

# New heart attack test could identify two-thirds of patients at very low risk of heart attack in the emergency department

October 8 2015

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Using a high sensitivity blood test, researchers have identified the optimal level of a protein called troponin that could rule out a diagnosis of heart attack for two-thirds of people attending the emergency department, according to new research published in *The Lancet*. Using this threshold in routine practice could potentially double the number of patients suitable for immediate discharge directly from the emergency department, say the authors.

"Until now there were no quick ways to rule out a [heart attack](#) within the [emergency department](#)," explains lead author Dr Anoop Shah from the University of Edinburgh in the UK. "We have identified a cardiac troponin concentration (less than 5 nanograms per deciliter;

Citation: New heart attack test could identify two-thirds of patients at very low risk of heart attack in the emergency department (2015, October 8) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-10-heart-two-thirds-patients-emergency-department.html>

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