



An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

THE PATHOLOGY CENTER

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Bulletin

Technical

B N P

Until recently, there has not been a blood test to differentiate a patient with heart failure from one without heart failure. Thus The Pathology Center is offering the BNP test as a fast, easy to run, blood test as an aid in diagnosing congestive heart failure.

B-type Natriuretic Peptide (Brain Natriuretic Peptide, BNP) is stored in and secreted from heart ventricles, where it acts to regulate blood pressure and fluid balance. It is released from the heart in response to ventricular volume expansion and pressure overload. The measurement of BNP is used as an aid in the diagnosis of congestive heart failure. CHF is difficult to diagnose, since symptoms like shortness of breath can be found in a wide range of diseases, like pulmonary edema, pneumonia, and COPD. Often the CHF patients have co-existing respiratory disease or poor physical conditioning. Diagnosis at early stages would permit intervention to prevent advance of disease.

BNP has an excellent negative predictive value. The normal range is <100 pg/mL. The measureable range of the Triage® BNP test is from 5 pg/mL to 1300 pg/mL.

The Triage® BNP test is a fluorescence immunoassay that measures BNP in whole blood and plasma specimens using EDTA as the anticoagulant. If testing cannot be accomplished within 4 hours after collection of the specimen, the separated plasma should be stored at -20°C until tested. Hemolyzed samples are not acceptable.

Please call Client Services at (402)354-4541 or toll free 1-888-432-8980 if you have any questions.

(Reference: Triage® BNP product insert)