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Original Article

Schattauer GmbH Stuttgart

Fibrin Gel Network Characteristics and Coronary Heart Disease: Relations to Plasma Fibrinogen Concentration, Acute Phase Protein, Serum Lipoproteins and Coronary Atherosclerosis

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Abstract

PDF (1705 kb)

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Summary

The native fibrin gel structure formed in vitro from plasma samples

was examined by liquid permeation of the hydrated fibrin gel networks in 18 men who had suffered a myocardial infarction before the age of 45 years and in 20 control subjects. Patients with an elevated plasma fibrinogen concentration had a considerably lower fibrin gel porosity (permeability coefficient, K_s) compared with patients with a normal plasma fibrinogen level and with controls. The calculated fiber mass-length ratio of the fibrin gel networks was decreased in both patient groups. Gel porosity differed markedly between individuals at a given plasma fibrinogen concentration. Fairly strong inverse correlations were found between plasma orosomucoid level on the one hand and K_s ($r = -0.617$, $p < 0.01$) or fiber mass-length ratio ($r = -0.499$, $p < 0.05$) on the other. The low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol concentration also correlated inversely with K_s ($r = -0.471$, $p < 0.05$) and fiber mass-length ratio ($r = -0.522$, $p < 0.05$). Significant inverse relations, which were independent of plasma fibrinogen and lipoprotein concentrations, were detected between K_s ($r = -0.519$, $p < 0.05$) and calculated fiber mass-length ratio ($r = -0.723$, $p < 0.001$) and number and severity of coronary artery stenoses determined by angiography. A proneness to formation of tight, rigid and space-filling fibrin network structures with small pores thus appears to be associated with premature coronary artery disease.



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