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Presence of Acetylcholine in Blood and Its Localization in Circulating Mononuclear Leukocytes of Humans*

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To clarify the presence and origin of acetylcholine (ACh) in human blood, the ACh contents of whole blood, mononuclear (MNL) and polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMN) were determined by a sensitive, specific radioimmunoassay. The mean (\pm S. E. M.) ACh contents of whole blood and MNL measured in 30 normal subjects were 1263.5 ± 149.0 and 731.0 ± 85.8 pg/ml blood, respectively. A significant correlation was observed between the ACh content of whole blood and that of MNL ($r = 0.91$; $P < 0.001$). No detectable ACh was present in PMN. These results demonstrate that ACh is present in human blood, and indicate that the major portion of plasma ACh originates from circulating MNL.

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