Author's response to reviews

Title: Influence of acute pancreatitis on the responsiveness of rat mesenteric and pulmonary arteries

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Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
March, 28th 2008

Dear Professor
Melissa Norton, MD
Editor-in-chief of BMC Pharmacology
Middlesex House, 34-42 Cleveland Street,
London W1T 4LB, UK.

Dear Editor-in-chief

Please find attached the replies to reviewers and the revised manuscript entitled:
Influence of acute pancreatitis on the responsiveness of rat mesenteric and pulmonary arteries by Camargo et al.

I am looking forward hearing you soon.

My best regards

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Replies to reviewers

Reviewer: Susan Wai Sum Leung

1. The reviewer is right regarding the sentences in discussion section. We have changed the focus of the discussion for contractile response, page 8, second paragraph.

2. To make clear that NO production can be derived from different source such as endothelium, nitrergic fibers and leukocytes, we have inserted in the discussion section the source of the NO production, derived from leukocytes in response to an intense inflammatory state, page 7 and 8.

3. We have changed the raised point by the reviewer in discussion section, see page 8.

Minor revisions

We have corrected all the errors in the text, as pointed by the reviewer.
Reviewer: Daniel Closa

Major revisions

The reviewer is right we have changed the conclusions, page 8.

Minor revisions

1. As suggested by the reviewer we have inserted the rationale to explain why we have used two experimental model of pancreatitis in this study, after the objective, page 4.

2. As suggested by the reviewer the second paragraph in background section was changed to make clear the statement about the severity of pancreatitis, page 3.

3. Table 1 was inserted with measurement of pancreatic plasma extravasation, pancreatic MPO, lung MPO and serum amylase. See description in results section page 4 and Table 1 in page 19.
Reviewer: Werner Hartwig

1. It would be very interesting to analyze vascular change in vivo in both experimental models. However, methodological limitations in our laboratory do not allow performing this kind of approach.

2. It should emphasize that the primary focus of our study was to analyze the reactivity of vascular response in the early phase of acute pancreatitis after 4 hours. Anyway, in the near future it will be interesting to carry out a time-course of this response.

3. Yes, our findings positively correlate with organ injury. We have inserted the data in Table 1 regarding the measurement of pancreatic plasma extravasation, pancreatic MPO, lung MPO and serum amylase to make clear the magnitude of the severity of the both pancreatitis models. See description in results section in page 4 and Table 1 in page 19.

Minor

We have provided the amount of the animals used in each experiment and all the spelling errors were corrected.