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Liver and atherosclerotic plaque: What is the relationship?

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The liver is recognized as a metabolically active organ, responsible for the synthesis of protein, cholesterol and large glycogen storage. Moreover, when stimulated by cytokines released by any inflammatory process, produces and releases proteins into the circulation in response to inflammation, eg fibrinogen, serum amyloid A, C-reactive protein and others. But, while these proteins show the intensity of the inflammatory process they also should serve as a protective response. However, increased fibrinogen may predispose to thrombosis and the pentameric CRP synthesized by the liver becomes monomeric as it is involved in the local inflammation, there becomes the aggressor. With this, we conclude that the liver integrity is important for defending the body, producing inflammation markers and eventually determining aggression. If this reasoning is correct in severe liver disease we would lose the protection, without production of inflammatory response proteins. However, when we compare the presence of atherosclerotic plaques of coronary arteries, in four groups of patients, evaluated at necropsy: coronary artery disease, liver pre-transplantation, patients with other diseases (non-cardiac or liver) and post-accident or gun, it was observed that the plaques have different content and different inflammatory response. The most interesting was the finding of the plaque of the row of transplant patients, having the low cholesterol content, fibrosis and more practically absence of intraplaque bacterial agents. So the question is: several liver failures is a protector of atherosclerosis?

Biography

Jose Antonio F. Ramires has completed his PhD at the age of 31 years from University of Sao Paulo (USP) Medical School. He was the Director of the Heart Institute-INCOR of the University of Sao Paulo where is Head Professor of Cardiology. He was President of the Council to evaluate all the University Professor at USP. He was President of the undergraduate Committee of USP Medical School. He has published more than 475 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute. He was President of the Society of Cardiology of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazilian Heart Foundation and of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology.

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