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**P2Y₁₂ INHIBITION GREATLY POTENTIATES THE
ANTI-PLATELET EFFECTS OF PROSTACYCLIN AND
NITRIC OXIDE**

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doi:10.1136/heartjnl-2013-304019.261

When P2Y₁₂ receptors on platelets are blocked by commonly used anti-platelet drugs such as clopidogrel and prasugrel, the inhibitory brake on adenylate cyclase (AC) activity is lifted and the anti-platelet effects of prostacyclin (PGI₂) and other agents that activate platelet AC are synergistically enhanced. We have recently demonstrated that blockade of the P2Y₁₂ receptor also enhances the anti-platelet effect of nitric oxide (NO). The aim of this study was to study the interaction between PGI₂, NO and P2Y₁₂ receptor inhibition on platelet aggregation and to determine pharmacologically, using isobolographic analysis, if this interaction constitutes a true synergy or simply an additive effect.

Methods Blood was collected by venepuncture into 0.32% trisodium citrate. Platelet rich plasma (PRP) was isolated by centrifugation and either tested directly or further washed with Tyrode's-Hepes buffer. The PRP or washed platelets (WP) were incubated with the P2Y₁₂ inhibitor prasugrel active metabolite (PAM; 3 μM) or vehicle (0.5% DMSO) for 30 min followed by 1 min incubation with the NO donor DEA/NONOate (10 nM–1 mM) and/or PGI₂ (0.2 nM–100 nM) and/or vehicle (0.01M NaOH). WP platelet aggregation to thrombin (1U/ml) was measured by 96-well aggregometry and PRP platelet aggregation to TRAP-6 (Thrombin Receptor Activating Peptide-6, 30 μM) or collagen (30 μg/ml) was measured by light transmission aggregometry (LTA). Isobolograms were constructed by plotting the IC₅₀ values for DEA-NONOate and PGI₂ in vehicle or PAM treated WP. Data represents mean±SEM % final platelet aggregation from 4–5 healthy volunteers.

Results Thrombin (1U/ml), TRAP-6 (30 μM) or collagen (30 μg/ml) all produced robust aggregation responses in WP and PRP respectively which was largely unaffected by the addition of 10nM DEA-NONOate and 4nM PGI₂ or 3 μM PAM. However, the combination of all three (NO, PGI₂ and PAM) resulted in almost complete inhibition of platelet aggregation.

Isobolographic analysis of the data showed that the interaction between DEA/NONOate, PGI₂ and PAM in WP was strongly synergistic (isoboles curved away from the predicted linear line for an additive relationship).

Conclusions These data confirm that activation of platelet P2Y₁₂ receptors by secreted ADP limits the anti-platelet effects of both

NO and PGI₂, suggesting that P2Y₁₂ activation may be an important mechanism for haemostasis. In addition, we have demonstrated that the interaction between P2Y₁₂ receptors and vascular mediators is strongly synergistic. Potentiation of the effects of endogenous NO and PGI₂ may represent an important mechanism for how P2Y₁₂ inhibitors produce anti-thrombotic protection.

% aggregation WP	Vehicle	+ 10nM DEA/NONOate and 4nMPGI ₂	3μMPAM	3μMPAM+ 10nM DEA/NONOate and 4nMPGI ₂
1U/ml Thrombin	90±2 %	94±2 %	78±5 %	-5±1 %

% aggregation PRP	Vehicle	+ 10nM DEA/NONOate and 4nMPGI ₂	3μMPAM	3μMPAM+ 10nM DEA/NONOate and 4nMPGI ₂
30μM TRAP-6	71±2 %	51±2 %	67±1 %	1±1 %
30μg/ml Collagen	65±6 %	54±5 %	62±5 %	14±6 %

Figure 1

Figure 2