Table 1. Platelet Velocity Profile Parameters as Assessed *in Vivo* in Arterioles

Arteriolar diameter (μm)	Phase of the cardiac cycle*	Number of platelets	Velocity profile parameters†			
			V_{max} (mm/sec)	K	a	$\frac{V_{max}}{V_{mean}}$
17	D	104	1.98	2.4	0.83	1.41
23	D	114	4.38	3.2	0.93	1.44
23	D	102	1.29	4.0	0.96	1.39
24	D	101	3.90	2.6	0.90	1.49
24	D	140	3.06	2.7	0.86	1.40
	S	117	3.83	2.3	0.87	1.51
25	D	152	1.49	2.9	0.94	1.52
	S	167	2.61	2.7	0.93	1.54
27	D	115	3.10	2.9	0.92	1.47
29	D	123	14.40	2.8	0.93	1.52
32	D	98	3.78	3.0	0.95	1.52
	S	124	4.49	3.0	0.95	1.52

*D = diastolic phase, S = systolic phase.

†See for V_{max}, i.e., the maximal velocity of the fitted curve, K and a Equation 2; for V_{max}/V_{mean}, i.e., the ratio of V_{max} and the mean velocity of the theoretical profile, used an index of the degree of blunting of the profile, Equation 3.

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Estimation of the ratio of V_{max} and V_{mean} in the vessel using the profile described by Equation 2, will yield a value that is too low, because at the vessel wall fluid velocity will actually be zero.[1] However, in the case of a good fit with the experimental platelet velocity profiles, the error will be limited since platelet velocities could be measured as close to the wall as 0.5 μm. Simple calculation, using the data from Table 1 and assuming a linear decline to zero velocity at the wall within the region of 0.5 μm from the wall, showed that even in the worst case the error was less than 4%. Since parameter b was small (see "Results"), the ratio of V_{max} and V_{mean} was approximated by:

$$V_{max}/V_{mean} = (K+2)/(K+2-2(a)^K). \qquad (3)$$

Fitting the data with a parabola and with Equation 1 or 2, was performed by linear and nonlinear regression, respectively, using modules 1R and 3R in the statistical package BMDP.[22]