**Review**

Cytokines and adhesive molecules in detection of endothelial dysfunction

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**Abstract:**
Inflammatory response comprises endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerotic cascade. Adhesion molecules and cytokines are involved in both injury and reparative processes observed in an inflamed atherosclerotic vascular wall. As markers and mediators of endothelial dysfunction, adhesion molecules and cytokines seem to be a logical target of studying endothelial dysfunction, and especially because they participate not only in local but also in systemic response to injury.

The present paper provides an overview of current clinical knowledge on the role of adhesive molecules and cytokines in endothelial dysfunction and overt atherosclerosis. Their participation in immune mechanisms of atherogenesis is analyzed with special consideration of the type of immune response. Clinical experience with adhesion molecules and cytokines related to risk factors, presentations and complications of atherosclerosis is also presented.

The impact of revascularization procedures on adhesive molecules and cytokines levels as well as prognostic value of their assessment is summarized.

**Key words:**
cytokines, adhesion molecules, endothelial dysfunction, atherosclerosis