

# Mediators of inflammation

## Types of chemical mediators:

### 1. Cell Derived mediators:

A. Preformed mediator in secretory granules:

Histamine, Serotonin

B. Newly synthesized:

Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes, Platelet Activating Factor, ROS, NO  
Cytokines, Neuropeptides

### 2. Plasma protein derived mediators:

A. Complement ~~and~~ system

B. Kinin system

C. Factor XII (Hageman)

## Histamine:

**Function:** Arteriolar dilatation, increased vascular permeability, endothelial activation

**Source:** Mast cells, Basophils, Platelets

**Stimuli:** Physical injury, IgE binding to Fc, C3a and C5a, Neuropeptides  
Certain leukocytes (e.g. IL-1, IL-8), Leukocyte-derived histamine-releasing protein

## Serotonine:

**Source : Function**

Platelet : vasoconstriction during clotting

Neurons : Neurotransmitter

Enterochromaffin : Regulates intestinal motility

### Activation

## Platelet ~~Activation~~ Factor (PAF)

**Function:** Bronchoconstriction, Vasodilatation, Increase vascular permeability,  
Stimulation of platelets, (leukocyte adhesion, chemotaxis, degranulation, oxidative burst)

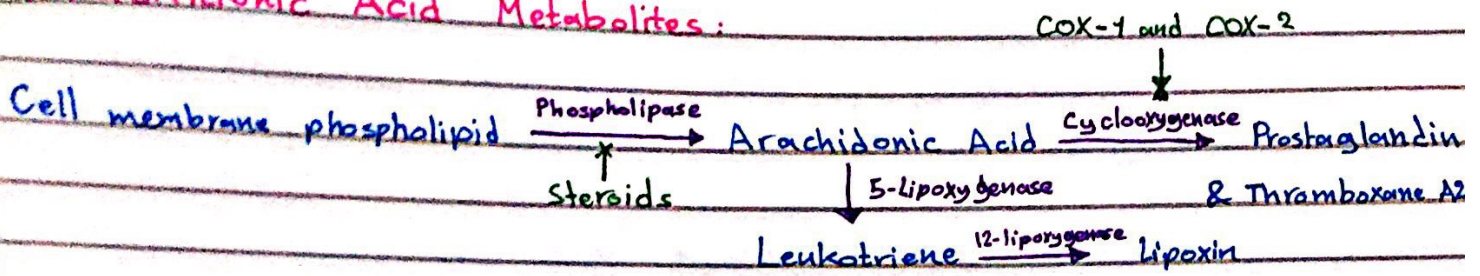
Induce most of the reactions of inflammation: Leukocyte adhesion, Chemotaxis

Degranulation, intracellular killing, stimulates synthesis of other mediator

**Source:** Neutrophils, Monocytes, Basophils, Endothelial cells



## Arachidonic Acid Metabolites:



\* Thromboxane A<sub>2</sub>: <sup>promotes</sup> vasoconstriction, ~~inhibits~~ platelets aggregation

\* Lipoxin A<sub>4</sub>, B<sub>4</sub>: Inhibition of inflammation

\* Leukotrienes: { C<sub>4</sub>, D<sub>4</sub>, E<sub>4</sub>: Vasoconstriction, Increase vascular permeability, Bronchospasm  
 Produced by 5-lipoxygenase  
 B<sub>4</sub>: Chemotaxis, leukocyte adhesion (and activation)

\* Prostaglandins: { PGE<sub>1</sub>: Vasodilation  
 Produced by cyclooxygenase  
 PGI<sub>2</sub>: Vasodilation, Inhibits platelets aggregation, <sup>Increase vascular permeability</sup>  
 PGD<sub>2</sub>, PGE<sub>2</sub>: Vasodilation increase vascular permeability  
 PGE<sub>2</sub>: also produce Pain and Fever  
 PGC<sub>4</sub>, PGD<sub>4</sub>, PGE<sub>4</sub>: smooth muscles contraction

## Cytokines:

\* Chemokines: <sup>(chemotaxis)</sup> Leukocyte attraction and activation

\* Interleukins: TNF, IL-1: Fever, endothelium activation

# TNF, IL-1, IL-6:

Local: Endothelial activation (increase expressing of E-selectin)

Systemic: Fever, Hypotension (shock), Metabolic abnormalities (e.g. Insulin resistance)

## Reactive oxygen species (ROS)

Function: Destruction of phagocytosed microbes and necrotic cell

Source: Neutrophils and activated macrophages

## Nitric Oxide:

Function: Endothelial cells → Vasodilation  
 Macrophages → Cytotoxic metabolite

suppresses acute inflammation:

A. PAF antagonist

Reduction of leukocyte recruitment



## Lysosomal enzymes of Leukocytes:

Acid proteases: active only within phagolysosomes

Neutral proteases: active in extracellular matrix causing their destruction

Neuropeptides: Ex. substance P

Function: Transmit pain signals, Regulate vessel tone, Modulate vascular permeability

Source: Nerve Fibers

## Plasma protein derived mediators

### Complements:

C3a, C5a: (Anaphylatoxins) 1. mast cell activation → vasodilatation  
2. leukocyte chemotaxis and activation (Neutrophils)

C3b: Opsonization

C5b-9: Membrane attack complex (MAC)

### Kinin:

Bradykinin: increased vascular permeability, Vasodilatation, smooth muscle cont.  
**Pain**

Kallikrein: chemotactic activity, Potent activator of Hageman factor

### Hageman factor (XII factor):

**Pathways** { Activated upon exposure to subendothelial or tissue collagen / Contact activated platelet  
Activates: Complement system, Kinin system, Coagulation and fibrinolytic system

## Cardinal Signs

A. Redness (rubor) and warmth (calor) → Vasodilatation → Key mediators are histamine, prostaglandins, and bradykinin

B. Swelling (tumor) → Exudation post capillary venules → Key mediators are histamine and tissue damage

C. Pain (dolor) → Sensitization of nerve endings → Bradykinin and PGE<sub>2</sub>

D. Fever → TNF and IL → Hypothalamus → Increased PGE<sub>2</sub>



## Role of mediators in Different Reactions of Inflammation

### Vasodilatation (Redness and warmth):

Key mediators: Histamine, Bradykinin, Prostaglandins

Other mediators: PAF, Nitric Oxide

### Increased vascular permeability (Swelling):

Key mediators: Histamine, Tissue damage

Other mediators: Serotonin, Bradykinin, Leukotrienes (C<sub>4</sub>, D<sub>4</sub>, E<sub>4</sub>), PAF, Substance P

### Chemotaxis, leukocyte recruitment and activation

TNF, IL-1, Chemokines, C<sub>3a</sub>, C<sub>5a</sub>, Leukotriene B<sub>4</sub>, Bacterial products

### Fever:

TNF, IL-1 → Hypothalamus → PGE<sub>2</sub>

### Pain:

Bradykinin, PGE<sub>2</sub>

### Tissue damage:

ROS, NO, Lysosomal enzymes of leukocytes