Hypoadiponectinemia as a Risk Factor for Atherosclerosis?

To the Editor:

We want to comment on and complete the cited references of the article by Iglseder et al.\(^1\) that demonstrated an independent negative association between adiponectin levels and carotid intima-media thickness (IMT). With reference to this, our group also found an inverse and independent correlation between adiponectin and carotid IMT.\(^2\) Our data were derived from 240 subjects of the Styrian Juvenile Obesity Study (STYJOBS).\(^2\) However, we also have to note that not all studies in this field report about a significant negative association between adiponectin and carotid IMT.\(^3\) Thus, the confirmation of our results by Iglseder et al underlines the close association between low adiponectin and early atherosclerosis. Further, the notion of a protective function of adiponectin in coronary artery disease (CAD) is also supported by longitudinal studies that implicated an association between hypoadiponectinemia and CAD.\(^4,5\) Controversial to this, 2 recent studies failed to observe a significant prospective association between low adiponectin levels and the development of CAD.\(^6,7\) Taken together, the diagnostic or even therapeutic potential of adiponectin in cardiovascular disease remains to be clarified.\(^8\)

Stefan Pilz
Karine Sargsyan
Harald Mangge
Clinical Institute of Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnosis
Medical University
Graz, Austria
Pediatric Rheumatology/Immunology
Medical University
Graz, Austria

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Stefan Pilz, Karine Sargsyan and Harald Mangge

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