Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa

Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa (GPIIb/IIIa, also known as integrin α IIb β 3) is an integrin complex found on platelets. It is a receptor for fibrinogen and von Willebrand factor and aids platelet activation. The complex is formed via calcium-dependent association of gpIIb and gpIIIa, a required step in normal platelet aggregation and endothelial adherence.

Platelet activation by ADP (blocked by clopidogrel) leads to the aforementioned conformational change in platelet gpllb/llla receptors that induces binding to fibrinogen.

The gpIIb/IIIa receptor is a target of several drugs including abciximab, eptifibatide, tirofiban.

IIb/IIIa inhibitors are an alternative for achieving recanalization. The risk of hemorrhage may be low. As part of an escalating protocol that includes pharmacological and mechanical thrombolysis, IIb/IIIa inhibitors may improve clinical outcomes ¹⁾.

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Deshmukh VR, Fiorella DJ, Albuquerque FC, Frey J, Flaster M, Wallace RC, Spetzler RF, McDougall CG. Intra-arterial thrombolysis for acute ischemic stroke: preliminary experience with platelet glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors as adjunctive therapy. Neurosurgery. 2005;56(1):46-54; discussion 54-5. PubMed PMID: 15617585.

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