

Introduction

Diabetic microangiopathy

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As a constant evolution in microangiopathy is obviously one of the important features of Diabetes mellitus, different paraclinical approaches have been proposed, and their aspects and results have been presented at this symposium.

Several techniques are now available to investigate the anatomical changes of capillaries, such as Vital Capillary Microscopy (Nikolaos Pangratis) allowing to observe coiled and enlarged vessels in different skin locations, or the Infrared Fluorescence Videomicroscopy (Beatrice Zaugg-Vesti) determining the presence of dermal aneurysms, mainly in subjects with retinal aneurysms. All these lesions occur frequently in long-term diabetes patients.

Such vessel lesions develop along with functional disturbances. Thus the standing position in diabetics allows the Laser Doppler Flux to decrease, when the venous pressure at the dorsal foot increases (Taraney Khodabandehlou). Also the Capillary Permeability to Albumin (Paul Valensi) is increased in diabetic patients, this latter phenomenon being reduced by fish oil administration. Such functional disorders can be found early in the course of diabetes and should be taken into account for therapeutic prevention. The functional changes of the oxygen release at the skin (TCPO₂) are inversely related to HbA1c levels (Claude Le Dévéhat) and so directly to the poor metabolic control which therefore appears to be detrimental to the microvasculature in diabetics.

Such interesting observations, which have been presented at this symposium, provide evidence that the microcirculatory disorder in diabetes is present from the early stages of the disease, as a functional disorder, before microangiopathy occurs, along with a poor metabolic control, exhibiting changes in the vasomotricity and the permeability of the microvessels.

Combined drugs in *Cyclo 3 Fort* are able to improve the vasomotricity of the microvenulae and the venoarteriolar reflex in animal models (Eliete Bouskela), as well as the permeability (Eric Svenjö), and thus should be considered as a useful preventive treatment in this field, as well.

Prof. P. Balas, organizer and chairman, and myself would like to thank Pierre Fabre International and Dr. Brigitte Sarrazin for the setting up of this outstanding session in such an important field of human medical research.

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