SURFACTANT PROTEIN D AND SMOKING IN PATI-ENTS WITH COPD AND IN HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS

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Summary

We studied the plasma levels of surfactant protein D (SPD) in patients with COPD and in healthy subjects in accordance with their smoking status. A total of 44 patients with COPD in stable phase (18 smokers, 21 ex-smokers, 5 never-smokers) and 26 healthy subjects (12 smokers, 10 ex-smokers, 4 never-smokers) were examined. We found significantly higher plasma levels of SPD in patients with COPD, regardless of smoking status, compared with healthy individuals. This allows suggesting that SPD may be considered a specific marker of respiratory disturbances in COPD. Smokers in both COPD and healthy groups had significantly higher plasma SPD, than never-smokers. The difference in SPD level was not significant between former and current smokers. Plasma concentrations of SPD both in COPD patients and in healthy individuals did not depend either on age, or pulmonary function, or smoking history.