
Metabolic syndrome and venous thrombosis: potential role of microparticles

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Dear Sir,

We read with caution the paper of C. Ay et al about venous thromboembolism as a manifestation of the metabolic syndrome.¹ It is a very interesting original work. However, to our knowledge, the authors miss to discuss the potential role of circulating procoagulant microparticles in the physiology of venous thrombosis.² In fact, metabolic syndrome is a cluster of several atherosclerotic risk factors that includes commonly type 2 mellitus diabetes and obesity.³ Circulating procoagulant microparticles have been described in various clinical situations associated with thrombosis and in diabetic patients.² In obese patients, we have documented an increase in circulating microparticles levels that could account for the increased risk of thrombotic complications in obesity.⁴ Mean procoagulant microparticles levels are markedly higher in obese patients ($n=48$) compared to controls (10.6 ± 0.5 vs 3.2 ± 0.3 nMPSeq, $p<0.001$). In the obese group, there was a negative cor-

relation between microparticles and BMI ($r=-0.265$, $p<0.05$) but no relationship could be established between microparticles concentrations and markers of insulin resistance.

E. Andres, B. Goichot

Departments of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of
Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

References

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