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EDITORIAL

Reverse cholesterol transport revisited

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Abstract

Reverse cholesterol transport was originally described as the high-density lipoprotein-mediated cholesterol flux from the periphery *via* the hepatobiliary tract to the intestinal lumen, leading to fecal excretion. Since the introduction of reverse cholesterol transport in the 1970s, this pathway has been intensively investigated. In this topic highlight, the classical reverse cholesterol transport concepts are discussed and the subject reverse cholesterol transport is revisited.

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Key words: Cholesterol; Reverse cholesterol transport; Transintestinal cholesterol efflux; Liver; Intestine; Lipoproteins

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FROM THE EDITOR

Cholesterol is of vital importance for all vertebrates. It is an essential structural component of cell membranes. In addition, cholesterol is needed for the manufacture of bile salts, steroid hormones and vitamin D. However, too much cholesterol is harmful. A high level of serum cholesterol is a risk factor for certain cardiovascular diseases. Fortunately, the body possess a transport route in order to dispose cholesterol: reverse cholesterol transport, which is an interesting target for drug development aiming at the treatment/prevention of atherosclerotic and associated diseases. Since the introduction of reverse cholesterol transport in the 1970s, this pathway has been intensively investigated.

The thorough research on reverse cholesterol transport has led to a great understanding about the way cholesterol is disposed. However, new insights in cholesterol excretion were rendered as well. Insights make the classical view on reverse cholesterol transport questionable. In this topic highlight, the classical reverse cholesterol transport concepts are discussed and the subject reverse cholesterol transport is revisited[1-7].

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