STATUS OF THE HUMORAL LINK OF IMMUNITY AT EXPERIMENTAL PERITONITIS ON THE BACKGROUND OF DIABETES MELLITUS

Introduction. The combined course of acute peritonitis and diabetes increasingly leads to the development of secondary immunodeficiencies, which contribute to an increase in the percentage of postoperative complications and fatalities, the emergence of complexity of treatment and diagnosis.

The aim of the study – to learn the peculiarities of humoral link of the immune response in the organism of experimental animals during simulated acute common peritonitis on the background of diabetes mellitus compared with animals with experimental acute peritonitis alone.

Research Methods. 56 white rats were used in this work. Diabetes mellitus was modeled by intraperitoneal administration of Streptosotocin from "Sigma" firm with the rate of 7 mg per 100 g of animal mass, acute peritonitis – insertion of 0.5 ml of 10 % of the captured fecal suspension into the abdominal cavity of the animals. The concentration of immunoglobulins in serum was determined. Observation time points: 1, 3, and 7 days from the beginning of the peritonitis modeling.

Results and Discussion. Analyzing the results of studies, it can be stated that there were observed directed changes in the concentration of immunoglobulins in blood serum of rats of different groups. Thus, on the first day after simulating acute common peritonitis on the background of diabetes, the level of Ig G decreased by 1.5 times, Ig M – by 1.3 times and Ig A – by 1.4 times (p<0.05). On the seventh day of the experiment, levels of all classes of immunoglobulins were statistically significantly lower than those of the group with acute common peritonitis: Ig G level was lower by 21 %, Ig M and Ig A were lower by 17 % and 56 % respectively (p<0.05). The results of our studies indicate that the presence of diabetes in acute general peritonitis leads to a decrease in the resistance of the humoral level of the immune system with antigenic stimulation and secondary immunodeficiency states.

Conclusions. In animals with acute peritonitis, protective mechanisms of the humoral immunity level are substantially reduced on the background of diabetes, which is confirmed by statistically significantly lower levels of immunoglobulins of classes A, M, G compared to a group of animals with a pattern of acute peritonitis. The revealed functional impairment of humoral immunity indicates an appreciable weakening of the organism’s protection factors in acute peritonitis on the background of diabetes mellitus with the development of secondary immunodeficiency.

KEY WORDS: acute peritonitis; diabetes mellitus; humoral immunity; immunoglobulins.

INTRODUCTION. Peritonitis remains one of the most frequent complications of surgical diseases of the abdominal cavity [1, 2]. According to several studies, during severe forms of disseminated purulent peritonitis, the mortality reaches 50–80 % [3–5]. This high mortality is due to the fact that peritonitis occurs on the background of already existing pathological changes caused by a comorbid state, the peculiarity of which is the absence of clear boundaries, the rapid spread of the pathological process in the abdominal cavity, the complexity of the diagnosis, etc. All this complicates the course of the acute general peritonitis (AGP) and indicates the need for further improvement of diagnostic methods and treatment of this pathological process.

Treatment of peritonitis requires a multi-faceted approach. The severity of the course of peritonitis depends on the adequacy of the immune response. Correct immune response and sufficient reserves of body compensation contribute to the localization of the inflammatory site. Immune deficiency predisposes an unfavorable course of peritonitis, and it is characterized as a secondary acquired immunodeficiency state, which causes complications, sepsis and death of patients [6, 7].

In addition, one component of modern complex treatment of peritonitis, which is not included in the standards of treatment, is immunocorrection. Today, immunotherapy uses drugs, which include a complex of immunoglobulins (Ig) of the main classes – A, M, G (Ig A, Ig M, Ig G). However, the research on this topic suggests that these drugs should be
used from the pathogenetic point of view, in a timely manner, during the phase of the first manifestations of symptoms of peritonitis and organ damage, and their later use as “therapy of despair” is pathogenetically and economically unjustified and ineffective measure [8].

At the same time, diabetes continues to be the most common endocrine pathology with a steady upward trend. Along with oncological and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes is one of the most common causes of disability and mortality in patients [9]. Over the past ten years, the prevalence of diabetes in Ukraine increased by 1.5 times and estimated at one million patients. Undoubtedly, nowadays it is considered that the condition of diabetes is a high risk factor for developing immunodeficiency states with purulent-inflammatory and necrotic processes. Despite the fact that in recent years some progress made in the study of the pathogenesis of the AGP and diabetes, however, until now, the role of the immune link of immunity with combined pathology was not fully understood [10].

The aim of the study – to learn the features of the humoral link of the immune response in the organism of experimental animals in the modeled AGP on the background of diabetes comparing to animals with experimental peritonitis alone.

RESEARCH METHODS. Experiments were performed at Central Research Laboratory of I. Horbachevsky Ternopil State Medical University (Certificate of Attestation No. 000478 dated 17.12.2007). The experiment used 56 white rats, which were divided into three groups: the main group – 24 animals with a simulated AGP on the background of diabetes; a comparison group – 24 animals with simulated peritonitis alone; the control group consisted of 8 intact animals, which were kept under standard vivarium conditions. All comparable animal groups were of the same weight, gender, and age.

Experimental diabetes was artificially developed by intraperitoneal administration of streptozotocin on an empty stomach in a dose of 60 mg/kg (acquired from “Sigma” Company, which was dissolved in buffer sodium citrate solution pH 4.5). The study of glucose content was carried out using the glucose oxidase method at 9:00 a.m., under conditions of free access of experimental animals to food and water during the night time period. During the entire observation period, rats received insulins (0–2 units, subcutaneously two to five times a week).

Two weeks after the administration of streptozotocin, the venous blood of rats drown from the tail vein, was analyzed, and the glucose content was determined. In the subsequent studies, only those rats with glucose contents of more than 300 mg/L were used. Animals of the control group were subcutaneously administered sterile 0.9 % sodium chloride solution instead of streptozotocin [11].

The influence of the diabetes on the course of the AGP was studied on the model suggested by Lazarenko et al. This model, regarding etiological factors, clinical manifestations, and phase transitions, is close to the similar process in human. On the 14th day after administration of streptophorin in the animals of the appropriate group, we injected 10 % of the fecal suspension into the cranial cavity of the examined rats at a dose of 0.5 ml per 100 g of body weight. Rats of the comparative group received only hypodermic administration of fecal suspension. Fecal suspension were prepared by mixing saline isotonic solution and feces from the intestine of 2–3 intact animals, then double-filtered through a double layer of gauze. The resulting slurry was introduced not later than 20 minutes after cooking introduce intact rats by puncture method. In order to avoid damage of internal organs when introducing fecal suspension into the abdominal cavity, the animals were held upright, caudal end up [12, 13].

The time points for observations were 1st, 3rd and 7th days from the beginning of peritonitis modeling. To conduct research, we used whole blood and serum of blood, as well as liver homogenate.

This experimental study was conducted with observance of general rules and provisions of the European Convention on Protection of vertebrate animals used for research and others scientific goals (Strasbourg, 1986), General Ethical Principles experiments on animals (Kyiv, 2001) and the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Animals from Cruel Behavior” (2006).

To characterize the functional state of humoral immunity the serum Ig concentrations of the main classes (M, G, A) were determined. The determination of Ig in serum was carried out by radial immunodiffusion globulin method according to G. Mancini et al. (1965), the principle of which is based on interaction of antigen of the test serum and antibody (anteriserum to Ig). The method is based on the procedure when samples of investigated serums are introduced into the wells of agar, which have antibodies to Ig G, Ig A, Ig M (standard monospecific serum against human Ig). Immunoglobulins that diffuse into agar, during the interaction with the corresponding antibodies, form the rings of the precipitate, and their size depends on the number of serum Ig of a particular class. Results were evaluated graphically. The diameter of the obtained rings of precipitation was compared against standards. Using the points obtained with standards, we built a standard curve. Concentration
that corresponds to the samples can be evaluated, by measuring the diameter of their rings and comparing it to the calibration curve. This method is sensitive and allows the researcher to determine concentrations of up to 0.003 g/L of Ig [14].

Statistical analysis of data was carried out using Excel and STATISTICA software, using parametric and nonparametric methods for evaluating the obtained data. For all indicators, we calculated the mean arithmetic mean (M), its dispersion and mean errors (m). The reliability of the difference between independent quantitative values were determined with normal distribution for Student’s t-criterion, in other cases – by Mann–Whitney’s U-criterion the differences were considered to be significant at p<0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. Analyzing the results of the research of humoral immunity during the AGP a statistically significant increase in the concentration of immunoglobulins was noted compared to a group of intact animals. Increase of Ig G level in on day 1 from the moment of peritonitis modeling was 147 %, as for Ig M – 128 %, and Ig A – 138 %, comparing to corresponding values in rats without pathology (Table 1). Hyperproduction of immunoglobulins on the first day of the pathological process indicated an excess of toxins and antigens during AGP. In the following days, the concentration of immunoglobulins gradually decreased all the way to the 7th day and was valued at to 92 % comparing to the value of intact animals. At the same time, the concentration of Ig M and Ig increased by the 3rd day of observation and was, respectively, 169 % and 145 % of the levels of rats without simulated pathology. In the following days, the values were somewhat reduced on the 7th day and the concentration of Ig M was 140 %, and Ig A, – 128 %, comparing to the norm (healthy animals). Increase of the concentrations of Ig M and Ig A can be explained by the fact that they are immunoglobulins of acute phase of inflammation and are not enough specific for localization of antigenic load and effective completion of inflammation, but for insufficient level, Ig G may partially compensate for their functions.

As for the model of the AGP on the background of diabetes, we noted a decrease in the level immunoglobulins of all classes starting even on the 1st day of the pathological course of the process. Thus, Ig G and Ig M values were 1.5 times and 1.3 times less as those calculated in animals without a simulated pathology, and Ig A was lower by 1.4 times (Table 2). For 3 days in animals with simulated AGP on the background of diabetes the Ig G dropped to 89 %, while the Ig M level was 96 %, and

| Number of types | Groups of experimental animals | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                | control (n=8)                 | animals with acute peritonitis (n=24) | 1 day (n=8) | 3 day (n=8) | 7 day (n=8) | 1 day (n=8) | 3 day (n=8) | 7 day (n=8) | 1 day (n=8) | 3 day (n=8) | 7 day (n=8) | 1 day (n=8) | 3 day (n=8) | 7 day (n=8) |
| Ig G           | 3.61±0.05                     | 3.31±0.07*                  | 3.23±0.10*              | 2.61±0.06*                  | 2.31±0.07*              | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* | 2.31±0.07* |
| Ig M           | 2.73±0.08                     | 2.95±0.07*                  | 2.62±0.07*              | 3.18±0.01*                  | 3.18±0.01*              | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* | 3.18±0.01* |
| Ig A           | 1.73±0.02                     | 1.87±0.08*                  | 1.13±0.09*              | 0.98±0.09*                  | 0.98±0.09*              | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* | 0.98±0.09* |

Note. * – is the authenticity of the difference between such independent values of intact groups. ** – the reliability of the difference with respect to such indicators of the comparative group.
Ig A — 65% of the values of the groups of intact animals. By the 7th day, the concentration of Ig G continued to decrease and amounted to 72% of the norm, respectively, Ig M increased to 116%, and with Ig A, it decreases even more, by 57% of the level of a healthy group of rats. It is worth noting that all the indicators were also significantly lower than similar indicators of groups of animals with acute peritonitis.

It should be noted that the level of immunoglobulins in the experimental animals from the AGP on the CD for the first day of observation was statistically significantly lower comparing to the AGP groups: Ig G level was lower by 38%, while Ig M and Ig A — by 16% and 21%, respectively. A similar trend was observed on the third day from the moment of AGP modeling. Also, on the 7th day of the experiment all classes of immunoglobulins were statistically significantly lower than the following indicators of a group of animals from the acute peritonitis: the level of Ig G was lower by 21%, while Ig M and Ig A — by 17% and 56% respectively, which confirms the presence of secondary immunodeficiency.

It is known that Ig G is a highly specific immunoglobulin, its concentration influences the effectiveness of the immune response and anti-infection protection, stimulates the favorable flow of the inflammatory process and its level must be increased for positive outcomes at least twice. Therefore, the low level of Ig G in animals with AGP model on the background of diabetes is a direct sign of severe immune deficiency, a prerequisite for a complex outcome of the course of peritonitis and a clear immune criterion for negative prognosis the progress of peritonitis.

CONCLUSIONS. Animals with acute peritonitis on the background of diabetes mellitus had significantly damaged protective mechanisms of the humoral immune system, which was confirmed statistically significant lower levels of immunoglobulins of classes A, M, G comparing to a group of animals with a simulated acute peritonitis alone. Discovered functional insufficiency of the humoral link indicates significant weakening of the organism protection factors in acute peritonitis against infection in case of diabetes presence with the development of secondary immunodeficiency.

In the prospect of further research, it is planned to study the state of immune system when wetting the AGP on the background of the diabetes.

LITERATURE
REFERENCES
1-шу добу після моделювання гострого поширеного перитоніту на тлі цукрового діабету рівень Ig G зменшился в 1,5 раза, Ig M – в 1,3 раза та Ig A – в 1,4 раза (р<0,05). На 7-му добу експерименту всі класи імуно глобулінів були статистично значно нижчим від таких показників групи тварин із гострим поширенням перитонітом: рівень Ig G – на 21 %, а Ig M та Ig A – на 17 і 56 % відповідно (р<0,05). Результати наших досліджень свідчать про те, що наявність цукрового діабету при гострому поширеному перитоніті призводить до зниження резистентності гуморальної ланки імунної системи при антигенній стимуляції та до виникнення вторинних імунодефіцитних станів.

**Висновки.** У тварин із гострим перитонітом на тлі цукрового діабету суттєво знижуються захисні механізми гуморальної ланки імунітету, що підтверджується статистично значно нижчими рівнями імуно глобулінів класів А, М, G порівняно з групою тварин з моделюваним гострим перитонітом. Виявлена функціональна недостатність гуморальної ланки імунітету вказує на значне послаблення факторів захисту організму при гострому перитоніті на тлі цукрового діабету з розвитком вторинного імунодефіциту.

**КЛЮЧОВІ СЛОВА:** гострий перитоніт; цукровий діабет; гуморальний імунітет; імуно глобуліни.

---

**СОСТОЯНИЕ ГУМОРАЛЬНОГО ЗВЕНА ИММУНИТЕТА ПРИ ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛЬНОМ ПЕРИТОНИТЕ НА ФОНЕ САХАРНОГО ДИАБЕТА**

**Резюме**

**Вступление.** Совместное течение острого перитонита и сахарного диабета все чаще приводит к развитию вторичных иммунодефицитных состояний, что способствует увеличению процента послеоперационных осложнений и летальных исходов, возникновению сложности лечения и диагностики.

**Цель исследования** – изучить особенности гуморального звена иммунного ответа в организме подопытных животных при смоделированном остром распространенном перитоните на фоне сахарного диабета по сравнению с крысами с экспериментальным острый перитонитом.

**Методы исследования.** В работе использовали 56 белых крыс. Сахарный диабет моделировали путем внутрибрюшинного введения стрептозотоцина фирмы "Sigma" из расчета 7 мг на 100 г массы тела крысы, острый распространеный перитонит – введения 0,5 мл 10% профильтрованной каловой суспензии в брюшную полость исследуемых животных. Определяли концентрацию иммуноглобулинов (Ig) в сыворотке крови. Сроки наблюдения – 1-е, 3-е, 7-е сутки от начала моделирования перитонита.

**Результаты и обсуждение.** Анализируя результаты исследований, можно констатировать, что наблюдались разнонаправленные изменения концентрации иммуноглобулинов в сыворотке крови крыс разных групп. Так, на 1-е сутки после моделирования острого распространенного перитонита на фоне сахарного диабета уровень Ig G уменьшился в 1,5 раза, Ig M – в 1,3 раза та Ig A – в 1,4 раза (р<0,05). На 7-е сутки эксперимента все классы иммуноглобулинов были статистически значимо ниже таких показателей группы животных острый распространеный перитонитом: уровень Ig G – на 21 %, а Ig M та Ig A – на 17 і 56 % соответственно (р<0,05). Результаты наших исследований свидетельствуют о том, что наличие сахарного диабета при остром распространенном перитоните приводит к снижению резистентности гуморального звена иммунной системы при антигенной стимуляции и к возникновению вторичных иммунодефицитных состояний.

**Выводы.** У животных острый перитонит на фоне сахарного диабета существенно снижаются защитные механизмы гуморального звена иммунитета, что подтверждается статистически значимо более низкими уровнями иммуноглобулиновых классів А, М, G по сравнению с группой крыс с смоделированным острым перитонитом. Обнаруженная функциональная недостаточность гуморального звена иммунитета указывает на значительное ослабление факторов защиты организма при остром перитоните на фоне сахарного диабета с развитием вторичного иммунодефицита.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** острый перитонит; сахарный диабет; гуморальный иммунитет; иммуноглобулины.

---

Received 31.01.19

Address for correspondence: B. M. Vervega, Sokolyana Street 23, Lviv, 79038, Ukraine, e-mail: danaverveha@gmail.com.