

1 **Role of TLR2 in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis**

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The Toll like receptors(TLRs) are pattern recognizing receptors(PRR) that are

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important for mediating innate immune response to exogenous pathogens. Among the TLRs,

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studies have shown the importance of TLR2 and TLR 4, expressed in leukocytes and

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endothelial cells, in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. Recently, the phenotypic switch of

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vascular smooth muscle cells(VSMC) into foam cell like cells have been shown to be

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important in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. In this talk, we will discuss the role of TLR2

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overexpression in vascular smooth muscle cells in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and

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discuss how TLR2 expression may possible mediate the phenotypic switch of the VSMCs into

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foam cell like cells.

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