The Role of Adrenomedullin in the Cardiovascular System

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Abstract
Adrenomedullin (AM) is a 52 amino acid peptide that was first isolated from human pheochromocytoma. Subsequently, AM and its receptors are found to be distributed widely in the body, including the cardiovascular system. It belongs to a family of peptides that include calcitonin gene-related peptide. In blood vessels, AM causes vasodilation and regulates proliferation. It interacts closely with nitric oxide and has a role in the pathophysiology of hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, cardiac and renal failure. A non-peptide analogue of AM or gene therapy may be of potential therapeutic use. The role of AM in septicaemic shock also merits further investigation. (J HK Coll Cardiol 2004;12:75-81)

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