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TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE NT-PROBNP LEVELS IN PATIENTS WHO WERE DIAGNOSED AS CHRONIC HEART FAILUREShang Meng Qi *Yijishan Hospital of Wannan Medical College, Wuhu, China*

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Objective To determine the value of NT-proBNP levels in patients who were diagnosed as chronic heart failure.

Methods Serum NT-proBNP levels were measured in 70 patients who had been diagnosed to have CHF, and 20 healthy persons without CHF (control group). The 70 patients who were diagnosed as chronic heart failure (CHF) had left ventricular ejection (LVEF) less than 45%.

Results The levels of serum NT-proBNP were much higher in CHF patients than those in the control group persons ($p<0.01$). There were significant differences in plasma NT-proBNP levels among NYHA II, III and IV in CHF patients (the value was 1210 ± 45.7 pmol/ml, 2402 ± 44.9 pmol/ml, 3809 ± 67.1 pmol/ml vs 435 ± 54.1 pmol/ml, respectively, $p<0.01$). The blood NT-proBNP level correlated with the LVEF ($r=-0.754$, $p<0.01$). The cut-off value of NT-proBNP for diagnosis of CHF was 445 pmol/ml. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value was 90.5%, 91.8%, 96.2% and 79.8%, respectively.

Conclusion Plasma NT-proBNP level may be a valuable laboratory plasma marker for diagnosis of congestive heart failure.