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ANALYSIS OF FEATURES OF THE LUNG ENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM IN ABDOMINAL SEPSIS

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Resume. Molecular and biochemical parameters of the endothelial system of the lungs during experimental modeling of abdominal sepsis showed an ambiguous picture of the changes taking place, which were of a phase nature and depended on the timing of the development of the pathological process.

Keywords: Abdominal sepsis, lungs, endothelial system.

Relevance. Throughout the last century, abdominal sepsis has been and remains a dangerous disease in which dysfunction of vital organs develops as a result of the aggression of introduced microorganisms. The high incidence of abdominal sepsis is accompanied by high mortality, which can range from 7.6% to 36.0% (1,3,5,25,26,27,28,29,30,31). Intra-abdominal contamination and secondary peritonitis are a constant source of pathogen-associated molecular patterns (through spillage of intestinal contents) and through direct damage to internal organs and abdominal organs. This "motor of multisystem organ failure" provides continuous cytokine fuel for a raging systemic response (2,4,6,8,19,38,39,40,41). For example, TNF- α and IL-1 are important pro-inflammatory cytokines. Each of them has been shown to induce vascular permeability, which leads to pulmonary edema and bleeding (9,11,13,15,17). IL-6 is a key molecule in initiating a febrile reaction, activating lymphocytes, and also plays a role in hematopoiesis. It has also been shown to cause myocardial depression (10,12,14,16,18,32,33,34,35,36,37). Over the past 20 years, the recognition of the endothelium as a full-fledged system has led to a large number of experimental and clinical studies, including in the study of the mechanisms of sepsis development.

During bacterial, fungal or viral infection, exogenous molecular patterns associated with pathogens and molecular patterns associated with endogenous damage cause activation of the endothelium and can disrupt its structure and function, that is, provoke the development of endothelial dysfunction (19,21,23,25,27).

Endothelial changes associated with sepsis should be considered appropriate to limit the spread of bacteria, as well as to control leukocyte recruitment and bacterial elimination. However, severe and persistent phenotypic changes in the endothelium can contribute to impaired microcirculatory blood flow, tissue hypoperfusion and the development of life-threatening multiple organ failure (18,20,22,24,26)

Thus, it is very difficult to distinguish between appropriate activation and endothelial dysfunction, especially considering that the response of endothelial cells may vary in different organs.

The purpose of the study: study of the endothelial lung system in abdominal sepsis.

Material and methods. The studies were conducted on laboratory purebred rats in a model of abdominal sepsis developed by us. The experiments were carried out on 106 white beardless laboratory rats weighing 200-250 grams, of both sexes, who were on a regular laboratory diet. The planned experimental studies, which included sampling, biopsies and autopsy, were based on the principle of the conditions specified in the 1986 Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Animals.

The animals were divided into the following series of experiments: Control – 10 intact animals, not subjected to any influences and manipulations, which were on a standard grain diet. The main group consisted of 50 animals in which an experimental model of abdominal sepsis was reproduced using our improved technique.

Reproduction of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis was carried out in stages, by changing the reactivity of animals and creating a purulent necrotic focus in the abdominal cavity.

Blood sampling in experimental studies was carried out separately at the entrance and exit from the lungs. In this case, the blood at the entrance to the lungs is mixed venous blood, which came from the inferior and superior vena cava. At the exit from the lungs, we received arterial blood, which was universal for the whole body as a whole. This technique was developed and tested by a group of researchers at the Tashkent Medical Academy.

Each value obtained in different blood samples was also subjected to calculation of the venous-arterial difference, that is, the value reflecting the "delay" or "production" of the substrate in the endothelial system of the lungs.

The whole complex of studies of patients with abdominal sepsis was reduced to continuous monitoring of the state of homeostasis and functional activity of vital organs. For this purpose, functional, instrumental and laboratory research methods were carried out. Integral rating diagnostic methods such as APACHE II, SAPS, SOFA, and the Kalf-Kalifa Leukocyte Intoxication Index were also actively used.

The level of C-reactive protein (mg/l), thrombomodulin (ng/ml), Willebrand factor (IU/dL), intercellular and cellular adhesion molecules (ng/ml) were studied using an enzyme immunoassay; nitrites and nitrates (%), peroxynitrite (mmol/l), the activity of nitric oxide synthase (mmol/min/l) according to the Griss method modified by A.P. Solodko et al. on the SF-46 spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 520 nm.

The entire range of studies met the criteria of translational medicine, which used the entire range of studies, which allowed extrapolating the results of experimental studies into clinical practice.

Results and their discussion. The study of the total NO value is considered a generally accepted indicator of the nitroxyergic system of vascular tone regulation, as one of the functional criteria of the endothelial system. The average level of its content in the mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs was 26.39 ± 3.91 mmol/l, whereas at the exit from the lungs in the arterial blood sample its level was higher and reached an average value of up to 33.41 ± 4.64 mmol/L. The venous-arterial difference, averaging "+" 7.02 ± 1.13 mmol/l, was positive and indicated the production of this element in the alveolar capillary network with release into the systemic circulation. It should be noted that this type of venous-arterial

difference was typical in all the series of experiments we studied. At the same time, the peak values occurred in animals of the control and comparative groups ("+" 8.44 ± 2.17 mmol/l and "+" 8.63 ± 2.35 mmol/l, respectively). In other cases, in the dynamics of the development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, the production of this substrate of the nitroxyergic vascular tone regulation system decreased from "+" 8.11 ± 2.47 mmol/l ($p < 0.05$) for a 6-hour period of reproduction of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis and to "+" 4.69 ± 1.62 mmol/l ($p < 0.05$) for a 24-hour period of disease development. In the subsequent 48, 72 and 96-hour periods of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, the venous-arterial difference in NO increased again. However, the venous-arterial difference did not reach the initial value. Moreover, most of the indicators were not reliable in nature, reflecting the remoteness from the ongoing real processes associated with the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis.

In this regard, we conducted a dispersion analysis of the constituent elements of NO (NO₂- and NO₃-) as a percentage in the dynamics of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis. The predominant role in the percentage value of NO₂-, already for the 24-hour modeling period of abdominal sepsis, is leveled, yielding a fractional value of NO₃-. In other words, there is an increased production of NO₃ by the endothelial system- in conditions of ongoing disorders. This once again confirms the importance of the assessment of the component of the decay of NO, rather than its integral value. Against the background of the above-described changes, we revealed changes in the concentration of the metabolic product of the conversion of NO components, in particular NO₃- to OONO-. The average content of peroxynitrite in the mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs throughout the study exceeded its level in the arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs (2.5 ± 0.09 mmol/l and 2.37 ± 0.03 mmol/l; $p > 0.05$).

The venous arterial difference, which was negative ("-") in nature, indicated the active utilization of this oxidant product in the endothelial system of the lungs and a decrease in its production into the systemic arterial bloodstream. In other words, the lungs, and in this case its endothelial system, performed a barrier filtration function, creating conditions for the formation of a universal blood composition for all organs of the body. The minimum values with an unreliable level of differentiation between the content of peroxynitrite in a mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs and in an arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs were identified by us among animals of the control and comparative series of experiments. The venous-arterial difference ("-") 0.03 ± 0.01 mmol / l), equated to 10%, can be safely taken as such as absent.

However, in the group of animals with an experimental model of abdominal sepsis, starting from the 6-hour period of development of the pathological process, we registered an increase in peroxynitrite in a mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs, which reached its maximum value at 72-96 hours of disease progression. The level of its increase by 3.2 and 2.3 times was significantly different in relation to the early stages of modeling abdominal sepsis (6-12-hour periods). As for the change in the level of peroxynitrite in the arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs, we can note the relative stability in the productivity of this substrate for a 6-12-hour period of development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis. It is

during these periods that the venous-arterial difference, repeating its character as in the control series of experiments, becomes maximally significant, reaching a peak at the 12-hour period of development of abdominal sepsis (-1.46 ± 0.12 mmol/l). Such a nature of changes in the endothelial system of the lungs in the dynamics of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis led to an increase in the differentiated value between venous and arterial blood samples by 3 times ($p < 0.001$).

Meanwhile, starting from the 24-hour period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, there is a decrease in the venous-arterial difference to -0.74 ± 0.12 mmol/l ($p < 0.05$), which in subsequent periods led to an inversion of values, due to a change in the nature of the formation of peroxynitrite, which began to be actively synthesized (" $+$ ") in the endothelial system of the lungs. Its increase in the arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs, starting from this period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, was significantly pronounced, especially at 48-hour (7.4 times compared to 6-hour and 7.1 times compared to 12-hour periods) and at 72-hour (8.9 three times in relation to the 6-hour period and 8.5 times in relation to the 12-hour period) terms.

Thus, it is possible to state an increase in peroxynitrite in various blood samples, depending on the timing of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis, which was characterized by a transition from a state of transient phenomena to steadily progressive ones, indicating the depletion of compensatory capabilities of the endothelial lung system itself. As evidence for the above conclusion, we consider the dynamics of changes in the activity of the iNOS enzyme in the studied blood samples at the entrance and exit from the lungs.

In particular, in intact animals, the activity of this enzyme is inhibited as it passes through the endothelial system of the lungs. The same character of the endotheliocyte ratio can be seen in relation to a group of animals of the comparative series.

The continuation of the increase in venous-arterial difference among animals with an experimental model of abdominal sepsis is interesting. However, as in the case of peroxynitritis, this character completely changes starting from the 24-hour period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis.

The activity of this enzyme in the arterial blood sample increases at the exit from the lungs. And although such an increase was within $\pm 10\%$ of the level, nevertheless, we no longer received the effect of iNOS inhibition. This, in turn, may indicate a decrease in the activity of the physiological enzyme systems of endothelial and neuronal NO synthase and the progression of oxidative processes leading to the destruction of endotheliocytes in the capillary network of the lungs.

In the dynamics of the development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, identical changes occurred in the concentration of intercellular and cellular adhesion molecules. In intact animals, a decrease in the concentration of these molecules was noted as blood passed through the endothelial system of the lungs. The venous-arterial ICAM-1 content decreased by 29.8 times ($p < 0.001$ is a reliable value in the arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs in relation to the mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs).

According to the content of VCAM-1, the decrease occurred slightly less – by 22.9 times, although it was also stable and reliable ($p < 0.001$ is a reliable value in an arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs in relation to a mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs). Such changes correspond to physiological parameters, which are confirmed by the presence of high tone in the arterial circulatory system. Also interesting is the identical level of change in the venous-arterial difference (24.4 times, respectively) for both indicators. This was due to a decrease in the specific gravity of intercellular adhesion molecules and an increase in cell adhesion molecules in a mixed venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs. When modeling abdominal sepsis, starting from the 6-hour study period, we noted a progressive decrease in the level of venous-arterial difference. At the same time, the minimum value in relation to the venous-arterial difference ICAM-1 was noted for the 24-hour period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, whereas in relation to VCAM-1 – for the 48-hour period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis. This, apparently, was due to the phasing of changes in the endothelial system of the lungs, where at the first stage intercellular adhesion prevailed, and subsequently cellular adhesion, which indicates the presence of endotheliocyte apoptosis.

The leveling of the values of the venous-arterial difference in this period of experiments was also noted by us in relation to vWF. The maximum level of vWF formation in the endothelial lung system occurred during the 12-hour period of development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis (1.2 times). In subsequent periods, as the pathological process progressed, an increase in the venous-arterial difference for a 24-48-hour study period indicated a cumulative characteristic between vWF in a venous blood sample at the entrance to the lungs and in an arterial blood sample at the exit from the lungs.

This nature of the changes was also reflected in the subsequent development of the experimental model of abdominal sepsis, in which the productivity of vWF in the endothelial blood system at the exit from the lungs indicated active structural and functional disorders already in the vessels of the small circle.

Analysis of the venous-arterial difference showed that the endothelial system of the lungs reacted sensitively to changes in the focus of destruction. At the same time, the main character of the endothelial system of the lungs at the first stage was reduced to blocking the flow of pathological substrates into the systemic arterial bloodstream, and at the second stage of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis, the lungs cease to create a barrier to the generalization of the inflammatory process, opening the way for the development of multiple organ dysfunction.

Conclusions.

1. An increase in peroxynitrite in various blood samples, depending on the timing of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis, which was characterized by a transition from a state of transient phenomena to steadily progressive ones, indicating the depletion of compensatory capabilities of the endothelial lung system itself.
2. The productivity of vWF in the endothelial blood system at the exit from the lungs indicated active structural and functional disorders already in the vessels of the small circle.

3. The main character of the endothelial system of the lungs at the first stage was reduced to blocking the flow of pathological substrates into the systemic arterial bloodstream, and at the second stage of the development of an experimental model of abdominal sepsis – the lungs cease to create a barrier to the generalization of the inflammatory process, opening the way for the development of multiple organ dysfunction

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