

# Functional sympatholysis in heart failure

Published: 04-02-2014

Last updated: 23-04-2024

The primary aim of this project is to examine the impact of heart failure on functional sympatholysis.

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Pending
<b>Health condition type</b>	Heart failures
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON38037

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Functional sympatholysis in heart failure

### Condition

- Heart failures

### Synonym

decompensatio cordis, heart decompensation, heart failure

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universitair Medisch Centrum

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

### Intervention

**Keyword:** Functional sympatholysis, Heart failure

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

magnitude of decline in the combined oxygenated hemoglobin (HbO<sub>2</sub>) and myoglobin (MbO<sub>2</sub>) signal from the near-infrared spectroscopy during the cold pressor test at rest and during handgrip exercise at 10 and 30% MVC combined with the cold pressor test.

### Secondary outcome

- Brachial artery blood flow (using non-invasive ultrasound as a secondary measure of exercise-induced blood flow during handgrip and performance of the cold pressor test)
- Mean arterial blood pressure (Nexfin, contra-lateral arm) (to control for potential differences in the blood pressure response between the subsequent tests)
- Forearm blood flow using plethysmography (contra-lateral arm)

## Study description

### Background summary

Heart failure is associated with poor prognosis and high levels of morbidity and mortality. Despite of improvements in pharmacological therapy, the prognosis in heart failure patients remains poor. Exercise training significantly improves symptoms and prognosis in heart failure. However, heart failure is associated with poor exercise tolerance, characterized with an imbalance between matching blood supply to oxygen demand. This importantly limits the benefits of exercise training in subjects with heart failure.

The sympathetic nervous system importantly contributes to successful redistribution of blood during exercise by causing a strong vasoconstriction in the inactive areas. Simultaneously, the constriction in the active areas is attenuated, leading to an increased blood flow to the active muscles. This process is commonly referred to as functional sympatholysis and contributes to

successful matching of the oxygen supply to demand of blood. Altered functional sympatholysis may lead to an impaired redistribution of blood during exercise, consequently contributing to poor exercise tolerance. Whilst previous studies reported an impaired functional sympatholysis in subjects with cardiovascular risk (e.g. hypertension), no previous study in humans examined the impact of heart failure on functional sympatholysis.

## **Study objective**

The primary aim of this project is to examine the impact of heart failure on functional sympatholysis.

## **Study design**

Observational study

Day 1 (1h)

- Medical screening

Day 2/3 (3h)

- Determination of MVC
- 10-minute forearm occlusion, measurement of maximal tissue desaturation/oxygen consumption
- Resting period of >20 minutes in the supine position
- 5-minute baseline measurement of blood pressure, forearm muscle oxygenation and brachial artery diameter and red blood cell velocity
- 6-minute period of continuous assessment of blood pressure, forearm muscle oxygenation and brachial artery diameter and red blood cell velocity + cold pressor test at minutes 4 and 5.
- Resting period of >20 minutes in the supine position
- 5-minute baseline measurement of blood pressure, forearm muscle oxygenation and brachial artery diameter and red blood cell velocity
- 6-minute period of continuous assessment of blood pressure, forearm muscle oxygenation and brachial artery diameter and red blood cell velocity during handgrip exercise (0.5 Hz, metronome-assisted) at 10% MVC + cold pressor test at minutes 4 and 5.
- After a resting period of >20 minutes, the above 2 steps are repeated with handgrip exercise at 20 or 30% MVC. The order of handgrip exercise performance (10, 20 and 30% MVC) will be randomised between subjects.

## **Study burden and risks**

Performance of handgrip exercise in healthy individuals or in those with heart failure is not associated with a health risk. Also, our non-invasive techniques (NIRS, ultrasound) and intervention (cold pressor test) are not associated with

a health risk.

## Contacts

### Public

Selecteer

Philips van Leijdenlaan 15  
Nijmegen 6525 EX  
NL

### Scientific

Selecteer

Philips van Leijdenlaan 15  
Nijmegen 6525 EX  
NL

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Patients:

- Patients diagnosed with heart failure NYHA class II/III

- $\geq 18$  years of age

- Mentally able/allowed to give informed consent; Controls:

- Subjects free of cardiovascular disease and/or cardiovascular medication

- $\geq 18$  years of age

- Mentally able/allowed to give informed consent

## Exclusion criteria

Controls:

Cardiovascular disease

The use of cardiovascular medication

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated): 01-01-2014

Enrollment: 24

Type: Anticipated

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 04-02-2014

Application type: First submission

Review commission: CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

## Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL47030.091.13