



Soluble VE-cadherin: not just a marker of endothelial permeability

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Serum soluble VE-cadherin holds a promise as a marker of endothelial permeability; further investigations are still needed to confirm the sensitivity and specificity, and extend the existing findings <https://bit.ly/2WujSCc>

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To the Editor:

Recently, the publication by HARKI *et al.* [1] in the *European Respiratory Journal* reported higher levels of serum soluble VE-cadherin (sVE) in volunteers exposed to intermittent hypoxia (IH), as well as in patients with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). They further demonstrated that IH induced VE-cadherin cleavage through reactive oxygen species production and activation of HIF-1, VEGF and tyrosine kinase pathway, indicating that serum sVE could be a promising biomarker of increased endothelial permeability in OSA patients. The results are meaningful since there is, as yet, no endothelium-specific biomarker for the early diagnosis of endothelial barrier disruption in OSA patients. However, it is worth noting that sVE may not be just a marker of endothelial permeability.