

COMMENTS

Oxidized LDL, Placental Trophoblast and B₂-Glycoprotein I (44294A)

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We read with interest the report by Bonet *et al.* (1) of an effect of oxidized LDL on placental trophoblast and macrophage functions. We would like to complement their data with recent information regarding B₂-glycoprotein I (B₂-GPI), a normal plasma component that has been found to be also synthesized by the placental trophoblast (2). B₂-GPI has been shown to bind copper-oxidized plasma lipoproteins and inhibit the *in vitro* uptake by murine macrophage cells (3).

B₂-GPI has an important role in the maintenance of blood fluidity by possessing anticoagulant activity (4). Recently, it was demonstrated that, compared with native LDL, oxidized LDL can increase thrombin generation 12-fold by providing a supporting surface for the assembly of the prothrombinase complex (5). The ability of B₂-GPI to bind oxidized LDL may be another aspect of its antithrombotic mechanism, and may prevent placental ischemia and dysfunction during pregnancy. It would therefore be of in-

terest to determine whether B₂-GPI also has a modulating effect on the cytotoxicity of oxidized LDL, as described by Bonet and colleagues.

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