Summary

Research on endogenous active principles producing anaphylac-toid and anaphylactic reactions in the rat has led to the following conclusions:

1. Cutaneous anaphylaxis
   The active substances are labile histamine from mast cells and an undeterminate proteolytic system, or the by-products resulting from the activation of this system.
   Only histamine activation is observed if the intensity of the reaction is reduced. This is seen in active anaphylaxis.
   The activation resulting in endogenous proteolysis (globulins, slow reacting substances, kinins) characterizes more intense reactions, as seen in passive anaphylaxis. These reactions are always accompanied by a moderate liberation of histamine, no matter what the intensity of the reaction. The proteolysis is responsible for anaphylactic edema, which is more pronounced than that of histamine origin. Also it accounts for the cellular inflammatory infiltrate characterizing the Arthus phenomenon.

2. Anaphylactoid reactions
   The edema induced by streptokinase involves a mechanism similar to that of anaphylaxis.
   On the other hand, the active principles released by different chemical histamine-liberators (compound 48/80, compound L 1935, dextran) are histamine and serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine). The latter plays a greater role in edema formation. Polymyxin B also increases the capillary permeability and this favours a histamine-induced edema.