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IN VIVO MICROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS OF VASOACTIVE DRUGS AND PLATELET AGGREGATION.

Mary P. Wiedeman, Ronald F. Tuma, Harvey N. Mayrovitz, Temple University School of Medicine, Department of Physiology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

A survey of the literature concerning the effect of vasoactive drugs on platelet aggregation would support the generalization that vasoconstrictors enhance platelet aggregation while vasodilators inhibit the action. Some of the information comes from in vitro studies and some from in vivo studies. Using the bat wing as the experimental site, microscopic observation of the effect of intra-arterial injections of vasoconstrictor drugs (epinephrine and serotonin) and vasodilator drugs (dipyridamole and phenoxybenzamine) confirmed the concept. Platelet activity induced by laser beam after administration of vasoconstrictors showed an increased response while vasodilator drugs produced the converse. In addition, denervated vessels showed diminished activity in platelet aggregate formation. Experimental procedures and responses will be shown by cinemicrophotography.

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