thromboxane A₂, as reported in our previous manuscript (Mostefai et al. 2008). These data demonstrate that IL-10 restores the vascular hyporeactivity induced by LPS in tissue-engineered blood vessel models.

A029
IDENTIFICATION OF POLYMORPHISMS IN THE GENE ENCODING SECRETED PHOSPHOLIPASE A2 GROUP X AND STUDY OF THEIR ROLE IN CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE. THE AtheroGene STUDY

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Human secreted phospholipases A₂ (sPLA₂s) represent novel attractive therapeutic targets and biomarkers in coronary artery diseases (CAD). We have shown that human Group X sPLA₂ (hGX sPLA₂) is present in atherosclerotic lesions and that hGX sPLA₂ modified LDL induces foam cell formation. To elucidate whether hGX sPLA₂ has a causative role in CAD we have screened the human PLAZG10 gene to identify frequent polymorphisms, and we have examined their possible association with cardiovascular end-points and intermediate inflammatory phenotypes in a large prospective study of patients with CAD (the AtheroGene study). Although no significant association was found between the various polymorphisms identified and lipids or inflammatory markers, patients carriers of the R38C genotype exhibited the more favourable properties. By gamma-well counting, there was a significant 2.0-fold increase in 99mTc-B2702p-1 left-to-right carotid artery activity ratio (2.61±0.61) and a 3.4-fold increase in left carotid-to-blood activity ratio (1.41±0.36) in comparison to 99mTc-B2702p (1.32±0.23 and 0.41±0.09, respectively, P<0.05 for both comparisons). Finally, a higher 99mTc-B2702p-1 activity in the left than in the right carotid was observed by SPECT imaging (33.3±5.8 vs. 25.1±5.3 cpm/mm²/ID, respectively, P<0.05).

Conclusion — Radiolabelled-B2702p-1 is a potentially useful radiotracer for the in vivo molecular imaging of VCAM-1 expression in atherosclerotic plaques.