Leukotriene C\textsubscript{4}− and D\textsubscript{4}−-induced diffuse peripheral constriction of swine coronary artery accompanied by ST elevation on the electrocardiogram: angiographic analysis

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ABSTRACT Effects of leukotriene (LT) C\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4} on coronary artery spasm in atherosclerotic miniature pigs were examined angiographically. Endothelial balloon denudation of the left circumflex coronary artery was performed in 15 Göttingen miniature pigs; 11 were fed a 2% cholesterol diet and four were fed a regular diet for 3 months. Three months after this denudation, the area of the coronary artery was reduced by 94 ± 2% and 43 ± 5% (p<.01) in the denuded and nondenuded areas by the intracoronary administration of 10 μg/kg histamine after pretreatment with 60 mg/kg iv cimetidine. The effects of LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4} on coronary diameter and the preventive effects of FPL-55712, a LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4}-receptor blocker, or diphenhydramine, a histamine H\textsubscript{1}-receptor blocker, on histamine-induced coronary spasm were then examined angiographically. Administration of LTC\textsubscript{4} or LTD\textsubscript{4} in doses of 1 and 10 μg into the left coronary artery, or selectively into the left circumflex and left anterior descending coronary arteries in a dose of 5 μg, led to the elevations in the ST segment on the electrocardiogram and there was delayed filling of the contrast medium in the peripheral coronary artery. However, these LTs provoked no augmented contractions at any site on the epicardial coronary arteries (n = 15). Diphenhydramine, 1 mg/kg (n = 6), abolished the histamine-induced coronary spasm. FPL-55712, 0.1 mg/kg, with which the LT-induced myocardial ischemia was abolished, did not prevent the histamine-induced coronary artery spasm. Hence, in a swine preparation of coronary artery spasm, LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4} constricted the coronary arteries at the level of small vessels and rendered the perfused myocardium ischemic. These compounds do not seem to play a primary role in the provocation of epicardial coronary artery spasm induced by histamine in this atherosclerotic swine preparation.


LEUKOTRIENES (LTs), which are 5-lipoxygenase metabolites of arachidonic acid, are released from leukocytes, macrophages, and other cells in response to inflammatory reactions after tissue injury.\textsuperscript{1,2} LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4}, major active components of the slow-reacting substance (SRS)-A,\textsuperscript{1} have a potent constrictive effect on vascular smooth muscle.\textsuperscript{3–8} Accordingly, these LTs are assumed to be one of the causative factors linked to spasm of the coronary artery.\textsuperscript{4–6} In anesthetized, open-chest intact pigs, dogs, and sheep, intracoronary administration of LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4} reduced coronary blood flow followed by electrocardiographic changes associated with transient ischemia.\textsuperscript{9–11} Although the LT-induced vasoconstriction led to a marked reduction in coronary blood flow, it has not been clarified whether the LT-induced myocardial ischemia was caused by spasm of the large epicardial vessels or that of the small resistance vessels of the coronary artery.

We designed a miniature swine preparation of coronary artery spasm in which spasm was repeatedly provoked along the atherosclerotic portion of the large epicardial coronary artery in the presence of histamine.\textsuperscript{12–16} Using this preparation, the goal of the present study was (1) to examine whether LTC\textsubscript{4} and LTD\textsubscript{4} provoke myocardial ischemia with or without coronary artery spasm, and (2) to determine whether LT receptors play any role in evolution of histamine-induced

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coronary artery spasm. To these ends, we used FPL-55712, an antagonist of LTC₄ and LTD₄.³⁴ 12 17 18

**Methods**

**Animal preparation.** Twenty disease-free male Göttingen miniature pigs four to six months old (mean 4.6 ± 1.0) and weighing 13 to 18 kg (mean 15 ± 0.4) were sedated with 12.5 mg/kg im ketamine hydrochloride and anesthetized with 20 mg/kg iv sodium pentobarbital. The pigs were then intubated and ventilated with room air and supplemental oxygen via a positive-pressure respirator (Shinano Inc., Tokyo). Arterial blood pH, PO₂, and PCO₂ were maintained within normal limits. Under aseptic conditions, 5000 units heparin, 10 ml sodium nitroglycerin, and 2 ml cimetidine (Fujisawa, Osaka, Japan) were also administered. Under aseptic conditions, its. Under aseptic conditions, coronary artery spasm. To these ends, we used FPL-55712, an antagonist of LTC₄ and LTD₄. (kindly supplied by Takeda Chemical Ind., Osaka, Japan) were dissolved in 100% methanol, frozen on dry ice, and stored at -70°C. Stock solutions (100 μg/ml) were diluted with 0.9% saline as a vehicle on the day of the experiment.¹¹ The volume injected was 1.0 ml. A bolus injection of vehicle did not affect the coronary diameter, arterial pressure, or heart rate. FPL-55712 (kindly supplied by Fisons Pharmaceuticals Ltd., U.K.) was dissolved in 0.45% saline²⁰ and histamine (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis) and cimetidine (Fujisawa, Osaka, Japan) were dissolved in 0.9% saline.

**Data analysis.** Cine films were projected (Tagano 35-cx, Tagano, Horsens, Denmark) and the end-diastolic frame was identified by the R waves of the electrocardiogram recorded on cinefilm. The diameter of the coronary artery was measured with a caliper to 0.05 mm and the absolute diameter (mm) was obtained with the same Kifa catheter, the diameter of which was measured at the end of the study of each animal. The extent of change in diameter of the artery after drug administration was expressed as the percent change in coronary luminal area (mm²) from that after 20 μg/kg iv nitroglycerin to minimize the influence of coronary arterial tone.²¹

Reproducibility of the measurements of coronary artery diameter was evaluated by comparing the data measured by individual observers; an excellent correlation between repeated measurements (r = .98, p<.001) and between measurements of different observers was obtained (r = .95, p<.001). To compare quantitatively the responses of the denuded left circumflex and nondenuded left anterior descending coronary arteries to vasodilatory agents, two representative sites on each of these arteries were selected to measure the diameter and luminal area throughout the study. The denuded site was the area of the maximal diameter reduction induced by histamine and the nondenuded site was the area of the contralateral coronary artery. In addition, numbers of cine frames between the injection of contrast medium and the visualization of the distal epicardial branches (the third branches) of the left circumflex or the left anterior descending artery were counted in the control state, after intracoronary LTD₄, and after LTD₄ and pretreatment with intravenous FPL-55712. Since LTC₄ and LTD₄ are equipotent in constricting the coronary arteries,³ LTD₄ was used in the present study.

**Statistical analysis.** All results were expressed as the mean ± SE. Statistical significance was tested for by use of Student’s t test. When analysis of variance demonstrated a statistically significant result (p<.05) with respect to sequential data, a Bonferroni’s t test was used to identify subgroup differences. A probability of less than 5% was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

**Results**

**Changes in body weight, serum cholesterol, and coronary artery diameter.** Five of the 16 pigs died due to ventricular fibrillation just after endothelial denudation. Body weight increased significantly from 15.3 ± 0.2 to 24.0 ± 0.4 kg (p<.01) during 3 months of the experiment and the total plasma cholesterol increased significantly from 54 ± 5 to 222 ± 20 mg/dl (p<.01). The coronary artery diameter and luminal area of the left circumflex artery were 2.2 ± 0.1 mm and 4.4 ± 0.6 mm² and those of the left anterior descending artery were 2.2 ± 0.1 mm and 4.4 ± 0.6 mm² before denudation (n = 16). Three months after the
TABLE 1
Effects of LTs in control miniature swine (n = 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coronary area (mm²) and % area reduction (%)</th>
<th>ECG change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCX</td>
<td>LAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After nitroglycerin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC₄ 0.1 µg ic</td>
<td>4.9 ± 2.0 mm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 µg ic</td>
<td>16 ± 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 µg ic</td>
<td>22 ± 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTD₄ 0.1 µg ic</td>
<td>3 ± 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 µg ic</td>
<td>11 ± 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 µg ic</td>
<td>11 ± 8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean ± SE. Absolute luminal coronary area was measured only after intravenous administration of nitroglycerin at a dose of 20 µg/kg. Frequency of ischemic ST changes on the electrocardiogram is shown in the column “ECG change.”

LCX = left circumflex coronary artery; LAD = left anterior descending coronary artery.

denudation, the coronary diameter and area of the left circumflex artery were 2.4 ± 0.1 mm and 4.8 ± 0.8 mm² and those of the left anterior descending artery were 2.5 ± 0.1 mm and 5.0 ± 0.7 mm² (p<0.01 vs before denudation; n=11). Absolute coronary diameters of the left anterior descending artery and the left circumflex arteries did not differ during the same experimental period.

Histamine study. Three months after the denudation and cholesterol feeding, augmented constriction in response to histamine after cimetidine was noted at the denuded site (left circumflex artery) in all pigs (n = 11); percent reductions in the luminal area were 94 ± 2% and 43 ± 5% in the left circumflex and left anterior descending arteries, respectively. Arterial pressure decreased significantly by 10 to 20 mm Hg 30 sec after histamine and almost recovered to the control level by around 60 and 120 sec, when coronary arteriography was performed. Heart rate increased slightly after histamine and returned to control levels during coronary arteriography. Significant ST segment elevation, defined as ST segment shifts from the control level of over 0.1 mV, occurred at the related site (in leads II, III, and V₁) of the denuded coronary artery in six of 11 pigs. There was a significant difference in coronary constriction in the group with and that without ST elevation (66 ± 4% and 80 ± 7% diameter constriction, respectively.)

Effects of LTs. Arterial pressure did not change significantly 1 and 2 min after LTC₄ and LTD₄, 1 µg into the left main coronary artery, or LTD₄, 5 µg into the left anterior descending or left circumflex artery, but it increased significantly after 10 µg of the LTs was injected into the left main coronary artery. Heart rate did not change significantly during the period of angiography. Dose-dependent electrocardiographic ST elevations were noted 60–100 sec after intracoronary administration of LTs in all leads (tables 1 and 2), anterior and posterior, after left main, left anterior descending, and left circumflex artery injections, respectively (figure 1). LTC₄ and LTD₄ in the doses given constricted equally both the denuded and non-denuded areas of the epicardial coronary artery by less than 40% and augmented vasoconstriction was not induced at any site on the large epicardial coronary arteries in either control or atherosclerotic swine (figures 2 and 3; tables 1 and 2). Intervals between the time of injection of contrast medium into the left main coronary artery and the visualization of the third branches of the epicardial coronary arteries in both the left circumflex and left anterior descending arteries were significantly prolonged after administration of LTs com-

TABLE 2
Effects of LTs in atherosclerotic miniature swine (n = 11)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coronary area (mm²) and % area reduction (%)</th>
<th>Heart rate (beats/min)</th>
<th>mAoP (mm Hg)</th>
<th>ECG change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCX</td>
<td>LAD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After nitroglycerin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 60 mg/kg iv cimetidine</td>
<td>4.8 ± 0.8 mm²</td>
<td>5.0 ± 0.7 mm²</td>
<td>136 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 10 µg/kg ic histamine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1 µg ic</td>
<td>94 ± 2%</td>
<td>43 ± 5%</td>
<td>136 ± 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 µg ic</td>
<td>28 ± 6%</td>
<td>16 ± 4%</td>
<td>144 ± 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 µg ic</td>
<td>20 ± 4%</td>
<td>16 ± 5%</td>
<td>144 ± 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTD₄ 0.1 µg ic</td>
<td>94 ± 2%</td>
<td>43 ± 5%</td>
<td>136 ± 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 µg ic</td>
<td>20 ± 5%</td>
<td>18 ± 3%</td>
<td>141 ± 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 µg ic</td>
<td>15 ± 4%</td>
<td>8 ± 3%</td>
<td>143 ± 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean ± SE. Absolute luminal coronary area was measured only after intravenous administration of nitroglycerin at a dose of 20 µg/kg. ECG change represents number of 11 cases with ischemic electrocardiographic ST changes.

mAoP = mean aortic pressure; LCX = left circumflex coronary artery; LAD = left anterior descending coronary artery.

*p < .01 vs LAD; °p < .05; †p < .01 vs after nitroglycerin.
prepared with intervals in the control angiograms (table 3). Such LT-induced ST elevations and the delayed filling of the third branches of the epicardial coronary arteries with contrast were suppressed after pretreatment with 0.1 mg/kg iv FPL-55712 (figure 2; table 3).

Prevention of histamine-induced coronary spasm. After administration 0.1 mg/kg iv FPL-55712 and 1 mg/kg iv diphenhydramine, arterial pressure and heart rate did not change significantly. As shown in figure 4, FPL-55712 failed to prevent the histamine-induced constriction both at the denuded site (left circumflex artery) and the nondenuded site (left anterior descending artery) in all six pigs. Diphenhydramine, 1 mg/kg iv, a histamine H₁-blocker, prevented histamine-induced constriction in the same six pigs (table 4).

Discussion
Using miniature pigs and coronary arteriography, we examined the effects of leukotrienes LTC₄ and LTD₄ on coronary artery spasm. The present study

FIGURE 1. Electrocardiograms obtained after infusion of LTs into the left main coronary artery (LM, 10 μg dose), the left anterior descending coronary artery (LAD, 5 μg dose), and the left circumflex coronary artery (LCX, 5 μg dose). ST segments are elevated in both V₁ and V₆ in the case of LM infusion, in V₁ after LAD infusion, and in V₆ after LCX infusion. Paper speed is 25 mm/sec. Black dots represent the time of drug administration.

FIGURE 2. Coronary angiograms and electrocardiograms obtained in control state, after 10 μg ic LTD₄ and after 10 μg ic LTD₄ with 0.1 mg/kg iv FPL-55712. LTD₄ administered into the left main coronary artery caused electrocardiographic ST elevations in the related area of the left circumflex (V₆) and left anterior descending coronary arteries (V₁). Note that distal portions of the coronary arteries are not visible (arrows) when intracoronary LT is given. Such LT-induced myocardial ischemia and the delayed visualization of the distal portions of the epicardial coronary arteries disappeared after pretreatment with FPL-55712.
Figure 3. Coronary angiograms obtained after injections of LTD₄ at various sites. A, Control; B, injection of 10 μg LTD₄ into the left main coronary artery; C, injection of 5 μg LTD₄ into the left anterior descending coronary artery; D, injection of 5 μg LTD₄ into the left circumflex coronary artery. Arrow indicates the site of dye filling delay. These angiograms were taken in the same heart as in figure 2.

TABLE 3
Intervals (msec) between injections of the contrast medium and the visualization of the distal epicardial coronary branches of the LCX and LAD (n=6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>LTD₄ 10 μg ic</th>
<th>FPL55712, 0.1 mg/kg + LTD₄ 10 μg ic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCX</td>
<td>1200±200</td>
<td>3000±100⁴</td>
<td>1400±100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAD</td>
<td>1200±200</td>
<td>2900±200⁴</td>
<td>1500±100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean ± SE.
LCX = left circumflex coronary artery; LAD = left anterior descending coronary artery.

⁴p < .05 vs control and intravenous FPL55712 + 10 μg ic LTD₄.

A significant reduction in coronary blood flow and associated electrocardiographic signs of ischemia after intracoronary injection of LTC₄ and LTD₄ have been noted in the intact pig heart.⁸ However, the site of coronary artery contraction that is critical for the development of myocardial ischemia has not been clarified. In a study using the cheek pouch, LTC₄ and LTD₄, applied topically for a 3 min period in 0.3 to 20 nM concentrations elicited an intense dose-dependent contraction of arterioles, in particular the terminal arterioles.²² Since augmented coronary contraction was provoked along the segments of the epicardial coronary artery in our swine⁴⁻¹⁶ and in canine preparations,²³ we applied coronary arteriography to visualize the entire epicardial coronary arterial trees and to determine the site of focal spasm without thoracotomy and without dissecting the artery.

Results of the present study confirmed our previous findings that the arteriosclerotic portion of the coronary artery responded vigorously to H₁ stimulation.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ These findings were in agreement with augmented vascular responses to histamine of human epicardial coro-
preparations, we administered LTs. LTD4 are
(Langendorff preparation) analysis of the pathophysiology of coronary artery disease. Thus, the preferential site of arterial contraction may be the terminal arterioles, as was noted in the study using the cheek pouch.26 These LT-mediated small vessel constrictions were unaffected after coronary denudation.

In the present study, enhanced contraction of the large coronary artery similar to that observed after histamine was not demonstrated angiographically at any site on the left circumflex (denuded site) or the left anterior descending coronary artery (nondenuded site), after the intracoronary administration of the LTs. Furthermore, FPL-55712 in an adequate dose to prevent LT-induced myocardial ischemia did not modulate the extent of histamine-induced constrictions. Thus, it was suggested that in our swine preparation LTC4 and LTD4 did not induce augmented contraction of the epicardial coronary artery, but rather these compounds caused myocardial ischemia as a result of enhanced

### TABLE 4
Prevention of histamine-induced spasm in miniature swine (n=6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Coronary area (mm²) and % area reduction</th>
<th>Heart rate (beats/min)</th>
<th>mAoP (mm Hg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LCX</td>
<td>LAD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After nitroglycerin</td>
<td>4.8 ± 1.1 mm²</td>
<td>5.0 ± 1.8 mm²</td>
<td>140 ± 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cimetidine iv + histamine ic</td>
<td>94 ± 4%&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>43 ± 5%</td>
<td>134 ± 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPL iv + cimetidine iv + histamine ic</td>
<td>94 ± 2%&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>40 ± 5%</td>
<td>143 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphenhydramine iv + cimetidine iv + histamine ic</td>
<td>16 ± 3%&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8 ± 2%&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>152 ± 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean ± SE. Absolute luminal coronary area was measured only after intravenous administration of nitroglycerin at a dose of 20 μg/kg.

<sup>a</sup>p < .05 vs LAD; <sup>b</sup>p < .05 between control study and FPL study.

FIGURE 4. Coronary angiograms and electrocardiograms obtained in the control state, after 10 μg/kg ic histamine with intravenous cimetidine, and after pretreatment with 0.1 mg/kg iv FPL-55712. Note that histamine-induced spasm (arrow) was not attenuated by FPL-55712.
constriction of the small vessels. This evidence contradicts the data obtained in studies with tracheal smooth muscle, in which the tracheal insufflation pressure in anesthetized artificially ventilated pigs increased at least 100 times more with LTC₄ compared with the increase after histamine.²⁰ Accordingly, in the relative potency of smooth muscle contraction induced by LTs and histamine, there was a large difference among species,²⁷ organs,²⁷ locus of arteries,²² and arteries with and without vasospastic characteristics, as shown in the present study. Mechanisms of these differences may be related to the functional state of LT receptors,²⁸ but further work with regard to LT receptors in coronary arteries has to be done.

In our swine preparation of coronary artery spasm, LTs (LTC₄ and LTD₄) did not play a primary role in the provocation of coronary artery spasm. However, Mullane et al.²⁹ noted an increase in lipoxygenase products in the infarcted area and significant protection of the myocardium by the relatively selective lipoxygenase inhibitor BW 755C after coronary occlusion of the canine heart. Thus, it is possible that the LT-induced myocardial ischemia associated with histamine-induced coronary spasm may result in severe myocardial ischemia due to the extensive contraction of coronary arteries from the conduit to the level of small vessels.

Lee et al.³⁰ suggested that a diet enriched with fish oil–derived fatty acids has anti-inflammatory effects because it inhibits the 5-lipoxygenase pathway in neutrophils and monocytes and the LT-B₄-mediated functions of neutrophils. However, effects of a high-cholesterol diet on LT receptors have not been examined. In the present study, LTC₄ and LTD₄ induced similar electrophysiographic ST change in groups on a regular diet and those consuming 2% cholesterol. Thus, LT receptors on coronary artery smooth muscle may not be altered by a diet with 2% added cholesterol.

Direct extrapolation of these finding in pigs to patients with coronary spasm and/or ischemic heart disease may not be feasible, since vascular responses to the LTs differ among species.²⁷ However, our observations do pave the way for elucidation of the pathophysiology of coronary artery spasm.

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References

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