Special feature: cardiovascular-kidney interactions in health and disease

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This issue contains 11 refereed manuscripts that describe work presented at the eighth Cardiovascular-Kidney Interactions in Health and Disease Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation, FL, on May 27–30, 2005. The three-day meeting featured original contributions on a broad range of topics including redox regulation and microvascular function, genetic and cellular regulation of vascular growth and function, and growing points in hypertension and cardiovascular disease. A central theme of many presentations was the emerging evidence for oxidative stress as a proximate step in the processes that lead to hypertension and cardiovascular-kidney damage. This topic has been reviewed recently (12). Twenty-four senior investigators participated. The meeting was funded by the Cardiovascular-Kidney Institute of Georgetown University (Washington, DC), the George E. Schreiner Chair of Nephrology at Georgetown University, and by generous educational grants from Pfizer (New York, NY), CV Therapeutics (Palo Alto, CA), Merck (Whitehouse Station, NJ), Amgen (Thousand Oaks, CA) and Novartis Pharmaceuticals (East Hanover, NJ).

Although reactive oxygen species (ROS) have been implicated in the regulation of renal sodium transport (\( Na^+ \)) and in the pathogenesis of salt-sensitive hypertension, the mechanisms whereby superoxide (\( O_2^- \)) regulates renal tubule transport remain unclear. \( O_2^- \) increases sodium chloride (\( NaCl \)) absorption in the thick ascending limb of Henle’s loop (THAL) in the absence of nitric oxide (NO), suggesting a direct effect on \( Na^+ \) transport. The study of Juncos et al. (3) tested the hypothesis that the stimulatory effect of \( O_2^- \) on net \( NaCl \) absorption is due to increased \( Na^+ /H^+ \) exchange. They examined the effect of exogenous \( O_2^- \) on total, apical and basolateral \( Na^+ /H^+ \) exchange in isolated perfused THALs. Exogenous \( O_2^- \) was shown to stimulate apical \( Na^+ /H^+ \) exchange and inhibit basolateral \( Na^+ /H^+ \) exchange. This predicts that \( O_2^- \) enhances sodium bicarbonate (\( NaHCO_3 \)) absorption. Thus regulation of THAL \( NaHCO_3 \) absorption by \( O_2^- \) may underlie the pathogenesis of several forms of hypertension and acid/base disturbances.

Magnesium (\( Mg^{++} \)) is concentrated within cells where it regulates many enzymes. It can antagonize the effects of calcium and thereby may determine vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs) contraction/dilation. Depletion of cellular \( Mg^{++} \) increases vascular tone and reactivity, generates oxidative stress, and triggers vascular remodeling and hypertension. Recent findings have shown that the transient receptor potential melastins (TRPMs) 6 and 7 regulate \( Mg^{++} \) cellular influx. Therefore, the study by Touyz et al. (11) on the role of these proteins in ANG II-dependent \( Mg^{++} \) uptake by VSMCs is timely. TRPM7 expression is increased by ANG II in VSMCs from Wistar-Kyoto but not in spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR), which also failed to increase intracellular \( Mg^{++} \) with ANG II. These studies suggest that TRPM7 is a critical mediator of cellular \( Mg^{++} \) homeostasis and its response to ANG II, which is modified in hypertension.

Recent studies have characterized the interaction between dopamine and ROS. Activation of dopamine1 (D1)-like receptors (D1 and/or D5) induces an antioxidant response. Yang et al. (13) tested the hypothesis that stimulation of the D5 receptor inhibits NADPH oxidase activity and the production of ROS. They report that NADPH oxidase protein expression (gp91phox, p47phox, and Nox 4) and activity in kidney and brain, as well as plasma thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARs) were increased in D5 receptor-deficient (D5/-) mice and that inhibition of NADPH oxidase with apocynin normalizes BP, renal NADPH oxidase activity, and plasma TBARs in these mice. They also report that stimulation of the D5 receptor in HEK-293 cells, which heterologously express human D5 receptor, decreases NADPH oxidase activity, expression of one of its subunits (gp91phox), and ROS production. Finally, they show that these effects of the D5 receptor on NADPH oxidase activity are independent of cAMP/PKA but are partially dependent on phospholipase D2.

There is growing evidence of an important interaction between endothelin (ET) and sympathetic nerve activity (SNA). Recent studies by Dai et al. (1) suggest that ET may increase SNA in deoxycorticosterone acetate-salt hypertension through an action at endothelin-type BCETB receptors on cell bodies of postganglionic sympathetic neurons. To investigate the physiological relevance of these findings, Lau and colleagues (4) determined the role of ETB receptors in the in vivo increase in \( O_2^- \) in sympathetic ganglia. ETB receptor activation was shown to increase dihydroethidium oxidative fluorescence. They further tested whether increases in \( O_2^- \) could be attributed to elevated BP by responses to a pressor dose of phenylephrine. Their findings demonstrate in vivo that ETB receptor activation increases \( O_2^- \) in sympathetic ganglia due to both its pressor effects and to direct stimulation of ETB receptors. Thus \( O_2^- \) in sympathetic ganglia may participate in ET-dependent hypertension by facilitating nicotinic neurotransmission.

20-Hydroxyecosatetraenoic acid (HETE) synthesis may mediate cerebral vasoconstriction after subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), although the factors released by clotting blood that release 20-HETE and the mechanisms by which 20-HETE interacts with the other constricting factors to reduce cerebral
blood flow (CBF) are unknown. Takeuchi et al. (10) examined the quantitative importance of the release of vasoactive factors by clotting blood versus scavenging of NO by hemoglobin (Hb) in triggering the fall in CBF in a rat model of SAH by use of nitro-l-arginine methyl ester (l-NAME) to block NOS and TS-011 to block 20-HETE. They report that the fall in CBF after SAH is largely due to the release of vasoactive factors by clotting blood rather than scavenging of NO by free Hb and that 20-HETE plays a role in the vasoconstrictor response of cerebral vessels to both Hb and blood. These interesting findings further support the notion that inhibitors of 20-HETE may be useful for the treatment of vasospasm after SAH. Indeed, 20-HETE plays a role both in the fall in NO and in the release of vasoactive mediators that trigger cerebral vasospasm when Hb or blood are introduced into the CSF.

The Wistar-Furth (WF) rat is an animal model that is resistant to chronic kidney disease (CKD). Chronic NOS inhibition causes hypertension and progressive CKD. NO deficiency may be both a cause and a consequence of deficiency secondary to CKD. Thus the study by Liu et al. (7) that focused on the platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule 1 (PECAM-1) knockout mouse is of particular interest. They demonstrate that flow-mediated dilation is reduced in the PECAM-1 knockout mouse. This is ascribed, in part, to conversion of NO to peroxynitrite (ONOO$^-\$), which reduces dilation from PGl$_2$ and EDHF. Clearly, the findings show that PECAM-1 is a major transducer of shear stress in blood vessels.

Vascular shear stress is critical for normal vascular function. An increase in shear releases endothelium-derived relaxing factor/nitric oxide, prostacyclin, and endothelium-derived hyperpolarizing factor (EDHF). Recent studies have indicated that PECAM-1 may transduce shear stress on endothelial cells. Thus the study by Liu et al. (7) that focused on the platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule 1 (PECAM-1) knockout mouse is of particular interest. They demonstrate that flow-mediated dilation is reduced in the PECAM-1 knockout mouse. This is ascribed, in part, to conversion of NO to peroxynitrite (ONOO$^-\$), which reduces dilation from PGl$_2$ and EDHF. Clearly, the findings show that PECAM-1 is a major transducer of shear stress in blood vessels.

Although oxidative stress is acknowledged to accompany all the well-characterized models of hypertension and CVD, therapeutic strategies based on vitamin E have been disappointing. Therefore, there is interest in novel approaches using catalytic antioxidants such as the SOD mimetic nitroxide, tempol. The mechanism of acute antihypertensive action of nitroxides in vivo is largely due to the release of vasoactive factors by clotting blood versus scavenging of NO by hemoglobin (Hb) in triggering the fall in CBF in a rat model of SAH by use of nitro-l-arginine methyl ester (l-NAME) to block NOS and TS-011 to block 20-HETE. They report that the fall in CBF after SAH is largely due to the release of vasoactive factors by clotting blood rather than scavenging of NO by free Hb and that 20-HETE plays a role in the vasoconstrictor response of cerebral vessels to both Hb and blood.

Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is characterized by microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, acute renal failure, and severe endothelial damage. HUS can be a complication of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in children, where there are additional microangiopathic lesions in renal capillaries and microcystic tubular dilations that contribute to rapid loss of renal function. Fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2) is released by damaged endothelial cells and accumulates in patients with HIV/HUS. Its activity is modulated by a binding protein (FGF-BP). Therefore, Ray et al. (9) studied the expression and localization of this protein in a mouse model of HIV-1 renal disease. They observed upregulation of FGF-BP associated with the development of the tubular dilation and accumulation of FGF-2. These findings link FGF-BP, perhaps produced by regenerating renal tubular cells, to angiogenic activity in the renal capillaries, which may be important in progression or repair of renal damage in this syndrome.

ANG II plays a key role in vascular remodeling after vascular injury in cardiovascular disease (CVD). The proliferative actions of ANG II are dependent on its type 1 receptor (AT$_1$R). Lee et al. (5) studied the regulation of mRNA synthesis and ANG II receptor expression in proliferating VSMCs. They detected a dissociation between mRNA synthesis and receptor expression, which they ascribed to changes in the efficiency of translation of the message and in the RNA-protein complex formed in the cytosol. These new findings demonstrate that AT$_1$R expression during proliferation is regulated posttranscriptionally in part by RNA binding proteins that interact with the specific mRNA.

A second study by Lee et al. (6) investigated the role of these RNA-binding proteins in the expression of AT$_1$R in cultured rat renomedullary interstitial cells. Increasing osmolality reduces ANG II binding to AT$_1$R in these cells. Clearly, this could provide a link between angiotensin action and hydration status. Using this model, the investigators again dissociated AT$_1$R expression from expression of its mRNA and showed that this can be ascribed to an osmotically regulated RNA-protein complex formation.

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REFERENCES


