Errata

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'Effects of inhibitors of arachidonic acid metabolism on Paf-induced gastric mucosal necrosis and haemoconcentration' by John L. Wallace & Brendan J.R. Whittle.

In the above paper, a number of sentences have been transposed by the printer in the sixth and seventh paragraphs of the Discussion (pp. 420–421). The correct version of these two paragraphs is given below:

As has been demonstrated previously (Bessin *et al.*, 1983; Doebber *et al.*, 1984), infusion of Paf resulted in significant haemoconcentration, probably as a consequence of increased vascular permeability. Coupled with the prolonged hypotension, this haemoconcentration could account for the sluggishness of mucosal blood flow caused by Paf (Whittle *et al.*, 1986) and could thereby predispose the mucosa to damage. The ability of both BW755C and prednisolone to significantly reduce Paf-induced plasma exudation and haemoconcentration is supportive of a role for these processes in the aetiology of Paf-induced gastric damage, as is the highly significant correlation between gastric damage score and degree of haemoconcentration. Our results clearly show that the prolonged hypotension alone did not account for the gastric damage. Pretreatment with BW755C, indomethacin and acute intravenous administration of dexamethasone had similar effects on the recovery of BP after Paf, but of these treatments only BW755C significantly reduced gastric damage.

The mechanism by which corticosteroids and BW755C reduce plasma exudation and haemoconcentration is not clear, although their inhibitory actions on lipoxygenase and leukotrience synthesis may again be relevant. Leukotrienes C_4 and D_4 have been shown to increase vascular permeability (Dahlen *et al.*, 1981), so it is possible that they could mediate Paf-induced effects on vascular permeability. A further possibility is that Paf infusion leads to endogenous Paf release, as has been shown previously (Bourgain *et al.*, 1985), and that the beneficial effects of BW755C or the corticosteroids can be attributed to an inhibition of this release. Paf biosynthesis is dependent on the activity of phospholipase A_2 (Mencia-Huerta & Benveniste, 1979) and the release of the precursor lyso-Paf can be inhibited both *in vivo* and *in vitro* by corticosteroids (Parente & Flower, 1985; Parente *et al.*, 1986).