Urinary leukotriene E<sub>4</sub> in bronchial asthma

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ABSTRACT: Leukotriene E<sub>4</sub> (LTE<sub>4</sub>) is excreted into the urine in a relatively constant proportion of 4-7% when either leukotriene C<sub>4</sub> (LTC<sub>4</sub>) or LTE<sub>4</sub> is intravenously infused, regardless of the magnitude of the infused dose. Measurement of LTE<sub>4</sub> in urine is, therefore, a convenient and non-invasive method for assessing changes in the rate of total body sulphidopeptide leukotriene production. We assayed urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> in 17 normal subjects, 31 subjects with asthma without aspirin sensitivity, and 10 aspirin-sensitive subjects. The relationship between urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> and nonspecific bronchial hyperresponsiveness, as assessed by the provocative dose producing a 20% fall in forced expiratory volume in one second (PD<sub>20</sub>) to inhaled histamine, was examined in 19 non-aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects. The urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> values were log-normally distributed. Urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> was detected in 28 of the 31 non-aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects, and the geometric mean (95% confidence interval (CI)) of 43 (32-57) pg·mg<sup>-1</sup> creatinine was no different to that of 34 (25-48) pg·mg<sup>-1</sup> creatinine measured in the normal subjects. The geometric mean of 101 (55-186) pg·mg<sup>-1</sup> creatinine measured in the aspirin-sensitive asthmatics was significantly higher than that measured in the normal subjects (p<0.005) and in the asthmatic subjects who were non-aspirin-sensitive (p<0.002), but there was considerable overlap between the three groups. There was no relationship between urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> and PD<sub>20</sub> or between urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> and baseline forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV<sub>1</sub>) (% predicted). Thus, measurement of LTE<sub>4</sub> in a single sample of urine will not predict the extent of bronchial hyperresponsiveness or degree of airflow obstruction.


The sulphidopeptide leukotrienes (LTC<sub>4</sub>, LTD<sub>4</sub> and LTE<sub>4</sub>) comprise the activity previously referred to as the slow reacting substance of anaphylaxis (SRS-A). These mediators enhance microvascular permeability [1-4], increase nonspecific bronchial hyperresponsiveness [5-8], and are potent bronchoconstrictor agents [1, 9, 10]. They have the potential to mediate events associated with airway inflammation, and to contribute to the pathophysiology of asthma.

The leukotrienes are derived from arachidonic acid by oxidative metabolism via the 5-lipoxygenase pathway. The unstable intermediary epoxide, LTA<sub>4</sub>, is enzymatically metabolized to LTC<sub>4</sub> by the addition of glutathione at the 6 position by LTC<sub>4</sub> synthetase. LTC<sub>4</sub> in turn may be converted to LTD<sub>4</sub> by the removal of a glutamic acid residue through the action of γ-glutamyl transpeptidase. Finally, LTD<sub>4</sub> may undergo further bioconversion by cleavage of the glycine residue, by a dipeptidase, to form LTE<sub>4</sub>.

The most stable of these three compounds, LTE<sub>4</sub>, can be measured in nanomolar quantities in urine [11-15]. Following intravenous infusion of both synthetic LTC<sub>4</sub> and LTE<sub>4</sub> between 4-7% is excreted as LTE<sub>4</sub> within the two hours following infusion. Because this proportion is relatively constant and is independent of the dose infused [12, 14], the measurement of LTE<sub>4</sub> in urine is a convenient, non-invasive method of assessing changes in the rate of total body sulphidopeptide leukotriene production. The problem of ex-vivo production of leukotrienes is also minimized, since urine is essentially free of cells.

The utility of measuring LTE<sub>4</sub> has been demonstrated in a number of recent publications. TAYLOR et al. [15] and WESTCOTT et al. [16] reported that urinary concentrations of LTE<sub>4</sub> are significantly raised in patients admitted to hospital with an acute exacerbation of asthma, when compared with those measured following recovery. They also demonstrated that urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> concentrations rise significantly following allergen challenge [15, 17]; an observation which has now been confirmed by a number of other groups [18-20]. CHRISTIE et al. [21] demonstrated that aspirin challenge in aspirin-sensitive individuals resulted in an increase in urinary excretion of LTE<sub>4</sub>. Measurement of urinary LTE<sub>4</sub> has, therefore, been useful in identifying an increased production of leukotrienes in response to
selected challenges, supporting the view that these eicosanoid mediators may contribute to the mechanism of the acute responses elicited.

However, it has not been established whether baseline measurements of urinary LTE₄, in the absence of challenge, may also provide useful information. For example, Christou et al. [21] observed that the resting levels of urinary LTE₄ were higher in aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects than those measured in asthmatic subjects who were not aspirin-sensitive. We reasoned that it may be possible to distinguish between different groups of subjects, or perhaps to assess disease severity by measuring urinary LTE₄ during resting conditions. We have therefore assayed samples of urine from a group of 17 normal subjects, 31 subjects with asthma who had no history of aspirin sensitivity, and 10 aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects. In order to determine whether baseline urinary LTE₄ concentrations reflect disease severity in asthmatic patients, we also examined the relationship between urinary LTE₄ concentrations and the degree of sensitivity to the non-specific agonist, histamine, in a group of asthmatic subjects with no history of aspirin sensitivity.

Methods

Subjects

Normal subjects. Seventeen subjects (8 male, 9 female) were studied. They were aged 20–35 yrs and had no history of asthma, sensitivity to aspirin or allergic disease. None were smokers, and none were atopic.

Asthmatic subjects without aspirin-sensitivity. Asthma was defined as a clinical history of episodic wheezing and evidence of at least 15% reversibility either spontaneously or with up to 800 μg of inhaled salbutamol.

Thirty one subjects with asthma (23 male, 8 female) aged 18–34 yrs and had no history of aspirin sensitivity, and 10 aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects. In order to determine whether baseline urinary LTE₄ concentrations reflect disease severity in asthmatic patients, we also examined the relationship between urinary LTE₄ concentrations and the degree of sensitivity to the non-specific agonist, histamine, in a group of asthmatic subjects with no history of aspirin sensitivity.

Histamine challenges

The histamine challenges were performed within 30 min after urine collection and were administered using a protocol similar to that described by Yan et al. [22]. Solutions of histamine dissolved in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) were delivered via DeVilbiss No. 45 hand-held nebulizers (DeVilbiss Co., Pennsylvania, USA). The output of four nebulizers was determined by the operator (RH), who performed all histamine challenges. Four solutions were then prepared, one for each nebulizer, such that they delivered PBS and 0.1, 0.4 and 0.8 μmol of histamine, respectively, per inhalation.

To administer the aerosol, the subjects were instructed to open their mouth widely and to exhale to slightly below their functional residual capacity (FRC). They were then instructed to inhale slowly over 1–2 s towards total lung capacity (TLC) whilst keeping their mouth widely opened. The nebulizer was placed in front of the mouth, between the teeth, and at the beginning of inspiration, the nebulizer bulb was firmly squeezed once. The subjects were instructed to hold their breath for 3 s before exhaling. Doses that required more than one inhalation were given in consecutive breaths. The FEV₁ was measured 90 s after each dose.

After taking initial measurements of FEV₁, subjects were given two inhalations of PBS. If the decrease in FEV₁ was <5%, histamine challenge was performed. The subjects were then given increasing doses of histamine until the FEV₁ had fallen by 20% of the value measured after inhalation of PBS control. The cumulative doses administered were 0.1, 0.4, 1.6, 4 and 8 μmol.

Measurement of urinary LTE₄

The method used to measure urinary LTE₄ was similar to that described by Togari et al. [13].

Reagents and standards. For high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) separation, HPLC grade methanol and glacial acetic acid were purchased (BDH, Poole, Dorset, UK). For the HPLC buffers, water purified with the MilliQ system (Millipore, Molsheim, France) was used. All other reagents were of analytical quality and were obtained either from BDH (NaH₂PO₄, CH₃COOH) or Sigma Chemical Co., St Louis, Mo, USA (disodium edetic acid (EDTA)). [3H]LTE₄ used as an internal standard, had a specific activity of 39.3 Ci·mmol⁻¹, and was purchased from NEN-Du Pont, Boston, USA.

For radio-immunoassay, LTE₄ prepared by total chemical synthesis, as described previously [23], was used for the standards. The purity of the LTE₄ was confirmed using reverse phase-HPLC (RP-HPLC) on a 10 μm C18 Ultrasil ODS column (4.6 by 250 mm; Beckman Instruments Inc., Berkeley, CA, USA) at a flow rate of 1 ml·min⁻¹ with 62% methanol, 37.8%
water, 0.1% acetic acid and 0.1% disodium EDTA, pH 5.6. Absorbance was measured at 280 nm with an on-line spectrophotometer linked to an integrator (Spectrophysics SP4270, San Jose, USA), and the purity of the LTE₄ was confirmed by its elution as a single peak at its unique retention time of 25 min in this solvent system. The concentration of the solution was checked by ultraviolet scanning (Philips PU8720 UVNIS, Pye Unicam, Cambridge, UK) at 280 nm, assuming an extinction coefficient of 40,000 cm⁻¹·mol⁻¹. Anti-leukotriene sera were kindly donated by A. Ford-Hutchinson (Merck Frosst, Canada). Reagents for the Tris-HCl radio-immunoassay buffer were obtained from BDH and were of analytical standard. From this buffer, a 1% charcoal-dextran solution was prepared for separation of the bound and free fractions. The charcoal was obtained from Sigma, and the dextran (T70) from Pharmacia (Uppsala, Sweden). The scintillation fluid (Supersolve-X) was obtained from Koch-Light (Haverhill, Suffolk, UK).

Collection and storage. Aliquots of 50 ml were taken from samples collected on arrival at the laboratory prior to measurement of baseline FEV₁ and histamine responsiveness. At the time of collection, the free radical scavenger 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl piperidine (4-OH-TEMPO) free radical (Sigma) was added to a final concentration of 1 mM, and the pH adjusted to 9.0 with NaOH to stabilize the LTE₄. The samples were then coded and stored at −70°C until analysis.

Analysis of LTE₄ and creatinine. Stored urine samples were thawed and centrifuged at 10,000×g for 10 min, to remove cellular debris. The supernatants were removed, and 100 µl of a solution containing [3H]LTE₄ (39.3 Ci·mmol⁻¹; NEN-DuPont) was added to 10 ml of urine to give 4,000 disintegrations per minute (DPM). Then 25 µl of glacial acetic acid was added to bring the pH to 3.5–3.8 and the sample was loaded directly onto a 10 µ precolumn (Ultrasil ODS, 3.4 mm × 4.5 cm, Beckman, USA), which was isolated from the main analytical column. Polar metabolites were washed from the precolumn at 2 ml·min⁻¹ for 8 min with a phosphate buffer (0.1% NaH₂PO₄, pH 3.8) and then for 12 min with a methanol-phosphate buffer (0.1% pH 3.8) in the proportions 50:50 (v:v), at a flow rate of 2 ml·min⁻¹. The sample was then retrogradely eluted via an automatic switching valve onto a reversed phase analytical column (Ultrasil ODS 4.5 mm × 25 cm, Altex) that had been equilibrated in 62% methanol:37.8% water:0.1% acetic acid:0.1% EDTA (v:v) at pH 5.6. The LTE₄ was eluted at a flow rate of 1 ml·min⁻¹. After RP-HPLC, 250 µl of each fraction was counted in a beta liquid scintillation counter (Tricarb 1900CA, Packard Instrument Co., USA), and the peak of radioactivity containing the tritiated internal standard was identified. The remaining 750 µl of those fractions containing the [3H]LTE₄ and of the two fractions eluting before and after the peak were dried under vacuum at 23°C, and resuspended in 250 µl of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4), containing 0.15 M NaCl and 0.1% gelatin. The concentrations of immunoreactive LTE₄ were assessed by radio-immunoassay as described previously [24], using synthetic LTE₄ (0.01–10 ng·ml⁻¹) to construct the standard curve. The immunoreactivity in the fractions eluting before and after the peak of internal standard were used to calculate mean background immunoreactivity. LTE₄ concentration was expressed as pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine and was calculated from measured immunoreactivity minus background, corrected for recovery and dilution. The recovery of LTE₄ was (74±9%, mean±sem). The intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation are 8% and 15%, respectively, and sensitivity of the assay is 8 pg.

Urinary creatinine concentrations were measured (BM/Hitachi 737, Boehringer Mannheim, Germany) with the kinetic picrate method without deproteinization [25].

In order to validate the technique, known quantities of synthetic LTE₄ (0, 1.25, 2.5, 5 and 10 ng) were added to 10 ml aliquots of four different samples of urine from normal subjects. The purity of the synthetic LTE₄ was confirmed by its elution as a single peak at the standard retention time of 25±0.2 min (mean±sem) for LTE₄ in this solvent system. The urine was then treated in the same way as the samples, including stabilization with 4-OH-TEMPO and NaOH, freezing and storage at −70°C, thawing, and the addition of 2,500 DPM of [3H]LTE₄ as an internal standard. Endogenous production of LTE₄ was assessed in a sample which contained vehicle alone (0 ng LTE₄) and recovery of synthetic LTE₄ was calculated as total LTE₄ minus endogenously produced LTE₄. The values for synthetic LTE₄ eluted from the samples closely approximated the quantities added to the samples (fig. 1), indicating that the assay was able to reliably quantify urinary LTE₄.

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Fig. 1.** Relationship between the quality of synthetic LTE₄ added to 10 ml aliquots of urine, and the quantity measured in these samples by radio-immunoassay following separation by RP-HPLC (see Methods for details). The analysis was performed on four different samples of urine, each represented by a different symbol. LTE₄: leukotriene E₄; RP-HPLC: reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography.
Results

Distribution of values for urinary LTE₄

The distribution of values for urinary LTE₄ in the three groups is shown in figure 2. LTE₄ could be detected in the urine of all the normal subjects. Values ranged from 7-102 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine. The normality of the distribution was assessed using the "Minitab" statistics package. The distribution was highly skewed, but was normalized by log-transformation of the data. Values have, therefore, been expressed in terms of the geometric mean and 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The geometric mean value (95% CI) was 43 (32-57) pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine.

Fig. 2. - Urinary LTE₄ concentrations (pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine) measured in 17 normal subjects, 31 subjects with asthma without aspirin sensitivity, and 10 aspirin-sensitive asthmatics. LTE₄: leukotriene E₄. Horizontal bars indicate geometric means.

Urinary LTE₄ could be detected in 28 of the 31 subjects with asthma who were not sensitive to aspirin. Where values could be measured, the range was 9-1,497 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine. The value of 1,497 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine was measured in a subject who arrived at the laboratory with an FEV₁ that was only 35% of the predicted value. On treatment with 100 µg of inhaled salbutamol the FEV₁ improved to 91% of the predicted normal value. Since this patient had obviously had an acute and severe attack of asthma, the data were not included in the analysis of the results. Excluding this subject, the highest value measured in this group was 212 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine, and the geometric mean value (95% CI) was 43 (32-57) pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine (fig. 2). The distribution of values was, therefore, similar to that of the normal subjects, and was not significantly different (p>0.85) when compared using the Mann-Whitney U-test (fig. 2).

Urinary LTE₄ could be measured in all 10 subjects with aspirin-induced asthma and was on average three-fold greater than that measured in the other two groups (fig. 2). Values ranged from 29-550 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine. The geometric mean value was 101 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine, and the 95% confidence interval of the mean was 55-186 pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine. Although there was considerable overlap, these values were significantly higher than those measured in the normal subjects (p<0.002), and the asthmatic subjects who were not sensitive to aspirin (p<0.001), when the data were compared using the Mann-Whitney U-test.

Relationship between baseline urinary LTE₄ concentrations and the degree of nonspecific bronchial hyperresponsiveness

Nineteen of the asthmatic subjects with no history of aspirin sensitivity agreed to undergo bronchial provocation with inhaled histamine.

It was not always possible to get absolute values for either responsiveness to histamine, or urinary LTE₄ concentrations. In two subjects, the FEV₁/FVC ratio was <65%, and they were not challenged. One subject did not respond with a 20% fall in FEV₁ after the final dose of histamine. Urinary LTE₄ could not be detected in three subjects. The relationship between baseline values for urinary LTE₄ and responsiveness to inhaled histamine was calculated using the Spearman's rank order correlation coefficient. The two subjects who were not challenged were not included in the analysis, since no assessment of bronchial hyperresponsiveness could be made. The subject who did not respond with a 20% fall in FEV₁ at the highest dose was ranked as least responsive. The remainder were ranked from lowest to highest according to their provocative dose producing a 20% fall in FEV₁ from baseline (PD₂₀) value. The three subjects in whom no urinary LTE₄ was detected were ranked equal first for urinary LTE₄ concentrations, and the remainder were ranked from lowest to highest according to the value for urinary LTE₄ measured.

Fig. 3. - Relationship between baseline urinary LTE₄ concentration (pg·mg⁻¹ creatinine) and the cumulative dose of histamine (µmol) required to induce a 20% fall in FEV₁ (PD₂₀) in 18 asthmatic subjects without aspirin sensitivity. LTE₄: leukotriene E₄; FEV₁: forced expiratory volume in one second.
There was no correlation between baseline values for urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) and responsiveness to inhaled histamine \((r=0.14, p>0.05)\) (fig. 3). There was also no relationship between baseline \( \text{FEV}_1 \) (% predicted) and urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) in this group of subjects \((r=0.2, p>0.05)\) (fig. 4). Similarly, there was no relationship between baseline \( \text{FEV}_1 \) and urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) in the 10 aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects \((r=0.06, p>0.05)\).

**Discussion**

The values for urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) were log-normally distributed (fig. 2) in both the normal subjects and the asthmatic subjects without aspirin-sensitivity. This has also been reported in a group of 29 normal subjects by TAYLOR et al. [15]. We would, therefore, suggest that future data should be expressed in terms of the geometric mean and 95% confidence interval of the mean, rather than the mean and SEM. To date, there has been little standardization, and comparison of values reported by different groups is difficult.

The geometric mean and 95% confidence interval in the 17 normal subjects that we studied was 34 (25-48) pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine. Using a similar technique for urinalysis of \( \text{LTE}_4 \), TAGARI et al. [13] reported a mean value±SEM of 35±10 pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine in nine normal subjects, and WESTCOTT et al. [16] reported values which ranged from 56-81 pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine in six normal subjects. The geometric mean values in these two studies were not reported. These values are four to sixfold lower than those reported by TAYLOR et al. [15] in 29 subjects (geometric mean and 95% CI 210 (176-249) pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine).

Similar differences between studies have also been found for baseline measurements made in groups consisting of asthmatic subjects. In the 27 subjects from this study for whom urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) could be detected, the geometric mean value (95% CI) measured in the non-aspirin-sensitive asthmatics was 43 (32-57) pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine. These values are similar to the geometric mean (95% CI) of 44 (34-56) pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine that have been reported from a study of five asthmatic subjects by CHRISTIE et al. [21]. Considerably higher values for the geometric mean (95% CI), 208 (121-615) pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine, have been reported by TAYLOR et al. [15] in eight asthmatic subjects. Although there have been values reported for asthmatic subjects in other studies, these have been reported in terms of the mean±SEM, making comparison difficult. SLADEK et al. [19] reported mean values of approximately 180-200 pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine for both normal (n=6) and asthmatic (n=9) subjects, and MANNING et al. [18] reported a mean±SEM value of 150±50 pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine in asthmatic subjects who demonstrated isolated responses to allergen challenge, and 67±14 pg·mg\(^{-1}\) creatinine in subjects who demonstrated dual responses.

Although there are differences in absolute values reported from different centres for urinary concentrations of \( \text{LTE}_4 \), there are no differences in the data from these centres when the values are considered in terms of the proportionate change from baseline values and there has been no discrepancy in the conclusions that have been drawn from these studies. The reasons for these differences in absolute values measured by various groups are not clear, and cannot be entirely explained by the difference between expressing the data in terms of the arithmetic and geometric mean. The technique that we have used in the present study, and that used by TAGARI et al. [13] have both been validated by showing that known quantities of synthetic \( \text{LTE}_4 \) added to urine can be reliably quantified following separation by RP-HPLC, and measurement by radioimmunoassay (fig. 1). The values reported from both of these centres, using similar techniques [13, 18, 19] are comparable, and are low compared with other values reported in the literature.

This study confirms the previous findings of CHRISTIE et al. [21], that urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) levels are significantly higher in aspirin-sensitive asthmatics than those measured in asthmatic subjects who are non-aspirin-sensitive. Although the values were on average threefold greater than those observed in the non-aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects and the normal control subjects, there was considerable overlap between the three groups. Thus, baseline measurements of urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) alone will not indicate aspirin sensitivity in many aspirin-sensitive patients.

The observation that there is on average a higher urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) concentration in aspirin-sensitive subjects is, however, interesting and suggests that there may be increased eicosanoid production in these patients, even in the absence of provocation.

There was no relationship between baseline concentrations of urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) and the degree of nonspecific bronchial hyperresponsiveness in the non-aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects studied. Similarly there was no relationship between concentrations of urinary \( \text{LTE}_4 \) and baseline \( \text{FEV}_1 \) in either non-aspirin-sensitive or aspirin-sensitive subjects. These findings are consistent...
with those recently reported by Westcott et al. [17]. Together with the observation that baseline values are not different from those measured in normal subjects, these findings indicate that leukotriene excretion is not abnormally high in the absence of provocation or an acute attack of asthma. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that the metabolism and/or clearance of leukotrienes may be different in asthmatic and normal individuals, and that leukotriene production is increased, but is not reflected in urinary concentrations of LTE4.

It is possible that the patient's asthma therapy, particularly corticosteroid use, may have influenced the production of sulphidopeptide leukotrienes. However, there was no relationship between corticosteroid use and urinary LTE4 concentrations. The patients with undetected urinary LTE4 were not on any treatment other than inhaled beta-sympathomimetics.

The measurements of urinary LTE4 were made from a single sample taken at the time of the visit to the laboratory. It is possible that a cumulative assessment of LTE4 excretion over time may have been more informative.

In summary, measurement of sulphidopeptide leukotrienes in urine is a convenient and non-invasive way to measure total body leukotriene production. Following acute challenge with either allergen [15, 17-20], or aspirin [21], urinary LTE4 increases, suggesting a role for the sulphidopeptide leukotrienes in the immediate response to these challenges. Recent studies with specific and potent leukotriene antagonists support this conclusion, since both allergen-induced acute bronchoconstrictor responses [26, 27] and aspirin-induced asthma [28] can be inhibited by these drugs. However, the contribution of the leukotrienes to the chronic signs and symptoms of asthma remains to be established. Preliminary evidence suggests that long-term administration (6 weeks) of potent and specific leukotriene antagonists improves baseline FEV1 [29] and symptom scores [30] in asthmatic subjects. These treatment effects have been modest, however, and clearly further studies are required to establish the role of leukotrienes in the aetiology of asthma. In the absence of bronchial provocation, it is not possible to predict either the degree of nonspecific hyperreactiveness or baseline FEV1 from the concentration of LTE4 in the urine of asthmatic subjects.

We have confirmed the findings of Christie et al. [21], that urinary LTE4 concentrations are raised in patients with aspirin-induced asthma. There was considerable overlap with values measured in the normal and asthmatic subjects, and although this finding is of interest in terms of the mechanism of aspirin sensitivity, it is unlikely to be useful in the clinical setting for predicting aspirin sensitivity.

References


