Corticosteroid-binding globulin cleavage may be pathogen-dependent in bloodstream infection

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Abstract

Objective: The process of enzymatic cleavage of high- to low-affinity corticosteroid-binding globulin (haCBG to laCBG) by neutrophil elastase leads to local tissue release of cortisol. Recently *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was shown to instigate CBG cleavage with release of free cortisol *in vitro*. Hence, CBG cleavage with release of anti-inflammatory cortisol in infection may be pathogen-dependent. Our objective was to determine whether haCBG and laCBG levels are altered in infected patients compared with controls, and whether these alterations were particular to causative bacteria.