

## Clinical and Biomarker Predictors of Expanded Heart Failure Outcomes in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus After a Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome: Insights From the EXAMINE Trial

Abhinav Sharma, Muthiah Vaduganathan, Joao Pedro Ferreira, Yuyin Liu, George Bakris, Christopher Cannon, William White, Faiez Zannad

### ▶ To cite this version:

Abhinav Sharma, Muthiah Vaduganathan, Joao Pedro Ferreira, Yuyin Liu, George Bakris, et al.. Clinical and Biomarker Predictors of Expanded Heart Failure Outcomes in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus After a Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome: Insights From the EXAMINE Trial. Journal of the American Heart Association, 2020, 9 (1), pp.e012797. 10.1161/JAHA.119.012797 . hal-02611354

### HAL Id: hal-02611354 https://hal.univ-lorraine.fr/hal-02611354

Submitted on 18 May 2020  $\,$ 

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License



### Clinical and Biomarker Predictors of Expanded Heart Failure Outcomes in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus After a Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome: Insights From the EXAMINE Trial

Abhinav Sharma, MD, PhD; Muthiah Vaduganathan, MD, MPH; João Pedro Ferreira, MD, PhD; Yuyin Liu, MSc; George L. Bakris, MD; Christopher P. Cannon, MD; William B. White, MD; Faiez Zannad, MD, PhD

**Background**—Improved heart failure (HF) risk stratification after a recent acute coronary syndrome may identify those who can benefit from therapies that reduce HF risk. We aimed to identify clinical and biomarker predictors for expanded HF outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent acute coronary syndrome.

*Methods and Results*—The EXAMINE (Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes with Alogliptin versus Standard of Care) trial was a multicenter, non-inferiority, double-masked, placebo-controlled study which randomized 5380 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent acute coronary syndrome to alogliptin or placebo. Baseline biomarkers were measured in 5154 patients: NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide), high-sensitivity troponin I, adiponectin, growth-differentiation-factor-15, and galectin-3. Our primary outcome was cardiovascular) death, HF hospitalization, elevated NT-proBNP during follow-up, or loop diuretics initiation. The association between clinical variables, biomarkers, and outcomes were assessed using Cox regression models. In the study population, the median age was 61.0 years, 67.7% were men, and 28.0% had baseline HF (median follow-up was 18 months). In multivariable analyses, NT-proBNP had the strongest association with the primary outcome (per log<sub>2</sub>, hazard ratio 1.24; Wald  $\chi^2$  67.4; *P*<0.0001) followed by a prior HF history (hazard ratio 1.42; Wald  $\chi^2$  20.8; *P*<0.0001). A model with clinical variables and biomarkers allowed for risk prediction for expanded HF outcomes (C-statistic=0.72). Discrimination results were similar for cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization.

*Conclusions*—Among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent acute coronary syndrome, the use biomarkers such as N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide and clinical variables enables risk stratification for expanded HF outcomes.

*Clinical Trial Registration*—URL: https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/. Unique identifier: NCT00968708. (*J Am Heart Assoc.* 2020;9: e012797. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.119.012797.)

Key Words: biomarkers • heart failure • natriuretic peptide • risk stratification

D iabetes mellitus is one of the most prevalent comorbidities in patients with heart failure (HF) and patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus are at significantly increased risk for developing incident and recurrent HF.<sup>1-3</sup> Furthermore, the burden of HF events and HF death remains substantially high in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established cardiovascular disease,<sup>4,5</sup> even in patients with optimally controlled background risk factors and glycemic control.<sup>6</sup>

Trials of oral anti-hyperglycemic therapies such as thiazolidinediones and select dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors have demonstrated a significantly increased risk of HF.<sup>7–9</sup> Other clinical markers of worsening HF, such as increased use of loop diuretics and increased peripheral edema, were also seen in these studies.<sup>7,8</sup> Emerging anti-hyperglycemic therapies such as sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors have demonstrated a reduction in the risk of HF in large

From the INSERM CIC 1433, NI-CRCT (Cardiovascular and Renal Clinical Trialists) F-CRIN network, Université de Lorraine and CHRU, Nancy, France (A.S., J.P.F., F.Z.); Division of Cardiology, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA (A.S.); Division of Cardiology, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada (A.S.); Brigham and Women's Hospital Heart and Vascular Center, Harvard Medical School Boston, MA (M.V.); Department of Physiology, University of Porto, Portugal (J.P.F.); Baim Institute for Clinical Research, Boston, MA (Y.L., C.P.C.); University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, IL (G.L.B.); University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT (W.B.W.).

Accompanying Tables S1 through S4 and Figures S1, S2 are available at https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/suppl/10.1161/JAHA.119.012797

Correspondence to: Abhinav Sharma, MD, PhD, McGill University Health Centre, 1001 Decarie Blvd, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. E-mail: sabhinav@stanford.edu Received March 26, 2019; accepted August 26, 2019.

<sup>© 2020</sup> 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-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

#### **Clinical Perspective**

#### What Is New?

- Prognostication for heart failure events remains challenging among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are postacute coronary syndrome.
- Natriuretic peptides and a clinical history of heart failure are the strongest predictors of future heart failure events.

#### What Are the Clinical Implications?

 NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide) combined with clinical variables should be considered when risk stratifying patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus post-acute coronary syndrome for future heart failure events.

cardiovascular outcome trials.<sup>10–13</sup> Biomarkers play an important role in the risk stratification for incident and recurrent HF.<sup>14</sup> To date, there are limited data on the use of clinical variables and biomarkers for HF risk stratification in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent acute coronary syndrome (ACS). Improved HF risk stratification may help to identify patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are post ACS, who may benefit from therapies, such as sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors, that can reduce the risk of HF outcomes.

To address this knowledge gap, we evaluated whether clinical variables and biomarkers can improve risk stratification for expanded heart failure (HF) outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent acute coronary syndrome (ACS) in the EXAMINE (Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes with Alogliptin versus Standard of Care) trial.

#### **Research Design and Methods**

#### **EXAMINE** Trial

The design, rationale, results, and details of the EXAMINE trial have been previously published.<sup>15–18</sup> The data used for this analysis from the EXAMINE trial are currently not publicly available. Briefly, the EXAMINE trial was a multicenter, randomized, non-inferiority, double-masked, placebo-controlled, cardiovascular safety trial. Patients were eligible if they had type 2 diabetes mellitus, 15 to 90 days post ACS, glycated hemoglobin between 6.5% and 11% at the time of screening (or 7%–11% if they were taking insulin), and were receiving drugs other than a dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor or glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist to treat diabetes mellitus; end-stage renal disease and were receiving dialysis; New York Heart Association class IV HF; refractory angina; uncontrolled arrhythmias; significant valve disease; or severe

uncontrolled hypertension. In total, 5380 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and an ACS event within 15–90 days (before enrollment) were randomly assigned to receive alogliptin or placebo, administered in a double-masked fashion, in addition to standard treatment. Overall, alogliptin was non-inferior to placebo for the primary outcome of death from cardiovascular causes, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke. The median follow-up was 597 days (interquartile range 361–792 days). The institutional review board or ethics committee at each participating institution reviewed and approved the trial. All patients randomized in the trial provided informed consent, including for the biomarker study.

#### **Biomarker Measurements**

The biomarker population included 5154 patients at baseline. NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide) was measured in all available samples from the 6-month follow-up visit. At baseline, blood was drawn into EDTA-anticoagulated plastic tubes and plasma was isolated and frozen at  $-20^{\circ}$ C to  $-80^{\circ}$ C at the local sites until they were shipped to the central laboratory. Frozen samples were then shipped to the Biomarker Research/Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction Clinical Trials Laboratory (Brigham and Women's Hospital [Boston, MA]), and were stored at  $-80^{\circ}$ C or colder.

Biomarkers across pathophysiologic pathways were measured including biomarker of myocardial stretch (NT-proBNP, Roche Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN), cardiac ischemia (high-sensitivity troponin I [Hs-Tnl, Abbott Laboratories]), atherogenesis (Adiponectin [R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN]), inflammation (growth-differentiation-factor-15 [GDF-15; Roche Diagnostics, Minneapolis, MN, USA], and macrophage activation (galectin-3 [Gal-3, BG Medicine, Inc, Waltham, MA]). Details of these assays have been provided previously.<sup>19–22</sup>

#### **Outcomes of Interest**

The primary outcome of the present analysis was an expanded HF outcome consisting of the composite of cardiovascular death, HF hospitalization, initiation of loop diuretics, or NTproBNP elevation during follow-up (measured at 6 months). The secondary outcome of interest was the composite of cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Baseline continuous variables are presented as median (25th, 75th percentile) and categorical variables as number/total non-missing (percentage) among patient with and without biomarkers. A baseline clinical model was derived using age, sex, systolic blood pressure at baseline, history of HF,

#### Table 1. Baseline Characteristics

Characteristics	Biomarker Population (n=5154)	With Primary Outcome (n=837)	Without Primary Outcome (n=4543)			
Demographics						
Age, y						
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	60.9±9.9	63.2±10.0	60.5±9.8			
Median	61.0	63.0	60.0			
Range (min, max)	(26.0, 91.0)	(38.0, 91.0)	(26.0, 91.0)			
Male	67.7% (3491)	58.8% (492)	69.5% (3159)			
Race	1					
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.1% (106)	2.6% (22)	1.9% (88)			
Asian	20.0% (1030)	21.5% (180)	20.0% (909)			
Black or African American	3.9% (203)	5.7% (48)	3.7% (168)			
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2% (11)	0.1% (1)	0.2% (10)			
White	73.0% (3760)	68.6% (574)	73.4% (3335)			
Multiracial	0.9% (44)	1.4% (12)	0.7% (33)			
Ethnicity		·	·			
Hispanic or Latino	28.4% (1465)	29.4% (246)	28.4% (1291)			
Not Hispanic or Latino	71.6% (3689)	70.6% (591)	71.6% (3252)			
Region						
United States, Canada	15.5% (800)	16.1% (135)	15.8% (718)			
Mexico, Central/South America	25.9% (1333)	27.8% (233)	25.5% (1160)			
Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East	11.5% (595/5154)	11.0% (92)	11.5% (524)			
Eastern Europe, Africa	28.4% (1465)	24.9% (208)	28.6% (1300)			
Asia/Pacific	18.6% (961)	20.2% (169)	18.5% (841)			
Current smoker	13.7% (705)	11.9% (100)	14.0% (634)			
NYHA class			*			
I	22.0% (317)	22.1% (76)	22.1% (255)			
II	57.7% (831)	51.2% (176)	59.6% (689)			
Ш	18.9% (273)	24.7% (85)	17.2% (199)			
IV	1.4% (20)	2.0% (7)	1.1% (13)			
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>						
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	29.5±5.6	30.0±6.6	29.4±5.4			
Median	28.7	29.2	28.7			
Range (min, max)	(15.6, 68.3)	(15.6, 67.2)	(15.7, 68.3)			
Systolic BP, mm Hg	с		•			
Mean±SD (n)	129.1±16.6	130.4±18.3	128.7±16.3			
Median	130.0	130.0	130.0			
Range (min, max)	(80.0, 202.0)	(82.0, 195.0)	(80.0, 202.0)			
Diastolic BP, mm Hg						
Mean±SD (n)	76.4±9.7	75.9±10.4	76.5±9.5			
Median	78.0	78.0	78.0			
Range (min, max)	(40.0, 122.0)	(40.0, 110.0)	(42.0, 122.0)			

Continued

#### Table 1. Continued

Characteristics	Biomarker Population (n=5154)	With Primary Outcome (n=837)	Without Primary Outcome (n=4543)
Heart rate, bpm		1	
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	71.4±10.8	72.9±11.9	71.1±10.5
Median	70.0	72.0	70.0
Range (min, max)	(40.0, 143.0)	(44.0, 118.0)	(40.0, 143.0)
Medical history	·		
Hypertension	83.3% (4291)	90.0% (753/837)	81.8% (3716)
Myocardial infarction	88.0% (4534)	91.2% (763/837)	87.4% (3971)
Coronary bypass surgery	12.8% (659)	17.4% (146/837)	11.9% (542)
Peripheral arterial disease	9.5% (489)	14.6% (122/837)	8.6% (392)
Congestive heart failure	28.0% (1442)	41.1% (344/837)	25.5% (1157)
Laboratory Results			
eGFR, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	70.9±21.4	62.1±22.5	72.6±20.8
Median	71.1	61.7	72.9
Range (min, max)	(4.2, 186.1)	(5.0, 143.0)	(4.2, 186.1)
Glycated hemoglobin (%)			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	8.0±1.1	8.0±1.0	8.0±1.1
Median	7.9	7.9	7.9
Range (min, max)	(4.9, 12.8)	(5.8, 12.8)	(4.9, 12.7)
Total cholesterol, mg/dL			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	154.4±44.0	161.7±48.5	153.0±42.8
Median	147.0	152.0	146.0
Range (min, max)	(58.0, 481.0)	(59.0, 390.0)	(58.0, 481.0)
HDL cholesterol, mg/dL			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	43.1±10.5	43.1±11.1	43.2±10.5
Median	42.0	42.0	42.0
Range (min, max)	(11.0, 106.0)	(18.0, 115.0)	(11.0, 104.0)
LDL cholesterol, mg/dL			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	78.7±34.8	85.2±38.3	77.4±33.9
Median	72.0	78.0	71.0
Range (min, max)	(2.0, 290.0)	(12.0, 250.0)	(2.0, 290.0)
Triglycerides, mg/dL			
Mean±SD (n)	164.5±104.4	167.4±99.6	164.0±104.7
Median	141.0	144.0	140.0
Range (min, max)	(34.0, 1631.0)	(46.0, 838.0)	(34.0, 1631.0)
Hemoglobin, g/dL			
Mean±SD (n)	13.5±1.6	12.9±1.7	13.6±1.5
Median	13.6	13.0	13.6
Range (min, max)	(7.2, 19.7)	(7.2, 18.7)	(7.2, 19.7)
BNP, pg/mL			
Mean±SD (n)	162.1±276.7	307.8±422.8	135.0±229.9

Continued

#### Table 1. Continued

Characteristics	Biomarker Population (n=5154)	With Primary Outcome (n=837)	Without Primary Outcome (n=4543)
Median	75.8	157.4	66.4
Range (min, max)	(9.0, 3879.7)	(9.0, 3879.7)	(9.0, 3633.1)
Sodium, mEq/L			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	139.9±2.8	139.7±3.0	139.9±2.8 (4542)
Median	140.0	140.0	140.0
Range (min, max)	(119.0, 153.0)	(122.0, 150.0)	(119.0, 153.0)
Potassium, mEq/L			
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	4.5±0.5	4.5±0.5	4.5±0.5
Median	4.4	4.5	4.4
Range (min, max)	(2.6, 9.2)	(2.9, 7.5)	(2.6, 9.2)
WBC, K/cu mm	-	<u>.</u>	
Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	7.4±2.4	7.5±2.1	7.3±2.4
Median	7.1	7.3	7.1
Range (min, max)	(2.0, 97.4)	(2.7, 16.8)	(2.0, 97.4)
Platelet count, K/cu mm	- -	<u>^</u>	
Mean±SD (n)	232.6±71.5	234.6±78.4	232.0±69.9
Median	223.0	222.0	223.0
Range (min, max)	(46.0, 833.0)	(74.0, 833.0)	(46.0, 744.0)
Baseline medications	- -	<u>^</u>	
Diabetic agents	98.9% (5099)	98.7% (826)	99.0% (4499)
Sulfonylureas	46.4% (2393)	44.9% (376)	46.8% (2127)
Metformin	66.2% (3412)	57.0% (477)	67.9% (3085)
Insulin	29.9% (1540)	38.0% (318)	28.3% (1287)
Thiazolidinediones	2.4% (126)	2.4% (20)	2.4% (111)
Pioglitazone	2.3% (116)	2.0% (17)	2.3% (104)
Rosiglitazone	0.2% (10)	0.4% (3)	0.2% (7)
Antiplatelet agents	97.3% (5014)	95.5% (799)	97.6% (4433)
ASA	90.9% (4683)	88.8% (743)	91.1% (4138)
Thieno	80.4% (4146)	77.7% (650)	80.8% (3670)
Cholesterol lowering agents	92.1% (4745)	89.4% (748)	92.3% (4194)
Statin	90.6% (4672)	87.3% (731)	91.0% (4135)
Fibrate	5.2% (266)	6.1% (51)	5.0% (227)
Niacin	1.0% (49)	0.8% (7)	0.9% (43)
Ezetimibe	2.3% (117)	2.7% (23)	2.1% (97)
Beta blockers	82.3% (4240)	79.6% (666)	82.4% (3745)
Renin-angiotensin system-blocking agents	82.4% (4247)	84.1% (704)	81.6% (3707)
ACEI	62.1% (3201)	59.7% (500)	62.1% (2823)
ARB	22.2% (1145)	26.8% (224)	21.3% (966)
Diuretics	37.4% (1929)	49.6% (415)	35.2% (1599)
Thiazide	15.0% (771)	17.8% (149)	14.4% (653)

Continued

#### Table 1. Continued

Characteristics	Biomarker Population (n=5154)	With Primary Outcome (n=837)	Without Primary Outcome (n=4543)
Loop	17.5% (901)	23.9% (200)	16.3% (740)
Nitrates	32.6% (1678)	38.7% (324)	31.6% (1435)
Calcium channel blockers	22.4% (1153)	27.4% (229)	21.3% (968)

ACEI indicates angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker ASA, aspirin; BMI, body mass index; BNP, brain natriuretic peptide; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; NYHA New York Heart Association; WBC, white blood cell count.

duration of diabetes mellitus, prior myocardial infarction, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking, and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR; based on variables used in prior analyses).<sup>5,16–19</sup> The multivariable association of baseline variables and clinical outcomes were assessed using Cox proportional hazards regression models, reported as hazard ratio (HR) and 95% Cl.

The association between individual biomarkers (hs-Tnl, NTproBNP, GDF-15, adiponectin, and Gal-3) and time to events was determined. Linearity testing was performed to assess the relationship between biomarker and end point. The net reclassification improvement index is presented with 95% bootstrap CI. Continuous net reclassification improvement was calculated as it is the most objective and versatile measure of improvement in risk prediction. Cls come from 1000 bootstrap samples selected with replacement of the size equal to the number of observations in the original data set. The biomarker cut-offs in the present analysis were determined through a complement of existing literature and statistical consideration. The following values were used as cut-offs for elevated biomarkers: adiponectin, values in the 4th quartile (ranging from 7.94 to 63.48  $\mu$ g/mL); Gal-3 values in the 4th guartile (ranging from 20.5 to 115 ng/mL); HsTnl ≥16 ng/L for female and  $\geq$ 34 ng/L male participants; NTproBNP  $\geq$ 450 pg/mL for patients aged <50 years,  $\geq 900$  pg/mL for patients aged 50 to 75 years and  $\geq$ 1800 for patients aged  $\geq$ 75 years; and GDF-15  $\geq$ 1800 pg/mL.<sup>23-25</sup> The C-index is presented for the clinical model and with the addition of biomarker dichotomized as elevated or not elevated. Data were analyzed using SAS version 9.4 software (SAS, Cary, North Carolina). Statistical significance was based on a P<0.05.

#### Results

#### **Baseline Demographics**

Among patients with biomarkers values (n=5154), the median age was 61.0 years, 67.7% (n=3491) were men, 73.0% (n=3760) were white, 83.3% (n=4291) had a history of hypertension, and 28.0% (n=1442) had a baseline history of HF (Table 1). Median biomarker levels at baseline were: hs-Tnl 9 ng/L; Gal-3 17 ng/mL; adiponectin 5.2  $\mu$ g/mL; NT-proBNP

422 pg/mL; and GDF-15 1246 pg/mL. Patients with a primary end point, compared with those who did not experience the end point, were older (63.2 versus 60.5 years of age), less likely to be men (58.8% versus 69.5%), and had a greater burden of cardiovascular comorbidities (Table 1).

## Association of Clinical Variables and Biomarkers With Outcomes

Median patient follow-up was 18 months. Using clinical variables alone, eGFR (per unit increase, HR 0.98, 95% CI 0.98–0.99) and history of HF (HR 1.65, 95% CI 1.42–1.91) were most frequent clinical variables associated with the primary outcome (by the Wald-square measure) (Figure S1; Table 2). In univariate analysis, each biomarker was individually associated with the primary outcome (Table S1). In the multivariable model with both clinical variables and biomarkers, NT-proBNP was the strongest variable (by the Wald-square measure) associated with the primary outcome (per log<sub>2</sub> HR 1.24, 95% CI 1.18–1.31) followed by a history of HF (HR 1.42,

Table 2.Association of Clinical Variables With the CompositeOutcome of Cardiovascular Death, Heart FailureHospitalization, Initiation of Loop Diuretics, or Elevated NT-proBNP During Follow-Up

Variable	Hazard Ratio (95%CI)	Wald $\chi^2$	P Value
eGFR, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	0.98 (0.98, 0.99)	52.3	< 0.0001
Heart failure	1.65 (1.42, 1.91)	43.9	< 0.0001
Duration of diabetes mellitus	1.02 (1.01, 1.03)	19.8	<0.0001
Hypertension	1.47 (1.15, 1.88)	9.4	0.002
Myocardial infarction	1.47 (1.15, 1.87)	9.4	0.002
Men	0.81 (0.70, 0.95)	7.1	0.008
Smoking status	1.17 (0.94, 1.46)	2.0	0.2
Age	1.00 (1.00, 1.01)	0.9	0.4
Hyperlipidemia	1.06 (0.89, 1.25)	0.4	0.5
Systolic BP, mm Hg	1.00 (1.00, 1.01)	0.1	0.8

BP indicates blood pressure; eGFR, estimate glomerular filtration rate; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

95% CI 1.22–1.65) (Figure S2; Table 3). eGFR no longer remained significantly associated with the primary outcome in the multivariable model. All other biomarkers except adiponectin were also associated with the primary outcome in the multivariable model: GDF-15 (per  $\log_2$  HR 1.15, 95% CI 1.04–1.28); Gal-3 (per  $\log_2$  HR 1.21, 95% CI 1.03–1.41), and hs-Tnl (per  $\log_2$  HR 1.04, 95% CI 1.00–1.09).

For the secondary outcome of the composite of cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization, in the multivariable model with only clinical variables, the most associated variables were a history of HF (HR 2.89; 95% CI 2.33–3.58) followed by eGFR (per unit increase HR 0.98; 95% CI 0.97– 0.98) (Table S2). Similar to the primary outcome, each individual biomarker in the univariate analysis was associated with cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization (Table S1). In the multivariable analysis, a doubling of NTproBNP was most associated with cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization (per log<sub>2</sub> HR 1.45; 95% CI 1.34–1.57), followed by a history of HF (HR 2.20; 95% CI 1.76–2.76), a doubling of hSTnl (per log<sub>2</sub> HR 1.10; 95% CI 1.04–1.16), and a doubling of GDF-15 (per log<sub>2</sub> HR 1.22; 95% CI 1.05–1.41) (Table S3). The *P*-value for the Hosmer-Lemeshow Goodness of fit test is <0.001 for the

Table 3.Multivariable Clinical and Biomarker Predictors ofthe Composite Outcome of Cardiovascular Death, HeartFailure Hospitalization, Initiation of Loop Diuretics, or ElevatedNT-proBNP During Follow-Up

Variable	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	Wald $\chi^2$	P Value
log <sub>2</sub> (NT-proBNP)	1.24 (1.18, 1.31)	67.4	< 0.0001
Heart failure	1.42 (1.22, 1.65)	20.8	<0.0001
Hypertension	1.63 (1.27, 2.09)	14.5	0.0001
Duration of diabetes mellitus	1.01 (1.00, 1.02)	8.2	0.004
log <sub>2</sub> (GDF-15)	1.15 (1.04, 1.28)	7.2	0.007
log <sub>2</sub> (Gal-3)	1.21 (1.03, 1.41)	5.5	0.02
Male	0.83 (0.71, 0.97)	5.5	0.02
log <sub>2</sub> (hsTnl)	1.04 (1.00, 1.09)	4.2	0.04
Hyperlipidemia	1.16 (0.97, 1.38)	2.7	0.1
Smoking status	1.17 (0.93, 1.45)	1.9	0.2
Systolic BP, mm Hg	1.00 (1.00, 1.01)	0.7	0.4
log <sub>2</sub> (adiponectin)	1.04 (0.95, 1.14)	0.7	0.4
Age	1.00 (0.99, 1.01)	0.6	0.5
eGFR, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	1.00 (0.99, 1.00)	0.3	0.6
Myocardial infarction	1.01 (0.79, 1.30)	0.01	0.9

The clinical model adjusted by age (continuous), sex, systolic blood pressure (continuous), history of heart failure, duration of diabetes mellitus, prior myocardial infarction, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking, estimated glomerular filtration rate (continuous). BP indicates blood pressure; Gal-3, galectin-3; GDF-15, growth-differentiation-factor -15; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

baseline clinical model and clinical model with the biomarkers (as continuous and cut-offs).

#### **Risk Stratification for Outcomes**

Compared with the baseline clinical model, individual biomarkers improved the discrimination in risk prediction of the primary outcome (Table 4). NT-proBNP, when added to a base clinical model, was associated with the greatest increase in discrimination compared with other individual biomarkers (c-statistic from 0.66 to 0.71) (Table 4). When combined, all biomarkers increased the discrimination of the primary end point compared with the baseline model (c-statistic from 0.66 to 0.72) (Table 4). For the secondary end point of cardiovas-cular death or HF hospitalization, NT-proBNP, compared with other biomarkers, was associated with the largest increase in outcome discrimination (c-statistic from 0.75 to 0.82) (Table S4). When all biomarkers were combined with the clinical model, the outcome discrimination improved (c-statistic from 0.75 to 0.83) (Table S4).

#### Discussion

Improving risk stratification for HF outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus is crucial given the emergence of therapies that may reduce the risk of incident and recurrent HF. While multi-biomarker approaches to risk stratification for HF outcomes have been demonstrated in HF populations,<sup>14</sup> there are sparse data among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. We evaluated the role of a combined clinical variables and biomarkers to improve risk stratification for HF outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus post ACS in the EXAMINE trial. Our results identified that biomarkers, especially NT-proBNP, were among the strongest parameters associated with future risk of expanded HF outcomes while a prior history of HF was the strongest clinical predictor. Use of both clinical variables and biomarkers improved risk stratification for expanded HF outcomes over a clinical model. Our results suggest that the use of biomarkers either alone (NT-proBNP) or in combination may improve identification of patients with type 2 diabetes ellitus after a recent ACS who are at increased for future HF events.

Initiation of loop diuretics among stable patients may reflect an attempt at management of water retention or worsening HF symptoms and may be considered a marker for future risk of HF.<sup>7,8,18</sup> Similarly, elevations in natriuretic peptides also reflect an increased risk of HF events. Expanding the definition of HF to include these end points as a component of the composite outcome enables a more sensitive definition of HF.<sup>26,27</sup> In a prior analysis of the EXAMINE study, an increased NT-proBNP at baseline was significantly associated with increased future risk of

Table 4	Discrimination for the Composite Ou	come of Composite Or	utcome of Cardiovascular	r Death, Heart Failur	e Hospitalization,
Initiatior	of Loop Diuretics, or Elevated NT-pr	BNP During Follow-U	р		

Models	c-Statistic	Change in c-Statistic	Continuous NRI (95% Bootstrap CI)	IDI (95% Bootstrap CI)
Clinical model*	0.66			
Clinical model+hsTnl	0.68	0.019	0.2914 (0.2054, 0.3705)	0.0340 (0.0283, 0.0406)
Clinical model+NT-proBNP	0.71	0.050	0.3854 (0.3037, 0.4721)	0.0877 (0.077, 0.0976)
Clinical model+GDF-15	0.67	0.010	0.1521 (0.0631, 0.243)	0.0183 (0.014, 0.0235)
Clinical model+Gal-3	0.67	0.009	0.1265 (0.0384, 0.2062)	0.0162 (0.0123, 0.0204)
Clinical model+adiponectin	0.67	0.010	0.1455 (0.0561, 0.2311)	0.0091 (0.0062, 0.0129)
Clinical model+all biomarkers	0.72	0.054	0.4097 (0.3245, 0.4963)	0.0955 (0.0848, 0.1078)
Clinical model+hsTnl (by cut-offs)	0.67	0.008	0.2380 (0.1559, 0.3231)	0.0152 (0.0111, 0.0192)
Clinical model+NTproBNP (by cut-offs)	0.69	0.028	0.4141 (0.3314, 0.4948)	0.0487 (0.0421, 0.0553)
Clinical model+GDF-15 (by cut-offs)	0.67	0.005	0.2485 (0.1571, 0.3316)	0.0088 (0.0062, 0.0114)
Clinical model+Gal-3 (by cut-offs)	0.67	0.004	0.1832 (0.0940, 0.2660)	0.0057 (0.0039, 0.0079)
Clinical model+adiponectin (by cut-offs)	0.67	0.005	0.2226 (0.1416, 0.3096)	0.0067 (0.0042, 0.0095)
Clinical model+all biomarkers(by cut-offs)	0.70	0.034	0.3996 (0.3159, 0.4867)	0.0588 (0.0515, 0.0662)

Gal-3 indicates galectin-3; GDF-15, growth-differentiation-factor -15; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; integration, discrimination index; IDI, integration discrimination index; NRI, net reclassification improvement; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

\*The clinical model adjusted by age (continuous), sex, systolic blood pressure (continuous), history of heart failure, duration of diabetes mellitus, prior myocardial infarction, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking, estimated glomerular filtration rate (continuous).

cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, or stroke.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, the risk of future cardiovascular events remained persistently elevated when landmarked for elevated NTproBNP at 6 months. Similar findings have been seen with serial measurements of hs-Tnl in the EXAMINE trial<sup>21</sup> and in community cohorts.<sup>28</sup> In our analysis, the association of an elevated NT-proBNP at baseline with an increased future risk of cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization or initiation of loop diuretic is not unexpected. A prior study demonstrated that adiponectin (a marker of atherogenesis) was associated with increased risk of cardiovascular events in the EXAMINE trial.<sup>22</sup> When evaluated in our multivariable model, adiponectin was not associated with expanded HF outcomes. However, our analysis identified that biomarkers associated with myocardial stretch (NT-proBNP), cardiac fibrosis (GDF-15),<sup>29,30</sup> cardiac ischemia (hsTnl),<sup>31,32</sup> and macrophage activation (Gal-3)<sup>33,34</sup> are significantly associated with an increased risk of our expanded primary HF outcome; these results suggest that multiple pathophysiologic mechanisms may be playing a role in driving the development of HF in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus post-ACS. The results were seen consistently across the more traditional HF outcome composite of HF hospitalization or cardiovascular death.

Using multiple biomarkers across pathophysiologic mechanisms to identify patients at risk for incident HF and recurrent HF have been advocated in consensus guidelines.<sup>14</sup> Among 1510 stable community participants with diabetes mellitus but without prevalent cardiovascular disease in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study, both troponin T  $\geq$  14 ng/L (HR 1.96, 95% CI 1.57–2.46) and NTproBNP >125 pg/mL (HR 1.61, 95% Cl 1.29-1.99) were statistically associated with incident cardiovascular events (coronary heart disease, HF, or stroke).<sup>28</sup> In post-ACS patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus, the risk of HF and recurrent ACS remains high yet there are limited data on strategies to optimize risk prediction.<sup>18,23</sup> Our demonstration that among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus post ACS, a multi-biomarker approach improves the risk stratification of expanded HF outcomes has significant therapeutic implications. For example, among higher risk patients, medications such as sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors that may reduce the risk of HF events can be initiated or intensified. Other therapies such as thiazolidinediones can potentially also be avoided among higher HF risk patients. In addition, natriuretic peptides (the biomarker that was identified with the greatest risk of HF events in our multi-marker model) has for the first time been added to the HF guidelines to be considered in screening for patients at risk for development of HF.<sup>14,35</sup> Our data support these recommendations; while clinical variables can be useful to risk stratify for clinical outcomes,36,37 patients with elevated natriuretic peptide concentrations should be carefully monitored for potential development of HF, especially after exposure to therapies such as thiazolidinediones. Furthermore, natriuretic peptides may further stratify for individuals who may have increased benefit from therapies such as mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists<sup>38</sup> and sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors.

#### Limitations

The EXAMINE trial was composed of patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who had a recent ACS; as such the results of our analysis may not be generalizable to other populations with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Additional measures of HF status such as left ventricular ejection fraction, a known prognostic marker in patients with diabetes mellitus,<sup>39</sup> were not formally assessed. While the c-statistic improved from 0.66 to 0.70 for the model with biomarkers for the expanded HF outcome, the clinical utility of such an increase in discrimination remains unclear. The results from the P-value of calibration of the Hosmer-Lemeshow Goodness of Fit test highlight the challenges in model calibration for expanded HF outcomes. Nevertheless, EXAMINE may be an optimal setting to investigate this issue given the trial enrolled the highest proportion of patients with baseline HF (28%) of any cardiovascular safety trial of anti-hyperglycemic therapies,<sup>40</sup> enriched cardiovascular risk given the requirement for a recent ACS, and collected robust biomarker data in >95% of enrolled patients.

#### Conclusions

Among stable patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after recent ACS, combining clinical variables with biomarkers approach allows for risk stratification for a broad range of heart failure events. Given the emergence of anti-hyperglycemic therapies that reduce the risk of heart failure among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and established cardiovascular disease, future randomized studies evaluating the role of risk prediction using clinical factors and biomarkers to target these medical therapies are warranted. In settings where assaying multiple biomarkers are impractical, measurement of natriuretic peptides as a single biomarker may most inform risk of future HF events. Patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and elevated natriuretic peptide concentrations or prior history of HF face particularly high risks of subsequent HF events and warrant closer monitoring.

#### Acknowledgments

The authors are solely responsible for the design of the study, all study analyses, and the drafting and editing of the manuscript and its final contents.

#### Sources of Funding

EXAMINE is a clinical trial sponsored by Takeda Global Research and Development Center, Inc, Deerfield, IL.

#### Disclosures

Dr Sharma is supported by a research grant from the Fonds de Recherche Sante-Quebec Junior 1 award, Alberta Innovates Health Solution Clinician Scientist fellowship, the European Society of Cardiology Young Investigator research grant, and has received research support from Roche Diagnostics, Boeringer-Ingelheim, Takeda, Akcea, and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Bayer Vascular award. Dr Bakris has received personal fees from Takeda Development Center, is a consultant for Merck, Relypsa, and is on the steering committee for international renal/ cardiovascular outcomes trials for Janssen, Bayer, Vascular Dynamics. Dr White has received research support from the National Institute of Aging (National Institute of Health [NIH]) and personal fees from Takeda Development Center (Deerfield, IL, USA) during the conduct of the EXAMINE trial (Steering Committee Chair). Dr Zannad has received fees for serving on the board of Boston Scientific; consulting fees from Novartis, Takeda, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GE Healthcare, Relypsa, Servier, Boston Scientific, Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, and Resmed; and speaking fees from Pfizer and AstraZeneca. Dr Cannon reports research grants from Amgen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Daiichi Sankyo, Janssen, Merck and consulting fees from Alnylam, Amarin, Amgen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Janssen, Kowa, Merck, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi. Dr Vaduganathan is supported by the KL2/Catalyst Medical Research Investigator Training award from Harvard Catalyst (NIH/National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Award UL 1TR002541), serves on advisory boards for Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer AG, and Baxter Healthcare, and participates in clinical end points committees for studies supported by Novartis and the NIH. The remaining authors have no disclosures to report.

#### References

- Sharma A, Zhao X, Hammill BG, Hernandez AF, Fonarow GC, Felker GM, Yancy CW, Heidenreich PA, Ezekowitz JA, DeVore AD. Trends in noncardiovascular comorbidities among patients hospitalized for heart failure. *Circ Heart Fail*. 2018;11:e004646.
- Cavender MA, Steg PG, Smith SC, Eagle K, Ohman EM, Goto S, Kuder J, Im K, Wilson PW, Bhatt DL. Impact of diabetes mellitus on hospitalization for heart failure, cardiovascular events, and death: outcomes at 4 years from the reduction of atherothrombosis for continued health (REACH) registry. *Circulation*. 2015;132:923–931.
- Yancy CW, Jessup M, Bozkurt B, Butler J, Casey DE, Drazner MH, Fonarow GC, Geraci SA, Horwich T, Januzzi JL, Johnson MR, Kasper EK, Levy WC, Masoudi FA, McBride PE, McMurray JJ, Mitchell JE, Peterson PN, Riegel B, Sam F, Stevenson LW, Tang WH, Tsai EJ, Wilkoff BL. 2013 ACCF/AHA guideline for the management of heart failure: executive summary: a report of the American college of cardiology foundation/American Heart Association task force on practice guidelines. *Circulation*. 2013;128:1810–1852.
- 4. Sharma A, Green A, Dunning A, Lokhnygina Y, Al-Khatib SM, Lopes RD, Buse JB, Lachin JM, Van de Werf F, Armstrong PW, Kaufman KD, Standl E, Chan JCN, Distiller LA, Scott R, Peterson ED, Holman RR. Causes of death in a contemporary cohort of patients with type 2 diabetes and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease: insights from the TECOS trial. *Diabetes Care*. 2017;40:1763–1770.
- White WB, Kupfer S, Zannad F, Mehta CR, Wilson CA, Lei L, Bakris GL, Nissen SE, Cushman WC, Heller SR, Bergenstal RM, Fleck PR, Cannon CP. Cardiovascular mortality in patients with type 2 diabetes and recent acute coronary syndromes from the EXAMINE trial. *Diabetes Care*. 2016;39:1267–1273.

- Rawshani A, Rawshani A, Franzén S, Franzen S, Sattar N, Eliasson B, Svensson AM, Zethelius B, Miftaraj M, McGuire DK, Rosengren A, Gudbjornsdottir S. Risk factors, mortality, and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes. N Engl J Med. 2018;379:633–644.
- Home PD, Pocock SJ, Beck-Nielsen H, Curtis PS, Gomis R, Hanefeld M, Jones NP, Komajda M, McMurray JJ. Rosiglitazone evaluated for cardiovascular outcomes in oral agent combination therapy for type 2 diabetes (RECORD): a multicentre, randomised, open-label trial. *Lancet*. 2009;373:2125–2135.
- Dormandy JA, Charbonnel B, Eckland DJA, Erdmann E, Massi-Benedetti M, Loules IK, Skene AM, Tan MH, Lefebvre PJ, Murray GD, Standl EM, Wilcox RGWilhelmsen L, Betteridge J, Birkeland K, Golay A, Heine RJ, Koranyi L, Laakso M, Mokan M, Norkus A, Pirags V, Podar T, Scheen A, Scherbaum W, Schernthaner G, Schmitz O, Skrha J, Smith U, Taton J. Secondary prevention of macrovascular events in patients with type 2 diabetes in the PROactive Study (PROspective pioglitAzone Clinical Trial in macroVascular Events): a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2005;366:1279–1289.
- Sharma A, Cooper LB, Fiuzat M, Mentz RJ, Ferreira JP, Butler J, Fitchett D, Moses AC, O'Connor C, Zannad F. Antihyperglycemic therapies to treat patients with heart failure and diabetes mellitus. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2018;6:813–822.
- Zinman B, Wanner C, Lachin JM, Fitchett D, Bluhmki E, Hantel S, Mattheus M, Devins T, Johansen OE, Woerle HJ, Broedl UC, Inzucchi SE. Empagliflozin, cardiovascular outcomes, and mortality in type 2 diabetes. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;373:2117–2128.
- 11. Fitchett D, Zinman B, Wanner C, Lachin JM, Hantel S, Salsali A, Johansen OE, Woerle HJ, Broedl UC, Inzucchi SE. Heart failure outcomes with empagliflozin in patients with type 2 diabetes at high cardiovascular risk: results of the EMPA-REG OUTCOME<sup>®</sup> trial. *Eur Heart J*. 2016;37:1526–1534.
- Neal B, Perkovic V, Mahaffey KW, de Zeeuw D, Fulcher G, Erondu N, Shaw W, Law G, Desai M, Matthews DR. Canagliflozin and cardiovascular and renal events in type 2 diabetes. *N Engl J Med.* 2017;377:644–657.
- Wiviott SD, Raz I, Bonaca MP, Mosenzon O, Kato ET, Cahn A, Silverman MG, Zelniker TA, Kuder JF, Murphy SA, Bhatt DL, Leiter LA, McGuire DK, Wilding JPH, Ruff CT, Gause-Nilsson IAM, Fredriksson M, Johansson PA, Langkilde AM, Sabatine MS. Dapagliflozin and cardiovascular outcomes in type 2 diabetes. N Engl J Med. 2019;380:1881–1882.
- Chow SL, Maisel AS, Anand I, Bozkurt B, de Boer RA, Felker GM, Fonarow GC, Greenberg B, Januzzi JL Jr, Kiernan MS, Liu PP, Wang TJ, Yancy CW, Zile MR. Role of biomarkers for the prevention, assessment, and management of heart failure: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2017;135:e1054–e1091.
- 15. White WB, Bakris GL, Bergenstal RM, Cannon CP, Cushman WC, Fleck P, Heller S, Mehta C, Nissen SE, Perez A, Wilson C, Zannad F. EXamination of CArdiovascular OutcoMes with AlogliptIN versus Standard of CarE in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Acute Coronary Syndrome (EXAMINE): a cardiovascular safety study of the dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor alogliptin in patients with type 2 diabetes with acute coronary syndrome. *Am Heart J.* 2011;162:620–626.e1.
- White WB, Cannon CP, Heller SR, Nissen SE, Bergenstal RM, Bakris GL, Perez AT, Fleck PR, Mehta CR, Kupfer S, Wilson C, Cushman WC, Zannad F. Alogliptin after acute coronary syndrome in patients with type 2 diabetes. *N Engl J Med.* 2013;369:1327–1335.
- Zannad F, Cannon CP, Cushman WC, Bakris GL, Menon V, Perez AT, Fleck PR, Mehta CR, Kupfer S, Wilson C, Lam H, White WB. Heart failure and mortality outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes taking alogliptin versus placebo in EXAMINE: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind trial. *Lancet.* 2015;385:2067–2076.
- Sharma A, Cannon CP, White WB, Liu Y, Bakris GL, Cushman WC, Zannad F. Early and chronic dipeptidyl-peptidase-IV inhibition and cardiovascular events in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus after an acute coronary syndrome: a landmark analysis of the EXAMINE trial. J Am Heart Assoc. 2018;7:e007649. DOI:10.1161/JAHA.117.007649.
- Hwang YC, Morrow DA, Cannon CP, Liu Y, Bergenstal R, Heller S, Mehta C, Cushman W, Bakris GL, Zannad F, White WB. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes in the EXAMINE (Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes with Alogliptin versus Standard of Care) trial. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2018;20:654–659.
- Jarolim P, White WB, Cannon CP, Gao Q, Morrow DA. Serial measurement of natriuretic peptides and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes in the EXAMINE trial. *Diabetes Care*. 2018;41:1510–1515.
- 21. Cavender MA, White WB, Jarolim P, Bakris GL, Cushman WC, Kupfer S, Gao Q, Mehta CR, Zannad F, Cannon CP, Morrow DA. Serial measurement of highsensitivity troponin i and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in the examine trial (examination of cardiovascular outcomes with alogliptin versus standard of care). *Circulation*. 2017;135:1911–1921.
- 22. Bergmark BA, Cannon CP, White WB, Jarolim P, Liu Y, Bonaca MP, Zannad F, Morrow DA. Baseline adiponectin concentration and clinical outcomes among

patients with diabetes and recent acute coronary syndrome in the EXAMINE trial. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2017;19:962–969.

- Jarolim P. High sensitivity cardiac troponin assays in the clinical laboratories. *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2015;53:635–652.
- Kempf T, Horn-Wichmann R, Brabant G, Peter T, Allhoff T, Klein G, Drexler H, Johnston N, Wallentin L, Wollert KC. Circulating concentrations of growthdifferentiation factor 15 in apparently healthy elderly individuals and patients with chronic heart failure as assessed by a new immunoradiometric sandwich assay. *Clin Chem.* 2007;53:284–291.
- 25. Thygesen K, Mair J, Mueller C, Huber K, Weber M, Plebani M, Hasin Y, Biasucci LM, Giannitsis E, Lindahl B, Koenig W, Tubaro M, Collinson P, Katus H, Galvani M, Venge P, Alpert JS, Hamm C, Jaffe AS. Recommendations for the use of natriuretic peptides in acute cardiac care: a position statement from the Study Group on Biomarkers in Cardiology of the ESC Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care. *Eur Heart J.* 2012;33:2001–2006.
- Greene SJ, Mentz RJ, Fiuzat M, Butler J, Solomon SD, Ambrosy AP, Mehta C, Teerlink JR, Zannad F, O'Connor CM. Reassessing the role of surrogate end points in drug development for heart failure. *Circulation*. 2018;138:1039–1053.
- Shen L, Jhund PS, Mogensen UM, Køber L, Claggett B, Rogers JK, McMurray JJV. Re-examination of the best trial using composite outcomes, including emergency department visits. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2017;5:591–599.
- 28. Gori M, Gupta DK, Claggett B, Selvin E, Folsom AR, Matsushita K, Bello NA, Cheng S, Shah A, Skali H, Vardeny O, Ni H, Ballantyne CM, Astor BC, Klein BE, Aguilar D, Solomon SD. Natriuretic peptide and high-sensitivity troponin for cardiovascular risk prediction in diabetes: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. *Diabetes Care*. 2016;39:677–685.
- Sharma A, Stevens SR, Lucas J, Fiuzat M, Adams KF, Whellan DJ, Donahue MP, Kitzman DW, Pina IL, Zannad F, Kraus WE, O'Connor CM, Felker GM. Utility of growth differentiation factor-15, a marker of oxidative stress and inflammation, in chronic heart failure: insights from the HF-ACTION study. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2017;5:724–734.
- 30. Kempf T, Eden M, Strelau J, Naguib M, Willenbockel C, Tongers J, Heineke J, Kotlarz D, Xu J, Molkentin JD, Niessen HW, Drexler H, Wollert KC. The transforming growth factor- $\beta$  superfamily member growth-differentiation factor-15 protects the heart from ischemia/reperfusion injury. *Circ Res.* 2006;98:351–360.
- Kociol RD, Pang PS, Gheorghiade M, Fonarow GC, O'Connor CM, Felker GM. Troponin elevation in heart failure: prevalence, mechanisms, and clinical implications. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2010;56:1071–1078.
- Januzzi JL, Filippatos G, Nieminen M, Gheorghiade M. Troponin elevation in patients with heart failure: on behalf of the third Universal Definition of Myocardial Infarction Global Task Force: Heart Failure Section. *Eur Heart J.* 2012;33:2265–2271.
- 33. Sharma UC, Pokharel S, van Brakel TJ, van Berlo JH, Cleutjens JP, Schroen B, André S, Crijns HJ, Gabius HJ, Maessen J, Pinto YM. Galectin-3 marks activated macrophages in failure-prone hypertrophied hearts and contributes to cardiac dysfunction. *Circulation*. 2004;110:3121–3128.
- 34. Lok DJ, Lok SI, Bruggink-André de la Porte PW, Badings E, Lipsic E, van Wijngaarden J, de Boer RA, van Veldhuisen DJ, van der Meer P. Galectin-3 is an independent marker for ventricular remodeling and mortality in patients with chronic heart failure. *Clin Res Cardiol.* 2013;102:103–110.
- Collaboration Natriuretic Peptides Studies. Natriuretic peptides and integrated risk assessment for cardiovascular disease: an individual-participant-data meta-analysis. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2016;4:840–849.
- 36. Jong CB, Li HY, Pan SL, Hsieh MY, Su FY, Chen KC, Yin WH, Chan SH, Wu YW, Wang KY, Chang KC, Hwang JJ, Wu CC. Relationship between body mass index, antidiabetic agents, and midterm mortality in patients with both type 2 diabetes mellitus and acute coronary syndrome. J Am Heart Assoc. 2019;8: e011215. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.118.011215.
- 37. Swoboda PP, McDiarmid AK, Erhayiem B, Ripley DP, Dobson LE, Garg P, Musa TA, Witte KK, Kearney MT, Barth JH, Ajjan R, Greenwood JP, Plein S. Diabetes mellitus, microalbuminuria, and subclinical cardiac disease: identification and monitoring of individuals at risk of heart failure. *J Am Heart Assoc.* 2017;6:005539. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.117.005539.
- Cooper L, Lippmann S, Greiner M, Sharma A, Kelly J, Fonarow G, Yancy C, Heidenreich P, Hernandez A. Use of mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists in patients with heart failure and comorbid diabetes mellitus or chronic kidney disease. J Am Heart Assoc. 2017;6:e006540. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.117.006540.
- Rørth R, Jhund PS, Mogensen UM, Kristensen SL, Petrie MC, Køber L, McMurray JJV. Risk of incident heart failure in patients with diabetes and asymptomatic left ventricular systolic dysfunction. *Diabetes Care*. 2018;41: 1285–1291.
- Greene SJ, Vaduganathan M, Khan MS, Bakris GL, Weir MR, Seltzer JH, Sattar N, McGuire DK, Januzzi JL, Stockbridge N, Butler J. Prevalent and incident heart failure in cardiovascular outcome trials of patients with type 2 diabetes. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2018;71:1379–1390.

# **Supplemental Material**

HF hospitalization or elevated NTproBNP during					
Biomarkers	follow-up or initiation of loop	diuretics or CV death	th HF hospitalization or CV death		
	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value	
Biomarker (continuous)					
log2 (hsTnI)	1.18 (1.15, 1.21)	<.0001	1.30 ( 1.26, 1.35)	<.0001	
log2 (NTproBNP)	1.40 (1.35, 1.46)	<.0001	1.80 ( 1.70, 1.90)	<.0001	
log2 (GDF15)	1.67 (1.55, 1.80)	<.0001	2.08 ( 1.89, 2.29)	<.0001	
log2 (GAL3)	1.94 (1.74, 2.16)	<.0001	2.36 ( 2.07, 2.69)	<.0001	
log2 (ADPN)	1.53 (1.42, 1.66)	<.0001	1.90 ( 1.70, 2.12)	<.0001	
Biomarkers (by cut-offs)					
Elevated hsTnI	1.77 (1.52, 2.06)	<.0001	2.76 ( 2.25, 3.39)	<.0001	
Elevated NTproBNP	2.61 (2.27, 3.00)	<.0001	6.02 ( 4.84, 7.49)	<.0001	
Elevated GDF15	2.09 (1.81, 2.40)	<.0001	3.02 ( 2.47, 3.69)	<.0001	
Elevated GAL3	1.96 (1.70, 2.26)	<.0001	2.75 ( 2.25, 3.36)	0.0012	
Elevated ADPN	1.92 (1.66, 2.22)	<.0001	2.93 ( 2.39, 3.58)	0.0002	

### Table S1. Univariate association of individual biomarkers with heart failure outcomes.

ADPN: adiponectin; Gal-3: galectin-3; GDF-15: growth-differentiation-factor -15; hs-CRP: high sensitivity C-reactive protein; NT-proBNP: N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

# Table S2. Multivariable clinical predictors for the composite of heart failure hospitalization or cardiovascular death.

Variable	Hazard ratio(95%CI))	Wald X <sup>2</sup>	P value
Heart failure	2.89 ( 2.33, 3.58)	94.3	<.0001
eGFR (ml/min/1.73m²)	0.98 ( 0.97, 0.98)	50.9	<.0001
Myocardial infarction	3.43 ( 2.00, 5.88)	20.1	<.0001
Duration of diabetes	1.02 ( 1.01, 1.03)	10.5	0.0012
age	1.01 ( 1.00, 1.03)	5.1	0.0244
Systolic BP (mmHg)	0.99 ( 0.99, 1.00)	3.8	0.0515
Hyperlipidemia	1.23 ( 0.96, 1.57)	2.7	0.0985
Hypertension	1.33 ( 0.93, 1.90)	2.4	0.1246
Male	0.91 ( 0.73, 1.13)	0.7	0.3933
Smoking Status	1.16 ( 0.83, 1.62)	0.7	0.3965

eGFR: estimate glomerular filtration rate; BP blood pressure.

Table S3. Multivariable clinical variables and biomarkers for the outcome of heart failure hospitalization and cardiovascular death.

Variable	Hazard ratio(95%CI)	Wald X <sup>2</sup>	P value
log <sub>2</sub> (NTproBNP)	1.45 ( 1.34, 1.57)	78.8	<.0001
Heart Failure	2.20 ( 1.76, 2.76)	47.2	<.0001
log2 (hsTnI)	1.10 ( 1.04, 1.16)	12.0	0.0005
log <sub>2</sub> (GDF15)	1.22 ( 1.05, 1.41)	7.0	0.0080
Hyperlipidemia	1.41 ( 1.08, 1.83)	6.6	0.0103
Hypertension	1.54 ( 1.07, 2.23)	5.3	0.0216
Myocardial infarction	1.85 ( 1.06, 3.23)	4.7	0.0302
Duration of diabetes	1.01 ( 1.00, 1.02)	2.9	0.0873
log <sub>2</sub> (GAL3)	1.18 ( 0.95, 1.47)	2.2	0.1411
Systolic BP (mmHg)	1.00 ( 0.99, 1.00)	1.6	0.2122
Age	1.01 ( 1.00, 1.02)	1.3	0.2516
Male	0.90 ( 0.71, 1.13)	0.8	0.3642
Smoking Status	1.16 ( 0.82, 1.63)	0.7	0.3959
log2 (ADPN)	1.03 ( 0.90, 1.17)	0.2	0.6861
eGFR (ml/min/1.73m²)	1.00 ( 0.99, 1.01)	0.04	0.8306

ADPN: adiponectin; Gal-3: galectin-3; GDF-15: growth-differentiation-factor -15; eGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate; hs-CRP: high sensitivity C-reactive protein; NT-proBNP: N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

## Table S4. Discrimination for the outcome of heart failure hospitalization or cardiovascular death.

			Continuous NRI	IDI
Models	c-statistic	Change in c-statistic	(95% Bootstrap CI)	(95% Bootstrap CI)
Clinical model*	0.75			
Clinical model + hsTnI	0.78	0.036	0.5778 (0.4562, 0.6992)	0.0708 (0.0527, 0.0921)
Clinical model + NTproBNP	0.82	0.075	0.6684 (0.5655, 0.7735)	0.1619 (0.1344, 0.1947)
Clinical model + GDF15	0.76	0.016	0.2066 (0.0818, 0.3356)	0.0305 (0.0181, 0.046)
Clinical model + GAL3	0.76	0.011	0.2246 (0.1062, 0.3401)	0.0208 (0.0123, 0.0311)
Clinical model + ADPN	0.76	0.015	0.2644 (0.1422, 0.3887)	0.0132 (0.0037, 0.0236)
Clinical model + All biomarkers	0.83	0.082	0.6994 (0.5924, 0.8101)	0.1747 (0.145, 0.2091)
Clinical model + hsTnI (by cut-offs)	0.76	0.016	0.4460 (0.3213, 0.5796)	0.0411 (0.0276, 0.0553)
Clinical model + NTproBNP (by cut-offs)	0.81	0.060	0.9041 (0.7951, 1.0132)	0.1302 (0.1099, 0.1516)
Clinical model + GDF15 (by cut-offs)	0.76	0.010	0.4195 (0.3013, 0.5416)	0.0168 (0.0094, 0.0239)
Clinical model + GAL3 (by cut-offs)	0.76	0.007	0.3139 (0.1853, 0.4307)	0.0131 (0.0081, 0.019)
Clinical model + ADPN (by cut-offs)	0.76	0.014	0.4065 (0.2829, 0.5394)	0.0198 (0.0105, 0.0295)
Clinical model + All biomarkers (by cut-offs)	0.82	0.068	0.8276 (0.721, 0.9346)	0.1522 (0.1299, 0.1791)

\*The clinical model adjusted by age (continuous), sex, systolic blood pressure (continuous), history of heart failure, duration of diabetes, prior myocardial infarction, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking, estimated glomerular filtration rate (continuous). ADPN: adiponectin; Gal-3: galectin-3; GDF-15: growth-differentiation-factor -15; hs-CRP: high sensitivity C-reactive protein; NT-proBNP: N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.





eGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate. Variables with a p-value  $\geq 0.05$  for the association with the variable and outcome in multivariable analysis are not displayed. A higher X<sup>2</sup> score implies a stronger association with the outcome.

Figure S2. Relative importance of clinical variables and biomarkers for the composite outcome of cardiovascular death, heart failure hospitalization, initiation of loop diuretics, or elevated NT-proBNP during follow-up.



NT-proBNP N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide; GDF-15 growth-differentiation-factor -15; Gal-3 galectin-3. Variables with a p-value ≥0.05 for the association with the variable and outcome in multivariable analysis are not displayed. A higher X<sup>2</sup> score implies a stronger association with the outcome.