Modulation of collagen synthesis in human glomerular epithelial cells by interleukin 1

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Human glomerular epithelial cells produce matrix material e.g. collagen type IV. In vitro, the synthesis of collagen can be monitored by the incorporation of 3H-proline, a precursor molecule of the collagens. We report on the enhancement of collagen synthesis by glomerular epithelial cells with highly purified or recombinant IL-1. Since IL-1 is released from monocytes or glomerular mesangial cells by inflammatory mediators, our results point to a participation of IL-1 in the development of sclerosis, which is seen in many forms of chronic inflammatory diseases.

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