

**Original Investigation**

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# Natriuretic Peptide-Based Screening and Collaborative Care for Heart Failure

## The STOP-HF Randomized Trial

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populations to identify those at highest risk of cardiovascular events and, more specifically, of newly diagnosed HF.<sup>7,8</sup> Studies have shown advantages of using this peptide in this regard over conventional risk indicators.<sup>8,9</sup> This may reflect the fact that BNP is a response to established cardiovascular damage whereas other conventional risk indicators reflect the potential for cardiovascular insult. New data suggest that more targeted surveillance using a combination of risk factors and BNP may improve identification of those at greatest risk of newly diagnosed HF.<sup>10</sup>

Therefore, we hypothesized that BNP-based screening and intervention would target management to those at highest risk of HF and asymptomatic ventricular dysfunction, providing an approach to prevention of HF and cardiovascular disease that would be superior to standard care. **The St Vincent's Screening to Prevent Heart Failure (STOP-HF) study was designed as a pragmatic, prospective randomized trial in a broad community population characterized by collaborative care intervention between cardiovascular specialists and primary care physicians.**

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