

# Supporting Healthy Hearts

## *Roche in Heart Disease*

Roche is committed to making a difference to the lives of the growing number of people in the UK with heart disease and to helping healthcare professionals achieve their goals in caring for them.

We play an important role in the cardiovascular arena with products and services that help to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor different aspects of heart disease including heart failure and heart attacks.

Prevention is always better than cure and our diagnostic tests help assess heart disease risk factors including high cholesterol levels. People who are obese or seriously overweight and those with diabetes are at increased risk of heart disease, so we see our obesity therapy and our blood glucose monitors as important weapons in the fight against heart disease.

Someone in the UK has a heart attack every two minutes. Nearly half are fatal and about 30 per cent of sufferers die before reaching hospital but the early use of thrombolytics, or clot-busters, reduces the risk of death and disability. As well as providing a clot-busting therapy for use in both the community and in hospital, we have supported the development of guidelines on the use of clot-busters by paramedics in the home. We also provide training on their use for paramedics and we assist with training in emergency departments.

Every minute counts in this acute setting and our diagnostic tests help healthcare professionals make rapid decisions to benefit their patients. The Cardiac Reader analyser allows a single blood sample to be quantitatively analysed within minutes for different substances that indicate cardiac conditions. One test, the Troponin T, supports the diagnosis of a heart attack even when patients don't have typical symptoms. D-Dimer, can help exclude the presence of a blood clot in the lungs in patients with chest pain. And the Myoglobin test can detect heart damage frequently missed with other tests.

A large number of patients that survive a heart attack go on to develop heart failure. Heart failure, when the heart loses its ability to pump sufficient blood around the body, severely limits the quality of life of many people and has a prognosis worse than most common cancers. The number of cases is staggering and the prevalence is increasing. As well as its impact on patients and their carers, it places a heavy and increasing financial burden on the National Health Service, consuming around two per cent of NHS resources.

Roche takes an integrated approach to tackling heart failure. As the UK leader in in-vitro diagnostics, we seek to drive a real improvement in the diagnosis of heart failure, which can be difficult in the early stages. Our NT-proBNP blood test simplifies the initial diagnosis of heart failure, helps evaluate the prognosis for the patient and offers the possibility of monitoring treatment.

With early and accurate diagnosis, modern treatments can relieve symptoms, slow disease progression and improve survival. Roche's portfolio includes a beta-blocker licensed for use in heart failure, a diuretic and an ACE inhibitor – the three types of therapies that the government's National Service Framework for coronary heart disease advocates be used in combination to treat heart failure. Our product development team in the UK manages national clinical trials into treatment, involving specialist sites across the country as part of international trial programmes.

This wealth of products, tools and initiatives demonstrates not only Roche's strength in the cardiovascular field but our commitment to making a difference to the lives of those affected by heart disease in the UK.



[www.rocheuk.com](http://www.rocheuk.com)

Produced August 2003 by Corporate Affairs for Roche in the UK. [welwyn.corporate\\_affairs@roche.com](mailto:welwyn.corporate_affairs@roche.com)

Roche Products Ltd., 40 Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 3AY

Roche Diagnostics Ltd., Bell Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1LG

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