Response

In his comment to the article of Bauer et al, Forni raises the following points: (1) The rapid decline of ouabain-like compound is unlikely equivalent with the rapid phase of ouabain-loss from plasma after its bolus injection. (2) The concentrations of ouabain measured by Lewis et al are significantly lower than those measured by us and not detectable in plasma.

We are unable to comment on the findings of Lewis et al, especially because a number of other groups found ouabain immunoreactivity in plasma correlating in \( \approx 50\% \) of whites with arterial blood pressure. Moreover, we could isolate ouabain from bovine adrenal glands and identify it by mass spectroscopy and 1H-NMR. Hence, it was essential for us to show that stress induced by physical exercise leads to rapid and significant changes of a ouabain-like compound in blood plasma. The rapid decline of the compound after the stop of exercise, with a half life of 3 to 5 minutes, is in the time frame seen after bolus injection of radioactive ouabain. This rapid phase of decline of injected ouabain quite probably includes an additional phenomenon recently described, namely the uptake of ouabain into the adrenal glands, in addition to the mixing process of intravascular compartments. This is the process we are mainly referring to in our discussion.

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Response
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