

Novel Target for Cardiovascular Disease

Published date: Feb. 1, 2012

Technology description

Summary

Prostaglandin D2 Receptors in Cardiovascular Disease

Description

The withdrawal of Vioxx and Celebrex was due in large part to their inhibition of the production of protective prostaglandins in the arterial vasculature. Although effective in treating arthritis, these drugs induced substantial increases in the risk of major cardiovascular events. A more complete understanding of the atherogenic and atheroprotective roles for COX-derived prostaglandins is necessary for the development of anti-inflammatory drugs which avoid the adverse cardiovascular effects seen in the current generation of coxibs. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have demonstrated a novel role for prostaglandins in atherogenesis. Additionally, they have shown in vivo for the first time that a particular subset of prostaglandin receptors are expressed by vascular smooth muscle cells. The findings suggest that these vascular prostaglandin receptors may be a novel drug target in atherosclerosis.

Institution

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