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Calcification and C-reactive protein in atherosclerosis : effects of calcium blocking and cholesterol lowering therapy

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift "*Calcification and C-reactive protein in atherosclerosis: Effects of calcium blocking and cholesterol lowering therapy*".

1. Vascular smooth muscle cells derived from neonatal rats can produce calcium deposits when given the right culture conditions. *(dit proefschrift)*
2. Calcification of vascular smooth muscle cells *in vitro* is not influenced by treatment with amlodipine, however, treatment with atorvastatin stimulates this process. *(dit proefschrift)*
3. Inflammation is an important aspect of atherosclerosis. Screening for inflammatory mediators such as C-reactive protein (CRP) in plasma in addition to traditional risk factors, provides a better indication of risk of cardiovascular events. CRP is however not likely to be directly involved in atherosclerosis development. *(dit proefschrift)*
4. Besides having a blood pressure lowering effect, amlodipine also affects atherosclerosis development. *(dit proefschrift)*
5. Vascular smooth muscle cells have a crucial role in the process of atherosclerosis. Not only do they contribute to the development of an atherosclerotic lesion through migration and proliferation, but they also contribute to the process of vascular calcification.
6. Heavy calcification is highly suggestive, but not diagnostic of significant occlusive disease of the coronary arteries. *(Richard J. Frink et al. Am. J. Cardiol. 1970; 26: 241-247)*
7. Atherosclerosis is an inflammatory disease. *(Russell Ross, New. Engl. J. Med. 1999; 340: 115-126)*
8. Recent data from randomized trials of statins are compatible with the possibility of clinically relevant pleiotropic effects. *(Am. J. Cardiol. 2006; 97: 1332-1336)*

9. Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. (*Albert Einstein*)

10. Als ik op tijd ben is de trein te laat, en als ik te laat ben is de trein op tijd....

11. You only learn when you listen. You learn nothing when you only talk.

12. If we knew what it was we were doing it would not be called research, would it?
(*Albert Einstein*)

Leiden, 5 oktober 2006

A. Trion