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

A. Antonio Ceriello
P. Patrizia Dello Russo
F. Francesco Curcio
N. Nicola Passariello
D. Dario Giugliano

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) 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].
