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**Protein kinase C beta II induces endothelial dysfunction via mitochondrial activation in HUVECs.**

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**Objectives:** Protein kinase C (PKC) induces endothelial dysfunction, which is an important pathological factor in cardiovascular diseases. This study aimed to evaluate the role of PKC $\beta$ II on the endothelial dysfunction related to mitochondrial activation.

**Methods:** Here, using adenoviral PKC $\beta$ II gene transfer and pharmacological inhibitors, the role of PKC $\beta$ II on the endothelial dysfunction were investigated in human umbilical vein endothelial cells.

**Results:** Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) increased reactive oxygen species (ROS), p66shc phosphorylation, intracellular adhesion molecule-1 and monocyte adhesion which were inhibited by PKC $\beta$ i (10 nM), a selective inhibitor of PKC $\beta$ II. PMA increased the phosphorylation of CREB and manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD) which were also inhibited by PKC $\beta$ i. Gene silencing of CREB inhibited PMA-induced MnSOD expression, suggesting CREB plays a key role of MnSOD expression. Gene silencing of PKC $\beta$ II inhibited PMA-induced mitochondrial ROS, MnSOD, and ICAM-1 expression. On contrast, overexpression of PKC $\beta$ II using AdPKC $\beta$ II increased mitochondrial ROS, MnSOD, ICAM-1 and p66shc phosphorylation in cultured endothelial cells. Finally, PKC $\beta$ II-induced ICAM-1 expression is inhibited by Mito-TEMPO, mitochondrial ROS scavenger, suggesting involvement of mitochondrial ROS in PKC-induced vascular inflammation.

**Conclusions:** Taken together, it is suggested that PKC $\beta$ II plays an important role of PMA-induced endothelial dysfunction, and the inhibition of PKC $\beta$ II-dependent p66shc signaling acts as a therapeutic target for vascular inflammatory diseases.