Introduction

In the field of prevention and therapy of atherosclerosis and thromboembolism, various therapy ways are being applied, and new drugs or ways are constantly being searched. Arterial diseases and the importance of thromboembolic episodes occurring during the course of these diseases and their lethal effects have prompted scientists to do additional research aiming at different therapeutic ways. Anticoagulant, antiplatelet, and fibrinolytic treatments are included in these therapeutic ways. Recently in vascular and in thromboembolic diseases, besides antiplatelet and fibrinolytic treatment, the treatment with prostacyclin is also being used as a therapeutic method.

In this issue, the proceedings of the symposium covering the presentations on in vitro and animal experiments, ex vivo and clinical applications of a new substance will be included. The symposium is one of the symposia held in Istanbul, June 4-7, 1984, at the 8th International Congress on Thrombosis.

It includes the papers dealing with the new substance Defibrotide (fraction P of Crinos). Defibrotide is an extractive polydesoxyribo-nucleotide of mammalian origin which possesses profibrinolytic properties. The anti-thrombotic and profibrinolytic effects of this substance have been shown in different animal experiments. In addition, its effects on the prevention of post-injury changes on the vascular surface in animals have also been observed. According to the papers presented at this symposium, promising responses in different diseases were obtained in clinical applications. Among these diseases, deep venous thrombosis, peripheral obliterative vascular diseases, human renal transplantation, and acute renal failure are discussed. We can add to the above issues some of our results on Raynaud phenomenon, central retinal vein thrombosis, and senility related to cerebro-sclerosis.

The action of this substance, as mentioned at the symposium, may in a way stimulate the release of t-PA and PG\(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha}\) from endothelial cells and most probably increase their synthesis. It may be too early to talk about the endothelial cell function of Defibrotide, but its clinical results can explain why it is a promising drug in vascular diseases.

Given such premises, additional research is being carried out for a better evaluation and definition of the precise therapeutic role of this new drug.

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