

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of cadmium on the NO production in the primary human coronary artery endothelial cells (HCAECs).

The specific objectives are:

1. To assess the endothelial function in cadmium-exposed subjects by measuring thrombomodulin as a marker of endothelial dysfunction
2. To determine the cytotoxicity of cadmium on HCAECs
3. To explore the effect of cadmium on NO synthesis in HCAECs by determining nitrite, and eNOS gene and protein expression