CARDIAC TROPONIN I/ (cTnI)

Intended Use

The i-STAT® cardiac troponin I (cTnI) test is an *in vitro* diagnostic test for the quantitative measurement of cardiac troponin I (cTnI) in whole blood or plasma. Measurements of cardiac troponin I are used in the diagnosis and treatment of myocardial infarction and as an aid in the risk stratification of patients with acute coronary syndromes with respect to their relative risk of mortality.

Method Explanation

The i-STAT cTnI test cartridge uses a two-site enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) method. Antibodies specific for human cardiac troponin I (cTnI) are located on an electrochemical sensor fabricated on a silicon chip. Also deposited in another location on the sensor silicon chip is an antibody/alkaline phosphatase enzyme conjugate specific to a separate portion of the cTnI molecule. The whole blood or plasma sample is brought into contact with the sensors allowing the enzyme conjugate to dissolve into the sample. The cTnI within the sample becomes labeled with alkaline phosphatase and is captured onto the surface of the electrochemical sensor during an incubation period of approximately seven minutes. The sample, as well as excess enzyme conjugate, is washed off the sensors. Within the wash fluid is a substrate for the alkaline phosphatase enzyme. The enzyme bound to the antibody/antigen/antibody sandwich cleaves the substrate releasing an electrochemically detectable product. The electrochemical (amperometric) sensor measures this enzyme product which is proportional to the concentration of cTnI within the sample.

Contents

Each i-STAT cTnI cartridge provides a sample inlet, sensors to detect the cTnI as described above, and all the necessary reagents needed to perform the test. The cartridge contains a buffer and preservatives. A list of reactive ingredients is indicated below:

Reactive Ingredient	Biological Source	Minimum Quantity
Antibody/Alkaline Phosphatase Conjugate	Caprine IgG : Bovine Intestine	0.003 µg
IgG	Caprine IgG : Murine IgG	8 µg : 8 µg
Sodium Aminophenyl Phosphate	N/A	0.9 mg
Heparin	Porcine Intestine	0.45 IU
IgM	Murine IgM	0.3 µg

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Metrological Traceability

The i-STAT System test for cardiac troponin-I (cTnI) measures cardiac troponin-I amount-of-substance concentration in plasma or the plasma fraction of whole blood (dimension ng mL^{-1}) for *in vitro* diagnostic use. Cardiac troponin-I values assigned to i-STAT's controls and calibration verification materials are traceable to i-STAT's working calibrator prepared from human cardiac troponin-ITC complex (Hy-Test Ltd., Turku, Finland, catalogue #8T62). i-STAT System controls and calibration verification materials are validated for use only with the i-STAT System and assigned values may not be commutable with other methods. Further information regarding metrological traceability is available from Abbott Point of Care Inc.

Reportable Range

The i-STAT cTnI test will report 0.00 to 50.00 ng/mL (µg/L). Samples above the reportable range will yield ">50.00 ng/mL" on the analyzer display screen. However, the performance characteristics of the i-STAT cTnI measurement have not been established for cTnI values above 35.00 ng/mL (µg/L).

Reference Range

Whole blood and plasma samples from 162 apparently healthy donors were assayed in duplicate using three different lots of i-STAT cTnI cartridges. The 0 to 97.5% range of results spanned 0.00 ng/mL (µg/L) to 0.03 ng/mL (µg/L). The 0 to 99% range of results spanned 0.00 ng/mL (µg/L) to 0.08 ng/mL (µg/L).

Note: Each facility should establish its own reference range using the i-STAT cTnI assay.

Clinical Significance

Biochemical cardiac markers, including cTnI, are useful for both the diagnosis of myocardial infarction and the risk stratification that can help guide the choice of therapeutic options.

For optimal diagnostic usefulness, a cardiac marker should be specific for cardiac tissue, should be rapidly released into the bloodstream with a direct proportional relationship between the extent of myocardial injury and the measured level of the marker, and should persist in blood for a sufficient length of time to provide a convenient diagnostic time window.[1] The cardiac-specific troponins, troponin I (cTnI) and troponin T (cTnT) are considered the biochemical markers of choice in the evaluation of acute coronary syndromes (ACS) including ST-elevation myocardial infarction, non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction, and unstable angina.[2,3] Elevated levels of cardiac-specific troponins convey prognostic information beyond that supplied by the patients clinical signs and symptoms, the ECG at presentation, and the pre-discharge exercise test.[1] Antman et al. reported that patients with elevated levels of cTnI had a statistically significant increase in mortality ($p < 0.001$).[4] Other studies have shown increases in other non-fatal cardiac events such as non-fatal MI, congestive heart failure, and urgent revascularization with increasing levels of cTnI.[5,6,7]

The ability for cTnI to be measured at low concentrations allows therapeutic intervention to be considered at any elevation above the normal range. Patients that present with no ST-elevation on their ECG but who have even slight elevation in cTnI or cTnT may receive a greater treatment benefit from certain drugs such as GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors or low molecular weight heparin.[8,9,10]

A Global Task Force with joint leadership from the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF), the American Heart Association (AHA) and the World Heart Federation (WHF) refined past criteria of myocardial infarction with a universal definition of myocardial infarction that supports the use of cTnI as a preferred biomarker for myocardial injury. The universal definition of MI according to this task force is defined as a typical rise and gradual fall of cardiac biomarkers (preferably troponin) with at least one value above the 99th percentile of the upper reference limit (URL) together with evidence of myocardial ischemia with at least one of the following: ischemic symptoms, pathological Q waves on electrocardiogram (ECG), ischemic ECG changes, or imaging evidence of new loss of viable myocardium or new regional wall motion abnormality.[2] An elevated troponin value alone is not sufficient to diagnose a myocardial infarction. Rather, the patient's clinical presentation (history, physical

exam) and ECG should be used in conjunction with troponin in the diagnostic evaluation of suspected myocardial infarction.[3] A serial sampling protocol is recommended to facilitate the identification of temporal changes in troponin levels characteristic of MI.[2,3,11]

Since cTnI is not unequivocably detectable by commercial assays in samples from healthy persons, measurements beyond the upper limit of the reference range have a significant probability of being associated with ischemia or necrosis;[12] this probability increases with the measured troponin concentration. Nonetheless, by definition, results beyond the reference range will occur in a normal population in healthy individuals in the absence of myocardial necrosis, i.e., a result beyond the 99th percentile does not confirm the presence of troponin with absolute certainty. Each institution should determine the reference range and decision levels appropriate to its specific patient population and clinical practice.

Acute myocardial injury is evidenced by temporal changes in troponin levels while consistent elevations of troponin may be suggestive of other chronic cardiac or non-cardiac conditions. There are many clinical conditions that can lead to an elevated troponin level without ischemic coronary artery disease. Such conditions include blunt trauma, myocarditis, congestive heart failure, left ventricular hypertrophy etc.[13,14] These clinical conditions should be considered when interpreting results. The use of serial sampling with a consistent troponin methodology can identify temporal troponin changes, as well as provide additional information that can assist in the clinical diagnosis for those patients with low-level results. Where there are inconsistencies in the clinical information or where diagnostic criteria are not fully satisfied, the possibility of biased results should be recognized – see Test Limitations.

Performance Characteristics

Precision data were collected in multiple sites as follows: Duplicates of each control were tested daily for a period of 20 days, resulting in a total of 40 replicates. The average statistics are presented below.

Method comparison data were collected using CLSI guideline EP9-A2.[15] Venous blood samples were collected in heparinized evacuated tubes and analyzed in duplicate on the i-STAT System. A portion of the specimen was centrifuged and the separated plasma was analyzed in duplicate on the comparative method within 1 hour of collection.

Deming regression analysis[16] was performed on the first replicate of each sample. In the method comparison table, n is the number of specimens in the first data set, Sxx and Syy refer to estimates of imprecision based on the duplicates of the comparative and the i-STAT methods respectively. Sy.x is the standard error of the estimate, and r is the correlation coefficient.*

Method comparisons will vary from site to site due to differences in sample handling, comparative method calibration and other site specific variables.

Interference studies were based on CLSI guideline EP7.[17]

*The usual warning relating to the use of regression analysis is summarized here as a reminder. For any analyte, "if the data is a narrow range, the estimate of the regression parameters are relatively imprecise and may be biased. Therefore, predictions made from estimates may be invalid".[13] The correlation coefficient, r, can be used as a guide to assess the adequacy of the comparative method range in overcoming the problem. As a guide, the range of data can be considered adequate if r>0.975.

Precision Data (ng/mL)

Control	Mean	SD	%CV
Level 1	0.53	0.04	7.8
Level 2	2.17	0.18	8.5
Level 3	31.82	2.42	7.6

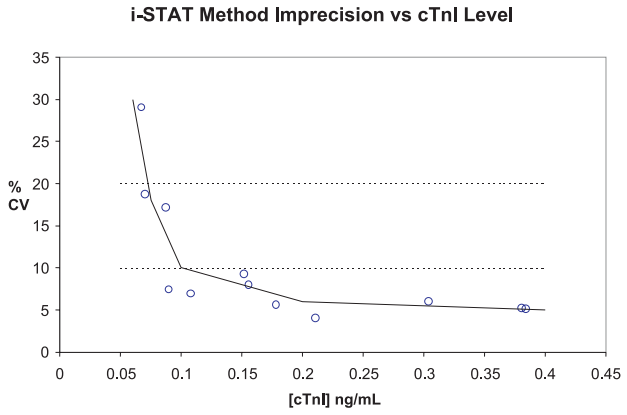
Method Comparison (ng/mL)

	Dade Behring Stratus® CS
n	189
Sxx	0.28
Syy	0.31
Slope	0.883
Int't	0.029
Sy.x	1.40
Xmin	0.00
Xmax	46.27
r	0.975

Analytical and Functional Sensitivities

The analytical sensitivity of the cTnI method is 0.02 ng/mL, which is the lowest cTnI level that can be distinguished from zero. The analytical sensitivity is defined as the concentration at two standard deviations from a sample at 0.00 ng/mL.

Another characteristic of an analytical measurement is the functional sensitivity, which is defined as the cTnI level at which the test method displays a particular percent coefficient of variation (%CV). Estimates of the 20% and 10% functional sensitivity for the cTnI method were determined from whole blood measurements. The 20% and 10% functional sensitivities for the cTnI method are 0.07 ng/mL and 0.10 ng/mL, respectively (see graph below).



Analytical Specificity

The cTnI method is specific for cardiac troponin I. The following muscle proteins were tested and found to have an insignificant effect on the measured cTnI.

Crossreactant	Concentration	Percent Crossreactivity
Troponin C (cardiac)	1000 ng/mL	<0.002%
Troponin T (cardiac)	1000 ng/mL	0.65%
Troponin I (skeletal)	1000 ng/mL	<0.002%
Troponin T (skeletal)	1000 ng/mL	<0.002%

Recovery

The dilution linearity of the i-STAT cTnI test was investigated using heparinized whole blood and plasma samples derived from 3 separate donors. For each donor, the original cTnI negative sample and a cTnI spiked sample were prepared. This process yielded three cTnI positive whole blood samples that were then assayed in duplicate for each of three separate i-STAT cTnI cartridge lots. These whole blood samples were then diluted using an equal mass of the original unspiked whole blood and assayed in duplicate. From this whole blood data, the cTnI recovery was calculated.

The plasma derived from these three donors was combined in equal masses and all pairwise combinations. These combinations were then assayed in duplicate for each of three separate i-STAT cTnI cartridge lots. The cTnI recovery for each pair was calculated using the average of the 6 results. The % recoveries are listed in the Tables below.

Whole blood

Sample	Concentration	Diluted Concentration	% Recovery
A	2.05	1.04	101%
B	6.31	3.14	100%
C	27.04	14.05	104%

Plasma

Sample	Concentration	Diluted Concentration	% Recovery
A	2.41	-----	-----
B	7.50	-----	-----
C	29.35	-----	-----
A+B	-----	4.69	95%
B+C	-----	18.90	103%
A+C	-----	16.89	106%

Test Limitations

The frequency of suppressed results is affected by atmospheric pressure. Suppressed result rates may increase with higher elevations (decreased barometric pressure) and may become persistent if testing is performed at more than 7500 feet above sea level. Where unavailability of results is unacceptable, i-STAT recommends having an alternate test method available.

Samples from patients who have been exposed to animals or who have received therapeutic or diagnostic procedures employing immunoglobulins or reagents derived from immunoglobulins may contain antibodies, e.g., HAMA or other heterophile antibodies, which may interfere with immunoassays and produce erroneous results.[18-24] The generation of potentially interfering antibodies in response to bacterial infections has been reported.[16] While this product contains reagents that minimize the effect of these interferents and QC algorithms designed to detect their effects, the possibility of interference causing erroneous results should be evaluated carefully in cases where there are inconsistencies in the clinical information. Results from the i-STAT cTnI assay should be considered in the context of the entirety of the available clinical information. Medical decisions should not be based on a single i-STAT measurement.[14]

Cardiac troponin may not appear in circulation for 4-6 hours following the onset of symptoms of MI. Consequently, a single negative result is insufficient to rule out MI. The use of a serial sampling protocol is recommended practice.[11]

The results of different troponin assays are not generally comparable: cTnI and cTnT are distinct molecules and results are not interchangeable, nor comparable. In addition, significant variation in absolute troponin values may be observed for a given patient specimen with different analytic methods.[13]

Partially clotted samples can result in elevated cTnI results above the reference range, as well as quality check code errors. To prevent this from occurring, upon drawing the whole blood sample into a heparinized collection tube, the sample should be inverted gently at least 10 times to ensure even dissolution of the heparin anticoagulant.

Grossly hemolyzed samples can cause a decreased alkaline phosphatase activity, resulting in decreased detection of cTnI, increased assay backgrounds, and/or quality check codes.

Hematocrits in the range of 0-65% PCV have been demonstrated not to affect results. Samples with hematocrit levels above this range have demonstrated increases in the test imprecision and quality check codes.

The analyzer must remain on a level surface with the display facing up during testing. Motion of the analyzer during testing can increase the frequency of suppressed results or quality check codes. A level surface includes running the handheld in the downloader/recharger.

Interference Testing

The following substances were found to have no significant effect (less than 10%) on the cTnI method, when added to a plasma pool containing approximately 2 ng/mL of cardiac troponin I, at the concentrations indicated:

Compound	Test Level (µmol/L unless otherwise indicated)
Acetaminophen	1660
Allopurinol	294
Ascorbic Acid	227
Acetyl Salicylic Acid	3330
Atenolol	37.6
Caffeine	308
Captopril	23
Chloramphenicol	155
Diclofenac	169
Digoxin	6.15
Dopamine	5.87
Enalaprilat	0.86
Erythromycin	81.6
Furosemide	181
Sodium Heparin*	36 U/mL
Ibuprofen	2425
Isosorbide dinitrate	636
Methyldopa	71
Nicotine	6.2
Nifedipine	1.156
Phenytoin	198
Propranolol	7.71
Salicylic Acid	4340
Theophylline	222
Verapamil	4.4
Warfarin	64.9

*Heparin at 90 U/mL was found to decrease the cTnI level by approximately 20%.

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