

Comparison of Performance Characteristics Between FIA 8000 and Vitros ECiQ Analyzer for Cardiac Troponin I Estimation

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ABSTRACT

Objective: We compared the diagnostic performance of FIA 8000 Quantitative immunoassay point-of-care device for cardiac troponin I (TropP) with fully automated central laboratory Vitros ECiQ Immunodiagnostic Systems (TropV).

Study Design: Experimental study.

Place and Duration of Study: This study was conducted at the Emergency and Pathology Department of Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur over a period of 12 months from September 2015 to October 2016.

Materials and Methods: Blood specimens for cTn I measurement from patients suspected of Myocardial infarction in the ED were divided into two parts. One was analyzed on the FIA 8000. Other was analyzed on Vitros. The calculation of sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values for TropP were made. In TropP elevated samples imprecision, bias and comparative analysis were performed with respect to TropV.

Results: The specificity and false negative results for TropP were more than TropV. The kappa analysis revealed moderate agreement ($\kappa=0.596$). Of the 263 elevated TropP, 18 were negative by TropV, overall TropV results were higher. Coefficient of variations (CVs) was less than 10% in both within and between run assays. Initial comparison of results using Spearman test showed correlation coefficient (r) of 0.98. The results showed good correspondence, when Bland–Altman and Passing–Bablok regression analysis were performed.

Conclusion: The FIA 8000 is helpful in early and reliable diagnosis of myocardial infarction in emergency department.

Key Words: Diagnostic performance, Cardiac troponin I, Vitros ECiQ, FIA 8000

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INTRODUCTION

Myocardial infarction (MI) is necrosis and damage of myocardial cells due to significant narrowing of coronary arteries. Myocardial damage can be detected by measurement of one of the major sensitive and specific cardiac biomarker, troponin I (cTnI) in blood^{1,2}. The rise and/or fall of the troponin level, along with clinical symptoms and/or electrocardiogram is necessary to diagnose acute myocardial infarction³. Recently proposed guidelines advocate measurement of

troponin I for diagnosis and risk assessment of coronary syndrome (ACS)⁴. The speedy and fast decisions about management of patients either in ward or intensive cardiac unit are possible by cTnI measurement.⁵

The POCT device can be used for rapid and accurate cTnI measurement in making decision about myocardial infarction and decreasing mortality and fatality risks associated with it.⁶ An increased cTn concentration is defined as 1 level higher than the 99th percentile of disease free population, on condition that precision is optimal at this level. The precision criteria of co-efficient of variation (CV) <10% at 99th percentile⁷ is met by few manufacturers of POCT assay. So measurement of cTnI at co-efficient of variation <20% is acceptable⁸. The recent guidelines favor turnaround time of less than 30 minutes for cardiac troponin biomarkers⁹. This rapid turnaround time not only facilitates timely diagnosis but also has valuable role in treatment of acute myocardial infarction.¹⁰ The suggested turnaround time is not achieved by most central laboratories.¹⁴ So hospitals have to rely on rapid point-of-care system to assess patients presenting with cardiac symptoms. It eliminates most pre and postanalytical delays and gives urgent diagnosis in a

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time sensitive manner.^{11,12} But most point of care devices have reduced analytical sensitivity and false negative trop I measurements may lead to misdiagnosis of acute coronary syndrome while false positive results in unnecessary hospital admission and medical intervention.¹³ Central laboratory turnaround times consistently less than 60 minutes are clinically appropriate but often difficult to achieve. The approach of using point-of-care (POC) system in emergency department and immunoassay troponin I method during the stay of patient in cardiology unit is followed by many hospitals. This Inter method difference can be especially troublesome for the physicians.¹⁵ This study is performed to appraise the performance of the poc device being used in our emergency department and to compare the result of first drawn specimen for trop I to that measured on central lab device.

Assay principle

The Vitros EciQ Immunodiagnostic System is an electro-chemiluminescence immuno assay technique. The measurement range of cTnI kit is 0.012–80 ng/mL. In GP (Gelatin Biotech Inc, Luhe District, Nanjing, China) cTnI Fast Test Kit antigen(sample) and gold labeled antibody form complex. Then another antibody present on test line captures the complex resulting in purplish red line on test zone. The color intensity of test line is proportional to the amount of cTnI in the sample. FIA 8000 Quantitative immunoassay instrument reads the inserted test card and displays the concentration of measured cTnI on the screen. The limit of detection has been determined to be 0.5 ng/mL. The reportable range of the assay is 0.5–50 ng/mL.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Quaid -e -Azam Medical College from September 2015- October 2016. The study was conducted after approval from Ethical committee. We included 630 subjects who admitted in emergency department with symptoms of chest pain. Those who were diagnosed cases of MI were excluded from the study. Troponin I tests were done using both methodologies on blood samples collected at the same draw by dividing the sample into 2 aliquots after receiving samples in the emergency lab (the first 2

Troponin values for each other) according to manufacturer's instructions.

Control materials

Two levels of commercial quality controls (Liquicheck Cardiac Markers Plus, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA) with different concentrations of cTnI (1.57 and 18.8 mg/L) were analyzed on both instruments. They were tested 20 times during a day in the same analytical run for calculating the within-run imprecision. In addition 20 aliquots per level were frozen for the between-run imprecision determination. One aliquot per level was thawed and analyzed over twenty days. Coefficient of variation (%CV) for within-run and between-run imprecision were calculated.

Statistical Analysis: SPSS software version - 20 (SPSS Inc, Chicago) was employed to perform statistical analysis. The calculation of sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values for troponins was performed. Kappa analysis was carried out to demonstrate correspondence of results. Mean and standard deviation were used to present the variables. The strength of linear relationship between cTnI measurements by laboratory methods was determined by Pearson correlation (r). Bias and agreement between two measured techniques were constructed by Bland and Altman plot using Graph Pad Prism 6 software.

RESULTS

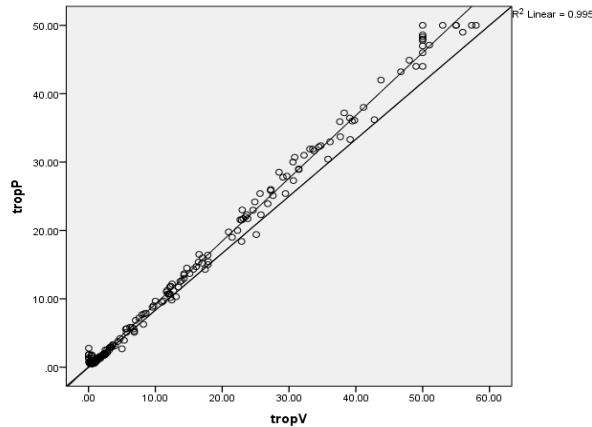
The mean age of patients included in the study was 68.5 ± 10.2 years (range 43 – 84 years). There were 367 (59%) males and 263 (41%) females. The patients with increased cTnI levels obtained from Vitros analyzer (tropV) was assigned as positive case of MI. The results obtained from FIA 8000 showed sensitivity 69%, specificity 93.4%, positive predictive value 93.1%, negative predictive value 69% and likelihood ratio 10.41. The concordance of cTnI result using kappa analysis showed moderate agreement between Vitros and FIA 8000. ($p < 0.001$, $\kappa = 0.596$). The test performed on FIA8000 showed lower values as compared to Vitros. But the results of 18 out of 263 Trop P positive patients were found to be negative when sample were analyzed on Vitros. The test values of Trop V results were 0.06 - 0.21 ng/mL lower than that of Trop P.

Table No.I: Imprecision of TropV and Trop P

		Mean (ng/ml)	Standard deviation(SD)	Coefficient of variation(CV)%
Within run Imprecision	Trop V(level 1)	1.56	0.02	3.12
	Trop P(level 1)	1.42	0.11	7.74
	Trop V(level 2)	18.65	0.43	2.13
	Trop P(level 2)	16.79	1.37	8.58
Between run Imprecision	Trop V(level1)	1.51	0.06	3.97
	Trop P(level 1)	1.49	0.09	6.04
	Trop V(level 2)	18.23	0.49	2.63
	Trop P(level 2)	16.38	1.31	7.99

Table No.2: Comparative analysis between TropP and TropV:-

	Trop V+	Trop V-	Total
Trop P+	245	18	263
Trop P-	153	186	339
Total	398	204	602

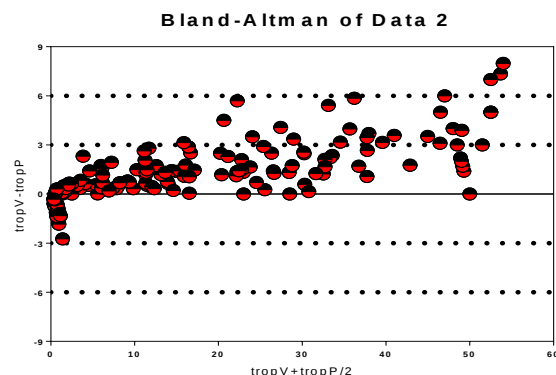
**Figure No. 1: Scatter graph of cTnI measured by FIA 8000 and Vitros**

The calculated relationship was $\text{TropV} = 0.919 \times \text{TropP} + 0.052$.

Table No.3: Results for the comparison between the Trop P and Trop V Results (at 95% confidence intervals)

Regression equation	$Y = 0.9192 \times X + 0.05231$
Intercept	0.05231 (-0.1637 - 0.2683)
Slope	0.9192 (0.9099 - 0.9286)
r	0.9813 (0.9750 - 0.9861)
r ²	0.9950
Bias	1.32(-2.081 - 4.545)

Bland Altman plot between TropP and TropVtest results showed good correspondence, 95% of results were within the ± 2 SD from the mean.

**Figure No.2: Bland Altman of Data 2**

The initial comparison of results using Spearman test showed a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.98. Passing and Bablok for linear regression analysis gave a positive correlation between two techniques.

DISCUSSION

Emergency departments have to rapidly assess and evaluate the cardiac patients to make appropriate decision about timely disposition and proper management of their condition. Many main labs of hospitals are not able to achieve the turnaround time set for cardiac marker testing in spite of better available analytical techniques.¹⁶ Our study indicated the performance of the 2 analysis techniques that may be helpful for the clinicians in diagnosis and management of patients admitted to the ED. The new point-of-care FIA analyzer showed more specificity and positive predictive value. But false negative rate was high. The high-specificity of cardiac Troponin testing may help us in the appropriate diagnosis of a cardiac event. It may facilitate in speedy treatment of all true cardiac events thereby improving the patient's recovery and reduction of mortality. It also showed fair degree of agreement of results to auto analyzer by kappa analysis. The low sensitivity is probably due to the fact that we took only the first Troponin measurements for a patient. The studies conducted by Noyen and Hjortshøj^{17,18} showed the similar results using other poct devices. The POCT instrument used in our study has turnaround time (TAT) of 15 minutes. This favors the current guideline recommendations which suggest that lab should analyze and report Trop results within 60 min after the patient has admitted to the cardiology care unit or emergency department.¹⁹ Patients with symptoms of chest pain can be rapidly assessed with estimation of cTnI levels. FIA 8000 has successfully fulfill the role of ruling out patients with symptoms of acute MI. This instrument like other POCT devices has decrease readmission of patients with similar complaints and aid in saving the hospital financial resources.²⁰ But as with many point-of-care cardiac troponin devices, it is less sensitive than central immunoassay automated analyzers.²¹ In our study, the cTnI levels measured by two different instruments purposed linear

relationship but at elevated concentration the best fit line showed substantial proportional bias. ($\text{TropV} = 0.919 \times \text{TropP} + 0.052$).

Our results are in concordant with the other studies using different POCT devices^{22, 23}. Similarly the Bland-Altman analysis showed a systematic negative bias for the POCT test results compared to the laboratory troponin values. These results are similar to those obtained in other comparison studies^{24, 25}.

CONCLUSION

The FIA 8000 Quantitative immunoassay instrument is an easy, rapid and reliable method for the quantitative analysis of cardiac troponin I. But this POCT device faces problem to establish recommendations for rapid turnaround times, high precision and excellent low-end sensitivity.

Recommendations: It is recommended to have serial measurements for at least 6-8 hours in patients suspected of having a heart event rather than first drawn sample used in our study. Point of care testing is a useful tool to rule out ACS, it shortens the stay of patients in emergency department resulting in early discharge and proves to be cost effective. So physicians must balance the need for earlier receiving of troponin results against analytical characteristics of POCT technique. Different scientific organizations are working together to standardize troponin measurement similar to other lab parameters. So it will be possible in future that compatible troponin results can be obtained independent of analytical instruments and laboratory setting.

Author's Contribution:

Concept & Design of Study: Farhaeen Aslam

Drafting: Maria Mehmud

Data Analysis: Zakir Ali

Revisiting Critically: Tariq Arain

Final Approval of version: Asma Shaukat

Conflict of Interest: The study has no conflict of interest to declare by any author.

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