

Editorial on Prostacyclins

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Editorial

Prostacyclin (also known as prostaglandin I₂ or PGI₂) is a lipid molecule that belongs to the prostaglandin family. It works as a vasodilator and suppresses platelet activity. It's also known as epoprostenol when it's taken as a medication. 1st Occasionally, the names are used interchangeably Prostacyclin (PGI₂) is a protein that suppresses the formation of the platelet plug, which is necessary for primary hemostasis (a part of blood clot formation). This is accomplished by preventing platelet activation. [three] It also works as a vasodilator. The interactions of prostacyclin differ from those of thromboxane (TXA₂), another eicosanoid. Healthy endothelial cells secrete prostacyclin (PGI₂), which acts through a paracrine signalling cascade involving G protein-coupled receptors on adjacent platelets and endothelial cells. When the platelet G_s protein-coupled receptor (prostacyclin receptor) connects to PGI₂, it is activated. As a result of this activation, adenylyl cyclase produces cAMP. cAMP then inhibits any excessive platelet activation (in order to facilitate circulation) as well as any increase in cytosolic calcium levels caused by thromboxane A₂ (TXA₂) binding (leading to platelet activation and subsequent coagulation).

PGI₂ binds to endothelium prostacyclin receptors and elevates cAMP levels in the cytosol in the same way. This cAMP then activates protein kinase A, which subsequently continues the cascade by boosting myosin light chain

kinase phosphorylation, which inhibits it and causes smooth muscle relaxation and vasodilation. The enzyme prostacyclin synthase produces prostacyclin from prostaglandin H₂ (PGH₂) in endothelial cells, which line the walls of arteries and veins. Although prostacyclin is considered an independent mediator, in eicosanoid nomenclature, it is known as PGI₂ (prostaglandin I₂) and belongs to the prostanoids family (together with the prostaglandins and thromboxane).

The predominant arachidonate metabolite produced from the vascular endothelium is PGI₂, which is produced predominantly from COX-2 in humans. COX 1 is the primary prostacyclin-producing cyclooxygenase in the endothelial cells of blood arteries, according to some sources.

The activity of NSAIDs on the cyclooxygenase enzymes COX1 and COX2 inhibits the formation of prostacyclin. These convert arachidonic acid to prostacyclin's immediate precursor, prostaglandin H₂ (PGH₂). Because thromboxane (an eicosanoid that stimulates platelet aggregation) is also produced by COX enzymes, one may expect NSAIDs to counteract this effect. Because prostacyclin levels recover considerably faster than thromboxane levels, aspirin has little to no effect at first but eventually stops platelet aggregation. TXA₂, on the other hand, is largely secreted by anucleated platelets, which are unable to respond to NSAID COX inhibition with increased COX gene transcription due to a lack of DNA material. As a result, NSAIDs cause PGI₂ dominance, which enhances circulation and prevents thrombosis.

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