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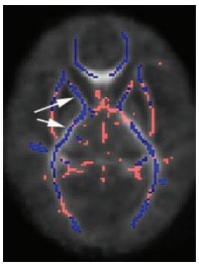
EDITOR'S FOCUS



Diffusion tensor imaging analyzed by tract based spatial statistics detects the hypothermia-for-perinatal asphyxia-treatment effect, qualifying as a biomarker for the early evaluation of this neuroprotective intervention.

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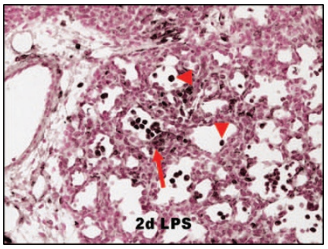

Lipopolysaccharide in amniotic fluid induces monocyte chemoattractant proteins (MCP-1 and MCP-2) in fetal sheep lung thereby mediating monocyte and T-lymphocyte chemotaxis. This induction of MCP-1 is not interleukin (IL)-1 dependent and along with MCP-2 contributes to fetal inflammation.

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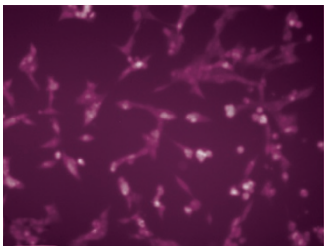

In-vitro protective effects of protease inhibitors against meconium induced disruption of intercellular connections and alveolar epithelial cell detachment from the basement membrane, suggests a role in treatment and/or prophylaxis of meconium aspiration syndrome.

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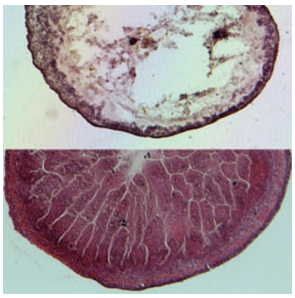

Platelet–activating factor–acetylhydrolase enzyme homozygous null neonatal mice (PAF-AH$^{-/-}$) subjected to conditions producing necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), revealed lower mortality but more susceptibility to NEC in survivors versus wild type mice. This susceptibility was associated with prominent intestinal inflammation.

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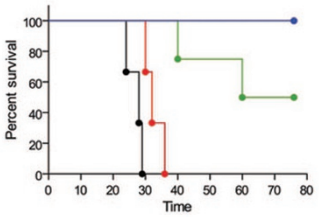

Inter-alpha inhibitor proteins (IAIP), serine proteases inhibitors modulate endogenous protease activity. IAIP administration in neonatal mice with sepsis improved survival to 90% by reversing hemorrhagic pneumonitis. This effect is due to suppression of pro-inflammatory cytokines like TNF-α, providing the potential of IAIP as a therapeutic adjunct in the treatment of sepsis.

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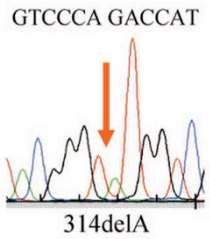

Chenodeoxycholic acid treatment of 2 Japanese children with autosomal recessive neonatal cholestasis caused by 3β-hydroxy-Δ^5–C_{27}-steroid dehydrogenase/isomerase deficiency due to novel mutations in the *HSD3B7* gene, normalized liver function and improved bile acid profiles.

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