

Correspondence

An alternative explanation for the inverse relationship between atopy and myocardial infarction

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To the Editor:

I read with interest the recent report by Jaramillo et al¹ regarding the inverse relationship between allergen-specific IgE and myocardial infarction and the proposed mechanism of T_H1 versus T_H2 inflammation in cardiovascular disease. Acute thrombosis in a coronary artery can cause myocardial infarction. Thus, anticlotting agents are used for prevention and treatment. Szczeklik et al²⁻⁴ have demonstrated that atopic individuals have a prolonged bleeding time.

Recently, omalizumab, which inhibits allergen-specific IgE-mediated inflammation, was associated with an increased risk of thrombotic and cardiovascular events.⁵ I suggest that this mechanism could be evaluated by performing bleeding times on atopic patients before and during treatment with omalizumab to further investigate the role of atopy in cardiovascular disease.

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Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: A. Varner declares that he has no relevant conflicts of interest.

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