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INVESTIGATION OF CD31-POSITIVE PLATELETS IN PATIENTS WITH APS - Tzvetan H. Lukanov, Petrunka K. Petrova, Mussa Eleazar, Hristina D. Andreeva, Ludmil Terziev. Center of Clinical Immunology, University School of Medicine, Pleven, Bulgaria

Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is defined by the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies, venous and arterial thromboembolism, thrombocytopenia, recurrent spontaneous abortions and possibly a variety of cardiac, neurologic and dermatologic problems. Platelet-endothelial cell adhesion molecule (PECAM-1) or CD31 is expressed on endothelial cells, platelets, T-lymphocyte subsets, monocytes and granulocytes. CD31 antigen is localized at regions of cell-cell contacts and may function as an adhesion molecule. PECAM-1 is a good marker for detection of activated platelets in the circulation. Our aim was to investigate CD31-positive platelets in 15 patients with APS, respectively, to what extent do platelets circulate in an activated state in these patients. Platelets in whole blood from 15 patients with APS and 10 healthy controls were analyzed with CD31 PE, by Flow cytometry (FACSsort, Becton Dickinson). With this analysis an enhanced percentage of CD31 positive platelets was present in 13 of 15 patients with APS. This result confirms that a subpopulation of the platelets appears to be activated in the patients with APS.