CLAIMS

1. An in vitro method for determining the prognosis in a patient suffering a heart failure disease (HF), the method comprising the step of determining the level of soluble neprilysin (NEP) in a test sample of the patient.

2. The in vitro method according to claim 1, wherein when the level of soluble NEP is higher than a reference value is indicative of bad prognosis.

3. The in vitro method according to claim 1, wherein the level of soluble NEP is determined by an immunoassay technique.

4. The in vitro method according to claim 3, wherein the immunoassay technique is a sandwich assay.

5. The in vitro method according to claim 4, wherein the sandwich assay is an ELISA.

6. The in vitro method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the test sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, and in cell supernates.

7. The in vitro method according to claim 6, wherein the test sample is serum or plasma.

8. The in vitro method according to claim 2, wherein the bad prognosis is the risk of a cardiovascular event selected from the group consisting of: worsening or decompensation of heart failure, and mortality.

9. The in vitro method of claim 8, wherein the risk of the cardiovascular event proportionally increases with the level of soluble NEP.

10. The in vitro method according to claim 1, wherein the patient is suffering chronic HF.

11. The in vitro use of soluble NEP as prognostic marker of HF in a patient suffering a heart failure disease (HF).

12. Use of means for detecting the presence of soluble NEP in an isolated sample for the prognosis of heart failure disease in the method of claim 1 to 10, wherein the means is an antibody or a fragment thereof which specifically binds to soluble NEP.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof, forms part of a kit.

14. A method of deciding or recommending to initiate a medical regimen based on NEP inhibitors in a subject suffering a heart failure disease (HF), which method comprises the steps of (a) determining, *in vitro*, the amount of soluble NEP in a test sample of the subject; and (b) comparing the level obtained in step (a) with a reference value, wherein if the amount of soluble NEP detected in step (a) is higher than the reference value it is indicative that the subject would benefit from a medical regimen based on NEP inhibitors.