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Renin angiotensin system and malaria: New aspects in the pathogenesis of the disease

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Malaria is a worldwide health problem leading to the death of millions of people. The disease is induced by different species of protozoa parasites from the genus *Plasmodium*. In humans, *Plasmodium falciparum* is the most dangerous species responsible for severe disease. Despite all efforts to establish the pathogenesis of malaria, it is far from being fully understood. In addition, resistance to existing drugs has developed in several strains and the development of new effective compounds to fight these parasites is a major issue. Recent discoveries indicate the potential role of the renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in malaria infection. Angiotensin receptors have not been described in the parasite genome, however several reports in the literature suggest a direct effect of angiotensin-derived peptides on different aspects of the host-parasite interaction. Here, we highlight new findings on the involvement of the RAS in parasite development and in the regulation of the host immune response in an attempt to expand our knowledge of the pathogenesis of this disease.

Biography

Ana Acacia Pinheiro has completed her PhD from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Post-doctoral studies from Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. She is the Adjunct Professor of the Instituto de Biofísica Carlos Chagas Filho from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She has published 30 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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