Response to Sympathoinhibitory Effect of Diltiazem and Prevention of Aneurysm Formation

We thank Dr Tsuda for the important remark and his interest in our work. Unfortunately, we did not perform measurements on the effect of diltiazem on sympathetic nerve activity in our study and as mechanism of action of the drug we observed some direct inhibitory action on the inflammatory activity of cultured monocytic cells. Nevertheless, we agree that our proposed mechanism is probably not the only one operative in the highly complex model of angiotensin II–induced aneurysm formation in ApoE−/− mice and that diltiazem in vivo may have additional effects. A role of the sympathetic nervous system in vascular inflammatory processes is established, and in high concentrations diltiazem is known to inhibit neuronal voltage-dependent calcium channels. Thus, the mechanism proposed by Dr Tsuda is indeed plausible to contribute to the antianeurysmal effect of Diltiazem.

Disclosures

None.

Andreas Weigert
Fachbereich Medizin der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Ralph T. Schermuly
Pulmonary Pharmacotherapy
Fachbereich Medizin der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
Gießen, Germany

Ralf P. Brandes
Institut für Kardiovaskuläre Physiologie
Fachbereich Medizin der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Response to Sympathoinhibitory Effect of Diltiazem and Prevention of Aneurysm Formation

Anja Mieth, Marc Revermann, Andrea Babelova, Andreas Weigert, Ralph T. Schermuly and Ralf P. Brandes

_Hypertension_. 2014;63:e13; originally published online January 6, 2014;
doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.113.02849

_Hypertension_ is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2014 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0194-911X. Online ISSN: 1524-4563

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://hyper.ahajournals.org/content/63/3/e13

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in _Hypertension_ can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to _Hypertension_ is online at:
http://hyper.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/