

# Elevation of serum total and free prostate-specific antigen levels after stent implantation in patient with coronary artery disease

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Change in prostate-specific antigen (PSA), a member of the human kallikrein family of serine proteases, is considered to be a specific marker of prostate cancer. However, increased levels have also been found in other conditions, including benign prostate hyperplasia and even breast cancer, indicating that their interpretation has to be done with caution. Moreover, increased PSA levels have repeatedly been reported in relation to cardiovascular conditions. Both elevated and reduced PSA levels have been seen in myocardial infarction, increased levels being associated with more frequent and more severe coronary lesions than diminished levels. Ozcan et al. [1], for the first time, show a significant increase of total and free PSA levels in patients with coronary heart disease after stent implantation, the mechanism of which not being clarified as yet. Their observation is of general interest with respect to the role of the

kallikrein-kinin system and PSA in cardiovascular disease, and specifically with respect to the interpretation of PSA levels in patients who have recently undergone invasive cardiological interventions. Yet we agree with the authors that only continuous increases in PSA values are relevant for cancer diagnostics.

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1 Ozcan T, Bozlu M, Muslu N, Han Gozukara K, Seyis S, Akcay B. Elevation of the serum total and free prostate specific antigen levels after stent implantation in patients with coronary artery disease. *Swiss Med Wkly.* 2009;139(45-46):672-5.

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