**PREVENTIVE EFFECT OF EZETIMIBE FOR PROGRESSION OF ARTERIOSCLEROSIS**

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Ezetimibe (EZ) lowers blood cholesterol by reducing the absorption of cholesterol from the intestine. EZ can not only lower cholesterol level, but also may have some other effects for stabilization and/or regression of arteriosclerosis. Then, we evaluated lipid-lowering and other favorable effects of EZ.

Methods: Forty six patients with hypercholesteremia were studied. The 7 patients were administered only EZ, and other patients were administered EZ in combination with other drugs including antihypertensive drugs or anti-diabetic drugs. Blood test and cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI) test were done before and 3 months after EZ administration.

Results: Total cholesterol decreased from 249.4+/-17 to 209.5+/-17.65 mg/dl(P<0.0001),LDL from 162.94+/-17.7 to 127.0+/-13.9mg/dl(P<0.0001),TG from 122.93+/-56.6 to110.29+/-48.6 mg/dl,RLP-Cholesterol from 9.36+/-5.46 to 7.09+/-4.03mg/dl(P<0.05),MDA-LDL from 105.29+26.6 to 75.21+/-3.93U/I,d-ROM 375.93+/-54.7 to 356.8+/-53.09 (n=14,P<0.01),and PTX3 from 1.75+/-0.77 to 1.46+/-0.55ng/ml(n=13,P<0.05). Lp(a),hsCRP and LPLmass did not change significantly. Apo proteins decreased after EZ administration. CAVI decreased from 9.11+/-1.04 to 8.82+/-0.98.

Conclusions: EZ is a safe and powerful lipid-lowering drug, and has both anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects. EX may also ameliorate arterial stiffness and stabilize atherosclerotic plaque.