Letters to the Editor

Inhibitory Effect of Erythromycin on Superoxide Anion Production by Human Neutrophils Primed with Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor

We have recently demonstrated excessive neutrophil accumulation in the airways of patients with diffuse panbronchiolitis (DPB) and have also described therapeutic benefits of low-dose, long-term administration of erythromycin which are due to antiinflammatory rather than bactericidal action (2, 4, 5, 8–10, 12). The accumulation of neutrophils in the airway might contribute to lung damage through the release of proteases, free oxygen radicals, and other degradative enzymes (1, 4, 7). In addition, certain oxidants and free radicals have been found at the inflammatory site necessary to evaluate the neutrophil-derived oxygen radicals at the inflammatory site from an excessive to a normal response rather than to suppress their production, ultimately reducing epithelial injury in the airways of patients with DPB.

More adequate experimental designs mimicking conditions found at the inflammatory site are necessary to evaluate the possible beneficial nonantibiotic effect of erythromycin.

REFERENCES


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