Letters to the Editor

Salt Sensitivity: Trophic Effect of Growth and Vasoactive Factors

To the Editor:

The nexus between salt (sodium chloride) intake and essential hypertension is not simple. For a recent review, see Reference 1. Population studies have demonstrated a positive correlation between increased dietary salt intake and the incidence of essential hypertension, whereas intrapopulation studies have not always shown this relation. Established essential hypertension is not simple. (For a recent review, see Reference 1).

Exposure to a high salt intake may be considered as indicative of salt-sensitivity. Such an idea is strengthened by our recent observations that skin fibroblasts from blacks show a higher elevation of cytosolic free calcium in concert with a greater stimulation of the sodium-proton exchange by factors in serum than do skin fibroblasts from whites. Similar tendencies in VSM cells would favor an increase in the propensity for VSM growth in blacks.

I propose that future research into the question of salt-sensitivity in essential hypertension will focus not only on the impact of a brief change in salt intake on the blood pressure levels, but also on the influence of a long duration of altered dietary salt intake on the interplay of growth factors and vasoactive agents that can stimulate VSM growth.

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References


Single Versus Triplicate Measurements:
A Commentary on Fagan et al

In an article published in this journal, Fagan et al concluded that duplicate or triplicate measurements of blood pressure are neither more accurate nor less variable than single measurements and that the additional measurements are of no value in evaluating the effects of antihypertensive medications or other interventions on blood pressure. This conclusion was based on a study of 40 patients who were withdrawn from antihypertensive medications.
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