

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CARDIAC LYMPHATICS IN CORONARY ATHEROSCLEROSIS

I was pleased with the Lemole article in the March, 2016 issue of *Lymphology* (1), and in particular was impressed with his knowledge and substantial work in creating the impressive bibliography. I write now to support the possibility and to add additional evidence that the cardiac lymphatics play a significant role in coronary atherosclerosis.

In a paper in October 1963 (2), I mentioned that infarct size and the extent of scar formation could be related to the lymphatics of the heart. We followed this finding up with a paper by Kline et al (3) published in 1964 where we suggested that the size of myocardial infarction and the nature of healing could be influenced by the state of cardiac lymph drainage. In 1985, we authored a chapter in the book on biology of the lymphatic system (4) which listed references relating arterial alterations to possible atherosclerosis. Finally, in a paper published in 1992 (5), our group at Northwestern University presented an argument in favor of the role of the cardiac lymphatics in relation to coronary atherosclerosis.

I list these articles for the sake of completeness in the study of coronary atherosclerosis and to augment the wonderful investigation of this fascinating subject. Atherosclerosis remains a pathologic mystery into which we have moved certain insights, but we are still far from final answers. The lymphatics remain an aspect of the pathologic puzzle. I congratulate you and *Lymphology* for re-opening an important question!

REFERENCES

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3. Kline, IK, AJ Miller, R Pick, et al: The effects of chronic impairment of cardiac lymph flow on myocardial reactions after coronary artery ligation in dogs. *Am. Heart J.* 68 (1964), 515- 523.
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5. Miller, AJ, A DeBoer, A Palmer: The role of the lymphatic system in coronary atherosclerosis. *Medical Hypotheses* 37 (1992), 31-36.

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