

Abbott's high sensitive troponin test to women's rescue

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Recently Abbott announces promising preliminary results from a study presented at the ESC Congress 2013. It suggests that high sensitive troponin test may help doctors improve the diagnosis and prognosis of patients presenting with symptoms of a heart attack. The test could be particularly beneficial for women, who may have different presenting symptoms and are often under-diagnosed. The study, which is being conducted by researchers at the university of Edinburgh, is evaluating Abbott's ARCHITECT STAT High Sensitive Troponin-I (HsTnI) test, which received CE Mark in January 2013.

Cardiac troponin, a protein found in the heart muscle, is considered the preferred biomarker to identify suspected heart attacks, because it can detect injury to the heart. Abbott's hsTnI test can measure very low levels of this protein, which is especially important for women, who often have lower levels of troponin than men.

"While Abbott's high sensitive troponin test benefits both men and women with earlier detection of heart attacks, the potential to increase the diagnosis among women is especially important," said John Frels, PhD, divisional vice president, Diagnostic Research, Abbott. "This is the first time we have seen a test that can provide this kind of detailed information to doctors and has the potential to aid doctors with improving the odds of survival for women with heart attacks" he added.

Researchers shared data from the first 1,126 patients of the study presenting with symptoms of heart attack. Early findings demonstrate that women have lower peak levels of troponin than men, contributing to the under-treatment of heart attacks for women. The study was funded by a special project grant from the British Heart Foundation with Abbott providing the ARCHITECT STAT hsTnI assay

"Whilst men and women are just as likely to present to the emergency department with chest pain, currently men are twice as likely to be diagnosed with a heart attack. By using the Abbott high sensitive troponin test and different diagnostic thresholds for men and women, the frequency of diagnosis of heart attacks in women increased and was comparable to men," said Dr. Nicholas Mills, one of the key study authors and cardiologist, University of Edinburgh. "The findings of our study, when

completed, could change the way we diagnose heart attacks in women, potentially reducing inequalities in the treatment and outcomes, and enabling everyone to receive the best care.