Elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with CTP ischemic volume and 90-day functional outcomes in acute ischemic stroke: a retrospective cohort study

Xiaozhu Shen1,2†, Juan Liao1†, Yi Jiang2, Yiwen Xu2, Mengqian Liu2, Xianxian Zhang1,3*, Nan Dong1,4, Liqiang Yu1, Qingmei Chen1 and Qi Fang1*

Abstract
Objective: To investigate the impact of N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) on CTP infarct core volume and poor 90-day functional outcomes in acute ischemic stroke (AIS).

Methods: A total of 403 hospitalized patients with AIS in the Stroke Center of the First Hospital Affiliated to Soochow University were enrolled from March 2018 to January 2021. The association between NT-proBNP and clinical outcomes in acute ischemic patients was assessed by logistic regression and adjusted for confounding factors. Also, subgroup analyses were conducted based on treatment decisions.

Results: NT-proBNP was positively correlated with CTP ischemic volume ($p < 0.001$), infarct core volume ($p < 0.001$), and ischemic penumbra volume ($p < 0.001$). Univariate analysis showed that the influence of NT-proBNP and functional outcomes were statistically significant in model 1 ($p = 0.002$). This phenomenon was persistent after adjusted for age, sex, and body mass index in model 2 ($p = 0.011$), adjusted for SBP, current smoking, family history of stroke, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus in model 3 ($p < 0.001$), and adjusted for TnI, D-dimer, PLT, Cr, TC, TG, HDL-C, treatment decisions, and NIHSS score in model 4 ($p = 0.027$). A high NT-proBNP was associated with a high 90-days mRS score among the total population, IV rt-PA, and standardized treatment groups, but not in IV rt-PA+ EVT, EVT, and EVT/IV rt-PA+ EVT groups.

Conclusion: Elevated NT-proBNP levels reveal large CTP infarct core volume and poor 90-day functional outcome in AIS. NT-proBNP is an independent risk factor for functional outcomes.

Keywords: Acute ischemic stroke, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic, Outcomes, CTP perfusion, Treatment decisions

Introduction
Stroke is the second leading cause of death and a major cause of disability worldwide with increasing incidence because of the aging population [1]. Interestingly, the elevated N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) level in acute cerebral infarction is associated with heart failure (HF) [2]. Also, a strong interconnection between the heart and brain is recently emerging as a new discipline, neurocardiology.
The heart and brain are not only the target but also endocrine organs, as components of a complex neuroendocrine reticular system [5]. This might explain the elevated BNP after stroke [6]. BNP is a vital marker of the activation of the human NP system and is expressed in the brain and the heart. Although the effect of BNP on cardiac insufficiency is widely accepted, the effect on the brain is underestimated. Few previous studies have explored the relationship between NT-proBNP levels and CTP ischemic volume and the underlying mechanisms explaining the effects of NT-proBNP levels on 90-day work in acute ischemic stroke (AIS).

The prognostic impact of CTP is currently inconclusive. Some studies demonstrated that CTP infarct core volume is an independent prognostic factor on functional outcome [7]. Some studies found that neither the volume of the penumbra nor ischemic core measured on CTP was associated with early neurological improvement [8]. Thus, it could be deduced that the time window for treatment options relies on linear growth of infarction, and the CTP ischemic volume plays a decisive role in the CTP ischemic penumbra volume. However, the infarct growth was not linear from symptom onset to baseline imaging in most patients [9]. This nonlinearity could be attributed to several influencing factors, such as the establishment of collateral circulation [10] and blood pressure [11]. Few previous studies have observed the correlations between NT-proBNP levels and the CTP ischemic volume, CTP infarct core volume, and CTP ischemic penumbra volume.

Intravenous thrombolysis and endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) are the standardized treatments for AIS worldwide [12]. A series of randomized controlled trials of EVT based on intravenous thrombolysis has yielded significant positive results for anterior circulation stroke within 6 h of onset, irrespective of patient characteristics [13]. During the prolonged window of 6–24 h, the results improved in patients with salvageable brain tissue, according to perfusion imaging [14]. Nonetheless, EVT is only indicated for a small subset of stroke patients, and a successful recanalization of EVT patients might not provide good functional outcomes [15]. However, few studies have focused on the effect of NT-proBNP on the outcomes after cerebrovascular revascularization treatment.

Therefore, this study aimed to investigate whether NT-proBNP is related to CTP ischemic volume correlation, whether to predict poor prognosis in AIS patients with different treatments, and to explore the underlying mechanisms by which NT-proBNP affects stroke outcomes.

Methods

Study design and population

The present study was conducted in the Stroke Center of the First Hospital Affiliated with Soochow University, followed by a retrospective analysis of the data collected prospectively from March 2018 to January 2021. Finally, 403 patients included in this study fulfilled all the following criteria: (1) Age ≥ 18-years-old; (2) The presence of acute ischemic lesions in the anterior circulation within 24 h of onset was confirmed by the imaging methods (magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) or computed tomography (CT)); (3) Patients with acute onset for the first time or with previous cerebral infarction without obvious sequelae; (4) estimation of the NT-proBNP level and undergoing CTA + CTP within 0.5 h after admission to the hospital; (5) Ethics approval and consent to participate. The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) Patients with cerebral hemorrhage or intracranial mass (cerebral hemorrhage, such as post-infarction hemorrhage after hospitalization, excluded by emergency cranial CT); (2) Patients with transient ischemic attack; (3) Patients with severe infection or septic shock; (4) Patients with a history of severe trauma and received surgical treatment; (5) Obvious liver and renal insufficiency; (6) Endocrine, immune, and neoplastic diseases; (7) Pregnancy (Fig. 1).

All patients provided informed consent, and the data were analyzed anonymously. The ethical approval for this study was obtained from the ethics committees of the First Hospital Affiliated to Soochow University (No. 2019057).

Data collection and definition

Data, including the age, gender, individual addiction of smoking, previous history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus, stroke, family history of stroke, atrial fibrillation (AF) (previous AF and new-onset AF at stroke, AF is indicated by electrocardiography or continuous ECG monitoring when the patient arrives at the emergency department), and the clinical parameters obtained from the physical examination (height, weight, body mass index (BMI), systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), initial glucose, and the National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) score), were collected from medical records. Hypertension was defined as SBP ≥ 140 mmHg or DBP ≥ 90 mmHg. Diabetes mellitus was defined as fasting glucose ≥ 7.0 mmol/L, and the present treatment was insulin or an antidiabetic drug. Body mass index (BMI) was defined as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. The laboratory tests included serum triglycerides (TGs), total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), and NT-proBNP. TOAST
classification was divided into large-artery atherosclerosis (LAA), cardioembolic (CE) and other. LAA was defined as > 50% stenosis of the vessel lumen in extracranial or intracranial segment of internal carotid artery (ICA), M1/M2 segment of middle cerebral artery (MCA) or anterior cerebral artery (ACA). The functional outcome was assessed by a trained operator via face-to-face interview using the 90-day modified Rankin Scale (mRS) after the onset of symptoms. An excellent outcome was defined as the 90-day mRS score of 0–2, and a poor outcome was defined as a score of 3–6. The CTP ischemic penumbra volume reflected the collateral status. All perfusion images were post-processed on the commercial software MIStar (Apollo Medical Imaging Technology, Melbourne, Australia) using a single value deconvolution with delay and dispersion correction. The previously validated thresholds were applied to measure the CTP ischemic volume (delay time \([DT] > 3 \text{ s}\)) and CTP infarct core volume (relative cerebral blood flow \((\text{rCBF}) < 30\%\)). The CTP ischemic penumbra volume was calculated as follows:
acute hypoperfused lesion volume minus the infarct core volume (Fig. 2).

Treatment

Patients suspected to have had a stroke onset (or last seen in good condition) within 24-h window were subjected to multimode CT (NCCT + CT angiography + CT perfusion) examination by the neurologists. The patient’s treatment decisions (including intravenous thrombolysis both standard-dose thrombolysis (0.9 mg/kg) and low-dose thrombolysis (0.6 mg/kg), thrombectomy, thrombolysis and thrombectomy, no recanalization treatment) were made by experienced and senior neurologists.

Outcomes

The functional outcome was assessed by mRS at 90 days after stroke (mRS 0–2 points as good prognosis and ≥3 points as poor prognosis), as determined by a trained operator blind to patient information using a validated telephone script.

Statistical analysis

Kolmogorov–Smirnov test was used to assess the normality of numerical variables, while the median and interquartile range (IQR) were used to describe continuous variables in the non-normally distributed variables. The normative continuous variables were analyzed by independent sample’s t-test. The data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). The non-normative data were analyzed by Mann–Whitney U test. The categorical variable data were expressed as the count and percentage, and chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test was used for comparison between groups. Spearman’s rank correlation assessed the correlation between NT-proBNP and CTP perfusion status in the total population. The associations between the functional outcome variables and covariates were explored using univariate analysis testing each predictor and multivariable logistic regression analysis to adjust for potential confounders. For multivariate logistic regression analysis, we adjusted the confounding variables, including age, sex, BMI, baseline SBP, smoking, family history of stroke, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, TnI, D-dimer, PLT, Cr, TC, TG, HDL-C, treatment decisions, and baseline NIHSS score with a bivariate p < 0.10. A two-tailed p-value < 0.05 was considered significant. Also, subgroup analyses based on the classification of treatment decisions were conducted. NT-proBNP was grouped according to different cutoff values. Next, a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was drawn to analyze the diagnostic value of NT-proBNP in the functional outcomes in different subgroups. All the data were analyzed using the SPSS software (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, version 26.0; IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) and GraphPad Software (GraphPad Prism for Windows, version 9.0.0; San Diego, CA, USA). A two-tailed p-value < 0.05 indicated statistical significance.

Results

Baseline characteristics

Table 1 presents the clinical characteristics of the participants. Compared to the excellent functional outcome (mRS 0–2) group, a large number of patients in the poor functional outcome (mRS 3–6) group were older (p = 0.004), had higher TnI (p = 0.010), higher D-dimer, poor initial NIHSS score, greater CTP ischemic volume, greater CTP infarct core volume, greater CTP ischemic penumbra volume, and higher NT-proBNP (all p < 0.001). No difference was detected in the sex, BMI, baseline SBP, DBP, other biochemical variables, medical history, treatment decisions, and TOAST between the two groups (all p > 0.05).

NT-proBNP and CTP perfusion status

Figure 3 presents Spearman’s rank correlation between NT-proBNP and CTP perfusion status in total population (n = 403). NT-proBNP was positively correlated with CTP ischemic volume (r = 0.234, p < 0.001), CTP infarct core volume (r = 0.252, p < 0.001), and CTP ischemic penumbra volume (r = 0.199, p < 0.001).

NT-proBNP, CTP status, and functional outcomes

Subsequently, we performed logistic regression analyses on the factors associated with the 90-day mRS score (Fig. 4). The univariate analysis showed that the influence
of NT-proBNP and functional outcome was statistically significant in model 1 (odds ratio (OR) = 1.034; 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.012–1.057; \( p = 0.002 \)). The effect was persistent even after we adjusted for age, sex,
and BMI in model 2 (adjusted OR = 1.028; 95% CI 1.006–1.050; \(p = 0.011\)), adjusted for SBP, current smoking, family history of stroke, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus in model 3 (adjusted OR = 1.033; 95% CI 1.010–1.015; \(p < 0.001\)), adjusted for TnI, D-dimer, PLT, Cr, TC, TG, HDL-C, treatment decisions, and NIHSS score in model 4 (adjusted OR = 1.029; 95% CI 1.003–1.055; \(p = 0.027\)). CTP ischemic volume, CTP infarct core volume, and CTP ischemic penumbra volume were associated with the functional outcomes in all models.

### NT-proBNP and functional outcomes

Figure 5 shows that the NT-proBNP group had higher 90-day mRS score among the total population group \((p < 0.001, H = 25.01)\) (Fig. 5A), IV rt-PA group \((p = 0.029, H = 7.09)\) (Fig. 5B), and standardized treatment group \((p = 0.002, H = 12.93)\) (Fig. 5C). However, no significant differences were detected regarding excellent functional outcome among IV rt-PA + EVT \((p = 0.981, H = 0.04)\) (Fig. 5D), EVT \((p = 0.134, H = 4.03)\) (Fig. 5E), and EVT/IV rt-PA + EVT groups \((p = 0.197, H = 3.25)\) (Fig. 5F).

### ROC of NT-proBNP on functional outcomes

Figure 6 presents the efficiency of the ROC curves in differentiating NT-proBNP in different treatment groups to predict the 90-day adverse outcomes. NT-proBNP had a predictive value in the total population group (area under the ROC curve \(AUC = 0.602, p < 0.001\)) (Fig. 6A) and standardized treatment group \((AUC = 0.655, p = 0.004)\) (Fig. 6C) and no predictive value in the IV rt-PA group.
(AUC = 0.554, p = 0.181) (Fig. 6B), the IV rt-PA + EVT group (AUC = 0.508, p = 0.947) (Fig. 6D), the EVT group (AUC = 0.664, p = 0.061) (Fig. 6E), and the EVT/IV rt-PA + EVT group (AUC = 0.615, p = 0.104) (Fig. 6F).

**Discussion**

BNP and NT-proBNP are the major components of the NP system and split into these forms for release from the atrial and ventricular myocardium following cardiomyocyte stimuli, such as volume overload, pressure overload, and ischemic injury [4, 16, 17]. BNP and NT-proBNP are commonly used in diagnosing or evaluating heart disease, and their role has been expanded and applied to stroke in recent years [18]. Reportedly, NT-proBNP is a biological marker of cerebrovascular disease for identifying ischemic stroke subtypes [19], predicting the incidence of atrial fibrillation-related stroke [20], and predicting stroke recurrence [21, 22]. The meta-analysis of prospective cohort studies suggested that NT-proBNP levels predict the prognosis for functional outcomes in ischemic stroke patients [23]. BNP is an active hormone with vasodilatory and diuretic effects and reduced left ventricular load [24]. Conversely, NT-proBNP is an inactive form with a longer half-life than BNP [25], and thus, a wide clinical application.

NT-proBNP levels are valuable predictors of stroke outcome [26]. A previous study showed that the levels of NT-proBNP were positively associated with the risk of ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke [2]. A prospective, multicenter observational study of 4215 patients with AIS pointed out that NT-proBNP is an independent prognostic marker of all-cause mortality in Chinese patients with AIS [27]. A study of 441 CE patients > 80-years-old with 90-day and 1-year follow-up demonstrated that BNP, but not s-cTnI, was an independent predictor of death [28]. Another study investigated 270 AIS patients aged 21–87 years, with symptoms within 48 h. High BNP
levels were independently associated with high mortality and a poor 90-day prognosis [29], which is also evident in TIA. In a follow-up study of 929 patients, aged 64–83 years with TIA or minor stroke, with a median follow-up of 6.4 years, NT-proBNP was found to independently predict the all-cause mortality, with the maximal predictive value in the > 80-years-old age group [30]. However, the mechanism underlying this phenomenon is yet to be elucidated.

The current study demonstrated that elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with poor 90-day functional outcomes in AIS. Thus, we proposed the following: (1) Elevated NT-proBNP has a specific effect on the brain. NT-proBNP reflects the cardiovascular burden [31] and might be the most reliable biomarker in HF with high specificity and sensitivity [32]. NT-proBNP is also a marker of AF burden. The heavier the AF burden, the higher the BNP level; this might predict the progression of AF: paroxysmal to persistent AF [33]. Although NT-proBNP does not appear in the CHA2DS2VASc scale for assessing the risk of AF-related cerebral embolism, a systematic review and meta-analysis on data from 2958 patients with ischemic stroke was retrieved from 16 studies showed that BNP could be an accurate diagnostic marker of CE [34]. CE is characterized by a large infarct size, severe neurological impairment, and poor prognosis [26, 35, 36]. It is a major subtype of ischemic stroke; thus, it was inferred that elevated NT-proBNP is consistent with the clinical features of CE. (2) Patients in the medical intensive care unit with cerebral hemorrhage [37], undergoing non-cardiac surgery [38], mechanical ventilation [39], and pulmonary embolism [40], have a poor prognosis with elevated NT-proBNP, which might also increase the non-specific risk of stroke patients [41]. (3) Risk stroke, similar to NT-proBNP increases, is increased with age [42–44]. Age is a predictor of mortality in Ischemic Stroke [45]. It is assumed that the older the age, the higher the NT-proBNP levels and the worse the stroke prognosis.

The volume of CTP predicted infarct core is associated with poor clinical outcome in AIS imaged within 8 h of onset [46]. The elevated CTP ischemic core volume is associated with poor outcomes and a lower likelihood of shift towards improved outcomes [47]. A large initial infarct volume is significantly associated with poor clinical outcomes in patients who underwent EVT because of early window stroke [48]. The current study found that elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with large CTP infarct core volume, which is consistent with the finding that elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with poor functional outcomes at 90 days.

Endovascular thrombectomy is one of the robust treatments for large vessel ischemic stroke [49]. Endovascular thrombectomy is crucial for reducing disability and improving the quality of life after large-vessel ischemic stroke [50, 51]. In this study, NT-proBNP is an independent risk factor for functional outcomes, while endovascular treatment could counteract its role as a biomarker for predicting poor outcomes. This phenomenon indicated that cerebrovascular recanalization therapy, whether EVT, IV rt-PA + EVT, or IV rt-PA, can reverse the poor prognosis even if the NT-proBNP levels are elevated indicating poor prognosis. These findings reflected the positive impact of cerebrovascular revascularization therapy. NT-proBNP reflects cardiovascular burden and may decrease with a lower cardiovascular stress response after cerebrovascular revascularisation therapy for acute ischaemic stroke. This might explain the mechanism by which the results of subgroup analyses differ across treatment decisions.

Previous studies have observed the effects of NT-proBNP on all-cause mortality, short and long-term all-cause mortality, cardiac death, functional outcomes, and
short and long-term functional outcomes of ischemic stroke patients [23]. There were also studies discussing the effect of NT-proBNP on the prognosis of different TOAST types of stroke, but no studies have been found to explore the predictive value of BNP on poor prognosis after different treatment interventions. The correlation between NT-proBNP and CTP ischemic volume was also lack of research coverage. In this study, based on the decisive influence of CTP ischemic volume on stroke prognosis, the correlation between NT-proBNP and CTP ischemic volume was used to explain that elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with 90-day functional outcomes in acute ischemic stroke.

Limitations
Nevertheless, the present study has some limitations. This was a single-center retrospective study, which might have selection bias. Since the population in this study was of Asian descent, the results may not be applicable to other ethnic groups. Also, the secondary outcomes, including mortality and hemorrhage, need to be evaluated in future large-scale studies. Data on left ventricular ejection fraction and troponin levels were less complete in this study, so we did not include them in the statistical analysis and we will collect data in this area in a future prospective database build.

Conclusions
Elevated NT-proBNP levels are associated with large CTP infarct core volume and poor 90-day functional outcome in AIS. NT-proBNP is an independent risk factor for functional outcomes.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank all who contribute to established the cerebrovascular database of the Stroke Center of the First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University.

Author contributions
QF, XS conceived and designed the research. XS, JL, YJ analyzed the data and drafted the manuscript. JL, YX, ML, XZ, ND, LY, QC, QF collected the data and performed the research. All authors reviewed and edited the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Funding
This study was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (82071300), Suzhou Cusus Health Talent Program Training Project (GWS2020002), Suzhou Introduction of Clinical Medicine Team Project (SZYJTD201802), Science and Technology Project of Lianyungang Health Commission (202024), Jiangsu Province six one project top talent to be funded project (LYG2019062), Scientific research project of Bengbu Medical College (2020byzd341), Jiangsu Provincial Geriatric Health Research Grant Project (LJD2021034, LR2021049), Jiangsu Province Postgraduate Practice Innovation Program (SCX21_1726).

Availability of data and materials
The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available currently because the survey is part of an ongoing cohort, which has a limited access period due to the regulation of local technology bureau. However, the datasets will be available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate
The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of the First Hospital Affiliated to Soochow University (No. 2020272, 2019057). Written informed consents were required for all subjects in this study in accordance with the national legislation and the institutional requirements. All methods were performed in accordance with the national legislation and the institutional requirements.

Consent for publication
Not applicable to this review article.

Competing interests
The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Author details
1 Department of Neurology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University, Suzhou 215000, China. 2 Department of Geriatrics, Lianyungang Second People’s Hospital, Lianyungang, China. 3 Department of Neurology, Yancheng Third People’s Hospital, Yancheng, China. 4 Department of Neurology, Suzhou Industrial Park Xinghai Hospital, Suzhou, China.

Received: 2 June 2022  Accepted: 14 September 2022
Published online: 30 September 2022

References
1. Katan M, Luft A. Global burden of stroke. Semin Neurol. 2018;38(2):208–11.
2. Di Castelnuovo A, Veronesi G, Costanzo S, et al. NT-proBNP (N-terminal Pro-B-type natriuretic peptide) and the risk of stroke. Stroke. 2019;50(3):610–7.
3. Battaglini D, Robba C, Lopes da Silva A, et al. Brain-heart interaction after acute ischemic stroke. Crit Care. 2020;24(1):163.
4. Chen Z, Venkat P, Seyfried D, Chopp M, Yan T, Chen J. Brain-heart interaction: cardiac complications after stroke. Circ Res. 2017;121(4):451–68.
5. Manea MM, Comsa M, Minca A, Dragos D, Popa C. Brain-heart axis–review article. J Med Life. 2015;8(3):266–71.
6. Garcia-Berrocoso T, Palà E, Consegal M, et al. Cardioembolic ischemic stroke gene expression fingerprint in blood: a systematic review and verification analysis. Transl Stroke Res. 2020;11(3):326–36.
7. Chen X, Lin S, Zhang X, Hu S, Wang X. Prognosis with non-contrast CT and CT perfusion imaging in thrombolysis-treated acute ischemic stroke. Eur J Radiol. 2022;149:101217.
8. Li Y, van Landeghem N, Demircioglu A, et al. Predictors of early neurological improvement in patients with anterior large vessel occlusion and successful reperfusion following endovascular thrombectomy‐does CT perfusion imaging matter. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2022.
9. Suomalainen OP, Elsfouied Abou A, Martinez-Majander N, et al. Is infarct core growth linear? Infarct volume estimation by computed tomography perfusion imaging. Acta Neurol Scand. 2022.
10. Sundaram S, Kannoth S, Thomas B, Sama FS, Sylaja PN. Collateral assessment by CT angiography as a predictor of outcome in symptomatic cervical internal carotid artery occlusion. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2017;38(1):52–7.
11. Fujita K, Tanaka K, Yamagami H, et al. Detrimental effect of chronic hypertension on leptomeningeal collateral flow in acute ischemic stroke. Stroke. 2019;50(7):1751–7.
12. McCarthy DJ, Diaz A, Sheinberg DL, et al. Long-term outcomes of mechanical thrombectomy for stroke: a meta-analysis. Sci World J. 2019;2019:7403104.
13. Hindman BJ. Anesthetic management of emergency endovascular thrombectomy for acute ischemic stroke, part 1: patient characteristics, determinants of effectiveness, and effect of blood pressure on outcome. Anesth Analg. 2019;128(4):695–705.

14. Silva GS, Neguera RG. Endovascular treatment of acute ischemic stroke. Continuum (Minneap Minn). 2020;26(2):310–31.

15. Trivedi R, Alcock S, Trivedi A, Ghrooda E, McEachern J, Shankar J. Suboptimal outcome with endovascular thrombectomy: will acute stroke unit help. Can J Neurol Sci. 2021;48(4):567–9.

16. Nishikimi T, Nakagawa Y, Mizumoto N, et al. Pro-B-type natriuretic peptide is cleaved intracellularly: impact of distance between O-glycosylation and cleavage sites. Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol. 2015;309(6):R639–49.

17. Arnett DK, Blumenthal RS, Albert MA, et al. 2019 ACC/AHA guideline on the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease: a report of the American college of cardiology/American heart association task force on clinical practice guidelines. Circulation. 2019;140(11):e596–646.

18. Virani SS, Alonso A, Benjamin EJ, et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics-2020 update: a report from the American heart association. Circulation. 2020;141(9):e139–596.

19. Zecca B, Mandelli C, Maino A, et al. A bioclinical pattern for the early diagnosis of cardioembolic stroke. Emerg Med Int. 2014;2014:242171.

20. Nakamura M, Ishibashi Y, Tanaka F, et al. Ability of B-type natriuretic peptide testing to predict cardioembolic stroke in the general population: comparisons with C-reactive protein and urinary albumin. Circ J. 2018;82(4):1017–25.

21. Shibazaki K, Kimura K, Aoki J, Saki K, Saji N, Uemura J. Plasma brain natriuretic peptide as a predictive marker of early recurrent stroke in cardioembolic stroke patients. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2014;23(10):2635–40.

22. Rodríguez-Castro E, Hervella P, López-Dequidt L, et al. NT-pro-BNP: a novel predictor of stroke risk after transient ischemic attack. Int J Cardiol. 2020;298:93–7.

23. Zhao YH, Gao H, Pan ZY, et al. Prognostic value of NT-proBNP after ischemic stroke: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective cohort studies. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2020;29(4):104659.

24. Vahanian A, Beyersdorf F, Praz F, et al. 2021 ESC/EACTS Guidelines for the management of valvular heart disease. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2021;60(4):727–800.

25. Wijesundera DN, Peerse RM, Shulman MA, et al. Assessment of functional capacity before major non-cardiac surgery: an international, prospective cohort study. Lancet. 2018;391(10140):2631–40.

26. Orak Y, Watanabe T, Sato N, et al. Direct comparison of prognostic ability of cardiac biomarkers for cardioembolic stroke and clinical outcome in patients with stroke. Heart Vessels. 2019;34(7):1178–86.

27. Tu WJ, Ma GZ, Ni Y, et al. Copeptin and NT-proBNP for prediction of all-cause and cardiovascular death in ischemic stroke. Neurology. 2017;88(20):1899–905.

28. Okajima K, Watanabe T, Sato N, et al. Direct comparison of prognostic ability of cardiac biomarkers for cardioembolic stroke and clinical outcome in patients with stroke. Heart Vessels. 2019;34(7):1178–86.

29. Chaudhuri JR, Sharma VK, Mirdula KR, Balaraju B, Bandaru VC. Association of plasma brain natriuretic peptide levels in acute ischemic stroke subtypes and outcome. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2015;24(2):485–91.

30. Cushnahan M, Judd SE, Howard VJ, et al. N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide and stroke risk: the reasons for geographic and racial differences in stroke cohort. Stroke. 2014;45(6):1646–50.

31. Buchanan TA, Ching C, Forouzan F, et al. Prognostic value of natriuretic peptides in heart failure: systematic review and meta-analysis. Heart Fail Rev. 2021.

32. Chen H, Chihor M, Rayner BS, McGrath K, Mc Clemments L. Evaluation of the diagnostic accuracy of current biomarkers in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Arch Cardiovasc Dis. 2021;114(12):793–804.

33. Reddy Y, Obokata M, Verbrugghe FH, Lin G, Borlaug BA. Atrial dysfunction in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and atrial fibrillation. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;76(9):1051–64.

34. Yang HL, Lin YP, Long Y, Ma QL, Zhou C. Predicting cardioembolic stroke with the B-type natriuretic peptide test: a systematic review and meta-analysis. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis. 2014;23(7):1882–9.

35. Markus A, Valerie S, Mira K. Promising biomarker candidates for cardioembolic stroke etiology. A brief narrative review and current opinion. Front Neurol. 2021;12:624930.

36. Song Z, Xu K, Hu X, et al. A Study of cardiogenic stroke risk in non-valvular atrial fibrillation patients. Front Cardiovasc Med. 2020;7:604795.

37. Wang J, Wang J, Tang Z, Zhang P. Association of natriuretic peptide with adverse outcomes and disease severity after intracerebral hemorrhage: a systematic review. Front Neurol. 2021;12:2775085.

38. Vermeij JLM, van Klei WA, Moons KG, Takada T, van Waes J, Damen JA. The comparative and added prognostic value of biomarkers to the revised cardiac risk index for preoperative prediction of major adverse cardiac events and all-cause mortality in patients who undergo noncardiac surgery. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2021;12(12):CD013139.

39. Liu J, Wang CJ, Ran JH, et al. The predictive value of brain natriuretic peptide or N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide for weaning outcome in mechanical ventilation patients: evidence from SROC. J Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone Syst. 2021;22(1):1470323021999497.

40. Nithiansandhan H, Reilly A, Tirschler S, Wells P. Applying rigorous eligibility criteria to studies evaluating prognostic utility of serum biomarkers in pulmonary embolism: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Thromb Res. 2020;195:195–208.

41. Reshmi KS, Oommen MS, Belgundi P, Paul T, Mehta AA. Prognostic role of N-terminal prohormone of brain natriuretic peptide for patients in the medical intensive care unit with severe sepsis. Lupus India. 2021;38(5):438–41.

42. Chao TF, Joung B, Takahashi Y, et al. 2021 updated focus of the 2017 consensus guidelines of the Asia Pacific heart rhythm society (APHRS) on stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation. J Arrhythm. 2021;37(6):1389–426.

43. Muscan A, Bianchi G, Forti P, Magalotti D, Pandolfi P, Zoli M. N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP): a possible surrogate of biological age in the elderly population. Geroscience. 2021;45(2):845–57.

44. Kobayashi M, Douair A, Duarte K, et al. Diagnostic performance of congestion score index evaluated from chest radiography for acute heart failure in the emergency department: a retrospective analysis from the PARADISE cohort. PLoS Med. 2020;17(11):e1003419.

45. Soriano-Tárraga C, Giralt-Stehnauer E, Mola-Caminal M, et al. Biological age is a predictor of mortality in ischemic stroke. Sci Rep. 2018;8(1):14148.

46. Laredo C, Solanes A, Renü A, et al. Clinical and therapeutic variables may influence the association between infarct core predicted by CT perfusion and clinical outcome in acute stroke. Eur Radiol. 2022.

47. Koopman MS, Hoving JW, Kappelhof M, et al. Association of ischemic core imaging biomarkers with post-thrombectomy clinical outcomes in the MR CLEAN registry. Front Neurol. 2021;12:2771367.

48. Kim BK, Kim B, You SH. Clinical relevance of computed tomography perfusion-estimated infarct volume in acute ischemic stroke patients within the 6-h therapeutic time window. Cerebrovasc Dis. 2022;1:1–9.

49. Powers WJ, Rabinstein AA, Ackerson T, et al. Guidelines for the early management of acute ischemic stroke: 2019 update to the 2018 guidelines for the early management of acute ischemic stroke: a guideline for healthcare professionals from the American heart association/American stroke association. Stroke. 2019;50(12):e344–418.

50. Campbell B, Mitchell PJ, Churilov L, et al. Endovascular thrombectomy for ischemic stroke increases disability-free survival, quality of life, and life expectancy and reduces cost. Front Neurol. 2017;8:657.

51. Campbell B, Donnan GA, Mitchell PJ, Davis SM. Endovascular thrombectomy for stroke: current best practice and future goals. Stroke. 2016;1(1):16–22.