Reply to the Letter by Kapoor Entitled ‘Emerging New Markers of Stroke Risk and Prognosis’

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Dear Sir,

We appreciate the interest of Dr. Kapoor in our article recently published in *European Neurology* [1]. Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) is a cardiac neurohormone specifically secreted from the ventricles in response to ventricular volume expansion and pressure overload. Previous studies have shown that the BNP level is related to cardiac function, and it has been used as a biochemical marker of congestive heart failure. BNP levels have also been shown

to be elevated in patients with acute ischemic stroke [2–6], in particular, those with atrial fibrillation [2–4, 6], and associated with neurological severity [3–5]. Furthermore, we demonstrated that high BNP level is associated with in-hospital mortality [5] or long-term mortality [2] after ischemic stroke. Recently, a rapid (approx. 15 min) and easy assay for the measurement of BNP was developed [6]. Therefore, we propose regular BNP mea-

surements because BNP level in ischemic stroke patients provides diagnostic or prognostic information which adds to clinical variables and helps guide patient management.

Disclosure Statement

None.

References

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