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## State of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory response in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

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**Abstract. Background.** The purpose was to evaluate the state of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory response in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis (ALC) associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), depending on the stage of decompensation. **Materials and methods.** The study included 204 patients. Among them, 78 patients were diagnosed with alcoholic liver disease at the stage of liver cirrhosis (group I) and 126 patients had a combination of ALC and NAFLD (group II). General-clinical and instrumental examinations were performed. The leukocyte index of intoxication (LII), sorption capacity of erythrocytes (SCE), levels of resistin, highly sensitive C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) and tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF $\alpha$ ) in the blood were determined. **Results.** Patients with a combination of ALC and NAFLD had a more severe clinical picture with the development of astheno-vegetative, pain, dyspeptic, hepatorenal, hepatopulmonary syndromes, jaundice, portal hypertension, liver encephalopathy. Among severe infectious complications, pneumonia and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis were more common in persons with subcompensation and decompensation. In all patients, SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP and resistin levels increased with increasing decompensation of the disease. Higher SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP and resistin levels were observed in patients with ALC associated with NAFLD due to a more severe course of the pathological condition. Positive correlations were found between resistin level and TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP, SCE, and LII. **Conclusions.** Analyzing the results of the study, it was found that with an increase in ALC decompensation, the degree of endogenous intoxication, which is accompanied by the development of immune-inflammatory response, is increasing, as evidenced by elevated SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP, and resistin levels. Significantly higher SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP, and resistin levels were detected in patients with a combination of ALCs and NAFLD accompanied by a more severe course of the disease. In patients with ALC associated with NAFLD, correlation between the resistin level and SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP was found.

**Keywords:** alcoholic liver disease; non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; liver cirrhosis; endogenous intoxication; immune-inflammatory response

### Introduction

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is one of the most common liver diseases characterized by the progression of the course and the development of severe complications. It is detected in 20–35 % of the adult population, both in industrialized and developing countries, as well as in 40–70 % of obese patients [1]. Today, it is believed that NAFLD is a hepatic manifestation of metabolic syndrome, since its prevalence is associated with an increase in obesity

and type 2 diabetes at the general population level [2, 3]. Visceral obesity, which is typical for metabolic syndrome, is associated with a decrease in insulin sensitivity, hyperglycemia, dyslipidemia, hypertension, prothrombotic and proinflammatory conditions [4, 5]. NAFLD is more often described as a component of combined pathology. It is detected mostly in cardiovascular and endocrine pathologies. NAFLD is considered a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and a predictor of cardiovascular complications [6, 7].

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NAFLD is characterized by excessive accumulation of hepatic fat and is determined by the steatosis in more than 5 % of hepatocytes, has a long asymptomatic course [8]. The pathogenesis of NAFLD is multifactorial. High consumption of fructose and fat, insulin resistance, immune-inflammatory processes, lipotoxicity, genetic predisposition and imbalance of intestinal microbiota are the factors for the development and progression of the disease [9]. The liver interacts closely with fatty tissue, which is not only an energetic but also a powerful endocrine organ that expresses and produces a large number of biologically active polypeptides — adipokines. They act both on the local (autocrine and paracrine) and on the systemic (endocrine) level. Among the cytokines and related proteins with endocrine function, the most well-known are leptin, tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF $\alpha$ ), interleukin-6 (IL-6), monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), visfatin, chemerin; among fibrinolytic proteins — plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), tissue factors; among complement components and associated proteins — adipsin (or complement D factor), adiponectin, acylation-stimulating protein (ASP); among the lipids and proteins that influence lipid metabolism or transport — lipoprotein lipase, cholesteryl ester transfer protein, apolipoprotein E, non-esterified serum fatty acids; cytochrome P450-dependent aromatase and 17- $\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase are the enzymes involved in steroid metabolism; among proteins of renin-angiotensin system, the most well-known is angiotensinogen; among other proteins — resistin, apelin, retinol-binding protein, obestatin, omentin, vaspin and others. In adipose tissue, a large number of receptors is expressed, including insulin, glucagon, thyroid-stimulating hormone, glucocorticoid, androgenic, estrogenic, progesterone, leptin, apelin, IL-6 receptors, TNF $\alpha$ , gastrin/cholecystokinin-B, glucagon-like peptide-1, growth hormone, vitamin D, thyroid hormone, catecholamines and angiotensin II (type 1 and type 2). They are involved in various processes, including inflammation, immunological reactions, insulin sensitivity, liver steatosis and steatohepatitis [10–12].

The publications of recent years show an ambiguous role of resistin in the pathogenesis of NAFLD. Adipokine was discovered in 2001 and was called the insulin resistance hormone. However, it is secreted mainly by macrophages and, to a lesser extent, by fatty tissue. In addition to the differentiation of adipocytes, inhibition of adipogenesis and glucose uptake by cells, adipokine affects the stimulation of inflammatory mechanisms, activation of the endothelium, and proliferation of smooth muscle cells in the blood vessels [6, 12].

The initial manifestations of NAFLD are fatty hepatoses with a predominance of fatty liver dystrophy, steatohepatitis with severe inflammatory infiltrates both in the stroma and in the parenchyma, focal necrosis, steatofibrosis with predominant localization in the portal stroma. However, under adverse conditions, the pathological process is transformed into the liver cirrhosis (LC) and may lead to hepatocellular carcinoma. The basis for the development of LC are the processes of fibrosis, necrosis, angiogenesis, which through the cascade of systemic metabolic and immune-inflammatory responses lead to endotoxemia,

restructuring of the normal structure of the parenchyma and the vascular system of the liver with the formation of pseudolobules, regenerative nodules and the development of multiple organ failure [13, 14].

It is believed that pathogenetic links in the development of NAFLD and alcoholic liver disease (ALD) are similar, although they have different etiologic factors. Often, NAFLD develops along with ALD, causing systemic lipid, carbohydrate and protein metabolism disorders. This combination, especially at the stage of LC, becomes prognostically unfavourable for patients and leads to systemic complications, irritability and progression.

**The purpose** was to evaluate the state of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory response in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis associated with NAFLD, depending on the stage of decompensation.

## Materials and methods

The study included 204 patients with diagnosed liver cirrhosis who underwent inpatient treatment at the gastroenterology department of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Clinical Hospital. Among them, 78 patients were diagnosed with ALD at the stage of LC (group I) and 126 patients had a combination of alcoholic liver cirrhosis (ALC) and NAFLD (group II). Group I included 24 women and 54 men aged ( $53.2 \pm 11.4$ ) years with average duration of the disease ( $5.9 \pm 2.1$ ) years; group II — 22 women and 104 men aged ( $47.8 \pm 9.4$ ) years, average duration of the disease was ( $4.2 \pm 2.7$ ) years. All patients were divided in subgroups depending on LC compensation by the Child-Pugh score: IA (n = 17), IB (n = 38), IC (n = 23); IIA (n = 44), IIB (n = 48), IIC (n = 34). The diagnosis was verified using clinical and laboratory-instrumental methods in accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 826 dated November 06, 2014, adapted clinical guidelines “Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease”, adapted clinical guidelines “Alcoholic Liver Disease” (2014), adapted clinical guidelines “Cirrhosis of the Liver” (2017) (State Expert Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Ukrainian Gastroenterology Association, Kyiv), recommendations of the European Association for the Study of Liver, Diabetes and Obesity (2016) [15].

General clinical examinations, ultrasound examination of the abdominal cavity, esophagogastroduodenoscopy were performed. To detect the alcoholic etiology of the disease, according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, more than 2 doses of alcohol (1 standard dose = 10 g of pure alcohol) per day for women and more than 4 doses for men were taken into account. CAGE (Cut, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-opener) questionnaire, AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test, 1989), PAS (post-alcohol syndrome) questionnaire developed by P.P. Ogurtsov, A.B. Pokrovsky, A.E. Uspensky, LeGo (P.M. LeGo, 1976) in the modification of O.B. Zharkov, 2000, ANI (Alcoholic liver disease/nonalcoholic fatty liver disease index, 2006) were used. The control group included 20 age- and sex-matched apparently healthy persons.

Exclusion criteria were liver cirrhosis of the viral, toxic, autoimmune origin, metabolic diseases of the liver, cancer, and no individual consent of the patient to conduct the

study. All patients were matched for age and sex. The research was carried out in accordance with the ethical principles of conducting scientific research, principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

The degree of endogenous intoxication was determined by the leukocyte index of intoxication (LII) calculated according to the Kal-Kalif formula:  $LII = [(4Mc + 3Yu + 2S + M) \times (PI + 1)] / [(Lymph + Mon) \times (E + 1)]$ , where Mc — myelocytes, Yu — young, S — stab, M — microxyphil, PI — plasma cells, Lymph — lymphocytes, Mon — monocytes, E — eosinophils, and by the test of sorption capacity of erythrocytes (SCE). The basis of the SCE test is the ability of the red blood cells (as a universal absorbent) to absorb the vital stain (0.025% solution of methylene blue), which is determined by the photocolimeter, and corresponds to the degree of endogenous intoxication. In the control group, SCE was  $(27.30 \pm 1.56) \%$ . The activity of the inflammatory process was evaluated by the content of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) and TNF $\alpha$  in the blood, which was determined using ELISA kit (Elabscience, USA), Human hs-CRP, Human TNF-alpha High Sensitivity ELISA (Biovendor, Czech Republic) according to manufacturer's techniques. Resistin level was determined by immunoassay using the Resistin Human ELISA kit (Biovendor, Czech Republic). In the control group, the levels of hs-CRP, TNF $\alpha$  and resistin were  $(0.65 \pm 0.02) \text{ mg/l}$ ,  $(17.38 \pm 1.15) \text{ pg/ml}$  and  $(3.72 \pm 0.26) \text{ ng/ml}$ , respectively.

**Statistical analysis.** Statistical processing of the obtained results was carried out using the software package Statistica v. 12.0 (StatSoft, USA) and Microsoft Excel. The arithmetic average (M) and the standard deviation (SD) were used as the rates of parametric statistics. To determine the significance of the differences between the groups in the distribution close to normal, Student's t-test was used. For the analysis of dependencies, a method of correlation analysis with the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was used. Differences were considered statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Results

Clinically, the signs of astheno-vegetative syndrome were detected in 29.4 (5 of 17), 45.4 % (20 of 44), 57.9 % (22 of 38), 79.2 % (38 of 48), 100 % (23) and 100 % (34) of persons of IA, IIA, IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively; pain syndrome — in 11.8 % (2 of 17), 27.3 % (12 of 44), 34.2 % (13 of 38), 43.6 % (21 of 48), 100 % (23) and 100 % (34) of patients of the above-mentioned groups, respectively; dyspeptic syndrome — in 23.5 % (4 of 17), 75 % (33 of 44), 68.4 % (26 of 38), 91.7 % (44 of 48), 100 % (23) and 100 % (34) of individuals, respectively; hepatorenal syndrome — in 31.8 % (14 of 44), 10.5 % (4 of 38), 60.4 % (29 of 38), 78.3 % (18 of 48), 100 % (34) of persons in IIA, IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively; hepatopulmonary syndrome — in 17.6 % (3 of 17), 40.9 % (18 of 44), 21.1 % (8

**Table 1 — Clinical manifestations of alcoholic liver disease at the stage of cirrhosis combined with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, abs./%**

Clinical manifestations	Groups of patients					
	IA, n = 17	IIA, n = 44	IB, n = 38	IIB, n = 48	IC, n = 23	IIC, n = 34
Astheno-vegetative syndrome	5/29.4	20/45.4	22/57.9	38/79.2	23/100.0	34/100.0
General weakness	10/58.8	30/68.2	33/86.8	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Pain in the right hypochondrium	8/47.1	30/68.2	31/81.6	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Pain syndrome	2/11.8	12/27.3	13/34.2	21/43.6	23/100.0	34/100.0
Dyspeptic syndrome	4/23.5	33/75.0	26/68.4	44/91.7	23/100.0	34/100.0
Itchy skin/scabies	2/11.8	11/25.0	8/21.1	23/47.9	15/65.2	29/85.3
Subicterus/jaundice	3/17.6	20/45.5	28/73.7	46/95.8	23/100.0	34/100.0
Vascular asterisks	10/58.8	31/70.5	29/76.3	39/81.2	18/78.3	30/88.2
Hepatomegaly	17/100.0	44/100.0	38/100.0	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Splenomegaly	10/58.8	33/75	27/71.1	43/89.6	23/100.0	34/100.0
Emaciation	7/41.2	4/9.1	22/57.9	11/22.9	23/100.0	34/100.0
Ascites, medically controlled	—	—	33/86.8	33/68.8	12/52.2	11/32.4
Ascites, medically uncontrolled	—	—	—	—	11/47.8	23/67.6
Sleep disturbance	11/64.7	33/75	31/81.6	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Cognitive impairment	15/88.2	41/93.2	38/100.0	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Behavioral disorder	17/100.0	44/100.0	38/100.0	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Neuromuscular disorders	—	44/100.0	38/100.0	48/100.0	48/100.0	34/100.0
Clubbed fingers	15/88.2	42/95.5	38/100.0	48/100.0	23/100.0	34/100.0
Nail clubbing	14/82.4	41/93.2	38/100.0	48/100.0	48/100.0	34/100.0
Platypnea	3/17.6	16/42.1	12/31.6	37/77.1	100.0	34/100.0
Hydrothorax	—	—	6/13.2	9/18.8	19/82.6	34/100.0

of 38), 52.1 % (25 of 48), 82.6 % (19 of 23) and 100 % (34) of patients of IA, IIA, IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively; jaundice — in 17.6 % (3 of 17), 45.4 % (20 of 44), 73.7 % (28 of 38), 95.8 % (46 of 48) and 100 % (23) of individuals of IA, IIA, IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively; medically uncontrolled ascites — in 47.8 % (11 of 23) and 67.6 % (23 of 34) in IC and IIC groups; clinical signs of hepatic encephalopathy — in 52.9 % (9 of 17), 86.4 % (38 of 44) of persons of IA, IIA groups and in all patients of IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively (Table 1). Severe infectious complications were pneumonia (5.3 % (2 of 38), 8.3 % (4 of 48), 21.7 % (5 of 23) and 55.9 % (19 of 34) of persons in IB, IIB, IC and IIC groups, respectively) and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (in 17.4 % (4 of 23) and 26.5 % (9 of 34) of patients of IC and IIC groups, respectively).

In all patients, SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP and resistin levels increased with increasing decompensation of the disease (Table 2). In particular, in patients of group I with stage A, SCE was (39.48  $\pm$  0.29) %, i.e. 1.44 times higher than that of the control group; with stage B — (57.26  $\pm$  0.42) %, which is 1.45 and 2.09 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in controls, respectively; with stage C — (86.13  $\pm$  0.47) %, i.e. 2.18, 1.5 and 3.15 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in the control group, respectively. In patients of group II with stage A, SCE was (46.19  $\pm$  0.38) % that is 1.69 times higher than in the control group; with stage B — (69.45  $\pm$  0.44) %, which is 1.50 and 2.54 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in controls, respectively; with stage C — (93.71  $\pm$  0.51) %, i.e. 2.03, 1.35 and 3.43 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in the control group, respectively. SCE was significantly higher in patients of groups IIA, IIB and IIC than in persons from IA, IB and IC groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

In persons of group I with stage A, LII parameters were 1.50  $\pm$  0.09 that 2.54 times exceeded that of the control group; with stage B — 1.90  $\pm$  0.15, which is 1.27 and 3.22 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in controls, respectively; with stage C — 2.50  $\pm$  0.14, i.e. 1.67, 1.32 and 4.24 times higher than in patients with stage A, stage B and in control group, respectively. In patients of group II with stage A, LII parameters were 1.80  $\pm$  0.08 that 3.05 times exceeded that of the control group; with stage B — 2.20  $\pm$  0.13 that is 1.22 and 3.73 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in controls, respec-

tively; with stage C — 2.70  $\pm$  0.16, i.e. 1.50, 1.23 and 4.58 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in the control group, respectively. LII parameters were significantly higher in patients of IIA, IIB, and IIC groups than in individuals from IA, IB and IC groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Hs-CRP level in patients of group I with stage A was (3.72  $\pm$  0.10) mg/l, i.e. 5.72 times higher than that of the control group; with stage B — (7.24  $\pm$  0.33) mg/l, which is 1.96 and 11.14 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with stage C — (11.03  $\pm$  0.75) mg/l, i.e. 2.97, 1.52 and 16.97 times higher than in the groups with stage A, stage B and in controls, respectively. In patients of group II with stage A, hs-CRP level was (5.85  $\pm$  0.19) mg/l that was 9 times higher than in the control group; with stage B — (10.48  $\pm$  0.42) mg/l, which is 1.79 and 16.12 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with stage C — (15.71  $\pm$  0.90) mg/l, i.e. 2.69, 1.50 and 24.17 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in the control group, respectively. Hs-CRP level was significantly higher in patients of groups IIA, IIB, and IIC than in persons from groups IA, IB and IC ( $p < 0.05$ ).

TNF $\alpha$  in patients of group I with stage A was (40.59  $\pm$  1.22) pg/ml and 2.34 times exceeded that of the control group; with stage B — (55.03  $\pm$  2.46) pg/ml, which is 1.36 and 3.17 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with stage C — (70.21  $\pm$  3.14) pg/ml, i.e. 1.73, 1.28 and 4.04 times higher than in the groups with stage A and B and in controls, respectively. In patients of group II with stage A, TNF $\alpha$  level was (61.23  $\pm$  2.75) pg/ml and 3.52 times exceeded that of the control group; with stage B — (84.39  $\pm$  3.72) pg/ml, which is 1.38 and 4.86 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with stage C — (102.58  $\pm$  5.49) pg/ml, i.e. 1.67, 1.22 and 5.9 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in the control group, respectively. TNF $\alpha$  level was significantly higher in patients of groups IIA, IIB and IIC than in individuals from IA, IB and IC groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

The level of resistin in patients of group I with stage A was (4.23  $\pm$  0.83) ng/ml and 1.14 times exceeded that of the control group; with stage B — (6.73  $\pm$  0.21) ng/ml, which is 1.59 and 1.81 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with

**Table 2 — Parameters of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory syndrome in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

Parameters, units	Groups of patients						
	Controls, n = 20	IA, n = 17	IIA, n = 44	IB, n = 38	IIB, n = 48	IC, n = 23	IIC, n = 34
SCE, %	27.32 $\pm$ 1.56	39.48 $\pm$ 0.29	46.19 $\pm$ 0.38*	57.26 $\pm$ 0.42 <sup>▲</sup>	69.45 $\pm$ 0.44* <sup>■</sup>	86.13 $\pm$ 0.47 <sup>■</sup>	93.71 $\pm$ 0.51 <sup>■□</sup>
LII	0.59 $\pm$ 0.16	1.50 $\pm$ 0.09	1.80 $\pm$ 0.08*	1.90 $\pm$ 0.15 <sup>▲</sup>	2.20 $\pm$ 0.13* <sup>■</sup>	2.50 $\pm$ 0.14 <sup>■</sup>	2.70 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>■□</sup>
hs-CRP, mg/l	0.65 $\pm$ 0.02	3.72 $\pm$ 0.10	5.85 $\pm$ 0.19*	7.24 $\pm$ 0.33 <sup>▲</sup>	10.48 $\pm$ 0.42* <sup>■</sup>	11.03 $\pm$ 0.75 <sup>■</sup>	15.71 $\pm$ 0.90 <sup>■□</sup>
TNF $\alpha$ , pg/ml	17.38 $\pm$ 1.15	40.59 $\pm$ 1.22	61.23 $\pm$ 2.75*	55.03 $\pm$ 2.46 <sup>▲</sup>	84.39 $\pm$ 3.72* <sup>■</sup>	70.21 $\pm$ 3.14 <sup>■</sup>	102.58 $\pm$ 5.49 <sup>■□</sup>
Resistin, ng/ml	3.72 $\pm$ 0.26	4.23 $\pm$ 0.83	10.72 $\pm$ 0.82*	6.73 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>▲</sup>	13.74 $\pm$ 0.94* <sup>■</sup>	9.68 $\pm$ 0.47 <sup>■</sup>	15.96 $\pm$ 1.36 <sup>■□</sup>

**Notes: probability of differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between groups: \* — IA and IIA; <sup>■</sup> — IB and IIB; <sup>■</sup> — IC and IIC; <sup>▲</sup> — IA and IB; <sup>■</sup> — IB and IC; <sup>■</sup> — IIA and IIB; <sup>■□</sup> — IIB and IIC.**

**Table 3 — Correlation (r) of parameters of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory syndrome with resistin level in patients with alcoholic liver cirrhosis associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

Parameters	Groups of patients					
	IA, n = 17	IIA, n = 44	IB, n = 38	IIB, n = 48	IC, n = 23	IIC, n = 34
SCE, %	0.49	0.53	0.51	0.73	0.67	0.78
LII	0.42	0.43	0.48	0.58	0.64	0.69
Hs-CRP, mg/l	0.64	0.57	0.62	0.68	0.74	0.81
TNF $\alpha$ , pg/ml	0.56	0.59	0.68	0.77	0.79	0.76

stage C —  $(9.68 \pm 0.47)$  ng/ml, i.e. 2.29, 1.44 and 2.60 times higher than in the groups with stage A, stage B and in controls, respectively. In patients of group II with stage A, the resistin level was  $(10.72 \pm 0.82)$  ng/ml that is 2.88 times higher than that of the control group; with stage B —  $(13.74 \pm 0.94)$  ng/ml, which is 1.28 and 3.69 times higher than in the group of patients with stage A and in the control group, respectively; with stage C —  $(15.96 \pm 1.36)$  ng/ml, i.e. 1.49, 1.16 and 4.29 times higher than in the groups with stages A and B and in controls, respectively. Resistin levels were significantly higher in groups IIA, IIB and IIC than in IA, IB and IC groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Patients suffering from alcoholic liver cirrhosis with concomitant NAFLD had the correlations between the level of resistin and the parameters of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory process (Table 3) that indicates a direct connection of adipokine with such pathogenetic links of the disease.

## Discussion

Patients with a combination of ALC and NAFLD had a more severe clinical picture with the development of astheno-vegetative, pain, dyspeptic, hepatorenal, hepatopulmonary syndromes, jaundice, portal hypertension, liver encephalopathy. Among the severe infectious complications, pneumonia and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis were more common in persons with subcompensation and decompensation.

The parameters of endogenous intoxication and immune-inflammatory process in patients with ALC associated with NAFLD and their changes depending on the stage of compensation have been studied. High levels of resistin in the blood serum of such patients were detected compared to the controls. These levels increased proportionally to the severity of LC. Thus, it can be concluded that an increase in the level of resistin is associated with a impaired liver function. Such data are consistent with the results of Kakizaki, Boutari et al. study, which demonstrated the independence of the resistin level from the etiological factor, but the dependence on the presence and progression of the immune-inflammatory process [16, 17]. This is due to the fact that apart from the adipose tissue, resistin is mainly produced by the blood mononuclear cells. Consequently, their activation increases resistin production. Confirming this view, Trzeciak-Ryczek et al. in their study noted that the stimulation of macrophages by lipopolysaccharide or proinflammatory cytokines (IL-1, IL-6 and TNF $\alpha$ ) significantly increased resistin production in the infectious process [18].

Musso, Gambino et al. found a direct relationship between CRP and resistin level [19]. Kasztelan-Szczerbinska et al. confirmed the positive correlation of serum concentration of resistin with the level of leukocytes and CRP in patients with ALD [11]. Proinflammatory properties of resistin were also proved in other diseases. In particular, Kemmotsu et al. studied Kawasaki's disease, Tanaka et al. — systemic autoimmune diseases, Yoshino and Su et al. — rheumatoid arthritis, Shen et al. — nonalcoholic steatohepatitis [20–24].

Positive correlations between resistin level and TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP, SCE, and LII were found. These results indicate the presence of resistin in immune-inflammatory processes and the development of endogenous intoxication in ALC. Higher levels of such parameters were observed in patients with ALC associated with NAFLD due to a more severe course of the pathological condition.

## Conclusions

Analyzing the results of the study, it was found that with an increase in ALC decompensation, the degree of endogenous intoxication, which is accompanied by the development of immune-inflammatory response, is increasing, as evidenced by elevated SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP and resistin levels.

Significantly higher SCE, LII and the content of TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP and resistin were detected in patients with a combination of ALC and NAFLD accompanied by a more severe course of the disease.

In patients with ALCs associated with NAFLD, correlation between the resistin level and SCE, LII, TNF $\alpha$ , hs-CRP was found.

**Conflicts of interests.** Authors declare the absence of any conflicts of interests that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript.

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### Стан ендогенної інтоксикації та імунозапальної реакції у хворих на алкогольний цироз печінки в поєднанні з неалкогольною жирковою хворобою печінки

**Резюме. Мета:** оцінити стан ендогенної інтоксикації у хворих на алкогольний цироз печінки (АЦП) при поєднанні з неалкогольною жирковою хворобою печінки (НАЖХП) залежно від стадії декомпенсації. **Матеріали та методи.** Обстежено 204 пацієнти. Серед них у 78 осіб (I група) діагностовано АЦП та в 126 осіб (II група) було поєднання АЦП з НАЖХП. Пацієнтів було поділено на підгрупи залежно від класів компенсації за критеріями Чайлда — П'ю (А, В, С). Проведено загальноклінічні та інструментальні обстеження. Визначали лейкоцитарний індекс інтоксикації (ЛІІ),

сорбційну здатність еритроцитів (СЗЕ), рівень резистину, високочутливого С-реактивного білка (вч-СРБ) і фактора некрозу пухлини α (ФНП-α) у крові. **Результати.** У пацієнтів із поєднанням АЦП та НАЖХП спостерігалася більш тяжка клінічна картина з розвитком астеновегетативного, больового, диспептичного, гепаторенального, гепатопульмонального синдромів, жовтяниці, портальної гіпертензії, печінкової енцефалопатії. Відмічалися такі тяжкі інфекційні ускладнення, як пневмонія і спонтанний бактеріальний перитоніт, частіше в пацієнтів із субкомпенсацією

та декомпенсацією. В усіх хворих СЗЕ, ЛП і показники ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ та резистину збільшувалися з наростанням декомпенсації захворювання. Підвищені СЗЕ, ЛП й вищі рівні ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ та резистину в сироватці крові спостерігалися при поєднанні АЦП та НАЖХП, що пов'язане з більш тяжким перебігом патологічного стану в таких хворих. Ми виявили позитивні зв'язки між рівнем резистину та ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ, СЗЕ, ЛП. Такі результати свідчать про участь резистину в імунізапальних процесах та розвитку ендогенної інтоксикації при АЦП. **Висновки.** З наростанням декомпенсації АЦП при поєднанні з НАЖХП збільшується

ступінь ендогенної інтоксикації, яка супроводжується розвитком імунізапальної реакції, про що свідчать підвищені СЗЕ, ЛП, а також вищі рівні ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ та резистину. Вірогідно вищі СЗЕ, ЛП і рівні ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ та резистину виявлено у хворих при поєднанні АЦП з НАЖХП, що супроводжується більш тяжким перебігом захворювання. У пацієнтів із АЦП та НАЖХП виявлено кореляції між рівнем резистину та ФНП- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ, СЗЕ, ЛП.

**Ключові слова:** алкогольна хвороба печінки; неалкогольна жирова хвороба печінки; цирроз печінки; ендогенна інтоксикація; імунізапальна реакція

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### Состояние эндогенной интоксикации и иммуновоспалительной реакции у больных с алкогольным циррозом печени в сочетании с неалкогольной жировой болезнью печени

**Резюме.** *Цель:* оценить состояние эндогенной интоксикации у пациентов с алкогольным циррозом печени (АЦП) при сочетании с неалкогольной жировой болезнью печени (НАЖБП) в зависимости от стадии декомпенсации. *Материалы и методы.* Обследовано 204 пациента. Среди них у 78 человек (I группа) диагностирован АЦП и у 126 лиц (II группа) было сочетание АЦП с НАЖБП. Пациентов разделили на подгруппы в зависимости от классов компенсации по критериям Чайлда — Пью (А, В, С). Проведены общеклинические и инструментальные обследования. Определяли лейкоцитарный индекс интоксикации (ЛИИ), сорбционную способность эритроцитов (ССЭ), уровень резистина, высокочувствительного С-реактивного белка (вч-СРБ) и фактора некроза опухоли  $\alpha$  (ФНО- $\alpha$ ) в крови. *Результаты.* У пациентов с сочетанием АЦП и НАЖБП наблюдалась более тяжелая клиническая картина с развитием астеновегетативного, болевого, диспептического, гепаторенального, гепатопульмонального синдромов, желтухи, портальной гипертензии, печеночной энцефалопатии. Отмечались такие тяжелые инфекционные осложнения, как пневмония и спонтанный бактериальный перитонит, чаще у пациентов с субкомпенсацией и декомпенсацией. У всех больных ССЭ, ЛИИ и показатели ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ, резистина увеличива-

лись с нарастанием декомпенсации заболевания. Повышенные ССЭ, ЛИИ и более высокие уровни ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ и резистина в сыворотке крови наблюдались при сочетании АЦП и НАЖБП, что связано с более тяжелым течением патологического состояния у таких больных. Мы обнаружили положительные связи между уровнем резистина и ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ, ССЭ, ЛИИ. Такие результаты свидетельствуют об участии резистина в иммуновоспалительных процессах и развитии эндогенной интоксикации при АЦП. *Выводы.* С нарастанием декомпенсации АЦП при сочетании с НАЖБП увеличивается степень эндогенной интоксикации, которая сопровождается развитием иммуновоспалительной реакции, о чем свидетельствуют повышенные ССЭ, ЛИИ, а также более высокие уровни ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ и резистина. Достоверно более высокие ССЭ, ЛИИ и уровни ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ и резистина выявлены у больных при сочетании АЦП с НАЖБП, что сопровождается более тяжелым течением заболевания. У пациентов с АЦП и НАЖХП обнаружены корреляции между уровнем резистина и ФНО- $\alpha$ , вч-СРБ, ССЭ, ЛИИ.

**Ключевые слова:** алкогольная болезнь печени; неалкогольная жировая болезнь печени; цирроз печени; эндогенная интоксикация; иммуновоспалительная реакция