

principle be regarded as proof of the their role in the origin of the symptoms of that disease, for as a rule sensitivity rises in the case of a deficiency of endogenous effects of the corresponding factors.

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#### RELATIONS BETWEEN PLATELET AND PLASMA-COAGULATIVE COMPONENTS OF HEMOSTASIS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

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The adhesive-aggregative activity of the platelets and the rate of blood clotting were compared in 125 healthy subjects during an emergency adaptation reaction (emotional stress, ACTH loading) and in 157 patients with heart and circulatory diseases during the period of crisis, and also during acute drug therapy. Changes in the platelets and plasma-coagulative components of hemostasis were found to be opposite in direction, and on this basis new ideas were put forward to explain the hemostatic function of the platelets.

KEY WORDS: blood clotting; adaptation; platelets.

The problem of the relationship between adhesive-aggregative properties of platelets and the clotting power of the blood have been studied chiefly in vitro and in model experiments. The results are contradictory and largely depend on the concentration of procoagulants and the number of platelets.

The aim of the present investigation was to determine relations between the platelet and plasma-coagulative components of hemostasis in an emergency adaptation reaction in healthy subjects and in patients with diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

#### EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

The following parameters were determined in one blood sample before and after external intervention: the aggregating power of the platelets by Born's method [7], recorded graphically by O'Brien's method [10], adhesion of platelets to glass by the method of Moolten and Vroman [9], the number of platelets (in a humid

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TABLE 1. Relations Between Some Indices of Platelet and Plasma-Coagulative Components of Hemostasis in an Emergency Adaptation Reaction

Group of subjects	Number of observations	Procedure	Time of investigation	No. of platelets, $\mu\text{l}$	P	Area of ADP aggregation, $\text{cm}^2$	P	T-Electro-coagulation, sec	P	Plasma fibrinogen concentration, mg %	P
Healthy	10	Diurnal rhythm	8 h 14 h	221,8 144 $\pm$ 8,9	<0,001	4,9 8,2 $\pm$ 0,86	<0,01	406,5 489,5 $\pm$ 11,16	<0,001	—	—
With ischemic heart disease	17	Injection of ACTH	Initial data 20 min 180 min	184 129,3 $\pm$ 12,25 200 $\pm$ 14,5	<0,001 <0,5	4,6 7 $\pm$ 0,6 2,4 $\pm$ 0,69	<0,001 <0,05	288,6 356,8 $\pm$ 11,74 299,6 $\pm$ 19,73	<0,001 <0,05	—	—
Healthy	10	»	Initial data	217		7,1		385,3		—	—
»	25	Submaximal physical exertion	20 min 120 min	99,7 $\pm$ 16,42 258,2 $\pm$ 14,8	<0,001 <0,01	13,4 $\pm$ 1,98 5,7 $\pm$ 1,77	<0,01 <0,02	470,9 $\pm$ 17,89 290,4 $\pm$ 18,63	<0,001 <0,001	—	—
»	28	Emotional stress	Immediately after procedure Initial data	195,8 194 $\pm$ 1,8	<0,2	6,7 4,3 $\pm$ 0,9	<0,05	392 313 $\pm$ 15	<0,2	—	—
»	25	Intravenous injection of 10% NaCl	120 min	228 164 $\pm$ 13	<0,001	5,7 14,4 $\pm$ 2,16	<0,001	385,5 575,1 $\pm$ 16,79	<0,001	310,5 211,2 $\pm$ 27,2	<0,001
»	24	Injection of analgin	Initial data 10 min	230 190 $\pm$ 12,2	<0,05	5,3 9,1 $\pm$ 1,82	<0,01	396 470 $\pm$ 11,86	<0,001	320 280,3 $\pm$ 16,4	<0,02
»	28	Injection of heparin (10,000 units)	Initial data 30 min	238 260 $\pm$ 13,72	<0,2	5,9 3,1 $\pm$ 1,1	<0,05	318,9 —	<0,01	318,9 360,7 $\pm$ 21,9	<0,01
With arterial hypertension	60	The same	Initial data 15 min	184,8 156 $\pm$ 9,4	<0,1	9,85 33,7 $\pm$ 0,69	<0,001	— —	—	211,2 130 $\pm$ 19,96	<0,001
The same	20	During crisis Outside crisis	Initial data 15 min	174 90 $\pm$ 5,63	<0,001	3,3 16,77 $\pm$ 1,89	<0,001	327 —	<0,001	327 228,1 $\pm$ 14,9	<0,001
With decompensated tonsillitis	60	Tonsillectomy	Initial data Immediately after procedure 60 min	158 185 $\pm$ 10,09 202 218 $\pm$ 8,8 186 $\pm$ 6,9	<0,1 <0,5 <0,2	3,5 8,1 $\pm$ 1,89 4,1 1,9 $\pm$ 0,4 10,3 $\pm$ 2	<0,01 <0,01 <0,001	357 411 $\pm$ 30,11 384 259 $\pm$ 19,5 390 $\pm$ 14	<0,05 <0,001 <0,5	380 350 $\pm$ 23,03 275 370 $\pm$ 10 238 $\pm$ 6	<0,05 <0,001 <0,02

Legend. Results subjected to variance analysis by difference method; initial data given as arithmetic mean (M), data after procedure as  $M \pm m$ .

chamber), the electrocoagulogram of whole blood (using the N-333 apparatus), the plasma fibrinogen level after Gachev, the number of basophils (in a humid chamber) and the degree of their degranulation in films from Buffy coat. Observations were made on 307 subjects, including 150 healthy volunteers (mean age 21.5 years) and 157 patients (mean age 54 years) from the cardiological department. The distribution of the subjects by groups and the character of the procedures used are described in Table 1.

## EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The results given in Table 1 show that different procedures and situations caused different changes in platelet activity. Emotional stress and acute pharmacological intervention (ACTH, heparin, 10% NaCl solution) caused platelet hyperfunction in the healthy subjects, and physical exertion (submaximal work on a bicycle ergometer) and injection of the antiaggregant analgin were accompanied by hypoaggregation of platelets. A hypertensive crisis in patients with an arterial hypertension syndrome also was characterized by platelet hypofunction. In some series, with long-term laboratory control (diurnal rhythm, injection of ACTH, effect of operative trauma), biphasic changes were observed in platelet adhesion and aggregation.

Whatever the direction of the initial deviations of the adhesive-aggregative properties of the platelets, and whatever the procedure used, the changes in clotting power of the blood were functionally opposite to changes in the platelet components of hemostasis. Hyperaggregation of platelets was accompanied by hypo-coagulation, and a decrease in aggregative power by more rapid blood clotting. Similar relations between platelet activity and blood coagulability have been formed in certain pathological processes [1-3, 6], and they are regarded as a feature of the pathogenesis of these diseases or states. It can be concluded from the data showing dissociation between the platelet and plasma-coagulative components of hemostasis in the adaptation reaction that there is a certain biochemical agent which can induce hemostatic changes in opposite direction in the adaptation reaction or that substances with anticoagulant action are secreted into the plasma by activated platelets. The definite coincidence between the times of development of the hemostatic "scissors" and the peak of degranulation of basophilic leukocytes in the diurnal rhythm, and the greatest divergence between platelet activity and the rate of blood clotting after injection of heparin compared with the other procedures tested warranted the assumption that the adaptive hemostatic reaction is mediated through heparin. The probability of a heparin mechanism of adaptive hemostatic changes is confirmed by data on the very low plasma heparin concentration under normal conditions and its level in a period of stress, the view that heparin is a hemostatic factor, data on the reflex mechanism of its action on blood clotting [5], and ideas concerning heparin complexes as the main agents of the anticlotting system [4]. In recent years strong arguments have been put forward in support of the platelet aggregating action of heparin [8, 11, 12]. However, the present investigation did not confirm the view that heparin has a direct action on hemostasis: the anticoagulant action of heparin in a dose of 0.5 unit/ml is exhibited in vivo, and also after its addition to platelet-rich plasma, but is absent in platelet-deprived plasma. On the basis of these observations it can be postulated that the anticoagulant effect of endogenous and exogenous heparin is mediated through the platelets, and this suggestion is also confirmed by the data of Watanabe et al. [13], who showed that platelets have antithrombin activity which is not identical with the plasma antithrombin III.

There is thus reason to suppose that the role of platelets in hemostasis is much more complex than has traditionally been supposed. The range of their function is indeed great — from strengthening the endothelium and inhibiting hemocoagulation in the adaptation reaction to the trigger mechanism of thrombosis.

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