SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental data regarding the APACE control cohort

Cohort details

The Advantageous Predictors of Acute Coronary Syndromes Evaluation (APACE)^{49, 50} is an ongoing prospective multicentre international diagnostic study including 12 centres in 5 countries in Europe aiming to advance the early diagnosis of AMI. Briefly, adult patients presenting to the ED with symptoms suggestive of AMI, such as acute chest discomfort or angina pectoris were recruited to the APACE study. Adjudication of the final diagnosis was performed centrally at the core laboratory (University Hospital Basel) according to the fourth Universal Definition of MI (UDMI)³. Two independent cardiologists reviewed all available medical records including cardiac imaging and serial hs-cTnT measurements. Blood was collected at four different time-points (enrolment/admission to the ED, 1hr, 2hr and 3hr), as long as the patient was staying in observation in the ED. 3314 patients adjudicated as presenting with chest pain of non-cardiac etiology were available for the derivation of bioequivalent ULN for the approved ULN of 14ng/L for hs-cTnT-Elecsys. Patients charts were reviewed to exclude cases presenting with a muscle disorder (n=22), leaving 3292 patients for analysis. Patients with a final adjudicated non-cardiac cause of acute chest pain were selected for comparing the prevalence of cTnT/I mismatches.

Derivation of bioequivalent cut-offs in the control cohort

The two available hs-cTnI (Architect or Access) assays concentrations were plotted against hs-cTnT-Elecsys concentrations for all patients of the APACE cohort where both biomarkers were available across all collection timepoints in the same sample (of 3292 patients, 8952 concomitant measurements available for hs-cTnT-Elecsys and hs-cTnI-Architect and 2878 concomitant measurements available for hs-cTnT-Elecsys and hs-cTnI-Access). We did not assume any given distribution for the relationship between hs-cTnT-Elecsys and the I-assays and therefore used a quantile regression with restricted cubic spline using 5 knots (placed at the 5th, 27.5th, 50th, 72.5th and 95th percentile). The bioequivalent hs-cTnI ULN was predicted using the uniform approved ULN of 14ng/L for hs-cTnT-Elecsys (**figures S1 and S2**). The analysis was conducted in the R statistical software using the packages "rms"³²

Sample size calculation

We planned to adjust for multiple testing for three comparison (each hs-cTnI assay with the hs-cTnT-Elecsys assay), leading to an adjusted two-sided type I error of 0.016 (0.05/3) according to the stringent correction for multiple testing by Bonferroni.

Based on a McNemar test (as observations are paired) with the proportion of patients to present an elevated hs-cTnT in the overall cohort to be 67% and the proportion of patients presenting an elevated hs-cTnI to be 10% and a selected power of 90% with an adjusted two-sided type I error of 0.016, we obtained a first sample size of 40 patients. Based on initial preliminary data, we conservatively predicted the proportion of patients without cardiac disease to be 25% in our cohort, leading to a total sample size of 160 patients. We estimated at 10% of the patients lacking at least one of the three hs-cTnI measurement (16 patients). Therefore, a total sample size of 176 patients for the overall cohort was calculated. This would allow us to detect a difference in proportion of hs-cTn between the two assays using a Fisher exact test and to allow sufficient power the population with no cardiac disease.

Table S1 – STROBE checklist for reports of cohort studies

Results

Table S2 – Subtypes for each diagnosis mainclass of muscle disorders

FSHD = Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, LGMD = Limb–girdle muscular dystrophy

Table S3 — Baseline characteristics of the control cohort of patients with adjudicated non-cardiac causes of acute chest pain

RNA-seq experiment

Sample randomization

RNA extraction was performed in batches of up to 18 samples, library preparation and sequencing in batches of up to 30 samples. We performed block randomization using the R package OSAT (Optimal Sample Assignment Tool v1.40.0 (DOI: 10.18129/B9.bioc.OSAT) such that samples were equally distributed across the batches with regard to the case/control status and gender.

RNA extraction

RNA extraction was performed by CEGAT GmbH (Tübingen, Germany). Total RNA was extracted for 54 samples using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Netherlands). For samples with low RIN or insufficient RNA yield, RNA extraction was performed again by using RNeasy Fibrous Tissue Mini kit (Qiagen, Netherlands). Finally, four samples failed during RNA extraction. Of the remaining, RNA of 10 samples was with RNeasy Fibrous Tissue Mini kit and 39 samples was extracted with RNeasy Mini Kit. Because of the re-extraction for some of the samples, the predefined batches for RNA extraction could not be adhered to.

Library preparation and RNA sequencing

Purification of mRNA by poly(A)-selection, mRNA fragmentation and cDNA library preparation for RNA-Seq were performed using the TruSeq Stranded mRNA Library Preparation Kit (Illumina, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. cDNA libraries were sequenced as paired-end reads with 100 cycles and a depth of 80M clusters on a NovaSeq 6000 sequencing system (Illumina, USA). No sample failed during library preparation.

RNA-seq computational analysis

Mapping and pre-processing

We performed adaptor clipping and quality-trimming of sequences using Fastp v0.11.9 (https://github.com/OpenGene/fastp). In Fastp, we used the default adaptor clipping as well as sequence length filtering and disabled quality filtering. Moreover, since the two colour chemistry system of NovaSeq is not able to distinguish "G" and "no signal", we applied a polyG trail trimming.

Reads were aligned to the GENCODE v35 GRCh38 reference transcriptome using the transcript quantifier Salmon v1.3.0 (https://salmon.readthedocs.io/).

Subsequently, we used the R package tximeta to combine Salmon transcript quantifications and sample data and to summarize transcript quantifications on gene level.

Quality control

For assessing the data quality on a read and alignment level, we used FastQC v0.11.9 (www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/) and MultiQC v1.9 (https://multiqc.info/). before and after trimming.

For detecting outlier samples, we performed a principal component analysis on variance stabilizing transformed counts for the 500 genes with the highest variance using the R package DESeq2 v1.28.0. We calculated pairwise correlations of the first two principal components, patient data and technical variables obtained from MultiQC using (1) linear regression for pairs of nominal and numeric variables, (2) Spearman's rank correlation coefficient for pairs of numeric variables and (3) Cramer's V and Pearson's chi-squared test for pairs with nominal variables to assess for confounding variables and hidden associations. The effect of batch removal through identified variables was simulated with limma v3.46.0. We defined variables as confounders if they showed a correlation of > 0.5 at a P-value < 0.05 with either PC1 or PC2.

We also tested self-reported sex to correspond with sex inferred by the expression of *XIST*, a gene that encodes for long non-coding RNA in the sex-specific X-inactivation process. This gene is not or only marginally expressed in males. Accordingly we predicted samples to be male if transcripts per million (TPM) < 5 and female if not.

Differential gene expression

We performed differential gene expression (DGE) analysis on all sequenced samples using the summarized gene counts with DESeq2 v1.28.0.

In our first DGE analyses, we compared all cases versus all controls. In total, we tested six genes for DGE, namely *TNNT1-3* and *TNNI1-3*. Resulting P-values attained by the Wald test were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg (BH) method. We defined the significant level as α = 0.05. Since there was no value overlap in the "muscle type" variable between cases and controls, we could not investigate the effect of this variable by adjusting for it (**Figure S7**).

Next, we performed a subgroup analysis on the major gene of interest, *TNNT2* (cardiac type), by forming three disease groups according to **Figure S8** and comparing them pairwise: (1) containing all samples of the disease class "Myopathy", (2) containing all samples from the disease class "Myositis" and (3) "Other SMD" combining all samples of the remaining disease classes ("Muscle symptom", "Myasthenic syndrome" and "Neuropathy"). Since the correlation analysis (next section) revealed a significant association of biopsy status and expression level, which cannot be solely explained by the disease groups, we also added the "biopsy status" to the model to correct for it. In this analysis, we corrected the statistical test of the three pairwise comparisons for multiple testing using BH.

Figure S1. Biopsied muscle types in case and control cohorts.

TNNT2 vs disease activity correlation analysis

To investigate the effect of disease activity in the biopsy samples on the gene expression of *TNNT2*, we calculated a disease activity score for the case cohort based on 18 ordinal marker variables describing the disease status of the biopsy samples.

Due to a substantial amount of missing values we applied a filtering by removing variables with more than 70% of missingness and subsequently case samples with more than 60% of missingness. 14 markers and 28 of 33 case samples passed the filtering. These markers were : Fiber caliber variability, central nuclei, endomysial connective tissue, Vakafett, atrophic fibers, myophagia and necrotic fibers, fiber splitting, rimmed vacuoles, ragged red fibers, COX or SDH positive fibers, fiber distribution pattern, neutral fat and inflammatory infiltrates.

Then we transformed the discrete values for each variable to the interval [0,1]. Then, we imputed missing values by setting them to the mean value of the respective variable. Finally, we summed up the resulting values for each case sample to form a disease activity score.

We then applied linear regression on the models

(1) log10(norm_count) ~ disease_activity_score

(2) log10(norm_count) ~ disease_activity_score + disease_class

Dependent variable *norm_count* denotes the normalized counts calculated by DESeq2 and independent variable *disease_class* denotes the disease classes ("Myopathy" [n = 7], "Myositis" $[n = 13]$, "Other SMD" $[n = 8]$).

Disease class differences

To investigate potential differences among the three disease classes, we performed a Likelihood ratio test with DESeq2 by adjusting for a disease activity score which is described in detail in the previous section. In this analysis we used subset of case samples (n = 28) for which disease activity score could be derived.

rn	Overall	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk	p		
n	211	59	44	108			
Echocardiography							
Examination conducted in (%)	118 (56)	44 (75)	26 (59)	48 (44)	0.001		
LVEDD (median [QR]	46.0 [42.0, 49.0]	48.0 [45.0, 50.31	46.0 [41.0, 50.0]	44.0 [39.2, 48.0]	0.003		
LVEF (median [IQR])	60.0 [55.0, 65.0]	59.0 [53.0, 65.5]	59.0 [56.0, 60.01	61.0 [58.2, 65.01	0.065		
Reduced motility (%)	10(8)	8(18)	2(8)	0(0)	0.007		
LVH $(%)$	12(10)	11(25)	1(4)	0(0)	< 0.001		
Any severe valvular defect $(\%)$	14(7)	14 (24)	0(0)	0(0)	< 0.001		
Cardiac MRI							
Examination conducted in $(\%)$	47 (22)	19 (32)	8(18)	20(19)	0.097		
LVEF (median [IQR])	61.0 [55.0, 64.01	58.5 [51.8, 63.5]	63.5 [58.8, 65.01	61.0 [55.5, 62.81	0.461		
motility LV reduced $(\%)$	5(2)	4(7)	1(2)	0(0)	0.023		
motility RV reduced $(\%)$	1(0)	0(0)	1(2)	0(0)	0.149		
Dilatation LV (%)	3(1)	1(2)	2(5)	0(0)	0.098		
Dilatation RV (%)	1(0)	0(0)	1(2)	0(0)	0.149		
hypertrophy LV (%)	5(2)	3(5)	2(5)	0(0)	0.067		
hypertrophy RV (%)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)			
enhancement LV $(\%)$	10(5)	10(17)	0(0)	0(0)	< 0.001		
enhancement RV (%)	3(1)	3(5)	0(0)	0(0)	0.020		
scar LV (%)	4(2)	4(7)	0(0)	0(0)	0.005		
scar RV $(%)$	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)			
Any severe valvular defect $(\%)$	3(1)	3(5)	0(0)	0(0)	0.020		

Table S4 — Cardiac imaging (transthoracic echocardiography and cardiac MRI) performed in the patients with skeletal muscle disease

RV = right ventricle, LV = left ventricle, LVEF = Left ventricular ejection fraction, LVEDD = Left ventricular end diastolic diameter, LVH = Left ventricular hypertrophy.

Table S5 — hs-cTnT/I concentrations in ng/L as measured by the different assays and comparison with the controls adjudicated to have non-cardiac causes of acute chest pain.

IQR = Interquartile range. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Table S6 – Characterizations of patients above the rule-in hs-cTnT cut-off of the ESC 0/1hr and ESC 0/2hr algorithm (52ng/L) in the overall cohort and subgroup with no cardiac disease

AMI = Acute myocardial infarction, eGFR = estimated GFR, IQR = Interquartile range

Table S7 – Percentages of elevated hs-cTnT/I in the overall cohort and the cohort with no cardiac disease

CI = Confidence interval , ULN= Upper limit of normal. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Table S8 - Percentages of elevated hs-cTnT/I in the APACE control cohort

CI = Confidence interval , ULN= Upper limit of normal. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Table S9 – Percentages of elevated hs-cTn in the overall cohort and subgroup with no cardiac disease of patients with a myositis or a non-inflammatory myopathy

CI = Confidence interval , ULN= Upper limit of normal. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Table S10 — Correlations between CK and hs-cTn assays

Equations were derived using the logarithm of CK and hs-cTn concentrations, as both biomarkers were not normally distributed. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Table S11 — Correlations between CK-MB and hs-cTnT/I assays

Equations were derived using the logarithm of CK-MB and hs-cTn concentrations, as both biomarkers were not normally distributed. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Variable	Cases	Controls	\mathbf{p}
n	33	16	
Sex: Female (%)	13 (39)	7(44)	1.000
Age (mean (SD))	59.0 (17.2)	68.4 (12.9)	0.061
Hospitalized (%)	1(3)	0(0)	< 0.001
Coronary artery disease (%)	2(6)	1(6)	1.000
Previous AMI (%)	2(6)	1(6)	1.000
Hypertension (%)	13 (39)	12 (75)	0.032
Hypercholesterolemia (%)	12 (36)	4(25)	0.526
Diabetes Mellitus (%)	5(15)	5(31)	0.261
History of atrial fibrillation (%)	1(3)	2(12)	0.245
Previous DVT or PE (%)	1(3)	4(25)	0.034
Heart failure: NYHA II (%)	0(0)	1(6)	0.327
Pacemaker (%)	0(0)	0(0)	
ICD(%)	0(0)	0(0)	
Stroke (%)	2(6)	1(6)	1.000
Muscle manifestations: Upper or lower body (%)			
Lower body	9(27)	0(0)	
Upper body	5(15)	0(0)	
Lower and upper body	8(24)	0(0)	
Not localized	11(33)	0(0)	
Muscle manifestations : proximal or distal (%)			
proximal	2(6)	0(0)	
distal	12 (36)	0(0)	
proximal and distal	8(24)	0(0)	
Not localized	11(33)	0(0)	
Begin of symptoms >1 year (%)	21 (66)	0(0)	
Muscle pain (%)	17 (52)	0(0)	
Muscle cramps (%)	6(18)	0(0)	
Muscle atrophy (%)	10(30)	0(0)	
Muscle stiffness (%)	6(18)	0(0)	
Muscle weakness (%)	21 (64)	0(0)	
Clinical evaluation (%)			
Planned follow-up visit	28 (85)	0(0)	
First evaluation	4(12)	0(0)	
Relapse	1(3)	0(0)	

Table S12 — Baseline characteristics of patients providing a biopsy for mRNA analysis and controls patients

Table S13 — Correlation between circulating log(hs-cTnT) concentrations and TNNT genes expression

Equations were derived using the logarithm of hs-cTn concentrations and normalized gene expression, as both parameters were not normally distributed. *The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Figure S3 – Derivation of a bio-equivalent Upper Limit of Normal for the hs-cTnI-Architect assay to the ULN of 14ng/L for the hs-cTnT Elecsys assay in the APACE cohort using

The blue line represents a median regression using a restricted cubic spline with 5 knots. The light blue ribbon represents 95% prediction intervals.

Figure S4 – Derivation of a bio-equivalent Upper Limit of Normal for the hs-cTnI-Access assay to the ULN of 14ng/L for the hs-cTnT Elecsys assay in the APACE cohort

The blue line represents a median regression using a restricted cubic spline with 5 knots. The light blue ribbon represents 95% prediction intervals.

Figure S5 – Study chart flow

Figure S6 – hs-cTnT/I concentrations in males as measured by the different assays and comparison with the controls from the APACE cohort.

Violine plots representing the distribution of hs-cTnT/I concentrations for the four tested assays and across categories of cardiac disease in males. Sex-specific ULN are represented as broken lines.

Figure S7 – hs-cTnT/I concentrations in females as measured by the different assays and comparison with the controls from the APACE cohort.

Violine plots representing the distribution of hs-cTnT/I concentrations for the four tested assays and across categories of cardiac disease in females. Sex-specific ULN are represented as broken lines.

Inter-assay hs-cTnT/I mismatches using overall uniform approved upper limits of normal (ULN). For each subpanel, two hs-cTnT/I assay are represented with their uniform approved ULNs. In each panel, the four quadrants represent the percentage of patients with the following constellations : green when both hs-cTnT/I assays were below the ULN, grey when both were above the ULN, and red when there was a hs-cTnT/I mismatch (with one of the assay above and one of the assay below the ULN). A) overall cohort, B) Subgroup without cardiac disease.

Figure S9 – Inter-assay hs-cTnT/I mismatches using sex-specific upper limits of normal (ULN)

Inter-assay hs-cTnT/I mismatches using sex-specific upper limits of normal (ULN). For each subpanel, two hs-cTnT/I assay are represented with their sex-specific ULNs. In each panel, the four quadrants represent the percentage of patients with the following constellations : green when both hs-cTnT/I assays were below the ULN, grey when both were above the ULN, and red when there was a hs-cTnT/I mismatch (with one of the assay above and one of the assay below the ULN). A) overall cohort, B) Subgroup without cardiac disease.

Figure S10 – Inter-assay hs-cTn mismatches in the APACE cohort with no cardiac disease using uniform, bio-equivalent and sex-specific ULNs for the available hs-cTnI Assays (Architect and Access)

For each subpanel, two hs-cTnT/I assay are represented with their approved assay-specific 99th-percentile, bioequivalent or sex-specific Upper Limit of Normal (ULN). In each panel, the four quadrants represent the percentage of patients with the following constellations : green when both hs-cTnT/I assays were below the ULN, grey when both were above the ULN, and red when there was a hs-cTnT/I mismatch (with one of the assay above and one of the assay below the ULN).

Figure S11 – hs-cTn concentrations and muscle disorder etiologies in men

The different etiologies of the skeletal muscle disorders are represented on the X-Axis and the concentrations of the biomarkers are represented on the Y-axis using a logarithmic scale. Boxplots represents the interquartile range (IQR) and whiskers ± 1.5*IQR. The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Figure S12 – hs-cTn concentrations and muscle disorder etiologies in women

The different etiologies of the skeletal muscle disorders are represented on the X-Axis and the concentrations of the biomarkers are represented on the Y-axis using a logarithmic scale. Boxplots represents the interquartile range (IQR) and whiskers ± 1.5*IQR. The p-values have been corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini and Hochberg method.

Figure S13 – Correlation of CK-MB and hs-cTn

Correlation between CK-MB and hs-cTn in the A) overall cohort and in B) patients with no cardiac disease. Biomarkers have been logged to approximate normal distribution

Appendix

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