Problems related to fibrinolysis

The constant prevalence of episodes of intravascular thrombosis in the field of medicine and surgery has resulted in an increasing interest in the phenomenon of natural fibrinolysis and induced thrombolytic therapy.

Recent studies of the effect of conventional anticoagulants in therapy have shown that they have little or no effect on established thrombi and only prevent spread or recurrence of vascular occlusions. Yet induced fibrinolytic activity can, in a significant number of patients, remove thrombi and restore normal vascular patency in both arteries and veins.

In view of the increasing interest in this subject, an international gathering of those working on various aspects of fibrinolysis was held in Sardinia in May 1971. In order that all aspects of the subject should be discussed, sessions were organized on the fundamental mechanism of fibrinolysis and thrombolysis, methodology, the pharmacology of various therapeutic drugs and enzymes, and the evaluation of experiments and trials of the efficacy of these agents in vascular disease in man.

As much of this material is of interest to laboratory and clinical haematologists, as well as to practising physicians and surgeons, publication of the proceedings was thought to be justified. Inevitably some data presented at such a meeting had or has been published elsewhere and so have been recorded in abstract or as a title only. New, unpublished data or important changes in thought have been included as complete papers or longer summaries. In order to provide further information for those interested in this field a composite list of references relating to the contributions of all authors has been included.

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