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CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

The Molecular Basis of Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome

Eric J. Brown, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2004; 350:2093-2094 | [May 13, 2004](#)

This article has no abstract; the first 100 words appear below.

Streptococcus pyogenes, also known as group A streptococcus, is the cause of purulent pharyngitis and pyoderma, occasionally complicated by scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, and glomerulonephritis — a scenario familiar to every medical student. Less frequently, group A streptococcus causes deep-tissue infection, bacteremia, and sepsis with vascular collapse and organ failure, a syndrome known as the streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. M protein, a constituent of the streptococcal cell wall, has been known for half a century to be a virulence factor of group A streptococcus, both because it induces a host immune response that contributes to the immunologic complications of streptococcal . . .

SOURCE INFORMATION

From the Program in Microbial Pathogenesis and Host Defense, University of California at San Francisco, San Francisco.

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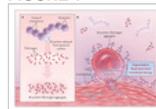
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FIGURE 1



Mechanism of Damage Due to M Protein.

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