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Platelets as regulators of plasminogen activation system

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Introduction. Platelets bind plasminogen, its activators and contain PAI-1. Platelet membrane can be considered as a catalytic surface for plasminogen activation. The aim of this work is to investigate kinetic of plasminogen activation by tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) in the presence of platelets and define inhibitory activity of platelet PAI-1.

Methods. Human platelets were isolated from blood of healthy volunteers. Human Gluplasminogen was purified by lysine-sepharose chromatography. The rate of plasminogen activation by tPA was estimated by activity of new formed plasmin. Activity of platelet PAI-1 was determined by the method developed in our lab. It is based on the inhibition of plasminogen activation by tPA using bovine desAB-fibrin as stimulator.

Results. In the presence of resting platelets the catalytic efficiency of Glu-plasminogen activation increased in 8 times mainly thanks of Km decrease ($0.184\pm0.066 \mu$ M compared with $1.117\pm0.086 \mu$ M in cell free system), catalytic constant had no significant change. Thrombin treatment of platelets accompanied with further increase of catalytic efficiency of plasminogen activation more than in 30 times. Stimulating effect of platelets was not related with the presence of endogenous plasminogen or its activators. PAI-1 activity of lysates of resting platelets and releasates of thrombin- and collagen-stimulated platelets was 2.04 ± 0.70 , 1.26 ± 0.60 and 0.75 ± 0.36 IU/10⁸ cells, respectively.

Conclusion. Platelets stimulate plasminogen activation at physiological concentration of tPA. Platelets could be considered as sites of plasminogen activation and local plasmin generation. Platelets contain and release the active form of PAI-1 during activation. Quantitative assessment of its activity suggests that platelet PAI-1 makes a significant contribution to limiting of plasminogen activation and further fibrinolysis. The proposed method for quantifying PAI-1 activity in plasma and platelets can be used for evaluation of fibrinolytic potential in patients with cardiovascular diseases.

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Resrach protocols were approved by the Ethical Committee of Palladin Institute of Biochemistry of NASU (from the 4th of June 2014, protocol №2).

Table of Contents

Organizing Committee		2
Conference Venue		3
Agenda of the Bridges in Life Sciences 10 th Conference		3
RECOOP HST Association General Assembly		9
RECOOP HST Association		18
Cedars – RECOOP Research Centers		22
Croatian Medical Journal		26
Abstracts		27
Poster Session #1	Lifestyle, Metabolic Disorders and Stress	27
Poster Session #1	Cardiovascular Diseases	34
Plenary Session #1	Neurodegenerative and Metabolic Diseases	40
Plenary Session # 2	Cardiovascular Diseases	49
Poster Session #2	Nanomedicine and Medical Imaging	59
Breakaway Sessions		67
Poster Session #3	Infection and Immunology	69
Plenary Session # 3	Molecular Biology, Infectious Diseases and Immunology	75
Plenary Session #4	Nanomedicine, Medical Imaging and Oncology	84
Poster Session #4	Molecular and Cell Biology	91
Poster Session #4	Translational Life Sciences	97
Poster Session #4	Clinical Research	104
RECOOP Visegrad Scholarship Program		110
2015 Summer School of Scientific Communication		112
Conference Participants		113