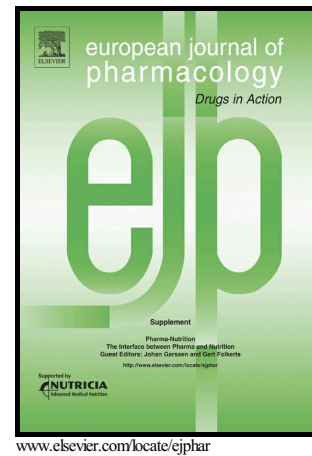


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Integrin, alpha9 subunit blockade suppresses collagen-induced arthritis with minimal systemic immunomodulation

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ABSTRACT

Integrin, alpha9 subunit (hereinafter, alpha9) has been identified as a novel putative therapeutic target for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Support for this target comes from the observations that alpha9 is overexpressed both in the joints of RA patients and in animal models of arthritis. In the experimental models, the increase in alpha9 expression precedes the onset of arthritic symptoms. The current study presents data on the pharmacological profile of an anti-alpha9 antibody in a collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) mouse model. Administration of an alpha9-blocking antibody in CIA mice suppressed the development of arthritis and significantly decreased plasma level of activated fibroblast-like synoviocyte (FLS)-derived biomarkers without reducing the formation of

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