Non-Specific Effects of Synthetic Corticotropin Polypeptides

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Both synthetic polypeptides possessing corticotropin activity and related peptides devoid of such hormonal action were shown to produce 2 non-specific effects—increased vascular permeability in the rat and guinea-pig and depressor reactions on the cock's blood pressure. The permeability effect mimicked allergic reactions of the immediate type and was antagonized by anti-inflammatory agents. The depressor effects on the cock's blood pressure indicated that this test cannot be used as a means of detecting posterior pituitary contaminants in natural ACTH preparations.

No evidence of synthesis of antibodies to these polypeptides was obtained in the rabbit, even in the presence of Freund's complete adjuvant.

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