This Week’s Citation Classic

Greenway C V & Stark R D. Hepatic vascular bed. Physiol. Rev. 51:33-65. 1971. [Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Manitoba Medical School, Winnipeg, Canada]

This article attempted to review physiological and pharmacological studies on the hepatic vascular bed, which was at that time relatively neglected compared to the vascular beds of muscle, heart, kidney, or brain. It provided a convenient, single citation for establishing normal parameters and physiological responses in the liver circulation. [The SC® indicates that this paper has been cited in over 445 publications.]

A Lifetime Interest in Liver Circulation

Clive V. Greenway
Hepatic Research Unit
Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E OW3
Canada

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After three years as a PhD student attempting to measure the newly discovered hormone aldosterone in plasma, I decided that test tubes were not for me. I therefore began to work on the cardiovascular system of anesthetized cats and dogs. After moving from Cambridge to Aberdeen, I was given the usual opportunity as a very junior faculty member to invite any physiologist to Aberdeen for a six-month sabbatical. To my immense pleasure and surprise, Dr. Stefan Mellander, who was then in Professor Folkow’s laboratory at Göteborg, agreed to come. Stefan was much more experienced than I, and his earlier elegant studies on nervous and hormonal responses in the vascular beds of muscle and intestine have been wide acceptance that the splanchnic vascular bed is a major blood reservoir is stimulating the interest of cardiovascular scientists. I hope that it also persuaded one or two young scientists to enter the field. Since 1971, there have been many advances in hepatic vascular bed research, and the interest in this area as studies in pharmacokinetics progress from empirically derived elimination rate constants to specific models for hepatic drug uptake. In addition, there is increased interest in the splanchnic vascular bed as a major blood reservoir is stimulating the interest of cardiovascular scientists. I hope that both the original and the recent versions of our review rapidly become outdated and that many new investigators will enter this interesting and often puzzling field.


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