Increased Alpha-2-Macroglobulin in Opiate Addicts: Further Evidence of an Alteration in the Coagulation System due to Opiate Addiction

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References
Increased plasma levels of α2-macroglobulin, a natural inhibitor of blood coagulation, have been reported in diabetes [1]. We have previously reported that opiate addicts behave similarly to diabetics [2–4]. Therefore, we measured blood glucose, Hb A1 and α2-macroglobulin in 20 male addicts (mean age ± SD 23 ± 3.4 years) and in 20 healthy male controls (age 23 ± 2.5 years). Hb A1 and α2-macroglobulin were found to be significantly increased in addicts (Hb A1 7.2 ± 0.14%; α2-macroglobulin 243.26 ± 62.2 mg/dl) 7 versus controls (Hb A1 6.3 ± 0.17 %, p < 0.001; α2-macroglobulin 156.91 ± 37.32 mg/dl, p < 0.001). No correlation was found between Hb A1 and α2-macroglobulin levels. Our data demonstrate increased α2-macroglobulin levels in opiate addicts and confirm the occurrence of an impairment of the blood clotting mechanism in the same addicts [5–7], in analogy to that found in diabetics [8–10].