**SMALL INTESTINE APPEARS TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATION AND CARDIOVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS**

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Administration of D-4F an anti inflammatory peptide made from all D-amino acids that does not get significantly absorbed form the intestine and thus will not generate high plasma concentrations of the peptide, reduced inflammatory markers serum amyloid A and oxidized fatty acids in plasma. Intravenous injection of low doses of D-4F produced high plasma concentrations of the peptide as expected however it did not reduce SAA and did not improve HDL anti inflammatory index. It therefore appears that the small intestine plays an important role in systemic inflammation. It is necessary to clarify the role of the intestinal content, the microbiota, the enterocytes, associated macrophages and the crypt cells. Several GI disorders have been shown to be associated with vascular inflammation and HDL abnormalities. Crohn's disease and IBD are among these pathological conditions. Aside from proper life style and healthy nutritional habits that clearly support optimal GI function, reduce pressure on the GI and decrease the chance of systemic inflammation, the use of anti inflammatory molecules such as HDL mimetic peptides appear to be beneficial in animal models.