PRIMARY SCLEROSING CHOLANGITIS: MODERN CONCEPTS
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This review deals with primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) as a challenging problem in gastroenterology. Definition of PSC is presented, its putative pathogenetic and etiological factors, clinical symptoms, complications and concomitant disorders, methods of laboratory and instrumental diagnostics are described. Special attention is given to modern approaches to the treatment of the disease, dietotherapy, pharmacotherapy, auxiliary therapeutic modalities, indications for liver transplantation and its outcomes.

Key words: primary sclerosing cholangitis; etiology; pathogenesis; diagnostics methods of treatment.

CLINICAL AND PATHOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IMMUNO-INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATIC DISEASES AND PSYCHIC DISORDERS
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Literature data and original observations have been used to develop the rationale for the necessity of studying psychic disorders (PD) in patients with immuno-inflammatory rheumatic diseases (RD), such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Special attention is given to the high frequency of disturbances of the anxiety and depression profile (DADP) in patients having RA and SLE with reference to the common provoking stress and pathogenic factors, clinical manifestations, and RD. Great importance is attributed to the degree of depression associated with inflammatory activity, pain intensity, fatigue, sleep disorders, severe functional insufficiency and low quality of life in the patients with RA and SLE. Special emphasis is laid on the influence of depression and stress factors on the survival and morality of patients with these pathologies, the necessity of their combined treatment with the participation of rheumatologists, psychiatrists and medical psychologists for the improvement of clinical course and prognosis of RD.

Key words: rheumatoid arthritis; systemic lupus erythematosus; stress factors; anxiety and depression disorders; inflammation; pain; fatigue; functional insufficiency; quality of life.

CEFTAROLINE: NEW POSSIBILITIES OF SHORT-TERM COURSES OF ANTIBACTERIAL THERAPY IN HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS WITH EXTRAMURAL PNEUMONIA
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The data on the effectiveness of new cephalosporin, ceftaroline, for the treatment of patients with extramural pneumonia in need of hospitalization. They show that the use of ceftaroline for 5-7 days for the treatment of hospitalized patients with extramural pneumococcal pneumonia exceeding standard therapy with ceftriaxone in terms of efficacy. Therapeutic effect of ceftaroline did not depend on S.pneumoniae serotype and persisted in severe cases complicated by bacteremia. Another advantage of ceftaroline over ceftriaxone is it ensured an adequate response on day 4 of therapy. Evidently, properly designed prospective studies are needed to better understand the role of ceftaroline in the treatment of hospitalized patients with extramural pneumonia, estimate cost and effect ratio, and elucidate the frequency and character of adverse reactions related to the long stay of the patient in a clinic.

Key words: extramural therapy; antibacterial therapy; ceftaroline.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CYTOKINE PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE EVALUATION OF THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AGAINST IL-6 RECEPTORS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS
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Aim. To evaluate dynamics of cytokine profile characteristics in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with tocilizumab and to identify parameters that can be used to predict the effectiveness of therapy.

Materials and methods. 42 patients (32 women) aged 43—55 (mean 50.5) years with the duration of disease 23—81 (mean 56.5 months), DAS28 6.4 (5.8—7.05). Each patient was given 6 i/v infusions of 8 mg
tocilizumab/day at 4 week intervals in addition to standard therapy. Serum levels of IL-1b, IL-1Pa, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IL-15, IL-17, Eotaxin, FGF-basic, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN-g, IP-10, MCP-1, MIP-1a, MIP-1b, PDGF bb, RANTES, TNF-a, VEGF were determined by xMAP multiplex technology.

Results. Good therapeutic effect in accordance with EULAR criteria was documented in 35 and satisfactory one in 7 patients; remission based on CDAI occurred in 33% of the cases. The levels of proinflammatory (IL-1b, -2, -6, -12, -15, -17, IFN-y, TNF-a) and anti-inflammatory (IL-4, -5, -9, -10, -13) cytokines, hemokines (IL-8, MCP-1, MIP-1a, MIP1b, MIP-1b) and growth factors (IL-7, GM-CSF, VEGF, FGF basic, IP-10) dropped down by week 24 of the treatment (p<0.05). Remission based on CDAI was associated with higher baseline levels of IL-1b, -2, GM-CSF and TNF-a and good outcome according to EULAR criteria with the rapid fall in IL-10 and -13 levels.

Conclusion. Therapy with tocilizumab results in the rapid and well apparent decrease in the concentration of the practically entire spectrum of cytokines. Measurement of IL-1b, -2, -10, -13, GM-CSF and TNF-a may be useful for the prediction of the effectiveness of therapy of RA with tocilizumab.

Keywords: rheumatoid arthritis; tocilizumab; cytokine profile; CDAI; remission; predictors of response.

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GENDER-SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE PREVALENCE AND CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF MULTIFOCAL ATHEROSCLEROSIS
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Multifocal atherosclerosis (MFA) has negative effect on prognosis in various groups of patients with cardiovascular diseases. However, gender-specific features of MFA are practically unexplored which provided a rationale for the present work.

Aim. To study gender-specific features of MFA in patients with atherosclerosis of different localization.

Materials and methods. 1018 patients examined and treated prior to planned surgical intervention on coronary arteries, carotid basin, aorta, and arteries of lower extremities. Group 1 included 193 women aged 59=69 (mean 63) years, group 2 was comprised of 825 men aged 53 —63 (mean 57 years). All the patients underwent coronarography (CG). Analysis of MFA prevalence was made.

Results. The women were older than the men, they were more frequently overweight, suffered arterial hypertension and diabetes mellitus (p <0.001), showed the higher left ventricular ejection fraction (p=0.011). Smokers more frequently occurred among men (p<0.001). CG revealed more lesions in a single vessel (p=0.023) and less t lesions affecting three vessels (p=0.015) in men. Signs of MFA were recorded in 28.0% of the men and 24.4% of the women (p = 0.306). Combined lesions of the coronary and carotid basins were more frequent in women (p = 0.048). Clinically significant stenosis of the coronary bed, aortoiliac segment or lower limb arteries occurred more frequently in men (p=0.012). All three basins were more frequently affected in men (p=0.061).

Conclusion. MFA before planned cardiovascular surgery was diagnosed in 27.3% of the cases. Combined lesions in coronary and carotid arteries more frequently occurred in women and those in coronary and lower limb arteries in men (p<0.05). Most risk factors (except smoking) are more frequently inherent in women in association with the enhanced frequency of threevessel lesions affecting coronary arteries.

Keywords: multifocal atherosclerosis; gender-specific features.

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ANTIATHEROGENIC AND NEPHROPROTECTIVE EFFICACY OF ATORVASTATIN IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE OF NON-DIABETIC GENESIS
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This study designed to elucidate dynamics of lipid metabolism and HbA level, uricemia, and renal function in 54 patients with chronic renal disease (CRD) of non-diabetic genesis treated by standard cardioprotective therapy in combination with atorvastatin. The patients were divided in two groups with glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <60 ml/min (n=31) and >=60 ml/min. The former were given 20 mg atorvastatin/day. Arterial pressure (AP): systolic (SAP), diastolic (DAP), and pulse (PAP) pressure, plasma lipid profile, uricemia, HbA and GFR were measured at admission and 6 months after the onset of therapy. The use of atorvastatin in combined therapy of CRD of non-diabetic genesis resulted in a significant decrease of the levels of atherogenic lipids, HbA, uricemia, lipid peroxidation, SAP and PAP (by 4-5 1cmm Hg) while the initially low GFR (<60 ml/min) increased. It is concluded that therapy of chronic renal disease of non-diabetic genesis with atorvastatin not only improves lipid metabolism but also decreases HbA level and uricemia, normalizes AP and renal function.

Keywords: chronic renal disease; lipid; carbohydrate and purine metabolism; glomerular filtration rate.
peculiarities of drainage of the upper urinary tract during surgical treatment of staghorn and multiple nephrolithiasis

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This work was designed to evaluate methods of kidney drainage used in the surgical treatment of 250 patients with staghorn and multiple nephrolithiasis (SMN). All of them underwent open surgery that was followed by drainage of the upper urinary tract in 192 patients. Internal stenting was used in 111 cases, pyelostomy in 28, nephrostomy in 47, and internal stenting with nephrostoma in 6 cases. 91 and 20 patients had a stent inserted into the upper urinary tract in a retrograde and antegrade manner respectively. Retrograde stenting was bilateral in 14 and unilateral in 66 cases. 85% of the cases with ureter stents were followed up as outpatients for 4—5 weeks and only 10% for 6-7 weeks. Forty and ten patients with stents presented with marked dysuria and hematuria respectively. On the whole, combined antibacterial treatment with drainage of the upper urinary tract significantly improved long-term results of SMN treatment. It is concluded that nephrostomy and pyelostomy should be performed on days 14—18 and 10—12 respectively whereas the stent needs to be removed between weeks 2 and 8 after surgery.

Key words: staghorn and multiple nephrolithiasis; nephrolithotomy; pyelolithotomy; stent; nephrostoma.

cryoglobulinemia in case of multiple myeloma associated with viral hepatitis b

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Cryoglobulinemia is a biochemical disorder accompanying many infectious, systemic, and lymphoproliferative conditions. Cryoglobulins are proteins capable of reversible precipitation or gel formation at temperatures below 37°C. There are 3 types of cryoglobulins depending on the type of immunoglobulins in their composition; hence, three types of cryoglobulinemia occurring in different diseases. Clinical manifestations of cryoglobulinemia are sometimes inapparent, various combinations of the symptoms of the disease frequently occur. An example of atypical acute cryoglobulinemic vasculitis in a patient with multiple myeloma and viral hepatitis B is presented. Methods of diagnostics of this disease and its treatment are described.

Key words: cryoglobulinemia, myeloma disease, viral hepatitis B, treatment of cryoglobulinemic syndrome.

the strategy of emergency aid to patients with botulism

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This clinical observation demonstrates difficulty of differential diagnostics of botulism in a patient suspected to have acute pancreatitis and admitted to a multifield medical institution. Difficulties of interpretation of urgent clinical and instrumental examination are discussed. The therapeutic strategy is described.

Key words: botulism; differential diagnostics; therapeutic strategy; antibotulinic serum.

a case of thoracic actinomycosis

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A case of thoracic actinomycosis manifest as round shadow syndrome in the lung is described. Diagnosis was based on the presence of actinomycetes in a transthoracic lung biopsy sample. Treatment for 3 months resulted in recovery. No relapse was documented during 1 year follow-up period.

Key words: thoracic actinomycosis; round shadow syndrome in the lung.