

C-peptide is not a simple laboratory test

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Key words: C-peptide, diabetes, therapeutic

The polypeptide molecule known as C-peptide produced by beta cells and a precursor of insulin^{1,2} is not a simple laboratory test to reclassify diabetes, as described in the article by Morrison *et al.*³ Significant clinical studies are being carried out which show that it is an active metabolite that fulfills functions with biological potential for the treatment of complications associated with diabetes, avoiding endothelial dysfunction, increasing vasodilation at the expense of nitric oxide, with a substantial decrease in the production of inflammatory chemokines and reduction in proteinuria at the renal level, as well as other in vitro evidence.⁴

C-peptide should be taken into account not only as a laboratory test but also as a future therapeutic option for patients with or without microvascular or macrovascular complications. This study paves the way for a more rigorous and methodological quality follow-up investigation.⁵ This case report outlines both a diagnostic and a therapeutic option at the same time.

Conflict of interest None.

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Dear Dr Villarreal,

We agree that C-peptide may have some biological activity of its own. The case report mentions C-peptide being used to aid diagnosis of type of diabetes and not as a treatment.

**Dr Marie-France Kong
on behalf of the authors**