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Część 1

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**INTENSITY OF LIVER FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH NON-ALCOHOLIC STEATOHEPATITIS
ON THE BACKGROUND OF OBESITY WITH COMORBIDITY WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY
DISEASE I-III ST.**

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**ІНТЕНСИВНІСТЬ ФІБРОЗУ ПЕЧИНКИ У ХВОРИХ НА НЕАЛКОГОЛЬНИЙ СТЕАТОГЕПАТИТ
НА ТЛІ ОЖИРІННЯ ЗА КОМОРБІДНОСТІ З ХРОНІЧНОЮ ХВОРОБОЮ НИРОК I-ІІІ СТАДІЇ**

Abstract.

As a result of studies, it was found that in patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis that arose on the background of obesity, a significant increase in the synthesis of collagen and glycosaminoglycans was observed, which was accompanied by ineffective resorption of newly formed collagen due to inhibition of the collagenolytic activity of blood plasma, due to significant activation of proteinase inhibitors, significant imbalance in the system metabolism of connective tissue. Under the conditions of comorbidity of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and chronic kidney disease, the synthesis and resorption of collagen are activated, but the anabolism processes predominate, in spite of compensatory activation of collagenolysis, with a significant hyperproduction of actinic-phase proteins, fibronectin, glycosaminoglycans, fibroblast growth factor, and lead to progressive fibrosis of the liver and disturbance of its functions. .

Анотація.

У результаті досліджень було встановлено, що у хворих на неалкогольний стеатогепатит, що виник на тлі ожиріння, встановлено істотне підвищення синтезу колагену та глюкозаміногліканів, яке супроводжується неефективною резорбцією новоутвореного колагену внаслідок гальмування колагенолітичної активності плазми крові, внаслідок істотної активації інгібіторів протеїназ, істотного дисбалансу в системі метаболізму сполучної тканини. За умов коморбідності неалкогольного стеатогепатиту та хронічної хвороби нирок активуються і синтез і резорбція колагену, але процеси анаболізму переважають, не зважаючи на компенсаторну активацію колагенолізу, із істотнішою гіперпродукцією гострофазових білків, фібронектину, глюкозаміногліканів, фактора росту фібробластів і призводять до прогресуючого фіброзування печінки та порушення її функцій.

Keywords: nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, chronic kidney disease, fibrosis of the liver

Ключові слова: неалкогольний стеатогепатит, хронічна хвороба нирок, фіброз печінки

Introduction. The comorbidity of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and chronic kidney disease (CKD) on the background of obesity is often recently drawn to the attention of both practitioners and researchers [1, 2]. An important role in the pathogenesis of progression of liver and kidney diseases is played by the system of components of connective tissue (CT) of the extracellular matrix (PCM) [3,4,7]. According to the literature, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in progress leads to the development of both liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma, the incidence of which on the background of NAFLD substantially exceeds the indicators in the population. There are numerous attempts by scientists to find new probable biochemical markers of fibrosis formation intensity [8,9,11], to increase the diagnostic value, sensitivity and specificity of existing methods, and to develop methods of influence to inhibit these processes.

The aim of the study. to find out the features of the carbohydrate-protein components state of the connective tissue of the extracellular matrix of the liver and kidneys in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in patients with obesity of the 1st degree and chronic kidney disease of the 1st and 2nd stage.

Material and methods of research. 140 patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) with comorbid obesity of 1st degree and chronic kidney disease (CKD) of I-II stage were examined. Patients were divided into 2 groups that were randomized according to age, sex, degree of obesity, and stage of chronic kidney disease (chronic uncomplicated pyelonephritis with latent course in the phase of retinal exacerbation). The first group of 58 patients with NASH on the background of obesity (without accompanying CKD), the second group of 52 patients with NASH on the background of obesity with a comorbid CKD I-II stage. The control group consisted of 30 practically healthy persons of the corresponding age and sex.

Changes in the metabolism of the components of the extracellular matrix were determined by the free oxyproline content in blood (FOP) by S.S. Tetyanets (1985) and protein-bound oxyproline (PBOP) by M.S. Osadchuk (1979), hexosamines (HA) by O.G. Archipova (1988), seromucoid (SM), sialic acid (SA), fucose-free protein (FFP), using Danush Ltd (Lviv), ceruloplasmin (CP) by the Revina method (1976), the level of collagenolytic activity of blood plasma (CLA): according to the intensity of azocel lysis; the content of

the fibroblast growth factor (FGF) in the blood, and also on the parameters of the total fibrotest (T.Poundar) by the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

The diagnosis of NASH was established in accordance with the unified clinical protocol, approved by the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 826 from 06.11.2014, in the presence of criteria for the exclusion of chronic diffuse liver disease of the viral, hereditary, autoimmune or medicinal genesis as causes of cholestatic or cytolytic syndromes, as well as the results of the USG survey. Diagnosis and treatment of CKD were performed according to the recommendations of the clinical guidelines of the State Institute "Institute of Nephrology, NAMS of Ukraine" (2012).

The statistical analysis of the results was carried out in accordance with the type of research carried out and the types of numerical data that were obtained. Distribution normality was verified using Liliefors, Shapiro-Uilka tests and the direct visual evaluation of eigenvalues distribution histograms. Quantitative indices having a normal distribution are represented as mean (M) \pm standard deviation (S). Discrete values are presented in the form of absolute and relative frequencies (percentage of observations to the total number of surveyed). For comparisons of data that had a normal distribution pattern, parametric tests were used to estimate the Student's t-criterion, Fisher's F-criterion. In the case of abnormal distribution, the median test, Mann-Whitney Rank U-Score, and Wilcox's T-criterion (in the case of dependent groups) were used for multiple comparison. Statistica for Windows version 8.0 (Stat Soft inc., USA), Microsoft Excel 2007 (Microsoft, USA) software packages were used for statistical and graphical analysis of the obtained results.

Results of the research and their discussion.

According to the results obtained (Table), the intensity

of the fibrous reactions in patients with NASH, depending on the presence of a comorbid CKD, indicates a probable increase in PBOP blood serum in patients of group 1 - 1.6 times compared with PHP ($p < 0.05$), patients in group 2 - 2.0 times ($p < 0.05$), indicating high activity of collagen anabolism in this contingent of patients. At the same time, the index of FOP in blood (Table) which is the biochemical marker of collagen catabolism, in patients with NASH in group 1 was 1.2 times lower than that in PHP ($p < 0.05$). That is, in patients with NASH an intensification of collagen formation processes is observed with the background of newly formed collagen resorption processes reduction. At the same time, in patients of group 2, the FOP content in the blood exceeded the data in the PHP by 1.4 times ($p < 0.05$), indicating an increase in collagen degradation on the background of its high synthesis. The interdependence of the above-mentioned changes confirms the presence of a correlation between the content of FOP and α_2 -MG in blood ($r = 0.51, p < 0.05$), the content of PBOP and CLA ($r = 0.43, p < 0.05$); the content of FOP and CLA ($r = 0.53, p < 0.05$) in group 2.

The analysis of other elements of the extracellular matrix components of protein origin changes in blood, in particular, ceruloplasmin, indicates its probable increase in patients with steatohepatitis of all groups of observation ($p < 0.05$) with a probable prevalence in patients with NASH in group 2 (1.9 times against 1.4 times in group 1, $p < 0.05$). We established a strong direct correlation between the values of ceruloplasmin in the blood and the content of bile acids ($r = 0.67, p < 0.05$), with ceruloplasmin and Alkaline phosphatase activity ($r = 0.63, p < 0.05$). The increase in the content of osmotic phase proteins that support the quality of inflammation and are activated under conditions of cholestasis, in particular bile acids, is one of the important factors in the progression of fibrosis in the liver.

Indicators of the connective tissue components status in patients with non-alcoholic stethogepatitis, obesity and comorbidity with chronic kidney disease

Indicators, measurement units	Groups of examined patients		
	PHP	Group I NASH with Obesity	Group II NASH with CKD and Obesity
PBOP, $\mu\text{mol/l}$	41,48 \pm 3,72	64,72 \pm 2,38*	83,50 \pm 3,73**/**
FOP, $\mu\text{mol/l}$	12,39 \pm 0,34	10,31 \pm 0,50 *	17,38 \pm 0,54**/**
HA, mmol/l	5,54 \pm 0,02	6,77 \pm 0,12*	8,52 \pm 0,27**/**
SC, mmol/l	1,92 \pm 0,02	2,42 \pm 0,03*	2,85 \pm 0,02**/**
FFP, $\mu\text{mol/l}$	37,42 \pm 5,79	64,22 \pm 5,31*	92,56 \pm 3,12**/**
CLA, c.u.	0,84 \pm 0,01	0,73 \pm 0,01 *	0,93 \pm 0,01**/**
Ceruloplasmin, mmol/l	12,63 \pm 0,12	17,86 \pm 0,52*	23,83 \pm 1,13**/**
fibronectin, $\mu\text{g/ml}$	334,94 \pm 12,04	424,21 \pm 13,35*	525,30 \pm 22,19**/**
α_2 -MG, mmol/l	2,35 \pm 0,12	4,93 \pm 0,13*	6,34 \pm 0,14**/**
FGF, nmol/l	17,92 \pm 1,07	36,13 \pm 2,52 *	53,23 \pm 2,29 **/**

Notes: * - changes are probable in comparison with the index in PHP ($P < 0.05$);

** - changes are probable when comparing the indices in patients with NASH ($P < 0.05$).

The analysis of changes in another important component of the protein-derived PCM (Table) - fibronectin belonging to cellular adhesion molecules indicates a probable increase in its content in the blood of patients with NASH with CKD ((1.6 times, $p < 0.05$),

while in patients with NASH its growth was 1.4 times ($p < 0.05$) compared with the indicator in the PHP.

The established disturbances in the balance of collagen catabolism and anabolism analysis were accompanied by a significant increase in the factors of their regulation of those inductions, in particular, the content

of fibroblasts growth factor in the blood (FGF) - more noticed in patients with NASH and CKD (an increase 3.1 times against 2.1 times in Group 1 $p < 0.05$). These phenomena explains induction phenomenon "Sinuso-
idal capillary" in patients with NASH with perisinuso-
idal star cells Ito activation, turning them into myofibro-
blast-like cells with hyperproduction of collagen in
Diss space, the development of pericellular, perisinuso-
idal, centrolobular and other types of fibrosis on the
background of aseptic inflammation around dystrophic
(steatosis) of hepatocytes, narrowing of sinusoids and
formation of progressive disorders of portal circulation.
As the data show, for the comorbidity of NASH with
obesity and CKD, these phenomena are more pro-
nounced and increase faster in comparison with the
course of NASH only against the background of obe-
sity.

The obtained data testify that in patients with NASH, which arose on the background of obesity, a significant increase in the synthesis of collagen and glycosaminoglycans was observed, which was accompa-
nied by an ineffective resorption of newly formed col-
lagen due to inhibition of collagenolytic activity of
blood plasma at NASH, which arose as a result of acti-
vation of proteinase inhibitors (α_2 - MG), a significant
imbalance in the metabolism of CT, which leads to pro-
gressive liver fibrosis and violation of its functions. Under
conditions of the comorbidity of NASH from the
CKD of the I-III stages the collagen synthesis and
resorption are activated, but the processes of anabolism
predominate, in spite of compensatory activation of
collagenolysis, with a significant hyperproduction of
actinic-phase proteins, fibronectin, glycosaminogly-
cans, fibroblast growth factor and increased degrada-
tion of extracellular matrix fucoglycoproteins and lead
to progressive fibrosis of the liver and disruption of its
functions.

Conclusions A significant increase in the synthe-
sis of collagen and glycosaminoglycans was observed
in patients with NASH, which was accompanied by an
ineffective resorption of newly formed collagen due to
inhibition of the collagenolytic activity of plasma, due to
significant activation of proteinase inhibitors, a sig-
nificant imbalance in the system of connective tissue
metabolism . Under conditions of the comorbidity of
NASH with the CKD of the I-II stages the collagen syn-
thesis and resorption are activated, but the processes of
anabolism predominate, in spite of compensatory activa-
tion of collagenolysis, with a significant hyperpro-
duction of actinic-phase proteins, fibronectin, glycosamino-
glycans, fibroblast growth factor and increased degrada-
tion of extracellular matrix fucoglycoproteins and lead
to progressive fibrosis of the liver and disruption
of its functions.

**The prospect of further scientific research in
this direction** is the development of a method for the

early prevention of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis on the
background of obesity and the accompanying CKD of
the 1st and 2nd stages.

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