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Plasma Renin Activity Determined by Two Different Methods in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats*

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As a discrepancy exists between two reports from our laboratory on plasma renin activity (PRA) in spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR), we undertook to examine the reasons for this discrepancy. PRA in SHR at 15 weeks of age was determined by two different methods, utilizing the procedures of Boucher et al. or of Haber et al. For normotensive controls, Donryu (DON) and Wistar-Kyoto (WKY) rats were used. By Boucher's method, PRA in SHR was significantly lower than in DON, but did not differ from WKY. By Haber's method, PRA in SHR did not significantly differ from DON or WKY. However, the value in DON was significantly higher than in WKY. The present study basically confirmed our previous results, concluding that PRA in SHR at 15 weeks of age is within the normal range. A previous suggestion that PRA in SHR is suppressed as a result of blood pressure elevation must be revised, because it was derived from results considering only the DON strain as the control.

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