

High-Sensitivity Cardiac Troponin After Cardiac Stress Test: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Background—The recent introduction of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin (hs-cTn) assays has allowed clinicians to measure hs-cTn before and after cardiac stress testing, but the hs-cTn release pattern and potential utility in identifying inducible myocardial ischemia are unclear. We thus conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to improve our understanding of hs-cTn release associated with exercise and pharmacological stress testing.

Methods and Results—Studies published between January 2008 and July 2016 that reported hs-cTn change values (high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T [hs-cTnT] or high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I [hs-cTnI]) in relation to cardiac stress testing were searched and reviewed by 2 independent screeners. Primary outcomes were pooled estimates of absolute and relative hs-cTn changes after cardiac stress test, stratified by the presence of inducible myocardial ischemia. This meta-analysis included 11 studies (n=2432 patients). After exercise stress testing, hs-cTnT increased by 0.5 ng/L or 11% (6 studies, n=406) and hs-cTnI by 2.4 ng/L or 41% (4 studies, n=365) in patients with inducible myocardial ischemia versus hs-cTnT by 1.1 ng/L or 18% (8 studies, n=629; P=0.29) and hs-cTnI by 1.8 ng/L or 72% (4 studies, n=831; P=0.61) in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia. After pharmacological stress test, hs-cTnT changed by -0.1 ng/L or -0.4% (6 studies, n=251) and hs-cTnI by 2.4 ng/L or 32% (2 studies, n=108) in patients with inducible myocardial ischemia versus hs-cTnT by 0.7 ng/L or 11% (5 studies, n=443, P=0.44) and hs-cTnI by 1.7 ng/L or 38% (2 studies, n=116; P=0.62) in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia.

Conclusions—hs-cTn rising patterns after exercise and pharmacological stress testing appear inconsistent and comparably small, and do not appear to be correlated with inducible myocardial ischemia. (*J Am Heart Assoc.* 2019;8:e008626. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.118.008626)

Key Words: myocardial ischemia • stress echocardiography • stress testing • troponin

H igh-sensitivity cardiac troponin (hs-cTn) assays have replaced contemporary cardiac troponin (cTn) assays throughout most of the world and continue to enhance our

Accompanying Table S1 and Figures S1 through S4 are available at https:// www.ahajournals.org/doi/suppl/10.1161/JAHA.118.008626

Correspondence to: Peter Nagele, MD, MSc, Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care, University of Chicago, 5841 South Maryland Avenue, MC 4028, Room E-422, Chicago, IL 60637-1470. Email: pnagele@dacc.uchicago.edu

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© 2019 The Authors. Published on behalf of the American Heart Association, Inc., by Wiley. This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes. understanding of the pathophysiology of myocardial infarction, ischemia, and injury. In most adult patients, hs-cTn assays have the ability to detect cTn at low concentrations and consequently to identify much smaller change values.¹ For instance, multiple studies have found significant cTn increases following strenuous physical activity and cardiovascular stress.^{2–6}

Of particular relevance to cardiovascular medicine are cardiac biomarker elevations associated with cardiac stress testing. Cardiac biomarkers have the potential to increase the clinical utility of cardiac stress testing if they are able to identify high-risk patients who do not have an unequivocal stress test result. However, there is currently no consensus regarding the mechanism or diagnostic utility of hs-cTn release during and after cardiac stress testing.⁷

To improve our understanding about hs-cTn release associated with cardiac stress testing, we conducted a systematic review of the existing literature and performed a meta-analysis.

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Clinical Perspective

What Is New?

 In this systematic review and meta-analysis analyzing highsensitivity cardiac troponin kinetics in patients undergoing exercise or pharmacological stress testing, high-sensitivity cardiac troponin rising patterns after exercise or pharmacological cardiac stress testing were inconsistent, comparably small, and did not correlate with inducible myocardial ischemia.

What Are the Clinical Implications?

• We found little evidence to support the utility of highsensitivity cardiac troponin in improving the diagnostic utility in cardiac stress testing.

Materials and Methods

The data, analytic methods, and study materials will be made available to other researchers for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure. This systematic review and meta-analysis was performed following the guidelines of PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis).⁸

Search Strategy

We searched the published literature using strategies created by a medical librarian for published evidence on hs-cTn and exercise or pharmacological stress testing with a publication cutoff date of June 30, 2016. To exclude animal studies, the librarian used the human filter for Medline recommended in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions⁹ and modified it to create similar filters for the other databases searched. The librarian established search strategies using a combination of standardized terms and key words, and implemented it in Ovid Medline, Embase, Scopus, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects, Health Technology Assessments, and the NHS Economic Evaluation Database. We also conducted a search in clinicaltrials.gov. We searched for all studies in which high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T (hs-cTnT) or highsensitivity cardiac troponin I (hs-cTnI) were evaluated before and after cardiac stress testing. Key words were "stress," "adenosine," "dobutamine," "troponin T," "troponin I," and "high-sensitivity troponin." Two authors systematically screened titles and abstracts of studies identified in the search and excluded unrelated studies independently. Moreover, they verified the remaining full articles and reference lists.

Eligibility Criteria

The article or abstract was included in this meta-analysis if it met the following criteria: (1) original article or abstract that evaluated the association between cardiac stress testing and hs-cTn; and (2) hs-cTn was measured before and after exposure cardiac stress testing. Since hs-cTn assays have been introduced only during the past decade, we excluded all records before 2008. Articles or abstracts were excluded if the study population included patients who had active symptoms of myocardial ischemia or infarction, such as discomfort, pain, stress, or increased physical activity before the first hs-cTn concentration was measured. Review articles, case reports, and studies without reference interval values for troponin were also excluded. If multiple publications overlapped or were duplicated, the most comprehensive study was used to extract the information needed.

Selection of Articles

Our literature search revealed 4221 articles and abstracts; 759 duplicates were accurately identified and removed for a total of 3462 unique citations. After screening titles and abstracts of articles, 57 records were reviewed with full texts. Finally, 11 studies were included in the meta-analysis,^{3,5,6,10–17} and 46 were excluded because of incomplete or overlapping data. The Figure shows details of the selection process for studies. The collective methodological quality of included studies was good, using the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) quality assessment tool for before–after (pre–post) studies with no control group.

Data Extraction and Quality Assessment

The authors extracted data from included articles independently and the results were cross-checked. Authors, years, sample size, age, exercise or pharmacological stress test, duration of exercise, detection assay, and mean values of hscTnT and hs-cTnl levels measured before and after stress test were extracted in each individual article (Table 1). Authors were contacted by email if the required data were unavailable.

We applied the NHLBI quality assessment tool for before– after (pre–post) studies with no control group¹⁸ to assess the quality of eligible studies. Methodological quality of eligible studies was assessed independently. Any disagreements were resolved by discussions or by consensus including the senior author. All studies were separated into groups according to type of cardiac stress test (exercise or pharmacological stress test) and troponin type (hs-cTnT or hs-cTnI). Furthermore, patients who developed myocardial ischemia ("positive stress test") and those who did not were analyzed separately. The only exception was for the studies by LeGoff et al¹¹ and Kurz et al,¹⁰ which did not distinguish between hs-cTn values of

Study	Country	Population	Type of Stress	Assav
Axelsson 2013 ³	Denmark	12 patients with CAD and 12 healthy controls	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT
Kurz 2008 ¹⁰	Germany	144 patients with suspected CAD	Bicycle or dipyridamole stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT
Lee 2016 ¹²	Switzerland	819 patients with suspected myocardial ischemia	Bicycle SPECT	Singulex hs-cTnl
Le Goff 2010 ¹¹	Belgium	50 patients with suspected CAD	Bicycle or dipyridamole stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT Abbott Diagnostics Architect STAT hs-cTnl
Liebetrau 2015 ¹³	Germany	383 patients with suspected or progressive CAD	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT
Pastormerlo 2013 ¹⁴	Italy	23 patients with CHF	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTNT
Pastormerlo 2015 ⁵	Italy	30 patients with systolic HF	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT
Rosjo 2012 ¹⁵	Norway	198 patients	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT and Abbott Diagnostics Architect STAT hs-cTnI
Sou 2016 ¹⁶	Switzerland	229 patients with suspected CAD	Bicycle stress test	Roche Elecsys hs-cTNT and Abbott Diagnostics Architect STAT hs-cTnl
Wongpraparut 2011 ⁶	Thailand	120 patients with suspected CAD	Pharmacologic stress MRI	Roche Elecsys hs-cTNT
Wongpraparut 2015 ¹⁷	Thailand	250 patients with suspected CAD	Pharmacologic stress MRI	Roche Elecsys hs-cTnT

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Studies Included in the Meta-Analysis

CAD indicates coronary artery disease; CHF, chronic heart failure; HF, heart failure; hs-cTnI, high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I; hs-cTnT, high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; SPECT, single-photon emission computed tomography.

exercise and pharmacological stress tests (we thus added the data to both exercise and pharmacological stress test analyses).

Statistical Analysis

If an hs-cTn value was not exactly reported, we used the closest lowest/highest value (eg, 4.9 instead of <5). Ranges or interquartile ranges were converted into SDs as described by Wan et al¹⁹ to be able to compute pooled estimates in the meta-analysis. The mean/median hs-cTn change from baseline was computed as the difference between peak values after exercise or stress test and baseline values, as well as the standard error, using the Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software package (version 3.3, Biostat). If missing, a correlation coefficient between pre- and post-values of 0.3 was assumed.²⁰ The CIs for relative change from baseline values were calculated using GraphPad software (GraphPad Software Inc). Random-effects meta-analyses of the absolute and relative changes from baseline were computed. We used the I^2 and Cochran Q statistics to assess the heterogeneity of results across studies. A subgroup analysis was conducted by systematically excluding each study at a time and rerunning the analysis to assess any change in effect size. We compared results between patients who developed myocardial ischemia versus those who did not ("positive" versus "negative" stress test) using a Q test based on analysis of variance applying random-effects weights (mixed effects analysis) in the Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software package.

Results

This meta-analysis included 11 studies with a total of 2432 participants, 11 studies (n=1729) evaluating hs-cTnT, and 4 studies (n=1420) evaluating hs-cTnI (Figure). Baseline characteristics of the included studies are shown in Table 1. Table 2 provides an overview of the study results, and Table S1 provides an assessment of the quality of the included studies. Peak hs-cTn values were uniformly obtained between 3 and 4 hours after stress test.

Exercise Stress Test

High-sensitivity cTnT

The pooled estimated absolute hs-cTnT change in patients who developed inducible myocardial ischemia after exercise stress test ("positive test") was 0.5 ng/L (95% Cl, 0.0– 0.9 ng/L), or a relative change of 11% (95% Cl, 0–23%; 6 studies, n=406), compared with 1.1 ng/L (95% Cl, 0.0– 2.2 ng/L), or a relative change of 18% (95% Cl, 3–34%), in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia after exercise stress test (8 studies, n=629; P=0.29) (Figure S1).



Figure. Flow diagram summarizing study identification and selection. hs-cTn indicates high-sensitivity cardiac troponin.

High-sensitivity cTnl

The pooled estimated absolute hs-cTnl change in patients who developed inducible myocardial ischemia after exercise stress test was 2.4 ng/L (95% Cl, 0.2–4.7 ng/L), or a relative change of 41% (95% Cl, 4–79%; 4 studies, n=365), compared with 1.8 ng/L (95% Cl, 1–3 ng/L), which corresponded to a relative change of 72% (95% Cl, 31–113%) in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia after exercise stress test (4 studies, n=831; P=0.61) (Figure S2A).

Pharmacological Stress Test

High-sensitivity cTnT

The pooled estimated absolute hs-cTnT change in patients who developed inducible myocardial ischemia after

pharmacological stress test was -0.1 ng/L (95% Cl, -1.7 to 1.5 ng/L), which corresponded to a relative change of 5% (95% Cl, -8 to 18%; 6 studies, n=251), compared with 0.7 ng/L (95% Cl, -0.5, 2 ng/L), which corresponded to a relative change of 11% (95% Cl, -6 to 28%) in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia (5 studies, n=443; *P*=0.44) (Figure S3).

High-sensitivity cTnl

The pooled estimated absolute hs-cTnl change in patients who developed inducible myocardial ischemia after pharmacological stress was 2.4 ng/L (95% Cl, 0.2–4.5 ng/L), which represented a relative change of 32% (95% Cl, -3 to 66%; 2 studies, n=108), compared with 1.7 ng/L (95% Cl, 0.6– 2.9 ng/L), which represented a relative change of 38% (95%

Table	2.	Absolute	and	Relative	Change	Values
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	No Ischemia	Ischemia	P Value
Exercise stress test—hs-cTnT			^
Absolute change, ng/L	1.1 (0-2.2)	0.5 (0–0.9)	0.29
Relative change, %	18 (3–34)	11 (-0.3 to 23)	0.48
Exercise stress test—hs-cTnl			
Absolute change, ng/L	1.8 (0.6–3)	2.4 (0.2–4.7)	0.61
Relative change, %	72 (31–113)	41 (3–79)	0.28
Pharmacologic stress test—hs-cTnT		-	<u>^</u>
Absolute change, ng/L	0.7 (-0.5 to 1.9)	-0.1 (-1.7 to 1.5)	0.44
Relative change, %	11 (-6 to 28)	5 (-8 to 18)	0.59
Pharmacologic stress test—hs-cTnl			
Absolute change, ng/L	1.7 (0.6–2.9)	2.4 (0.2–4.5)	0.62
Relative change, %	38 (4–71)	32 (3–66)	0.81

Values are expressed as pooled estimates from the meta-analysis and corresponding 95% Cls. hs-cTnl indicates high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I; hs-cTnT, high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T.

Cl, 4–71%), in patients who did not develop inducible myocardial ischemia after exercise stress testing (2 studies, n=116; P=0.62) (Figure S4).

Discussion

The goal of this systematic review and meta-analysis was to obtain and quantify the available evidence regarding hs-cTn release after cardiac stress testing. We distinguished between exercise and pharmacological stress tests. Additionally, we sought to determine whether hs-cTn release is more pronounced among patients with inducible myocardial ischemia during stress test compared with patients who do not develop myocardial ischemia, which could have diagnostic utility.

The results of this study indicate that hs-cTnT and hs-cTnI release after cardiac stress testing is modest in magnitude and on average ranges from 0 to 2 ng/L for absolute change values. Relative change values appear to be smaller for hs-cTnT (median range 5–18%) compared with hs-cTnI (median range, 32–72%). There was no statistically significant difference in hs-cTn release between patients who developed inducible myocardial ischemia versus those who did not. In fact, given the low baseline values in most patients, these values do not exceed conjoint biological and analytical variation.²¹

The concept that the addition of cardiac biomarker data to cardiac stress testing may improve diagnostic utility is not new and has been tested in several studies. In general, studies have found that low baseline values are highly predictive of a negative stress test. For example, Lee et al¹² showed that a baseline hs-cTnl value <1.5 ng/L had an 87% negative predictive value for inducible myocardial ischemia after stress test. Furthermore, patients with inducible myocardial ischemia

were found to have higher baseline hs-cTn values in most,^{7,12,13,15,16} but not all, studies.¹⁰ Interestingly, our analysis showed smaller relative changes in hs-cTn levels in patients with inducible ischemia when compared with those without inducible ischemia.

Difference Between hs-cTnT and hs-cTnI

The results of this study suggest that the release of hs-cTnT after stress testing may be substantially smaller compared with hs-cTnl. While it is possible that cardiac stress releases different quantities of hs-cTnI and hs-cTnT, it appears unlikely and biologically somewhat implausible. Stress that damages the cardiomyocyte cell membrane should result in simultaneous release of cTnI and cTnT, the quantities of which should be tightly correlated. A more logical explanation for the apparent discrepancy between hs-cTnT and hs-cTnI results may be related to the calibration of the assays and their sensitivity and precision at low values. Another possible explanation may be related to the rhythmic diurnal variation of hs-cTnT, which shows higher levels in the morning and at nighttime and lower levels during the day.^{22–24} While rhythmic diurnal variation is characteristic for hs-cTnT, it has not been observed in hs-cTnl.

cTn Release During Stress Test

cTn is highly specific for myocardial tissue. Any process that causes injury to cardiomyocytes including myocardial infarction will cause an elevation of cTn in the blood stream. Until recently—before the introduction of hs-cTn assays—it was widely assumed that cTn is only released during myocardial cell necrosis. Recent hs-cTn data, however, have strongly questioned this assumption. Data obtained from young, healthy athletes have shown that hs-cTn levels may rise several-fold after strenuous exercise. Likewise, an intravenous infusion of dobutamine or rapid atrial pacing will lead to a rise in hs-cTn concentrations. In experimental models, hs-cTnl release has been documented with transient ischemia and caused by volume loading.²⁵ In these models, the myocardial cells die as a result of apoptosis.²⁶ Thus, although speculative, during cardiac stress testing, several potential mechanisms may contribute to hs-cTn increase other than myocardial cell necrosis such as inducible myocardial ischemia, transient increases in cardiomyocyte permeability, 27-29 ischemicinduced membranous blebs that rupture without necrosis,³⁰ free radical overload,³¹ increased turnover of troponins.³² and direct toxic effects of catecholamines. However, this topic is controversially discussed.

Limitations

This study focused on hs-cTn change values and did not investigate the ability of baseline values (low or high) to predict inducible myocardial ischemia during stress test. Second, we did not distinguish between individual hs-cTn assays and platforms that were used in each study. Third, cardiac biomarker research and development in industry is currently occurring at a fast pace, and thus there may have been temporal trends influencing the study (older versus newer assays, reagents, and platforms). From a statistical standpoint, we had to convert median and range values to means and SDs, which may have influenced some results.

Conclusions

Results from this meta-analysis suggest that hs-cTn rising patterns after exercise and pharmacological stress testing appear inconsistent and comparably small and do not appear to be correlated with inducible myocardial ischemia. These results cast doubt on the idea that rising patterns of hs-cTn may be used to stratify patients after cardiac stress testing.

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Supplemental Material

Table S1. Quality assessment of included studies.

	Study question	Eligibility criteria & study population	Study participants representative of clinical population of interest	All eligible participants enrolled	Sufficiently large sample size	Intervention clearly described	Outcome measures clearly described, valid and reliable	Blinding to outcome assessors	Follow-up rate	Statistical analysis	Multiple outcome measures	Group-level interventions & individual-level outcome efforts
Axelsson 2013 ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kurz 2008 ²	Y	Ν	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lee 2016 ³	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Le Goff 2010 ⁴	Y	Ν	Y	NR	NR	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	NR
Liebetrau 2015⁵	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pastormerlo 20136	Y	Ν	Y	NR	NR	Y	Y	NR	NR	Y	Y	NA
Pastormerlo 2015 ⁷	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rosjo 2012 ⁸	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sou 2016 ⁹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NR
Wongpraparut 2011 ¹⁰	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	NA
Wongpraparut 2015 ¹¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA

Y: Yes; N: No; NR: Not reported; NA: Not applicable

Figure S1. Pooled estimates of the absolute and relative hs-cTnT change from baseline after exercise stress testing in patients without (a) and with (b) inducible myocardial ischemia.



Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Exercise stress test hs-cTnT - No ischemia

Heterogeneity: 12 = 78.6%





Exercise stress test hs-cTnT - No Ischemia

Heterogeneity: 12 = 73.2%



Exercise stress test hs-cTnT - Ischemia



Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%



Exercise stress test hs-cTnT - Ischemia

Study name		-	Statistics fo	or each s	tudy				Different	e in means a n	d 96% CI	
	Difference In means	Standard error	Variance	Lower limit	Upper limit	Z-Value	p-Value					
Kurz et al.; 2008 (reversible PD)	-0.100	0.635	0.403	-1.345	1.145	-0.157	0.875					
Kurz et al.; 2008 (fixed PD)	0.030	0.161	0.026	-0.285	0.345	0.187	0.8 52					
Le Goff et al.; 2010	0.270	0.805	0.649	-1.309	1.849	0.335	0.7 37					— I
Liebetrau et al.; 2015	0.170	0.080	0.006	0.012	0.328	2.114	0.035			Þ		
Rosjo et al.; 2012	-0.050	0.186	0.034	-0.414	0.314	-0.269	0.7 88			_ _		
Sou et al.; 2016	0.100	0.126	0.016	-0.147	0.347	0.795	0.4 27			-0-		
	0.112	0.059	0.003	-0.003	0.227	1.909	0.0 56			•		
								-2.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00

Relative change from baseline (x100%)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%



Figure S2. Pooled estimates of the absolute hs-cTnl change from baseline after exercise stress testing in patients without (a) and with (b) inducible myocardial ischemia.

Study name		St	atistics fo	r each s	study				D <u>ifference</u> i	in means a	and 95% (<u>c</u> i
	Difference In means	Standard error	Variance	Lower limit	Upper limit	Z-Value	p-Value					
Lee et al.; 2016 hsTnl	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.6	1.0	8.1	0.0		1			
Le Goff et al.; 2010	1.0	0.9	0.8	-0.8	2.8	1.1	0.3				-	
Rosjo et al.; 2012	2.6	0.3	0.1	2.0	3.2	8.3	0.0			0	3	
Sou et al.; 2016	2.5	0.3	0.1	1.9	3.1	8.4	0.0				3	
	1.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	3.0	2.9	0.0			- 🗢	•	
								-10.00	-5.00	0.00	5.00	10.00

Exercise stress test hs-cTnl - No ischemia

Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 94.4%



Exercise stress test hs-cTnl - No Ischemia



Relative change from baseline (x100%)

2.00

Heterogeneity: 12 = 76.7%





Exercise stress test hs-cTnl - Ischemia

Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)









Relative change from baseline (x100%)

-2.00

Heterogeneity: 12 = 49.1%

Study name



Figure S3. Forest plot showing pooled estimate of the absolute hs-cTnT change from baseline after pharmacological stress testing in patients without (a) and with (b) inducible myocardial ischemia.



Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnT - No ischemia





Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnT - No Ischemia

Difference In means	Standard error	Variance	Lower	Upper		
					Z-Value	p-Value
0.030	0.146	0.021	-0.256	0.316	0.206	0.837
0.000	0.158	0.025	-0.309	0.309	0.000	1.000
0.330	0.163	0.027	0.010	0.650	2.021	0.043
0.130	0.596	0.355	-1.038	1.298	0.218	0.827
0.000	0.390	0.152	-0.764	0.764	0.000	1.000
0.106	0.086	0.007	-0.064	0.275	1.222	0.222
	0.000 0.330 0.130 0.000 0.106	0.000 0.158 0.330 0.163 0.130 0.596 0.000 0.390 0.106 0.086	0.000 0.158 0.025 0.330 0.163 0.027 0.130 0.596 0.355 0.000 0.390 0.152 0.106 0.086 0.007	0.000 0.158 0.025 -0.309 0.330 0.163 0.027 0.010 0.130 0.596 0.355 -1.038 0.000 0.390 0.152 -0.764 0.106 0.086 0.007 -0.064	0.000 0.158 0.025 -0.309 0.309 0.330 0.163 0.027 0.010 0.650 0.130 0.596 0.355 -1.038 1.298 0.000 0.390 0.152 -0.764 0.764 0.106 0.086 0.007 -0.064 0.275	0.000 0.158 0.025 -0.309 0.309 0.000 0.330 0.163 0.027 0.010 0.650 2.021 0.130 0.596 0.355 -1.038 1.298 0.218 0.000 0.390 0.152 -0.764 0.764 0.000 0.106 0.086 0.007 -0.064 0.275 1.222



Relative change from baseline (x100%)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%



Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnT - Ischemia



Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Heterogeneity: I2 = 0%



Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnT - Ischemia



Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%



Figure S4. Forest plot showing pooled estimate of the absolute hs-cTnl change from baseline after pharmacological stress testing in patients without (a) and with (b) inducible myocardial ischemia. No funnel plots to assess publication bias could be produced as only two studies were available (and a minimum of 3 are needed for a funnel plot).

Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnl - No ischemia



Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 8.1%

Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnl - No Ischemia

Study name		St	atistics fo	r each s	study				Difference i	n means a	and 95% C	a
	Difference In means	Standard error	Variance	Lower limit	Upper limit	Z-Value	p-Value					
Le Goff et al.; 2010	0.200	0.192	0.037	-0.177	0.577	1.041	0.298	1			-	
Sou et al.; 2016	0.540	0.183	0.034	0.181	0.899	2.945	0.003				<u> </u>	
	0.375	0.170	0.029	0.042	0.708	2.206	0.027				►	
								-2.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00

Relative change from baseline (x100%)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 39%

Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnl - Ischemia



Absolute change from baseline (ng/l)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%

Pharmacologic stress test hs-cTnl - Ischemia

Study name		St	atistics fo	r each s	study		Difference in means and 95%							
	Difference In means	Standard error	Variance	Lower limit	Upper limit	Z-Value	p-Value							
Le Goff et al.; 2010	-0.070	0.468	0.219	-0.986	0.846	-0.150	0.881	1			<u> </u>			
Sou et al.; 2016	0.380	0.189	0.036	0.010	0.750	2.012	0.044				\vdash			
	0.317	0.175	0.031	-0.025	0.660	1.810	0.070			-	►			
								-2.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00	2		

Relative change from baseline (x100%)

Heterogeneity: 12 = 0%

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