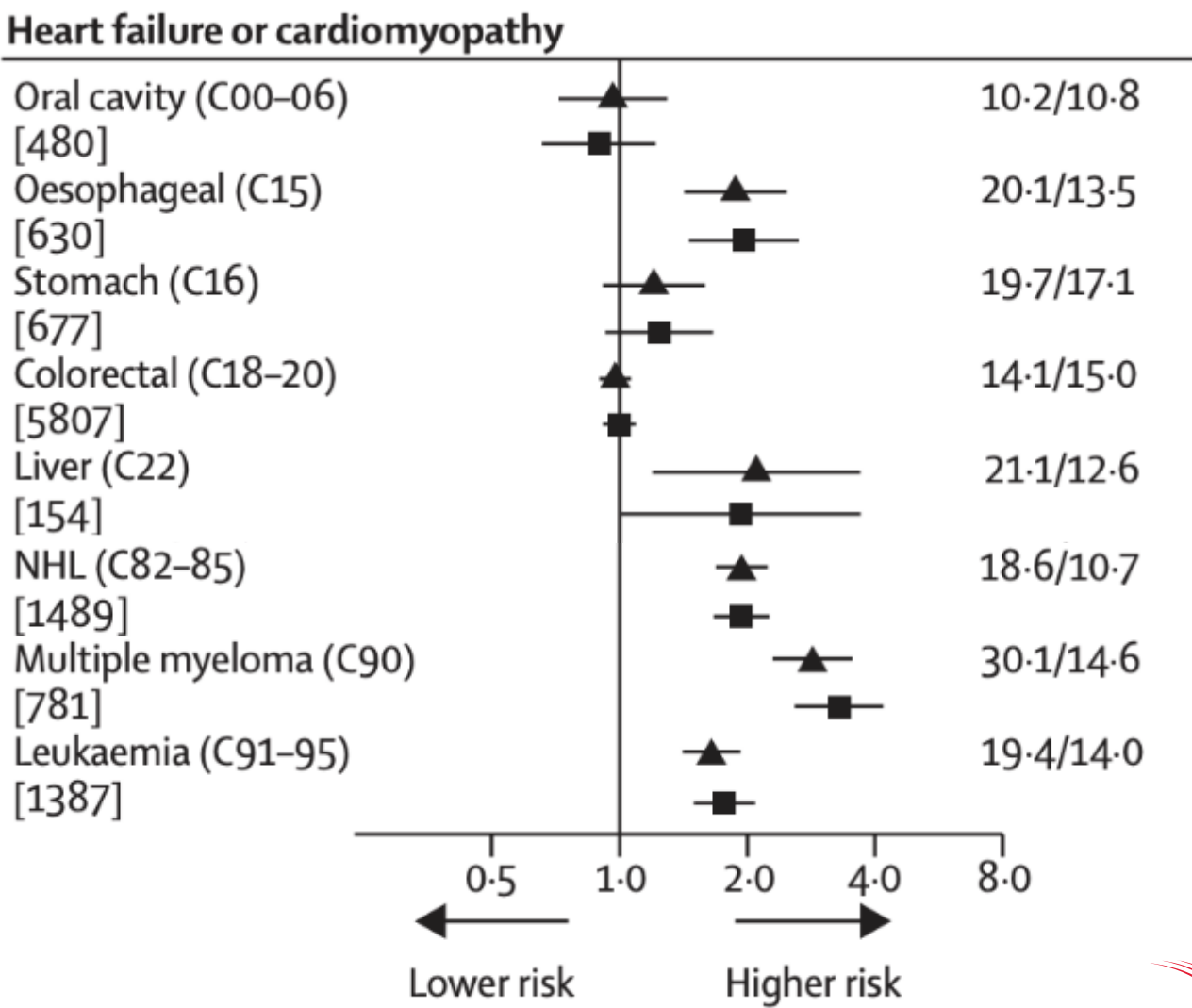
# Cancer survival is associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD)

- Retrospective cohort study
  - 4,519,243 adults, Canada
  - Compared those with cancer to those without
  - Risk for cardiovascular events
- Survivors of most cancers have increased risk for CVD

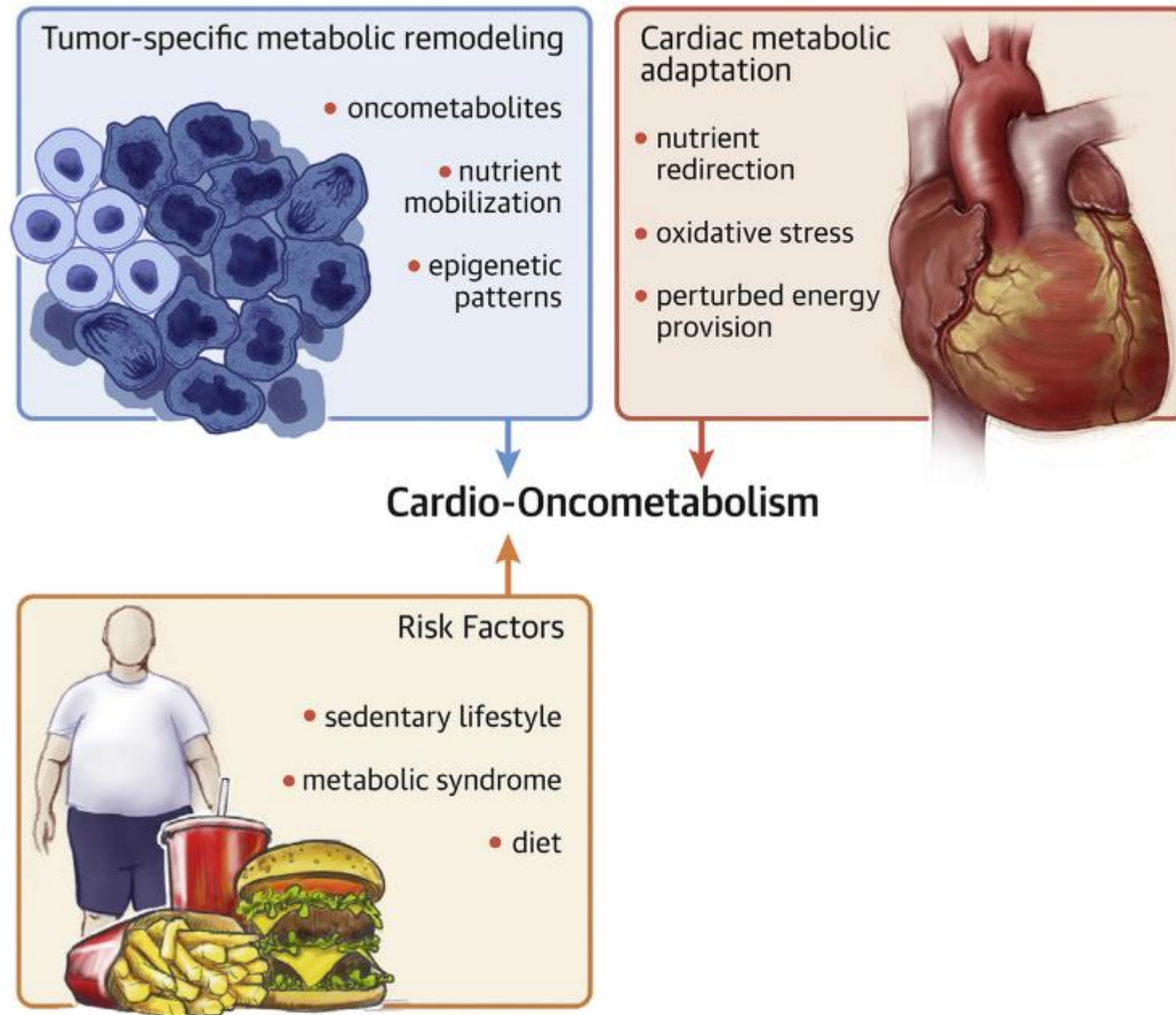


# Increased heart failure and cardiomyopathy in cancer survivors

- 108,215 cancer survivors  
(with at least 1 year of follow-up)
- 523,541 age and sex matched controls
- Substantial variation between cancer sites / types



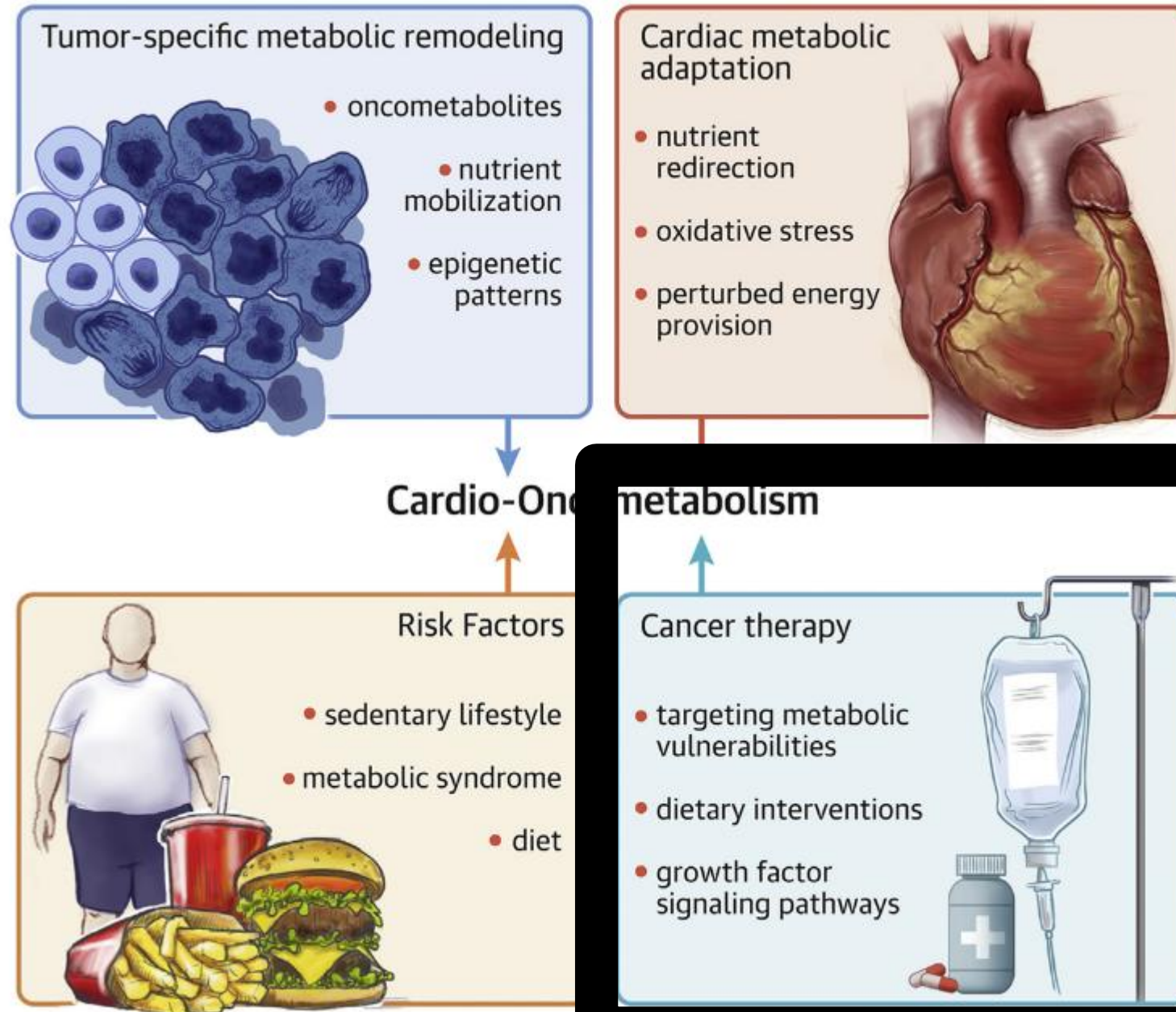
# CV toxicity associated with cancer risk factors and treatment



Karlstaedt A et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Basic Trans Science 2021;6:705-18.

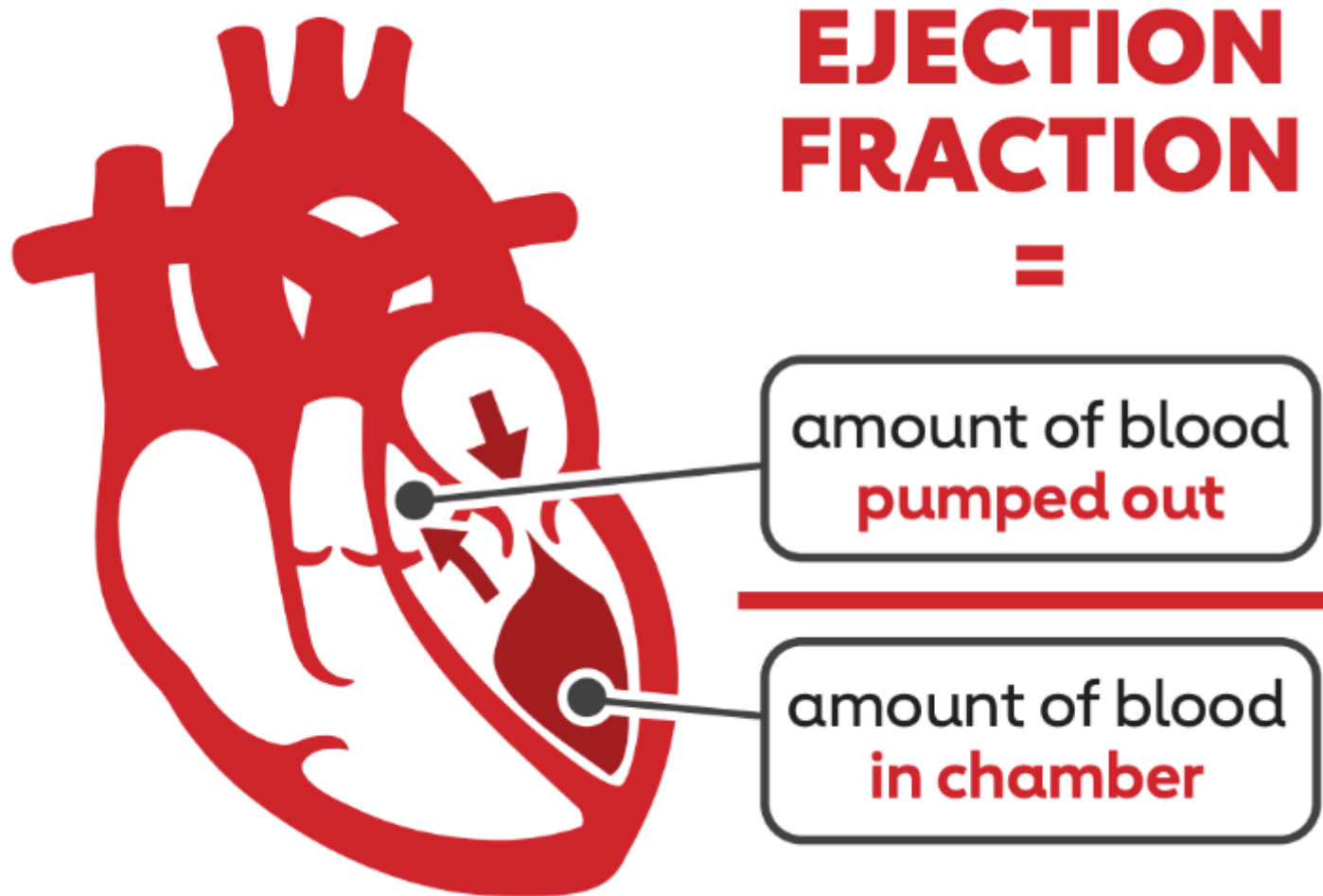


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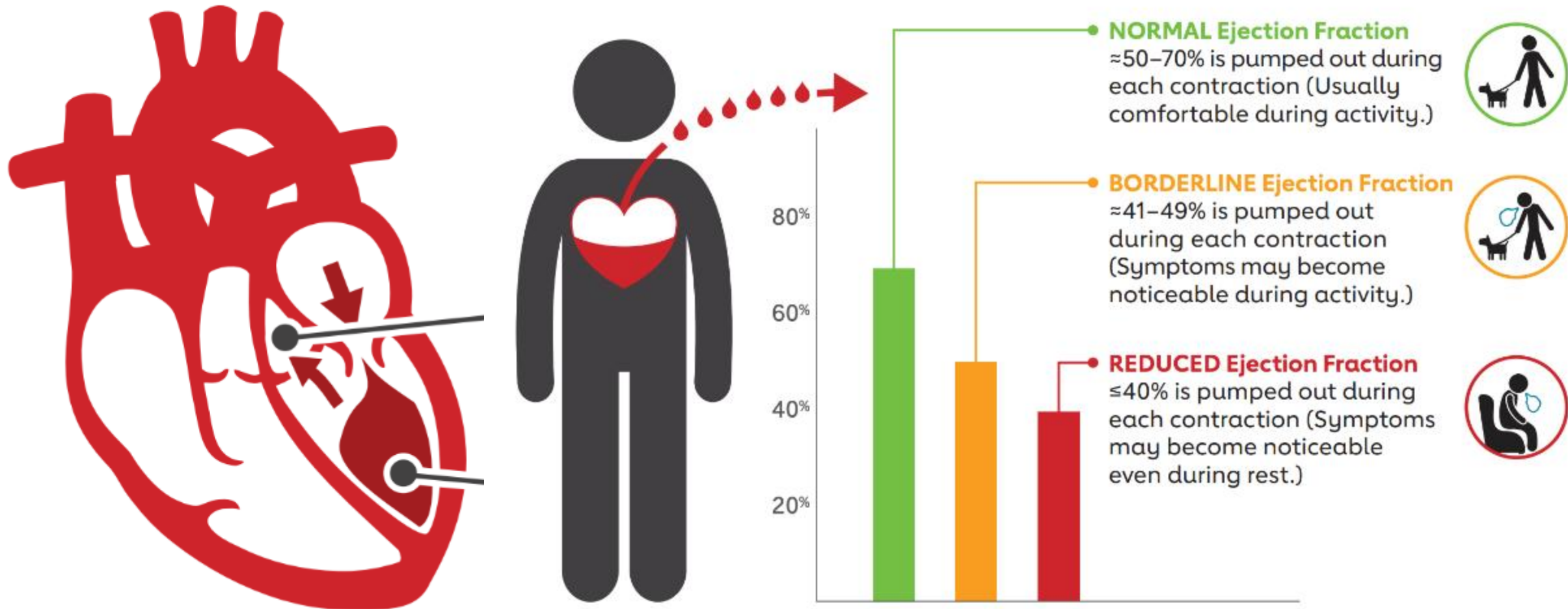
# Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and cardiac dysfunction



Stroke Volume  
End-diastolic Volume

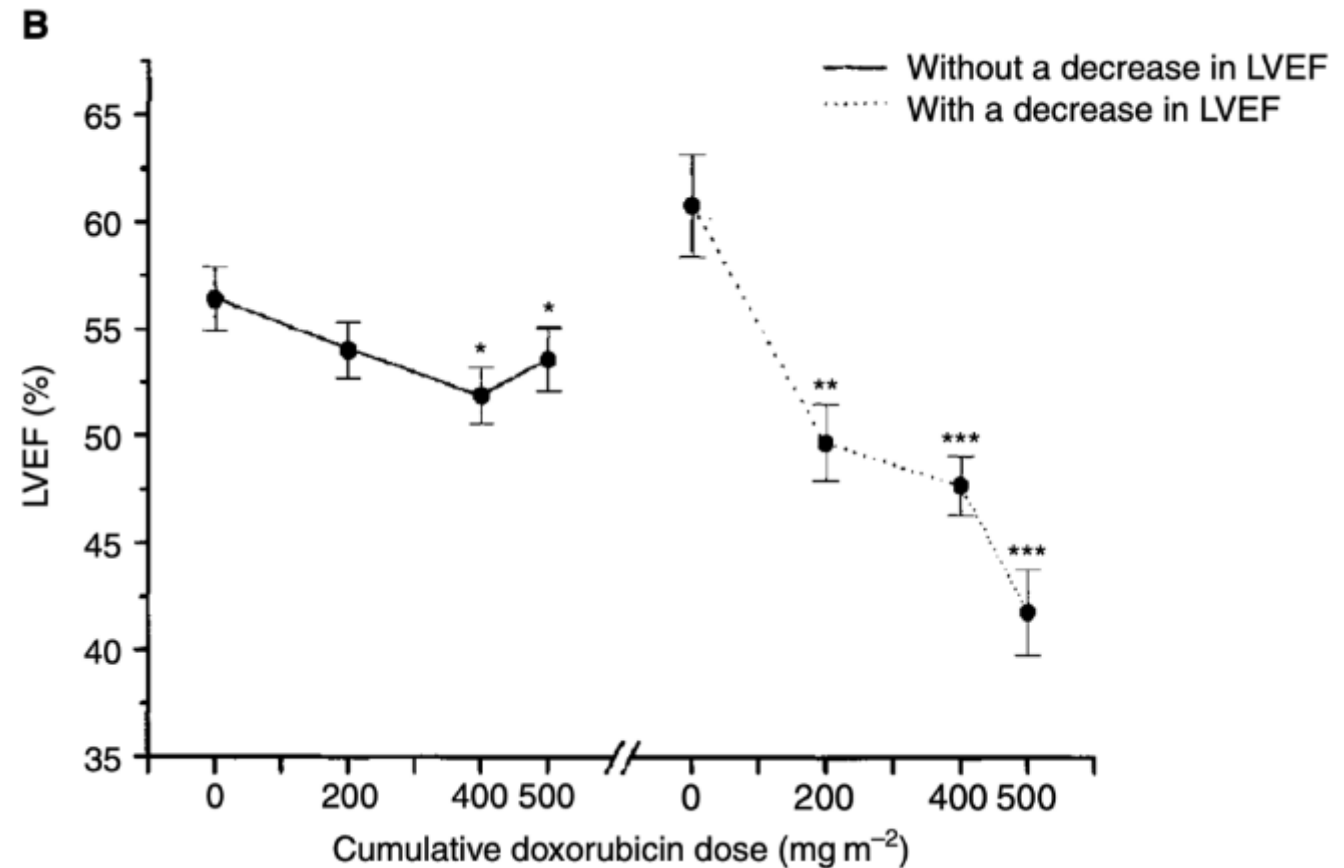
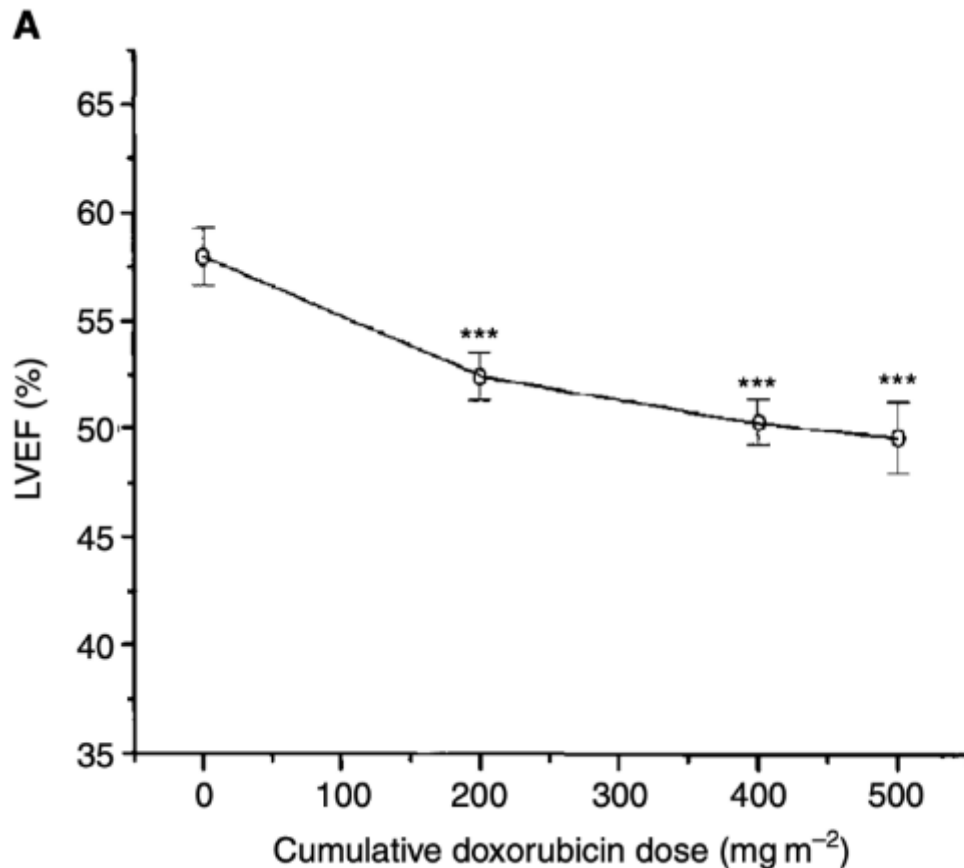
# Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and cardiac dysfunction

## How much blood is pumped out?

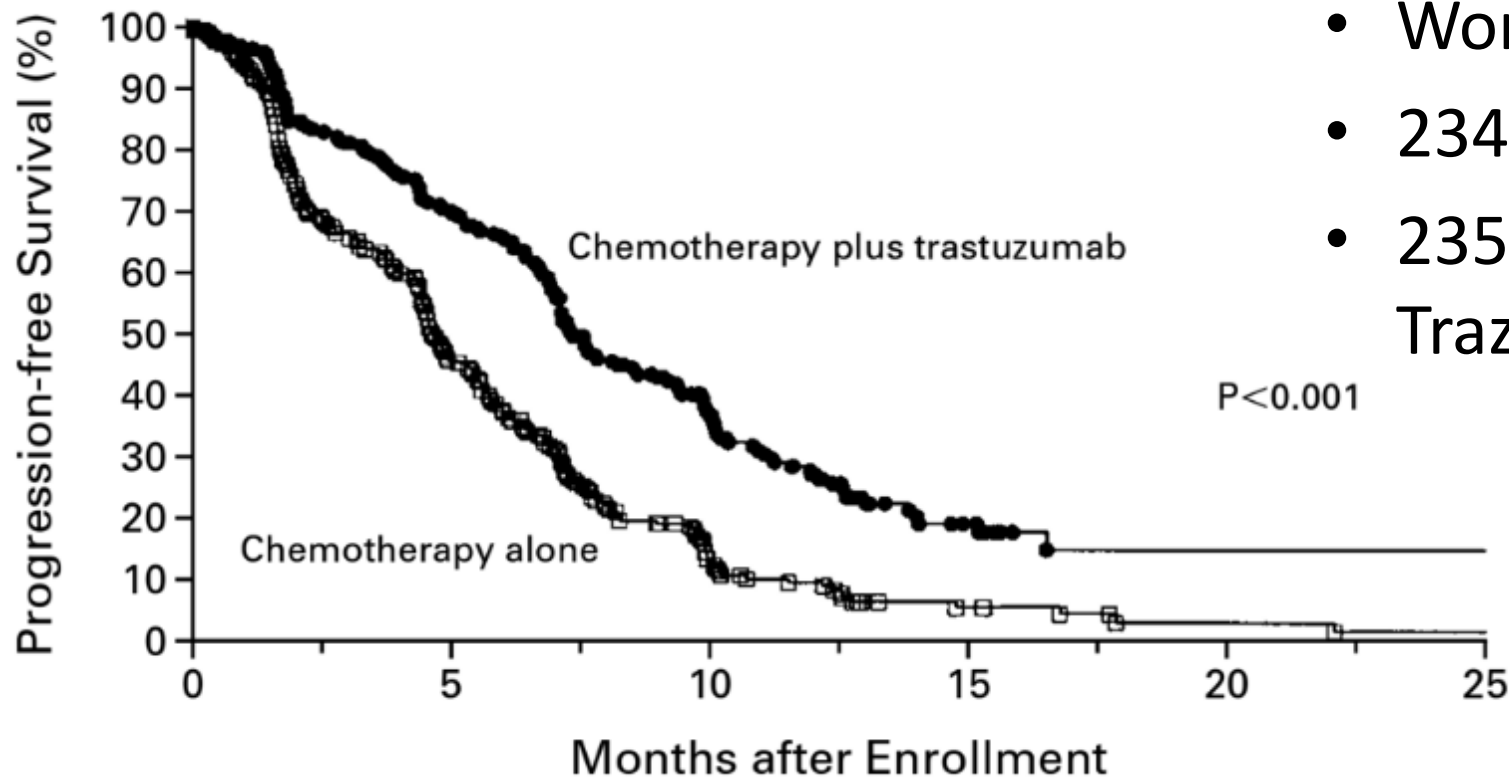


# Effects of doxorubicin on cardiac function

- Thirty adult patients with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- All administered doxorubicin, monitoring for LVEF changes



# Trastuzumab increases risk of cardiac dysfunction



- Women with HER2+ breast cancer
- 234 Women- standard chemo
- 235 women- standard chemo + Trastuzumab

- ~27% of patients on trastuzumab + anthracycline experienced cardiac dysfunction



# Cancer therapy-related myocarditis

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- Inflammation of the myocardium or middle layer of the heart
- Symptoms:
  1. Fatigue
  2. Shortness of breath
  3. Chest pain
  4. Irregular heartbeat

## Myocarditis

Toxicity or immune-mediated inflammation of the myocardium, associated with various cancer therapies, especially immune checkpoint inhibitors, defined by major and minor diagnostic criteria

(Table 2)



# Diagnosis of cancer therapy-related myocarditis

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- **Histological-** inflammatory cell infiltrates w/ cardiomyocyte loss
- **Clinical Diagnosis-** Troponin elevation (new or change from baseline) with 1 major or two minor criterion
  - Major- Diagnostic Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging
  - Minor- Clinical syndrome, arrhythmia, decreased systolic function, other immune related events (I.e, Myasthenia)



European Heart Journal (2022) 43, 280–299  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehab674>

SPECIAL ARTICLE

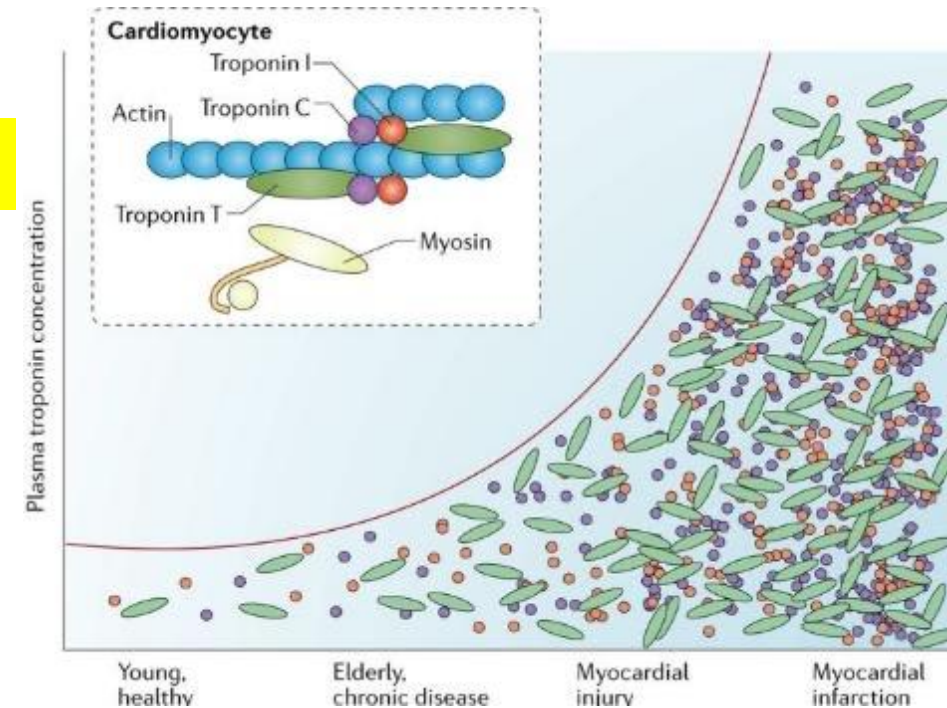
**Defining cardiovascular toxicities of cancer  
therapies: an International Cardio-Oncology  
Society (IC-OS) consensus statement**

errmann J Eur Heart Jour. 2022;43:280-99.



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# Cancer therapy associated cardiac dysfunction / heart failure

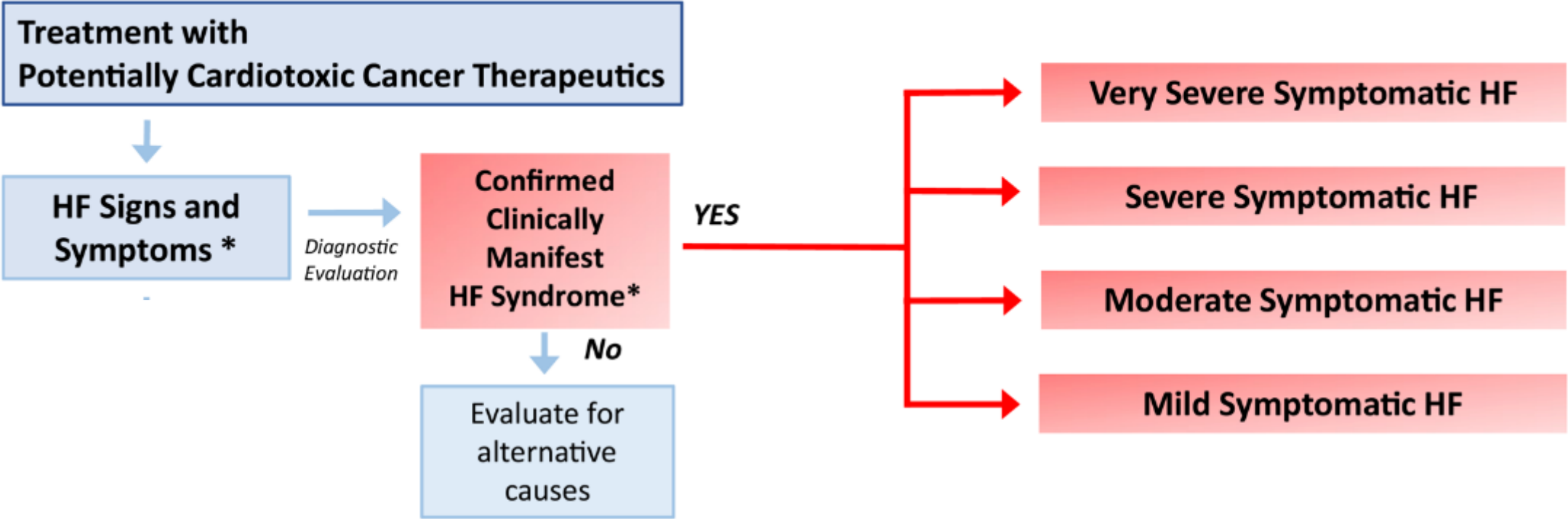
- Impact of cardiac structure or function from cancer therapy
- May be symptomatic or asymptomatic
- Commonly caused by
  - Anthracyclines
  - HER-2 targeting agents
  - Kinase inhibitors
  - Proteasome inhibitors

## Cardiac Dysfunction/HF

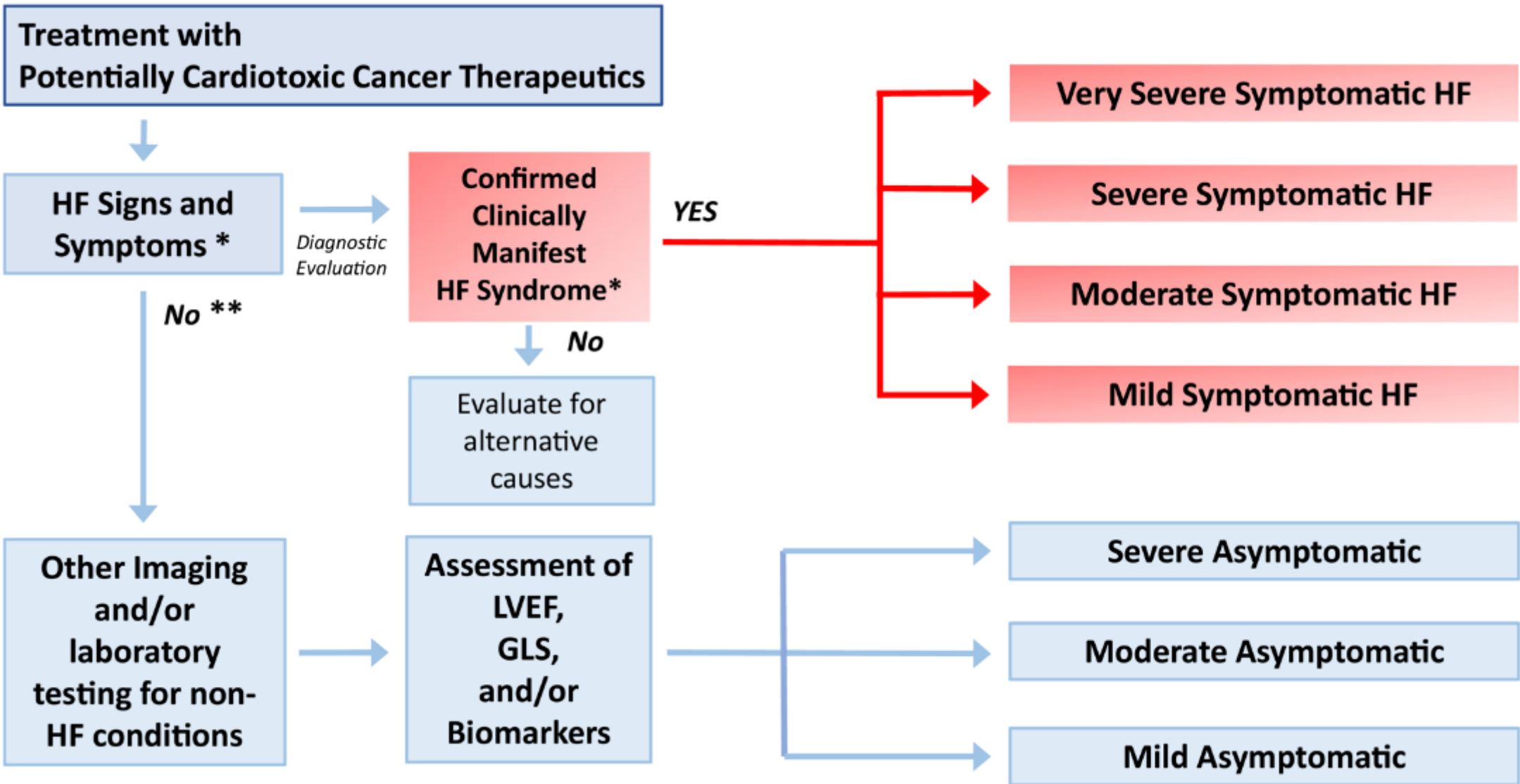
Cardiac dysfunction or structural injury associated with cancer therapy, which can remain asymptomatic, or present as clinical HF, each defined ranging from mild to severe degree

(Table 1, Figure 2)

# Algorithm for cancer therapy-related cardiac dysfunction (CTRCD)



# Algorithm for cancer therapy-related cardiac dysfunction (CTRCD)



# Criteria for CTRCD

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## IC-OS 2021 Consensus

**Asymptomatic CTRCD** (with or without additional biomarkers, LVEF values are based on 2D echocardiography)

### Mild

LVEF  $\geq 50\%$

AND new relative decline in GLS by  $>15\%$  from baseline

AND/OR new rise in cardiac biomarkers§

## NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES

- NT-proBNP  $\geq 125$  pg/mL
- BNP  $\geq 35$  pg/mL

Maisel AS *et al.* NEJM. 2002; 347:161-7.

Roberts E BMJ 2015;350:h910.

Herrmann J Eur Heart Jour. 2022;43:280-99.



# Criteria for CTRCD

**IC-OS 2021 Consensus**

**Asymptomatic CTRCD** (with or without additional biomarkers, LVEF values are based on 2D echocardiography)

**Mild**

LVEF  $\geq 50\%$   
AND new relative decline in GLS by  $>15\%$  from baseline  
AND/OR new rise in cardiac biomarkers§

**Moderate**

New LVEF reduction by  $\geq 10$  percentage points to an LVEF of 40-49%  
New LVEF reduction by  $<10$  percentage points to an LVEF of 40-49%  
AND new relative decline in GLS by  $>15\%$  from baseline

AND/OR new rise in cardiac biomarkers§

**Severe**

New LVEF reduction to  $<40\%$

**NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES**

- NT-proBNP  $\geq 125$  pg/mL
- BNP  $\geq 35$  pg/mL

Maisel AS *et al.* NEJM. 2002; 347:161-7.  
Roberts E BMJ 2015;350:h910.  
Herrmann J Eur Heart Jour. 2022;43:280-99.

# Criteria for CTRCD

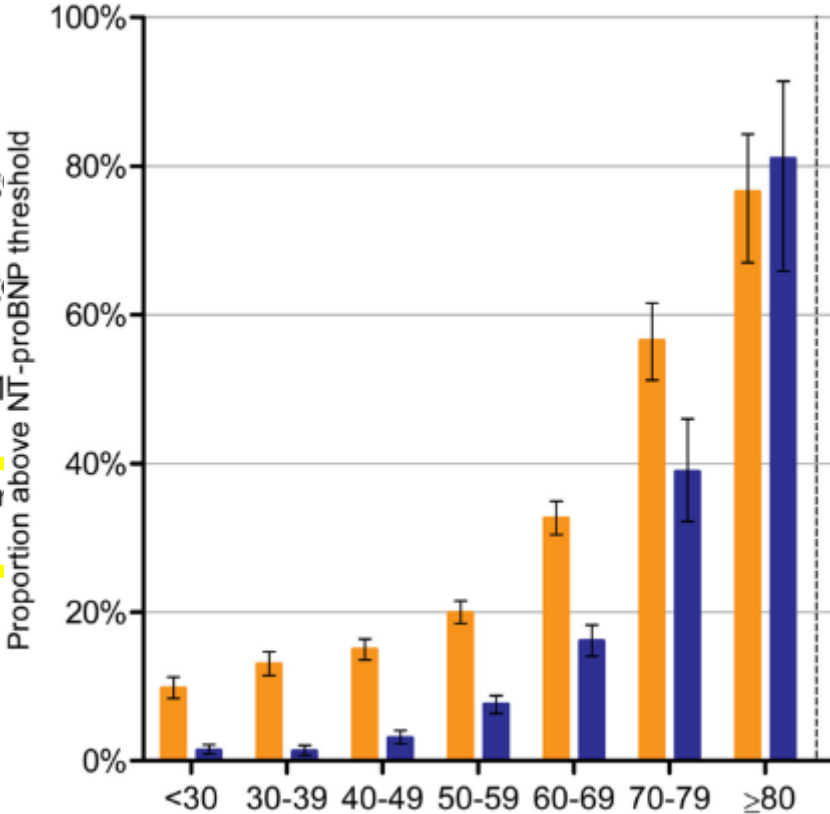
**IC-OS 2021 Consensus**

**Asymptomatic CTRCD** (with or without additional biomarkers, LVEF values are based on 2D echocardiography)


Mild	Moderate
LVEF $\geq 50\%$	New LVEF reduction by $\geq 10$ percentage points to an LVEF of 40-49%
AND new relative decline in GLS by $>15\%$ from baseline	New LVEF reduction by $<10$ percentage points to an LVEF of 40-49%
AND/OR new rise in cardiac biomarkers§	AND new relative decline in GLS by $>10\%$ from baseline
	AND/OR new rise in cardiac biomarker

**NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES**

- NT-proBNP  $\geq 125$  pg/mL
- BNP  $\geq 35$  pg/mL




Maisel AS *et al.* NEJM. 2002; 347:161-7.  
Roberts E BMJ 2015;350:h910.  
Herrmann J Eur Heart Jour. 2022;43:280-99.

**Cardinal**Health

# Utility of biomarkers at baseline prior to treatment

**Recommendation Table 3 — Recommendation for cardiac biomarker assessment prior to potentially cardiotoxic therapies**

Recommendation	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>
Baseline measurement of NP <sup>c</sup> and/or cTn <sup>d</sup> is recommended in all patients with cancer at risk of CTRCD if these biomarkers are going to be measured during treatment to detect CTRCD. <sup>e,53,55</sup>	I	C



ESC  
European Society  
of Cardiology

European Heart Journal (2022) 43, 4229–4361  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehac244>

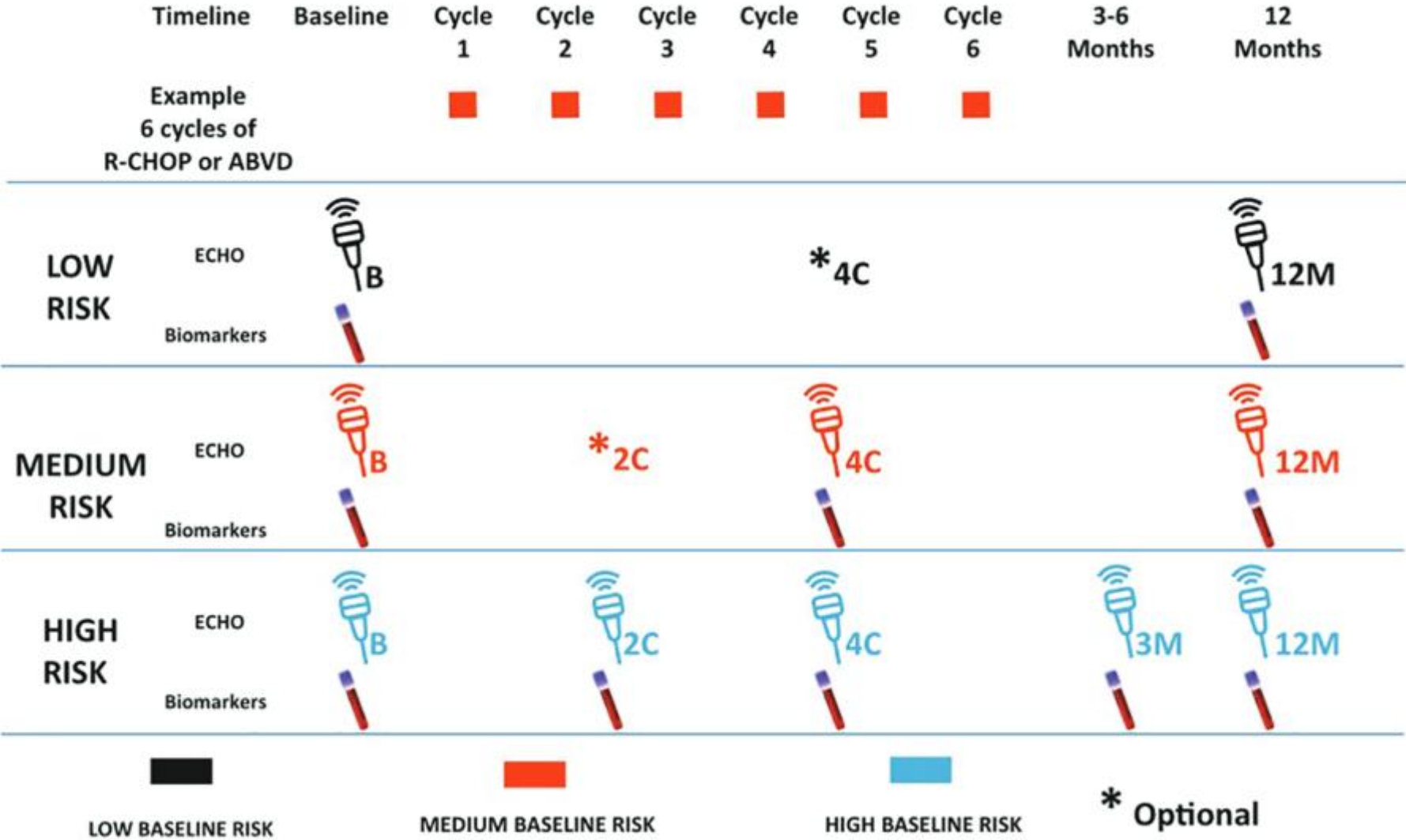
ESC GUIDELINES

**2022 ESC Guidelines on cardio-oncology developed in collaboration with the European Hematology Association (EHA), the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO) and the International Cardio-Oncology Society (IC-OS)**

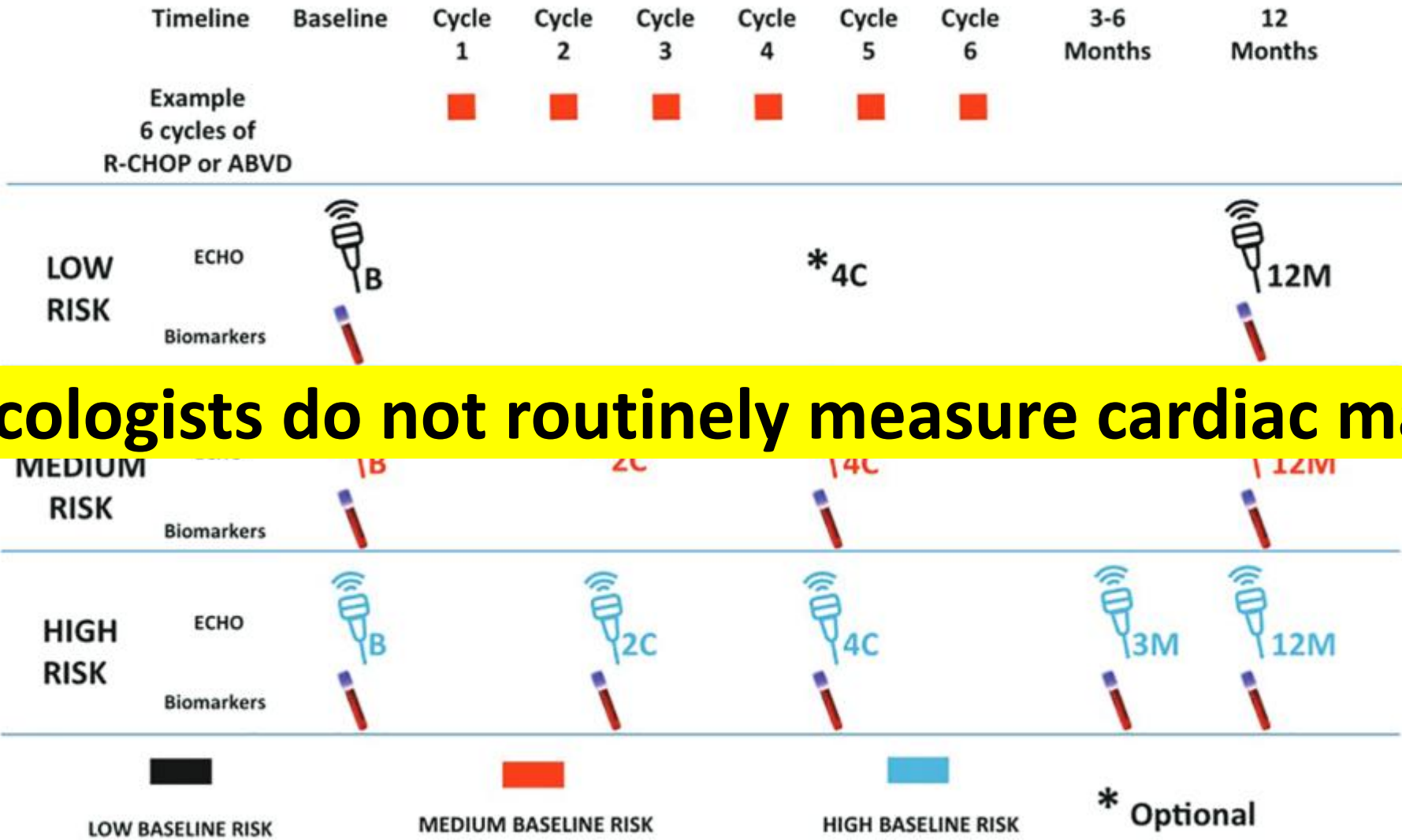
Developed by the task force on cardio-oncology of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)



# ESC recommendations for serial monitoring



# ESC recommendations for serial monitoring



# What are the correct thresholds for ruling in / out CTRCD?

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“It is important to consider that generally accepted cut-offs and reference values of CV biomarkers have not been established for patients with cancer or for those who receive cancer therapies.”



European Heart Journal (2022) 43, 4229–4361  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehac244>

**ESC GUIDELINES**

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## **2022 ESC Guidelines on cardio-oncology developed in collaboration with the European Hematology Association (EHA), the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO) and the International Cardio-Oncology Society (IC-OS)**

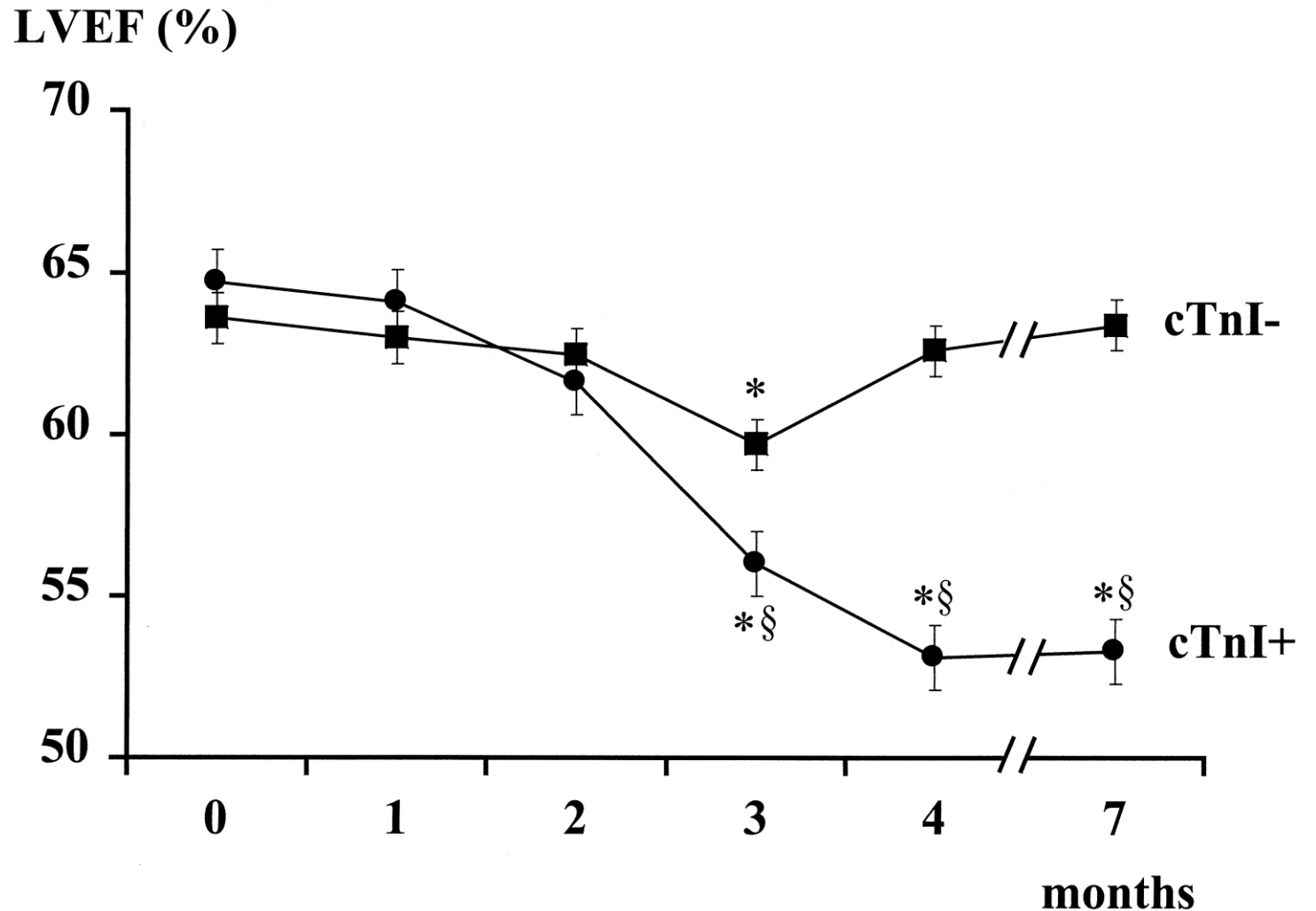
**Developed by the task force on cardio-oncology of the European  
Society of Cardiology (ESC)**

Lyon AR. European Heart Journal  
2022;43:4229-361.



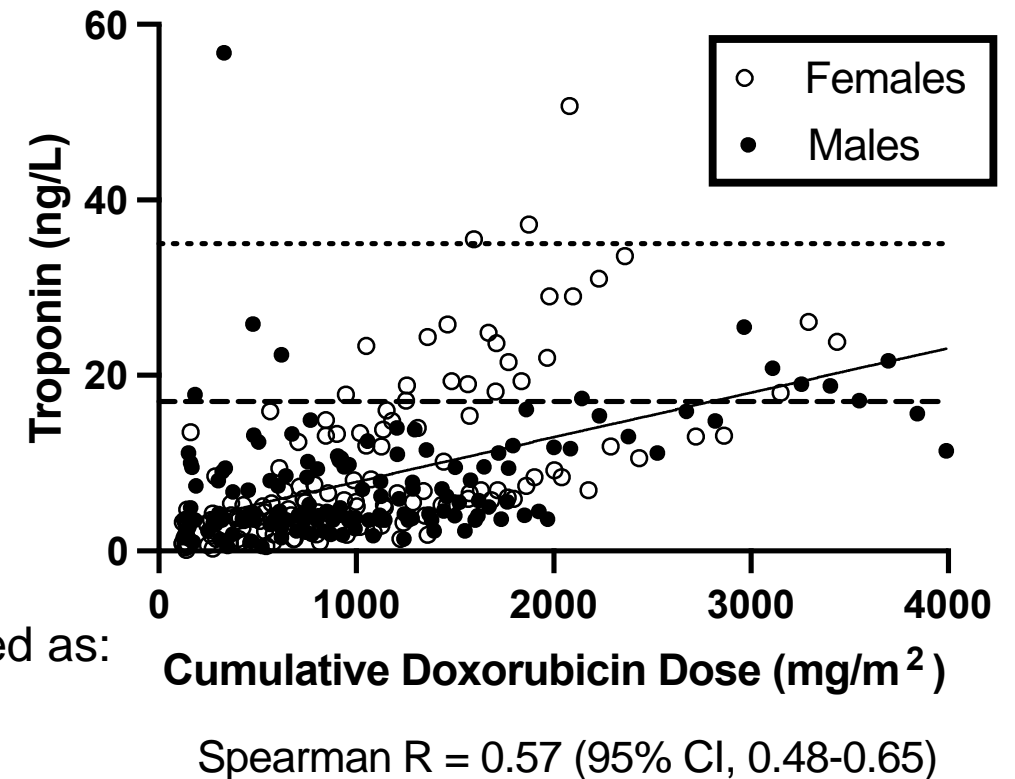
# Elevated cTnI associated with LV Dysfunction

- 204 patients with cancer
- cTnI measured every cycle
- 45 with cTnI > 0.4 ng/mL
- 139 with cTnI ≤ 0.4 ng/mL
- 0.4ng/mL= 400 ng/L

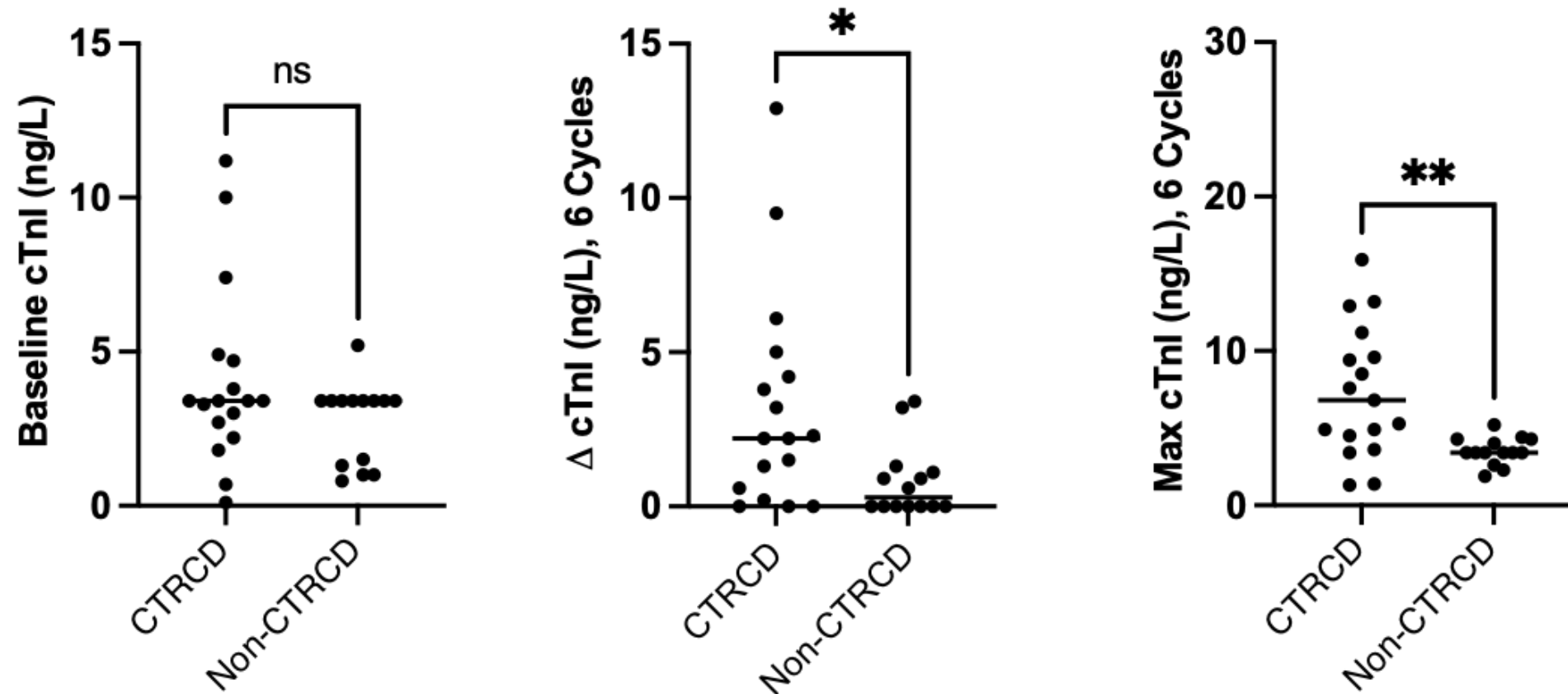


# Do elevated or a change in biomarkers predict CTCRD?

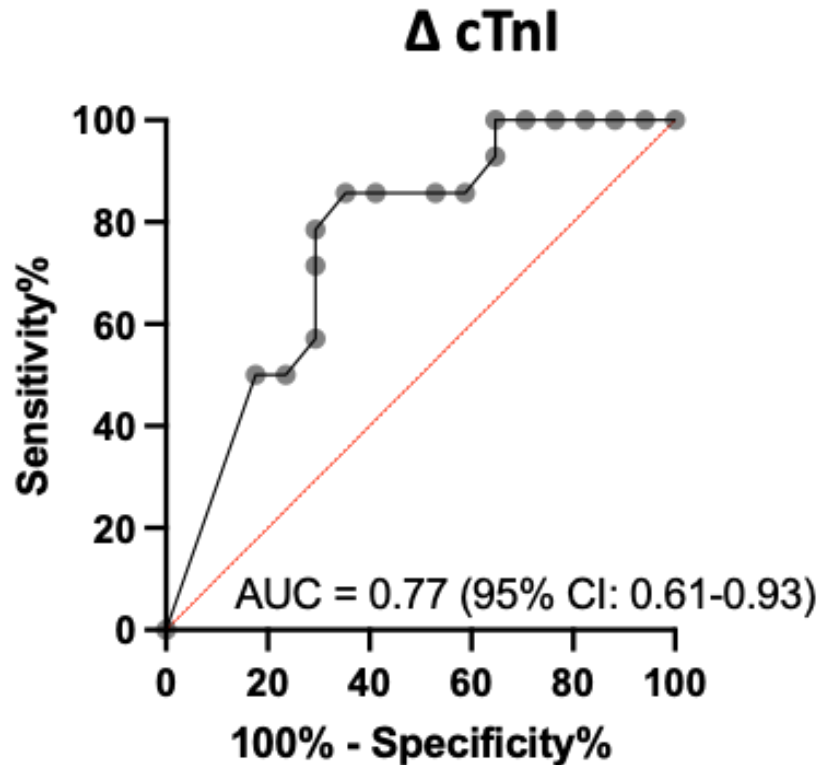
- Patients with metastatic or unresectable sarcoma (previously untreated)
- Doxorubicin (cycles of 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 21 days)
- Dexrazoxane initiated cycle 1 and
  - continued through the duration of the study,
  - administered with each dose of doxorubicin
  - 10:1 ratio to doxorubicin (750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> )
- 62 patients with biomarkers enrolled
- Cancer therapy related cardiac dysfunction (CTCRD) defined as:
  - 10% reduction in LVEF & < 50%



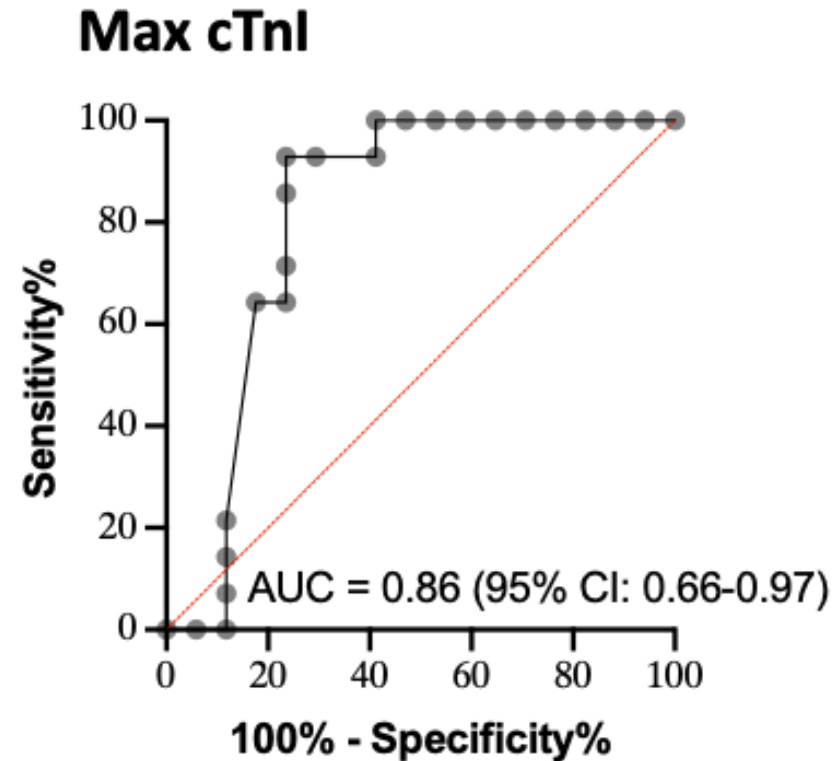
# Change in cTnI and max cTnI predict cardiotoxicity



# Small changes in cTnI predicts cardiotoxicity



**$\Delta$  cTnI of 3 ng/L = Sensitivity 85.7 (60.0-97.5)**  
Specificity 47.1 (21.6-64.0)



**cTnI  $\geq$  5 ng/L = Sensitivity 92.9 (68.5-99.6)**  
Specificity 70.6 (46.9-86.7)

# Study Design

- 80 patients with any history of cancer on current chemotherapy
- Referred to cardio-oncology
- Study design: patients enrolled at baseline (any point in chemotherapy)
  - Visited clinic every 3 months for appointments and blood draw
  - Echocardiogram performed at baseline and every 6 months
- **Hypothesis:** cardiac biomarkers will predict CTRCD (physician dx. or drop in EF by  $\geq 10\%$ )

# Study Design

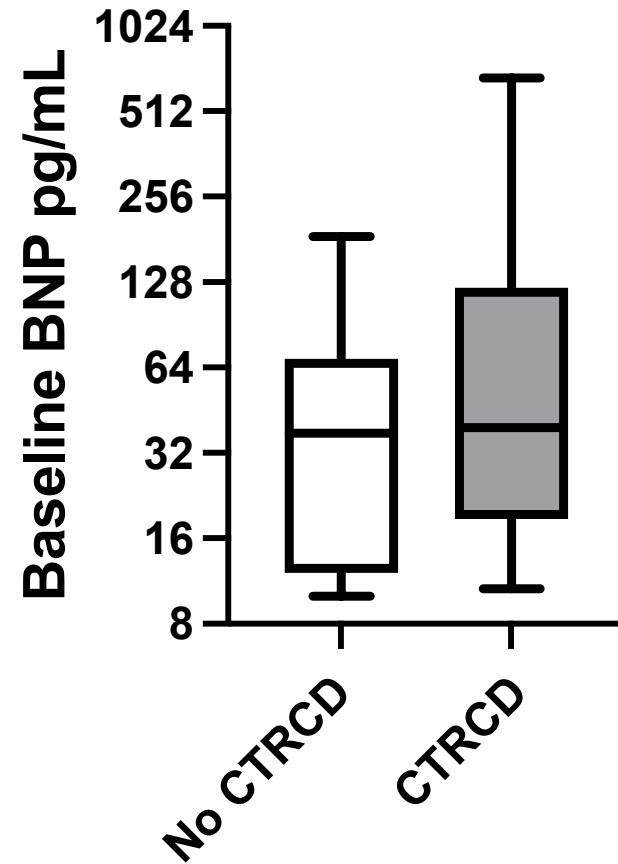
Demographics	
N=	80
Male (%)	35 (43.8%)
White (%)	63 (78.8%)
Age (IQR)	63 (54-72)
Median # Timepoints (IQR)	8 (3-9)
# <b>CTCRD</b>	<b>25 (31%)</b>
# Died	22 (27.5%)

45% with CTCRD died within 2 years vs. 25% in those without CTCRD (p= 0.18)

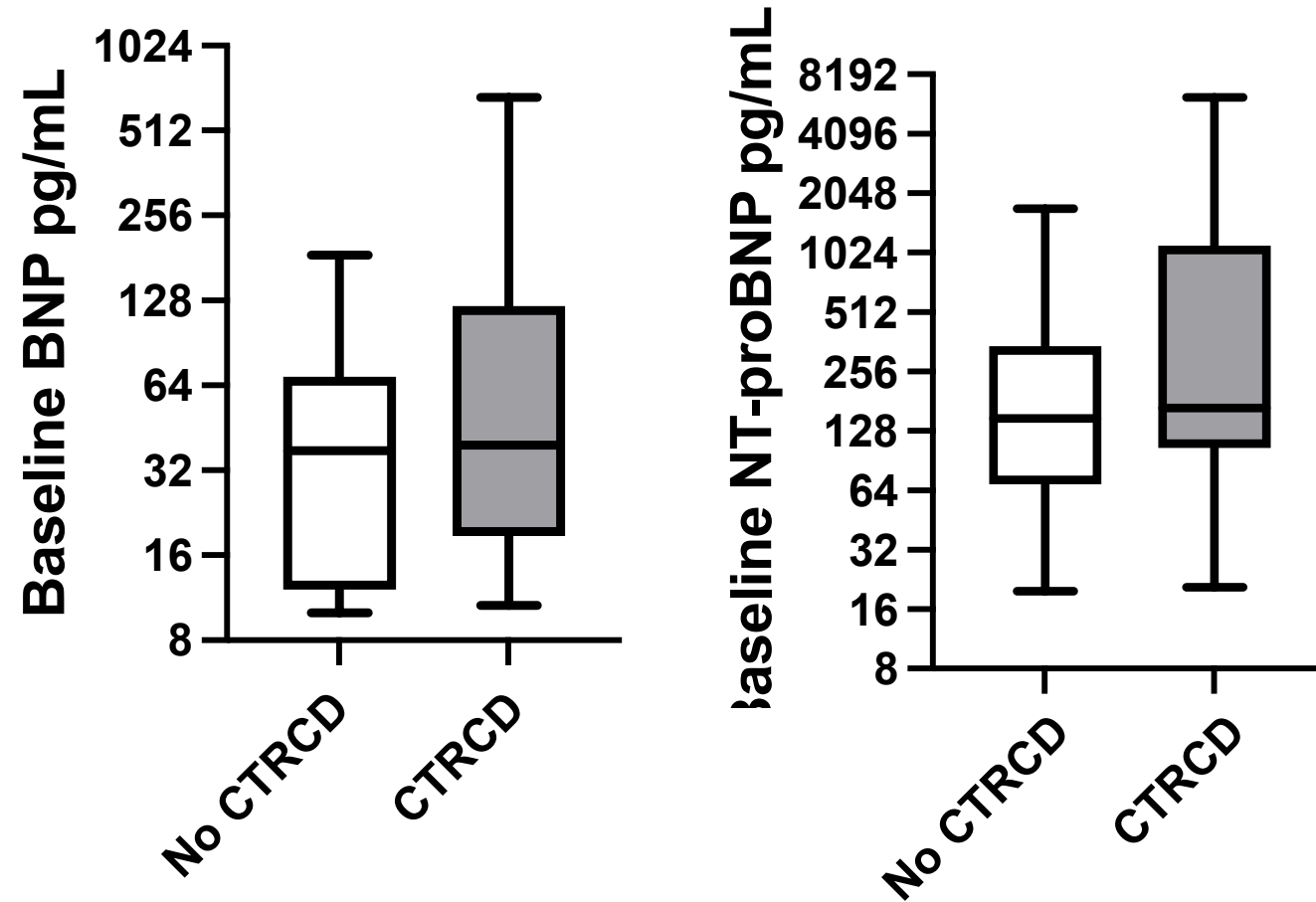
- Hypothesis: cardiac biomarkers will predict CTCRD (physician diagnosis or drop in EF by  $\geq 10\%$ )



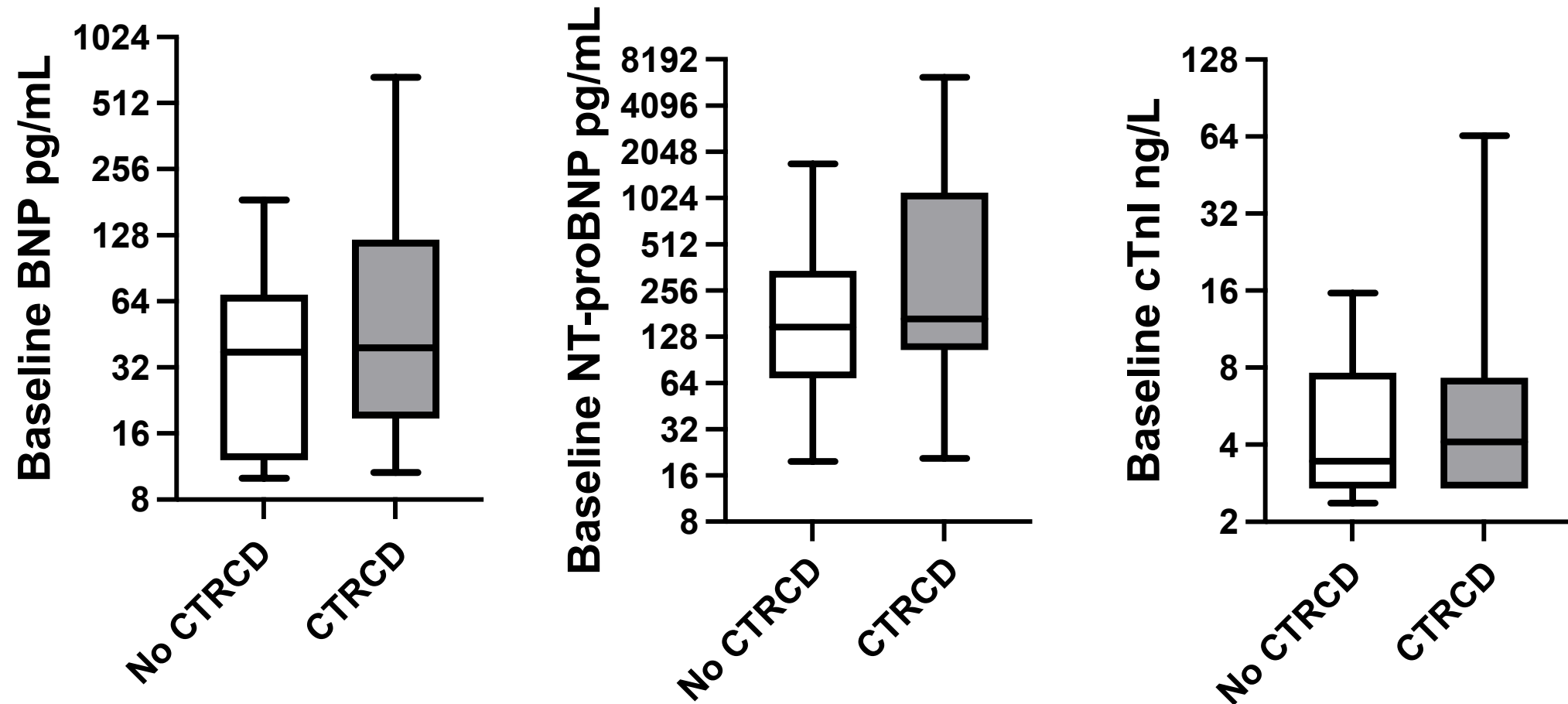
# No difference in baseline biomarkers in patients with CTRCD



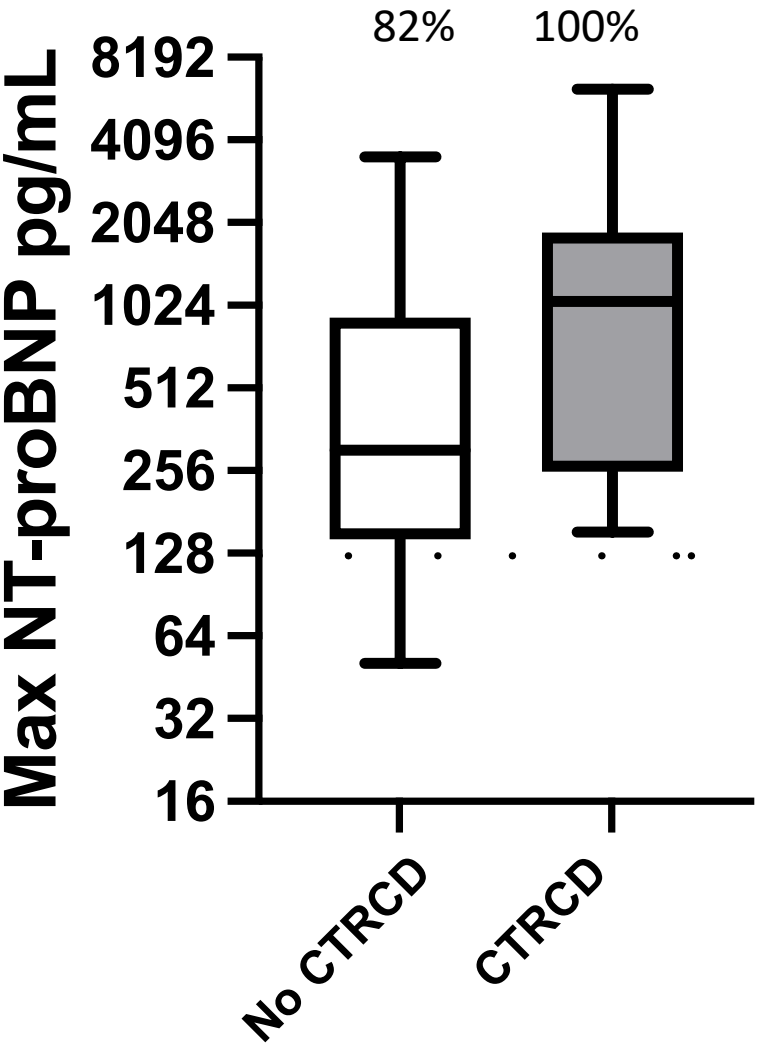
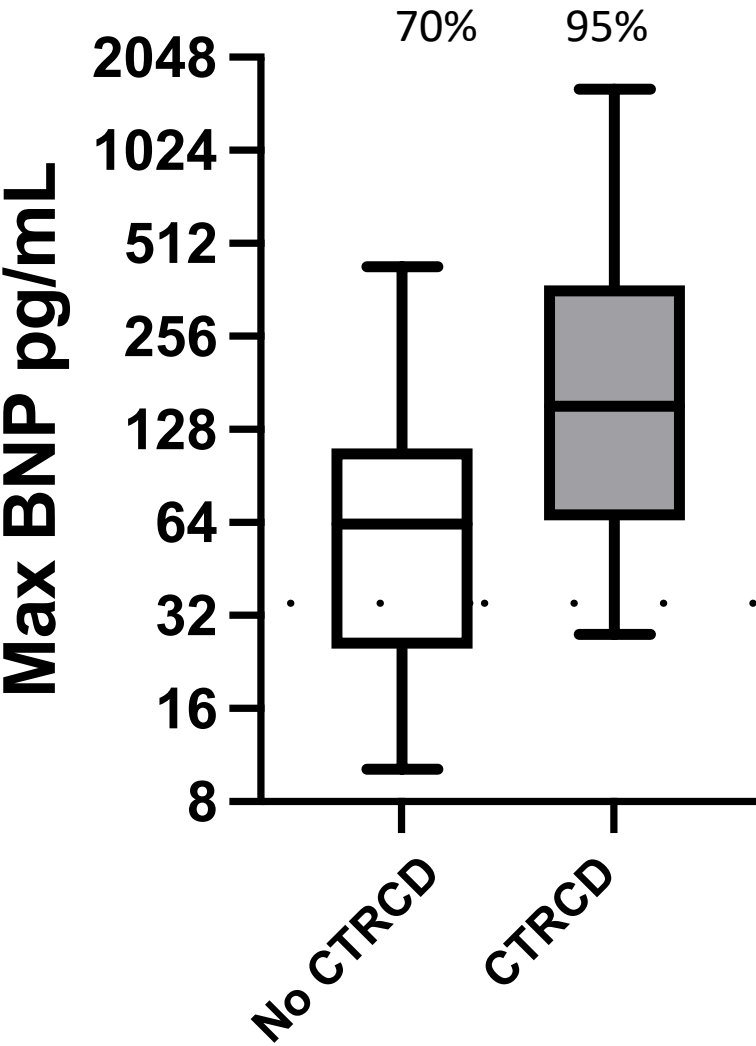
# No difference in baseline biomarkers in patients with CTRCD



# No difference in baseline biomarkers in patients with CTRCD



# Most patients have NPs above guideline endorsed thresholds



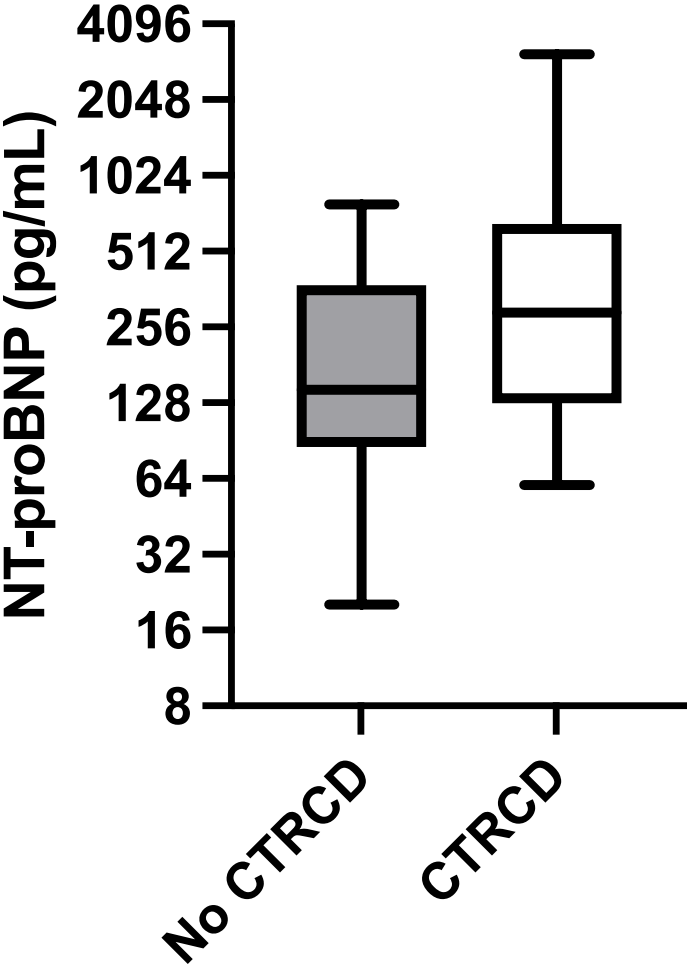
**NT-proBNP ≥125 pg/mL**  
Sensitivity = 63.6 (43.0-80.3)  
Specificity = 45.7 (32.2-59.8)

**BNP ≥35 pg/mL**  
Sensitivity = 59.1 (38.7-76.7)  
Specificity = 45.7 (32.2-59.8)

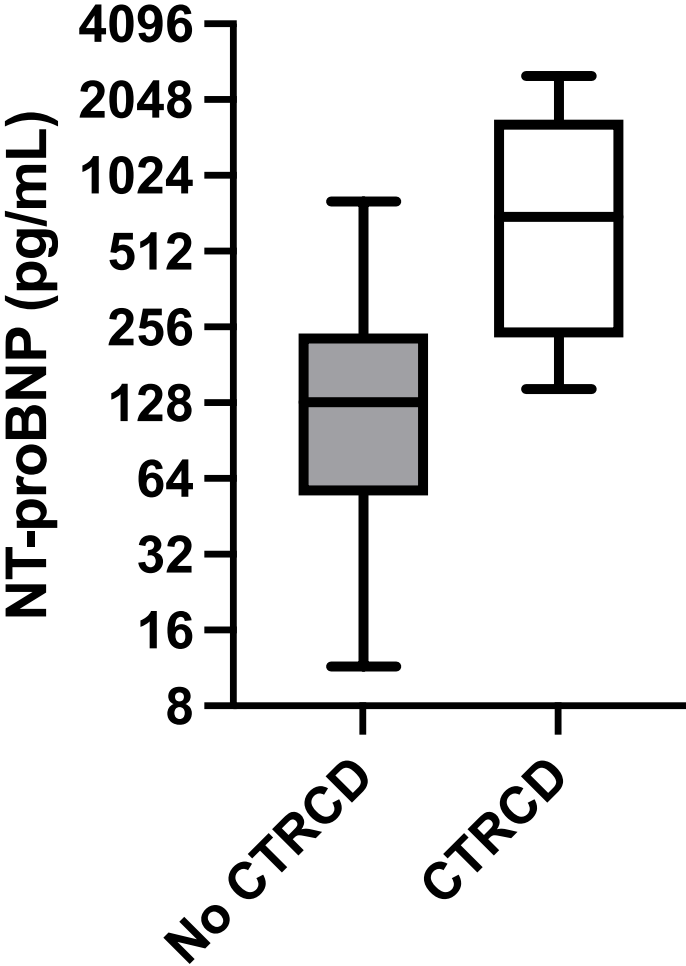


# NT-proBNP most useful for diagnosis at cycle

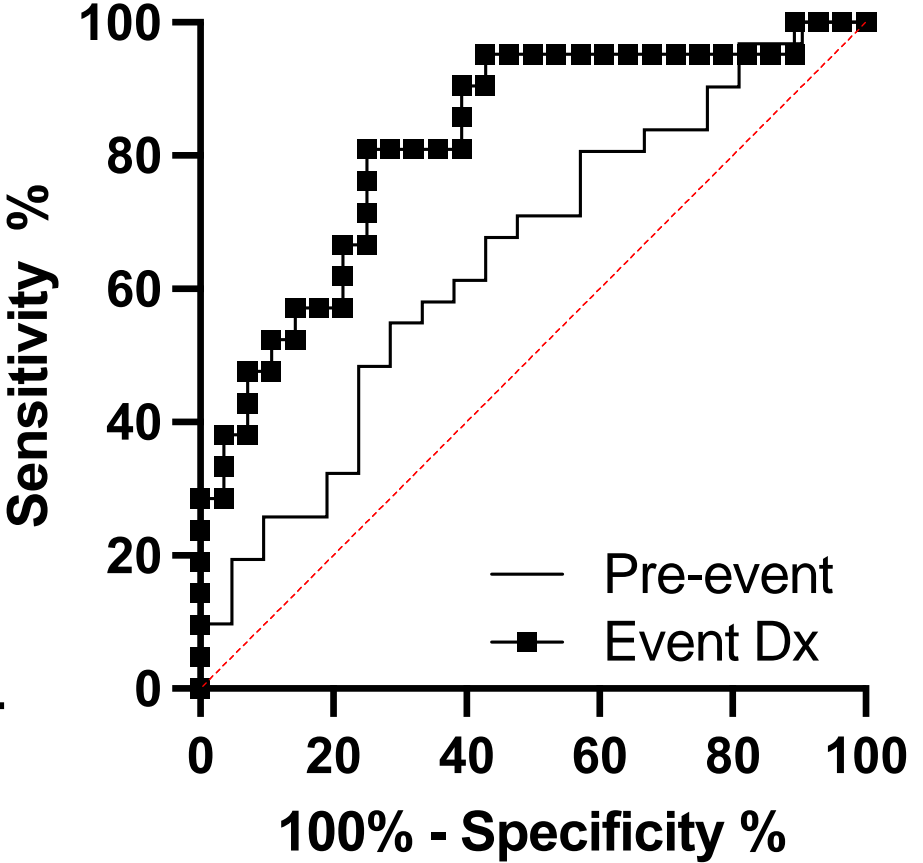
1 Cycle pre-Dx



Cycle of Dx



Pre-event AUC: 0.65 (0.49-0.8)  
Event-Dx AUC: 0.82 (0.7-0.94)



225 pg/mL

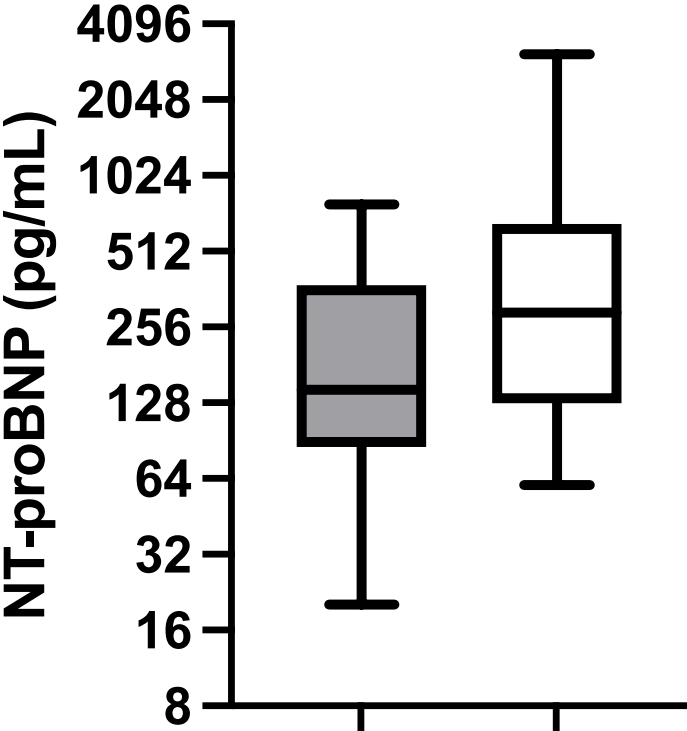
Sensitivity: 81% (60-92)

Specificity: 75% (56-87)

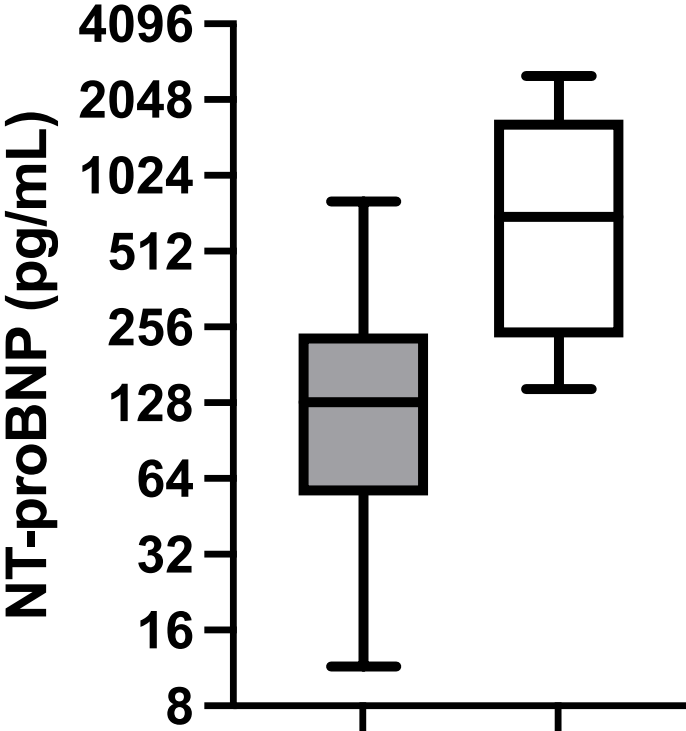


# NT-proBNP most useful for diagnosis at cycle

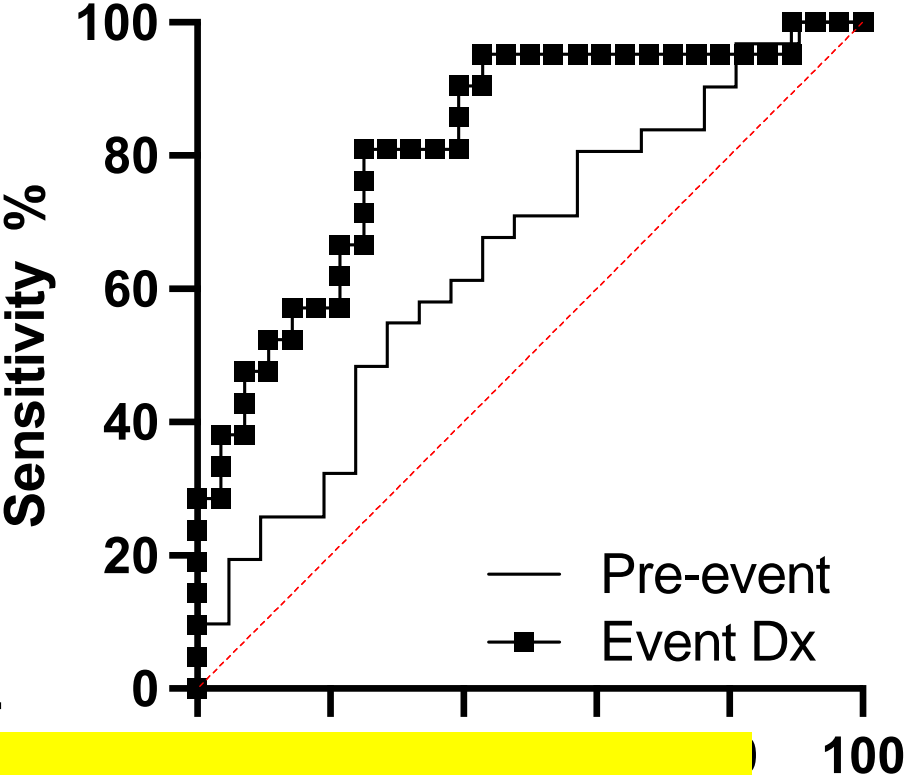
1 Cycle pre-Dx



Cycle of Dx



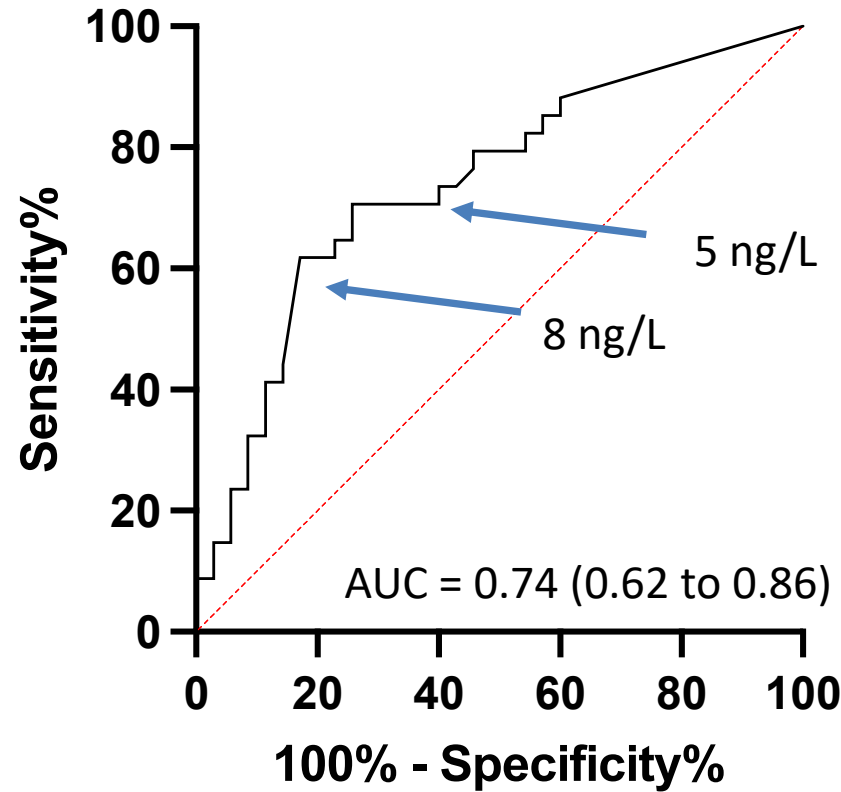
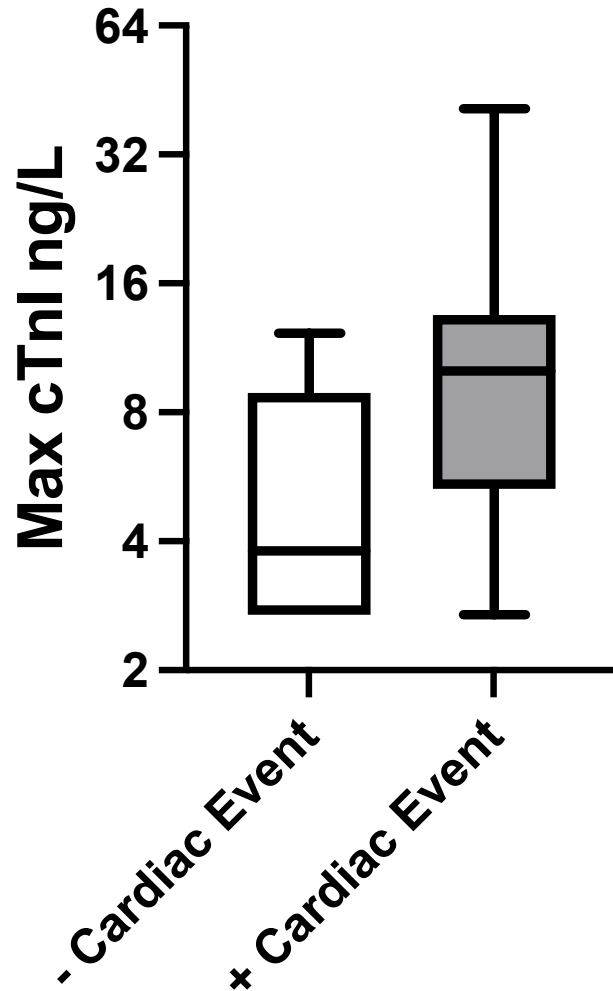
Pre-event AUC: 0.65 (0.49-0.8)  
Event-Dx AUC: 0.82 (0.7-0.94)



**HR of CTRCD if any NT-pro $\geq$ 225 pg/mL 2.56 (1.21 to 6.0)**



# Max cTnI is useful for predicting cardiac events



cTnI  $\geq$  8 ng/L  
Sensitivity = 71%  
Specificity = 74%

HR of cardiac event:  
**cTnI  $\geq$  8 ng/L 2.53 (1.52 to 4.35)**

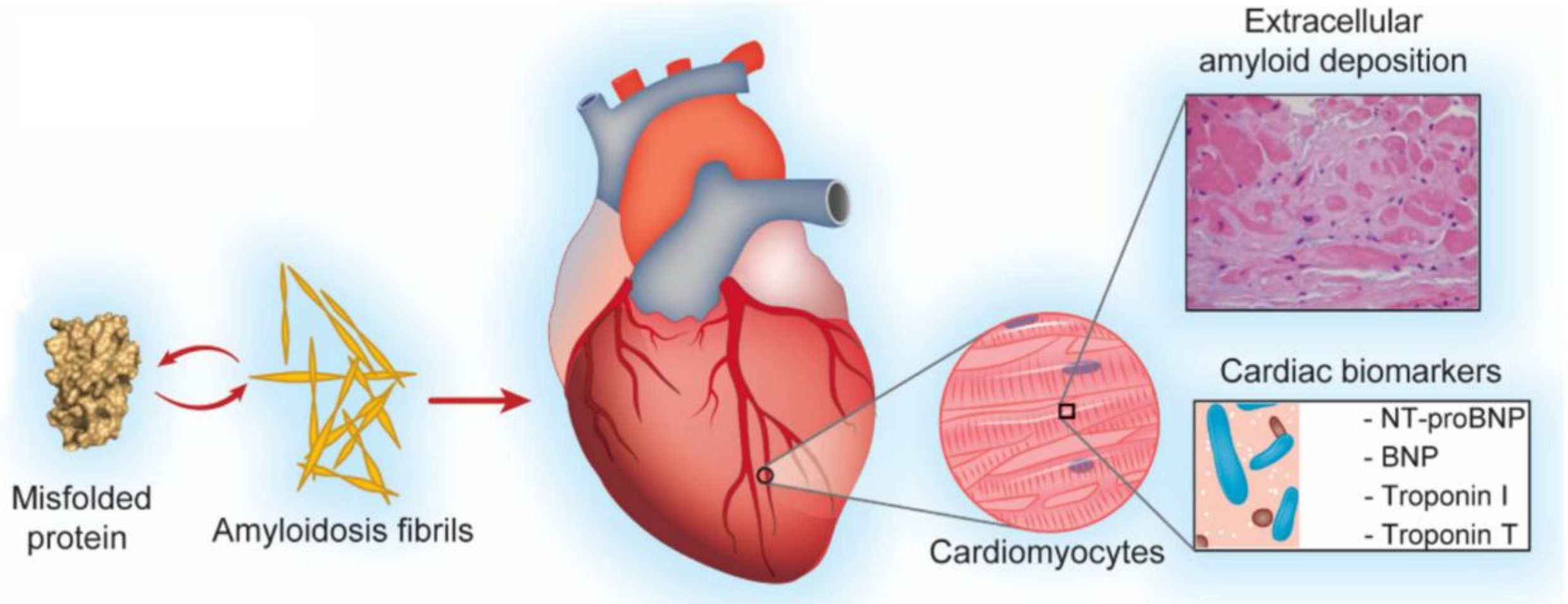
Cardiac event = stroke, arrhythmia, ACS, HF

# Utility of cardiac markers in Cardio-oncology

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1. Several therapy types (conventional, targeted, immunotherapies) are associated with cardiotoxicity
2. cTn and NPs are endorsed by consensus statements
3. cTn and NP thresholds for predicting cardiac dysfunction / diagnosis are likely imperfect
4. Ideal cutoffs will likely be cancer dependent and context dependent (i.e., untreated, previously treated, referred)

# Utility of cardiac markers for staging amyloidosis



# Utility of cardiac markers for staging cardiac amyloidosis

## Heart signs and symptoms

- Fatigue
- Swelling in legs/feet
- Shortness of breath
- Atrial fibrillation



Blood and urine tests to look for monoclonal proteins



A heart PYP scan to see if there is amyloid (PYP = pyrophosphate)



Other needed tests



If found, it may be light chain **(AL) amyloidosis** – a medical emergency

- A blood specialist (hematologist) treats this



If yes, it's likely transthyretin **(ATTR) amyloidosis**

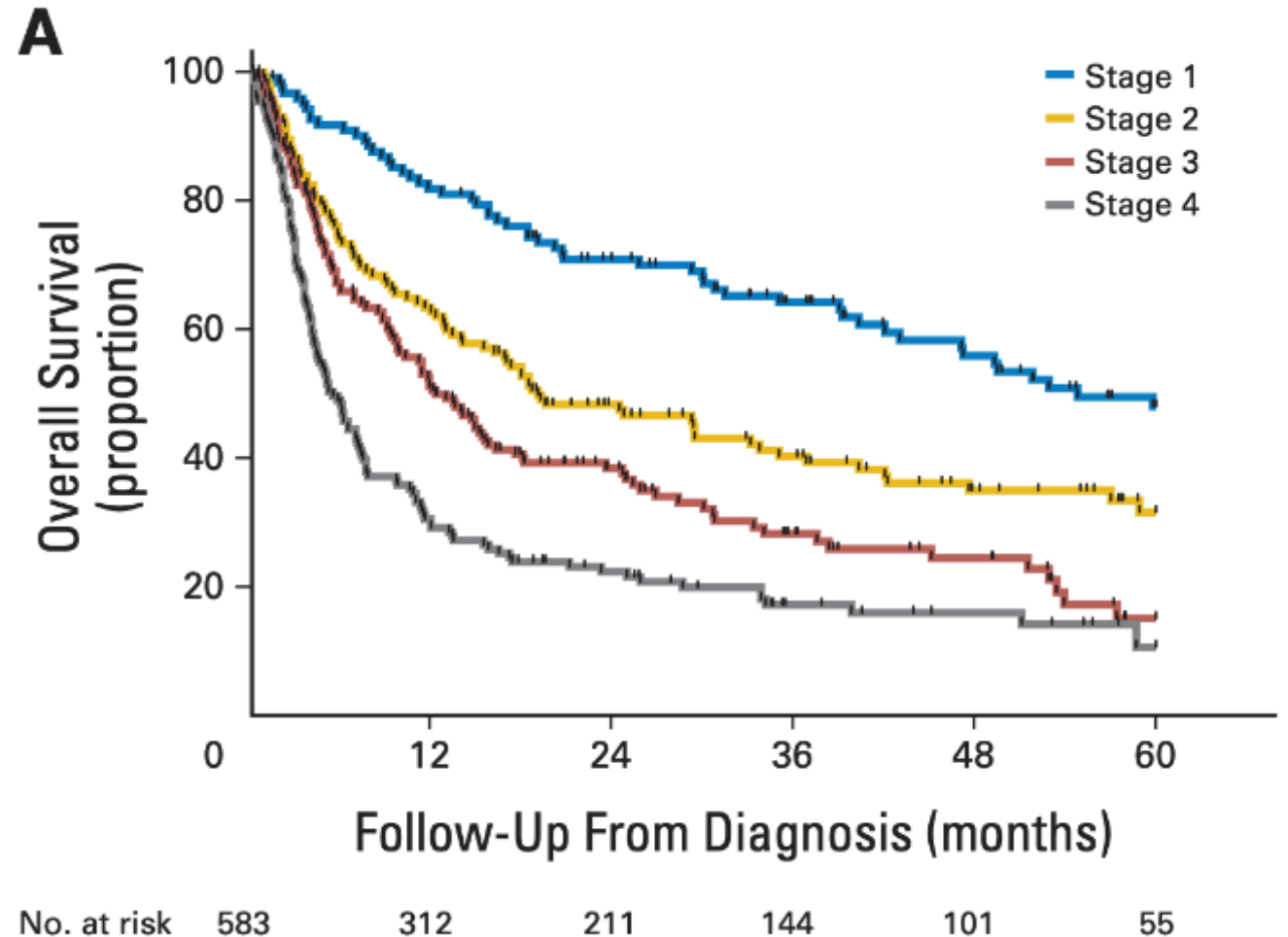
- A cardiologist treats this
- Genetic testing is needed



# Utility of cardiac markers for staging cardiac amyloidosis

Assigned a score of 1 for each:

- FLC-diff 18 mg/dL
- cTnT  $\geq 25$  ng/L
- NT-ProBNP  $\geq 1,800$  pg/mL

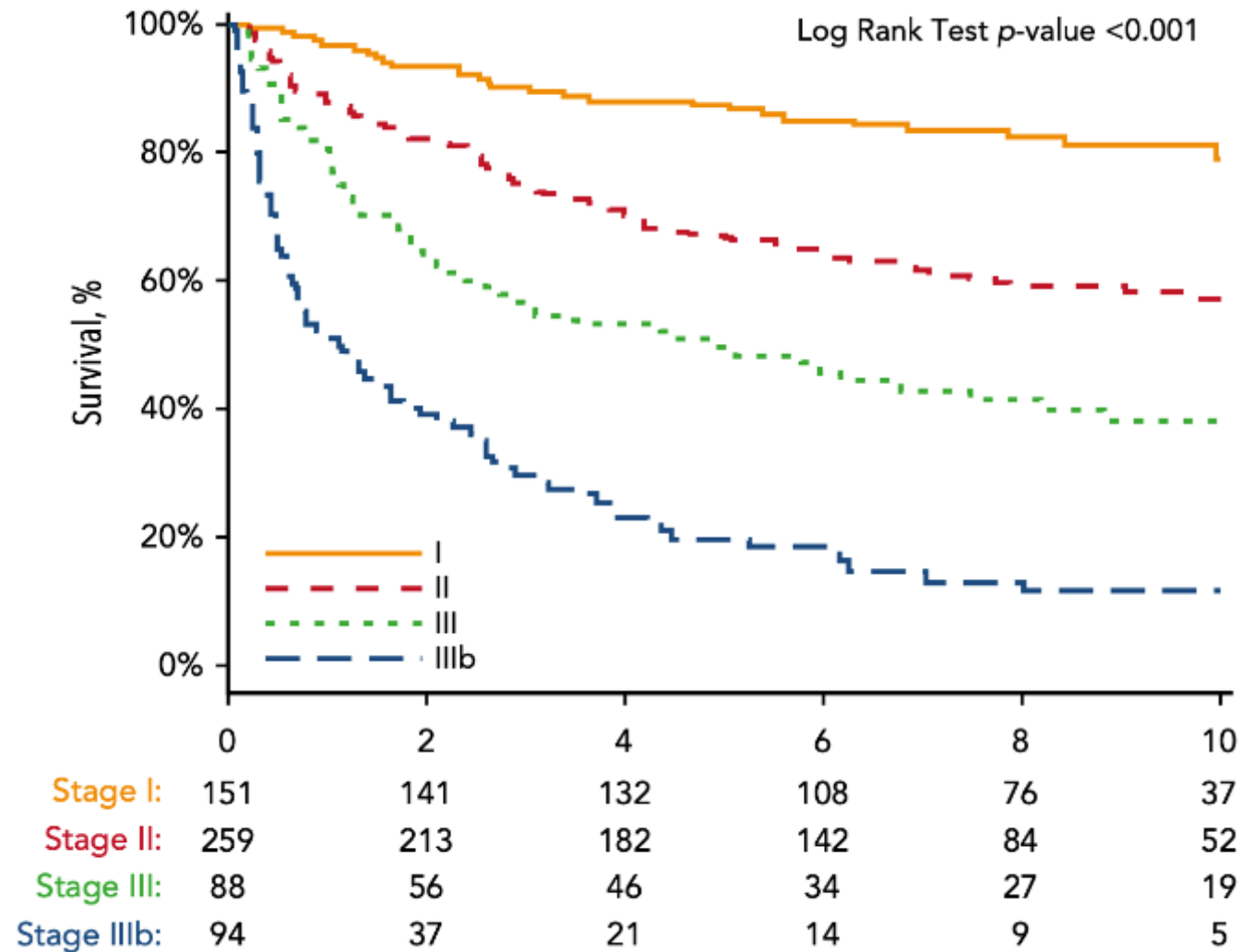


# cTnI and BNP can be used to stage amyloidosis

## Boston University Staging System

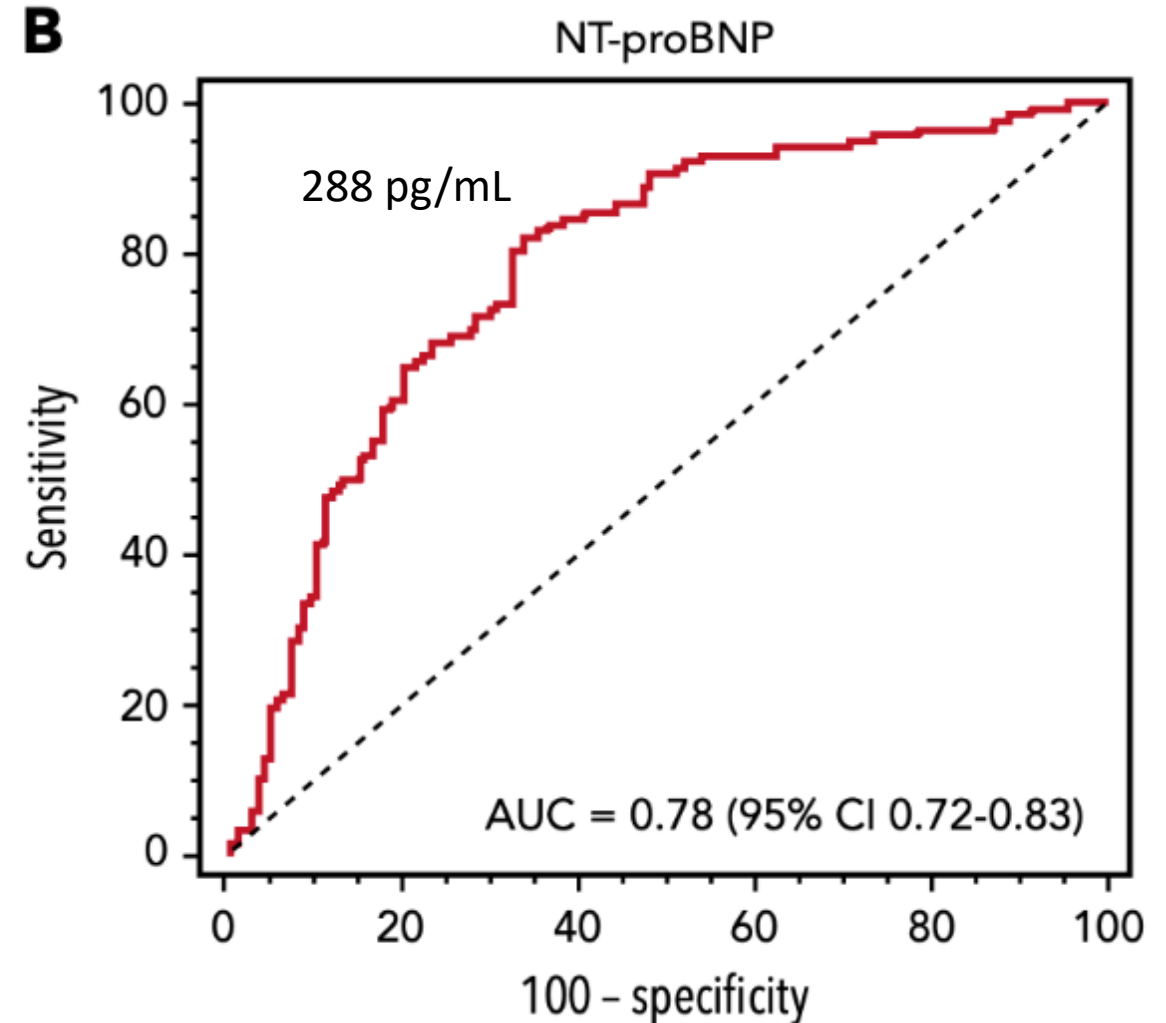
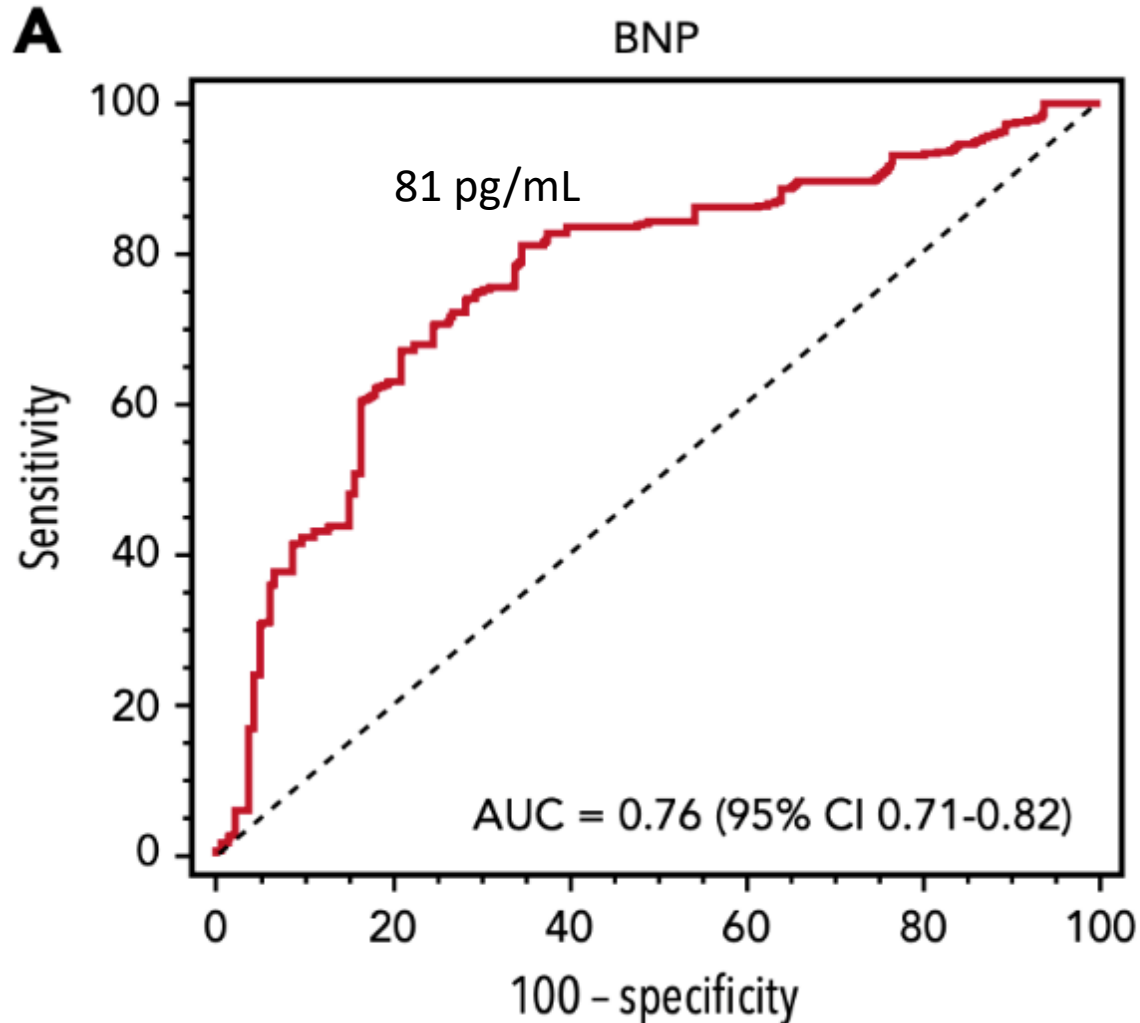
- FLC-diff 18 mg/dL
- cTnI > 100 ng/L,
- BNP > 81 pg/mL
- Stage III- BNP> 700 pg/mL

	Mayo Stage I	Mayo Stage II	Mayo Stage III
BU Stage I	94	10	0
BU Stage II	15	92	1
BU Stage III	0	1	36

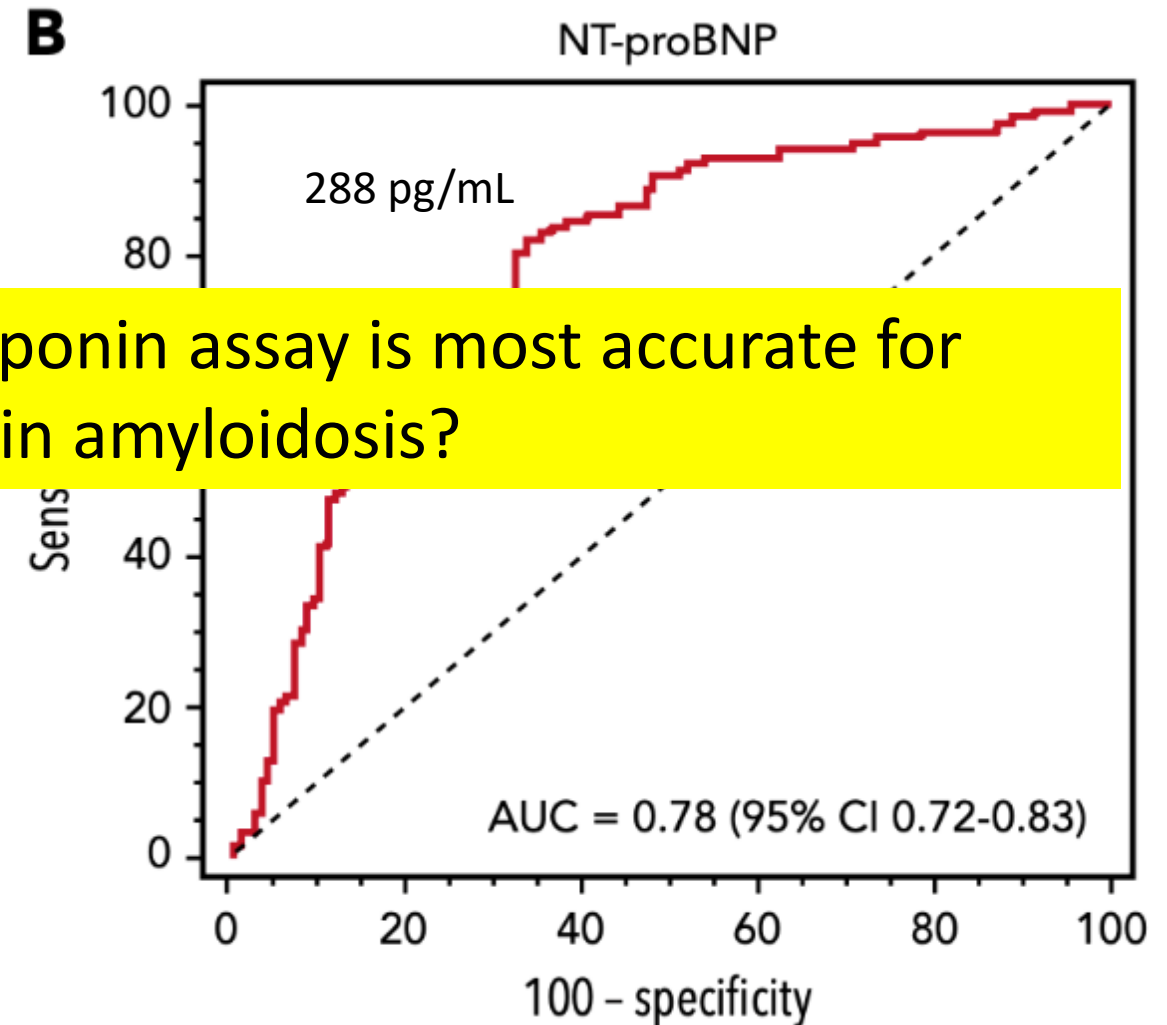
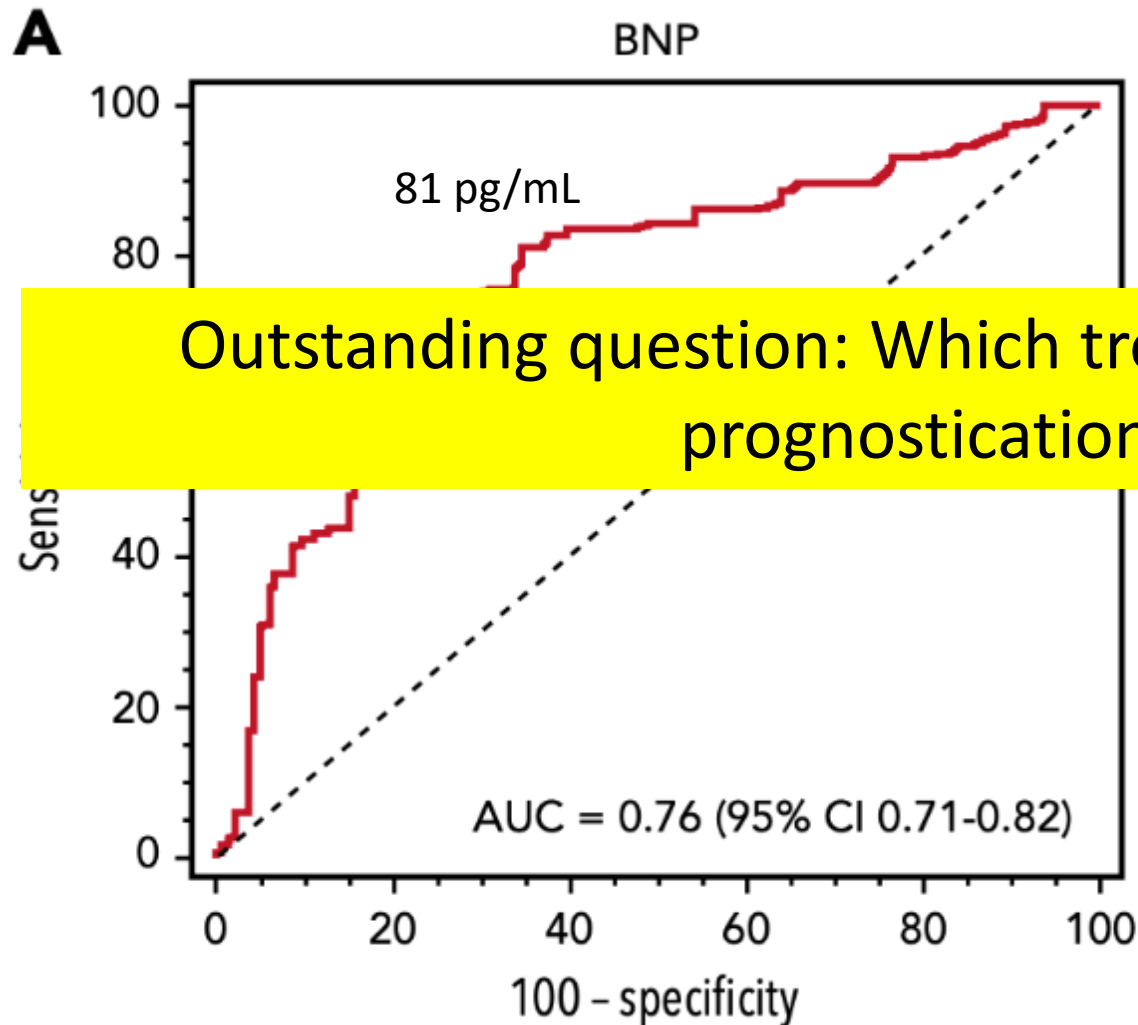




# NP assays perform comparably for determining cardiac involvement



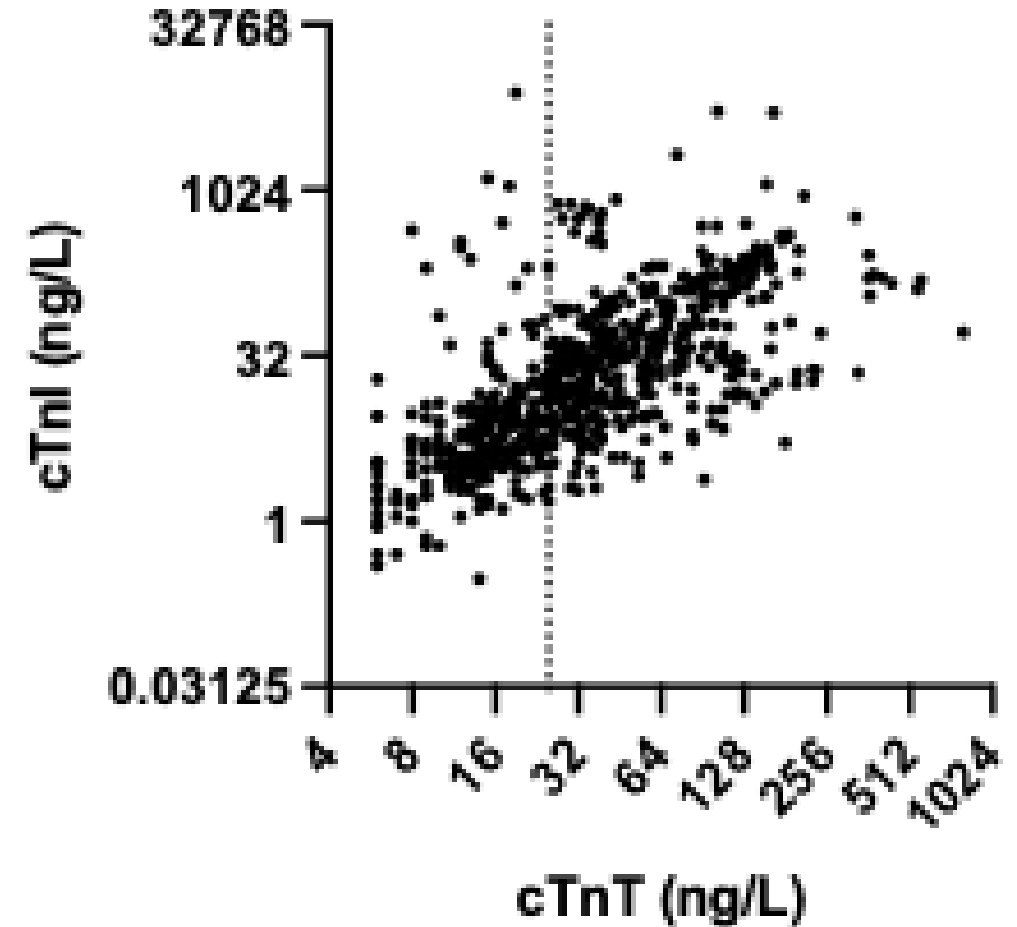
# NP assays perform comparably for determining cardiac involvement



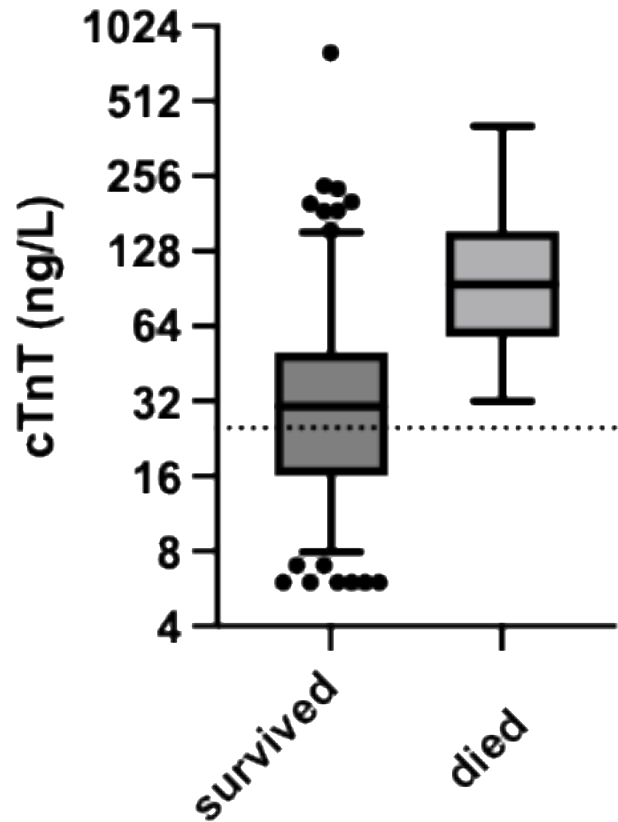
Outstanding question: Which troponin assay is most accurate for prognostication in amyloidosis?

# Study Design

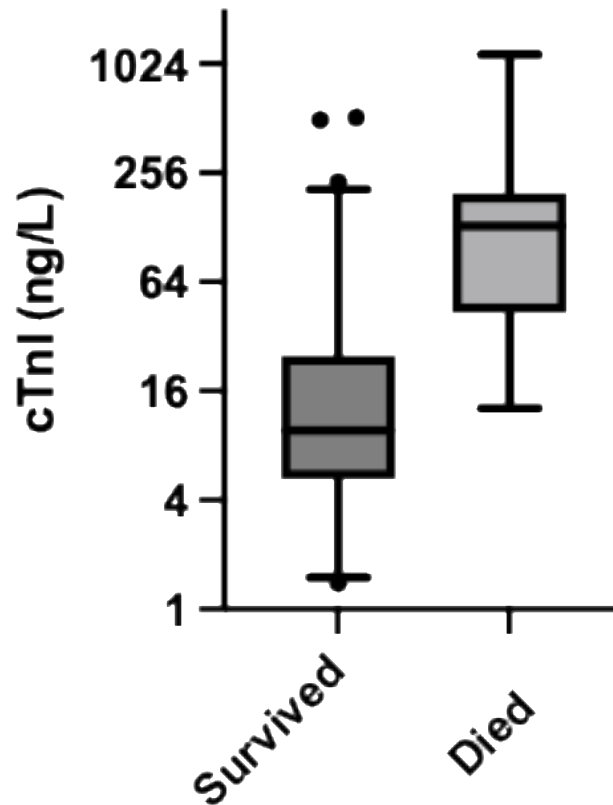
- 692 specimens from ~300 patients with physician diagnosed or c/f cardiac amyloidosis
- Physician ordered NT-proBNP, cTnT
- Chart review for:
  - DX date, comorbidities, EF, global, lab values (eGFR, FLC)
- Staged using Mayo criteria
- Remnant sample tested for
  - hs-cTnI, BNP, Galectin 3



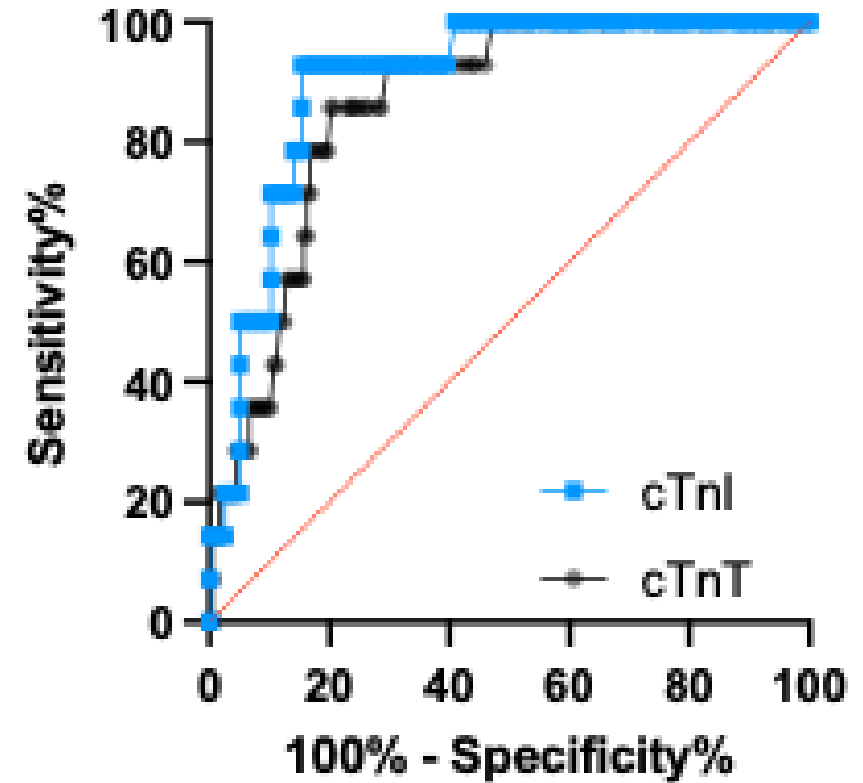
# cTnI and cTnT have similar prognostic capabilities



Sensitivity = 100%  
Specificity = 44.4%



Sensitivity = 92.9%  
Specificity = 84.6%



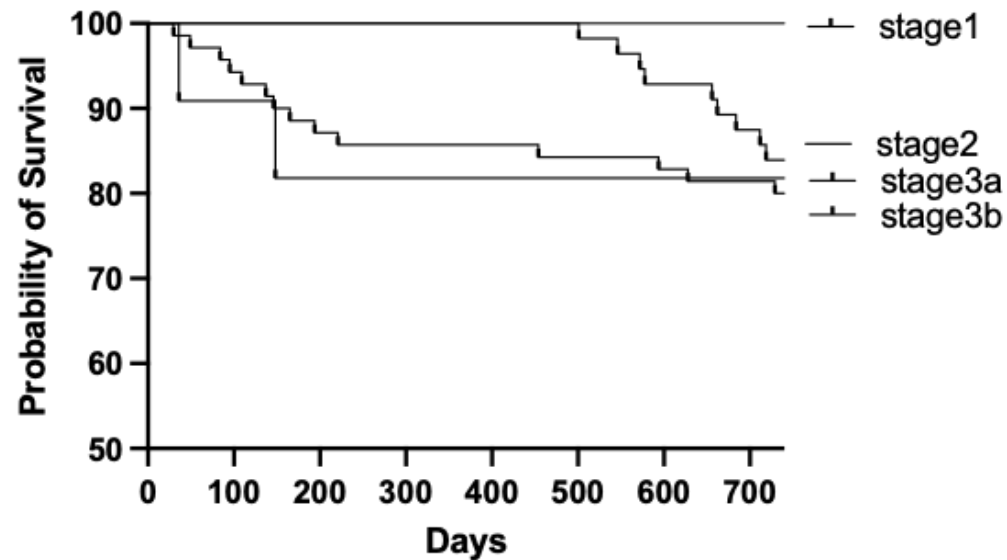
cTnI AUC = 0.9 (0.83-0.97)  
cTnT AUC = 0.86(0.79-0.94)

N = 162 patients with 2+ years of outcomes

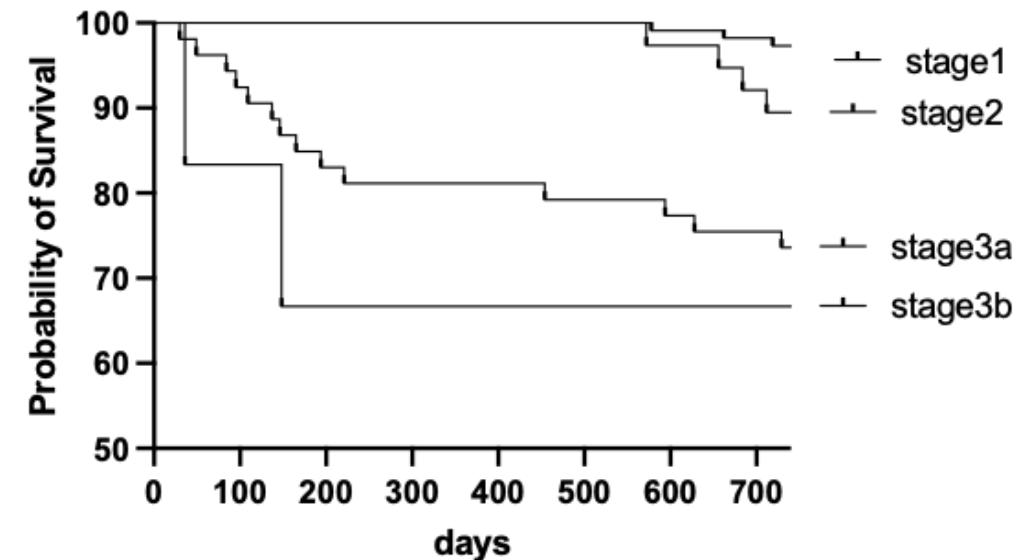
Farnsworth unpublished data

# cTnI and cTnT have similar prognostic performance

## Mayo Based cTnT Score



## Mayo Based cTnI Score



# **Take home points from Amyloidosis**

- cTn and NPs show up in both staging criteria for amyloidosis
- Mayo and Boston seem to perform comparably
- BNP/NT-proBNP and cTnI/cTnT have comparable performance for predicting outcomes in amyloidosis

# Final conclusions

- 01 cTn and NPs, previously used for acute care have emerged in multiple guidelines for ambulatory patients

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- 02 Guidelines use cTn and Np for diagnosing structure heart damage, assessing risk of cardiovascular disease, and prognosticating outcomes

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- 03 While helpful, more studies are needed to better define the cutoffs used, time intervals of screening, and populations to screen

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# Thank you!

## Collaborators

Josh Mitchell MD PhD  
Gillian Murtaugh, MD  
Christian Hunter, MD  
Mitch Scott, PhD  
Ron Krone, MD  
Brian Van Tine, MD

## Research Team

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Alexis Wysocki  
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Allison Jordan  
Meghan Brown  
Carol Muenks



## Trainees

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Yanchun Lin, PhD  
Nick Spies, MD  
Kwaku Tawiah, PhD  
Cate Omosule, PhD  
Vahid Azimi, MD





# Questions?

