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Evaluation of protein viscosity in Sickle Cell Disease

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Summary

The viscosity of proteins is a very important parameter used to evaluate the viscosity of whole blood, which strongly influence the hemodynamics of the human blood circulation. The classical viscometers (Capillary, Falling Body and rotational viscometers) are not adequate to do clinical measurement of dynamic viscosity because they require a big amount of samples, are affected by turbidity and are dependent of the skill of the operator. A new magnetic resonance based method to evaluate dynamic viscosity of proteins is presented, which is based in the straight forward relation between dynamic viscosity and the proton relaxation rate in the solutions. A good agreement is obtained between the results obtained with the NMR based method and the gold standard used (Ostwald viscometer) for intracellular hemoglobin and Plasma. Was possible to evaluate the increasing of the dynamic viscosity in protein solutions (Plasma and hemoglobin) belong to the whole blood from sickle cell patients.

Interaction of statins with cell membrane by NMR spectroscopy

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Statins are drugs which reduce the amount of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol by inhibiting hydroxyl-methyl-glutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase. Cholesterol is known as a well-established risk factor for atherosclerosis. Furthermore, statins have additional pharmacological properties which are called pleiotropic. Despite the fact that statins have a similar molecular structure, their pleiotropic properties vary considerably. There is a hypothesis that this difference depends on the location of statins in the cell membrane [1, 2], but to the present day there is a lack of information in the literature on interactions of statins with the surface of the cellular membrane.

Micelle of dodecylphosphocholine (DPC) were used as a model cellular membrane system for investigating the interactions of atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin and pravastatin. Investigation was carried out by NMR spectroscopy with Nuclear Overhauser Effect (NOESY and ROESY experiments). This method applies research on intercellular interaction and obtains information about the structure of the molecular complex and also about parts of molecules which form binds.

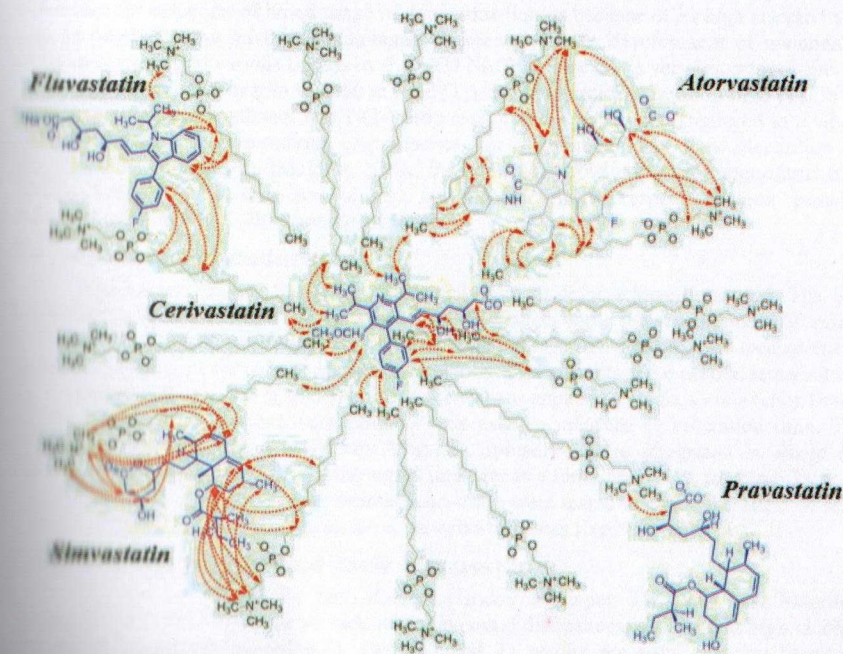


Figure 1. Schematic presentation of the NOEs (dashed arrows) observed in NMR spectra of different statins in D₂O + DPC micelles