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Letter to the Editor

Reply: Incremental value of B-type natriuretic peptide for early risk prediction of infective endocarditis

We agree with Biteker and colleagues that the inherent limitations of our observational study should be considered. In our study, B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) was measured at the discretion of the attending emergency department physician, favoring potential selection bias. Nevertheless, out of 117 consecutive patients admitted to the emergency department with endocarditis, BNP was not measured only in approximately 10% of them, minimizing selection bias. The addition of hs-troponin may be a useful tool for risk assessment in endocarditis patients,¹ as well as other biomarkers alone or in combination. BNP levels at admission were shown to be a useful tool for predicting prognosis in patients with endocarditis, but prospective studies are needed to better understand its role in other settings and in association with other biomarkers.

Reference

1. Burton MJ, Cockrell J, Holguin G, Geraci S. Prognostic value of cardiac troponin levels in infective endocarditis. *Therapeutic Advances in Cardiovascular Disease* 2013;7(1):45–6.

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