Figure. Summary of the Use of BNP and NT-proBNP for Diagnosing Heart Failure in Patients with Acute Dyspnea

Patient with acute dyspnea

- Physical examination, chest X-ray, ECG, BNP or NT-proBNP

BNP <100 pg/mL or NT-proBNP ≤300 pg/mL
- Heart failure unlikely

BNP 100-400 pg/mL or NT-proBNP:
- <50 years old: 301-449 pg/mL
- 50-75 years old: 301-899 pg/mL
- >75 years old: 301-1,799 pg/mL
- Grey zone; heart failure risk depends on clinical history

BNP >400 pg/mL or NT-proBNP:
- <50 years old: ≥450 pg/mL
- 50-75 years old: ≥900 pg/mL
- >75 years old: ≥1,800 pg/mL
- Heart failure likely

Echocardiogram, further work-up

This figure was developed by Quest Diagnostics based on references 2-7. It is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. A physician’s test selection and interpretation, diagnosis, and patient management decisions should be based on his/her education, clinical expertise, and assessment of the patient.