

# GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии  
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

# GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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გამოიცემა თბილისის სახელმწიფო სამედიცინო უნივერსიტეტთან  
თანამშრომლობითა და მისი პატრონაჟით

ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ  
ТБИЛИСИ - НЬЮ-ЙОРК

**GMN: Georgian Medical News** is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board and The International Academy of Sciences, Education, Industry and Arts (U.S.A.) since 1994. **GMN** carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

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**GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии** - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией и Международной академией наук, образования, искусств и естествознания (IASEIA) США с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения.

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**GMN: Georgian Medical News** – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

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2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

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2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემაჯამებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრაფიების ფოტოასლები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალებების შედეგების ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

აღნიშნული წესების დარღვევის შემთხვევაში სტატიები არ განიხილება.



Содержание:

<b>Palamar O., Huk A., Okonskyi D., Teslenko D., Aksyonov R.</b> SURGICAL STRATEGY FOR LARGE EXTRACEREBRAL SUBTENTORIAL TUMORS.....	7
<b>Tatarchuk T., Dunaevskaya V., Tzerkovsky D., Zakharenko N.</b> PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY IN TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH PREMALIGNANT VULVAR DISEASES. FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE METHOD APPLICATION IN UKRAINE .....	12
<b>Gabrighidze T., Mchedlishvili I., Zhizhilashvili A., Gamkrelidze A. Mebonia N.</b> TEMPORAL TRENDS OF CERVICAL CANCER MORTALITY IN GEORGIA, 2011-2018.....	17
<b>Rossokha Z., Fishchuk L., Sheyko L., Medvedieva N., Gorovenko N.</b> POSITIVE EFFECT OF BETAINE-ARGININE SUPPLEMENT ON IMPROVED HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA TREATMENT IN MARRIED COUPLES .....	22
<b>Beridze B., Gogniashvili G.</b> MODERN METHODS IN OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY: POWERED-SHAVER ADENOIDECTOMY.....	28
<b>Helei N., Kostenko E., Rusyn A., Helei V.</b> DENTAL STATUS FEATURES IN PATIENTS DURING ANTI-CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY (TRANSCARPATHIAN ANTITUMOR CENTER EXPERIENCE).....	32
<b>Yarova S., Zabolotna I., Genzytska O., Yarov Yu., Makhnova A.</b> THE CORRELATION OF THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF ENAMEL AND ORAL FLUID IN PATIENTS WITH A WEDGE-SHAPED DEFECT AND INTACT TEETH.....	37
<b>Sikharulidze I., Chelidze K., Mamatsashvili I.</b> CARDIOVASCULAR EVENT ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS WITH NONOBSTRUCTIVE CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE UNDERGOING DUAL ANTIPLATELET TREATMENT .....	43
<b>Fushtey I., Sid' E., Kulbachuk A., Solonynka G.</b> THE LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC FUNCTION AMONG PATIENTS WITH STEMI AFTER DIFFERENT TYPES OF TREATMENT STRATEGIES.....	46
<b>Kondratiuk V., Stakhova A., Hai O., Karmazina O., Karmazin Y.</b> EFFICACY OF SPIRONOLACTONE IN ANTIHYPERTENSIVE THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RESISTANT HYPERTENSION IN COMBINATION WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.....	51
<b>Hotiur O., Boichuk V., Skoropad K., Vandzhura Y., Bacur M.</b> COMORBID CONDITION – DIABETES MELLITUS WITH CO-EXISTENT RAYNAUD'S SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS .....	59
<b>Kononets O., Karaiev T., Tkachenko O., Lichman L.</b> RENAL, HEPATIC AND IMMUNE FUNCTION INDICES IN PATIENTS WITH DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY .....	64
<b>Solomonina N., Vacharadze K.</b> COMPLIANCE OF INITIALLY PRESCRIBED ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT REGIMENS WITH COMPLETE DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY TEST RESULTS AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH TREATMENT OUTCOMES IN GEORGIA (2015-2020) .....	72
<b>Fedorych P.</b> DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT OF GENITAL INVASION CAUSED BY <i>TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS</i> AND POSSIBLY OTHER RELATED SPECIES ( <i>PENTATRICHOMONAS HOMINIS</i> AND <i>TRICHOMONAS TENAX</i> ) IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNODEFICIENCY .....	81
<b>Байдури С.А., Бекенова Ф.К., Рахимбекова Г.А., Абдуллина Б.К., Накыш А.Т.</b> КЛИНИКО-МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ И МОЛЕКУЛЯРНО-ГЕНЕТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ПЕРВИЧНОГО МИЕЛОФИБРОЗА И ФАКТОРЫ ПРОГНОЗА. ОПИСАНИЕ СЛУЧАЯ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИИ ПЕРВИЧНОГО МИЕЛОФИБРОЗА В ОСТРЫЙ МИЕЛОБЛАСТНЫЙ ЛЕЙКОЗ.....	86

<b>Adiyeva M., Aukenov N., Kazymov M., Shakhanova A., Massabayeva M.</b> LPL AND ADRB2 GENE POLYMORPHISMS: RELATIONSHIP WITH LIPIDS AND OBESITY IN KAZAKH ADOLESCENTS.....	94
<b>Ландина А.В., Никитенко В.Н., Острогляд А.В., Николаенко Т.Б., Телефонко Б.М.</b> ВЛИЯНИЕ АЛКОГОЛИЗМА И АЛКОГОЛЬНОЙ ЗАВИСИМОСТИ НА ПОВЫШЕНИЕ УРОВНЯ ПРЕСТУПНОСТИ В ОБЩЕСТВЕ (МЕДИКО-ПРАВОВЫЕ МЕРЫ ПРОФИЛАКТИКИ) .....	100
<b>Khoroshukha M., Bosenko A., Prysiazhniuk S., Tymchuk O., Nevedomsjka J.</b> INFLUENCE OF SEXUAL DIMORPHISM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOGICAL THINKING FUNCTION IN YOUNG ATHLETES AGED 13–15 YEARS WITH DIFFERENT BLOOD GROUPS .....	108
<b>Конысбекова А.А.</b> АНАЛИЗ РАСПРОСТРАНЕННОСТИ ХРОНИЧЕСКИХ ВИРУСНЫХ ГЕПАТИТОВ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ ЗА 2012-2016 ГГ. ....	115
<b>Lezhava T., Jokhadze T., Monaselidze J., Buadze T., Gaiozishvili M., Sigua T.</b> EPIGENETIC MODIFICATION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF PEPTIDE BIOREGULATORS ON “AGED” HETEROCHROMATIN.....	120
<b>Goncharuk O., Savosko S., Petriv T., Tatarchuk M., Medvediev V., Tsymbaliuk V.</b> EPINEURIAL SUTURES, POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL HYDROGEL AND FIBRIN GLUE IN THE SCIATIC NERVE REPAIR IN RATS: FUNCTIONAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS IN EXPERIMENT .....	124
<b>Karumidze N., Bakuradze E., Modebadze I., Gogolauri T., Dzidziguri D.</b> PECULIARITIES OF ACTIVATION OF COMPENSATORY-ADAPTIVE PROCESSES IN ADULT RAT LIVER CAUSED BY UNILATERAL NEPHRECTOMY .....	131
<b>Tkachuk P., Savosko S., Strafun S., Kuchmenko O., Makarenko O., Mkhitaryan L., Drobotko T.</b> CORRELATION OF BLOOD BIOCHEMICAL INDICATORS WITH THE LEVEL OF KNEE JOINT DAMAGE IN THE MODEL OF THE POSTTRAUMATIC OSTEOARTHRITIS .....	135
<b>Bukia N., Butskhrikidze M., Svanidze M., Machavariani L., Jojua N.</b> POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF ELECTRIC-MAGNETIC STIMULATION ON HYPOTHALMIC-HYPOPHYSIAL-ADRENAL AXIS: BEHAVIOURAL STUDY .....	141
<b>Русин В.И., Чобей С.М., Русин А.В., Чернов П.В., Дутко А.А.</b> БИОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ ГЕРМЕТИЧНОСТЬ, МЕХАНИЧЕСКАЯ ПРОЧНОСТЬ И МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ОДНОРЯДНОГО И ДВУХРЯДНОГО ТОЛСТОКИШЕЧНОГО ШВА .....	146
<b>Шолохова Н.А., Симоновская Х.Ю., Зайцева О.В., Ольхова Е.Б.</b> ЦИФРОВОЙ ТОМОСИНТЕЗ В ПЕДИАТРИЧЕСКОЙ ПРАКТИКЕ: ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ В КОНТЕКСТЕ МИРОВОГО ОПЫТА (ОБЗОР) .....	152
<b>Bieliaieva O., Uvarkina O., Lysanets Yu., Morokhovets N., Honcharova Ye., Melaschenko M.</b> GERHARD HANSEN VS. ALBERT NEISSER: PRIORITY FOR THE INVENTION OF MYCOBACTERIUM LEPRAE AND PROBLEMS OF BIOETHICS .....	156
<b>Chitaladze T., Kazakhashvili N.</b> KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTION AMONG PATIENTS TOWARDS CROSS-INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES IN DENTAL CLINICS IN GEORGIA BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.....	161
<b>Бровко Н.И., Симакова С.И., Комарницкий В.М., Сабадаш И.В., Шпенова П.Ю.</b> ЭВТАНАЗИЯ КАК СПОСОБ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ ПРАВА ЧЕЛОВЕКА НА ДОСТОЙНУЮ СМЕРТЬ.....	167
<b>Задыхайло Д.В., Милаш В.С., Яроцкий В.Л.</b> СОВРЕМЕННОЕ СОСТОЯНИЕ РЕФОРМЫ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ В УКРАИНЕ В УСЛОВИЯХ ЕВРОИНТЕГРАЦИИ .....	172

## EFFICACY OF SPIRONOLACTONE IN ANTIHYPERTENSIVE THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RESISTANT HYPERTENSION IN COMBINATION WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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The influence of concomitant pathology on the development and progression of hypertension (H) in recent years has attracted researchers' attention. H is found twice as often and is characterized by poorer control and frequent combination with resistant hypertension (RH) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [35]. 51% of patients with RA have a significant increase in cardiovascular risk even in the absence of concomitant cardiovascular pathology. The risk of ischemic cardiac events is comparable to that of diabetes mellitus [3].

Increased inflammatory activity is associated with the development of diastolic heart failure (HF) in patients with H [13, 27]. T cells play an important role in the pathogenesis of H and HF, with various stimuli leading to the formation of effector T cells, which together with monocytes and macrophages penetrate into arterial walls. Increased levels of a number of cytokines (interleukin-6, interleukin-17, interleukin-10, tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , and interferon- $\gamma$ ) contribute to the damage and aging of blood vessels and cardiomyocytes, which causes their fibrosis and hypertrophy. Cross-reactions between natural killer cells, adaptive immune cells, and innate immune cells contribute to myocardial damage and dysfunction [25]. On the other hand, the activation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and the increase in the level of transforming growth factor- $\beta$  stimulate the deposition of the extracellular matrix in patients with H, which causes perivascular fibrosis of the heart [5].

The treatment of patients with H remains a difficult issue in cardiology. According to the latest data, only half of the patients with H in the general population reach the target levels of blood pressure (BP) [10]. However, the achievement of the target level of BP occurs only in 42% in patients with RA [35]. There are no data on the frequency and features of RH in patients with RA in different populations.

A decrease in sodium levels and an increase in potassium levels have a positive effect on the level and profile of BP in patients with H [6, 32]. As many as a third of patients with H were diagnosed with primary hyperaldosteronism, which makes the use of aldosterone blockers pathogenetically justified. A differentiated treatment approach occurs in the presence of RH [23]. Experimental studies have shown that chronic administration of aldosterone to rats induced myocardial fibrosis in the hypertrophied left ventricle (LV), even under conditions of normotension. Administration of spironolactone (aldosterone antagonist) has an antifibrotic effect [7, 8, 33]. Spironolactone together with the other antihypertensive drugs can prevent or reduce myocardial fibrosis [38], improve cardiovascular prognosis [17], which requires comprehensive studies in a cohort of patients with coexistence of RH with RA.

The aim of the study was to investigate the antihypertensive efficacy, structural and functional remodeling of the heart in patients with RH in combination with RA after 12-month combination therapy, including angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, calcium channel blocker, diuretics, aldosterone receptor blocker (spironolactone) and immunosuppressive drug (methotrexate).

**Materials and methods.** The analysis of medical documentation (outpatient medical cards and medical histories) was performed, patients who met the inclusion criteria and were able

to provide informed consent were selected. Possible causes of secondary H were excluded. Initially, the study involved 101 patients with RA and H, whom at a pre-screening visit were adjusted the dose of the basic disease-modifying drug (all RA patients received methotrexate 15 mg per week), when necessary. Doses of antihypertensive drugs (ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blocker and/or diuretic) were added or increased as required. 60 patients were selected after 1 month. They were on the triple antihypertensive drug therapy (with mandatory inclusion of diuretics) in maximal and submaximal doses, did not reach the target BP levels, and met the criteria for RH. According to the prescribed treatment, patients were divided into two groups: the main group and the comparison group, randomly. 12.5 mg of spironolactone was added to the existing triple therapy once daily with an increase in dose after 1 month to 25 mg (group 1, n=30). Treatment or left unchanged (without spironolactone) in group 2 (n=30). The duration of therapy was 12 months. The strategy for the diagnosis and treatment of RA was determined according to EULAR 2019 criteria [29]. The diagnosis of H was established on the basis of the 2018 ESC/ESH recommendations. Target levels of office BP was established (for systolic BP (SBP) <140 mm Hg and or diastolic BP (DBP) <90 mm Hg). The goal of SBP should be <130 mm Hg and/or DBP <80 mm Hg according to the results of 24-Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) [34, 37]. RH was diagnosed as uncontrolled despite optimal doses of 3 classes of antihypertensive drugs, including thiazide diuretics, or if 4 or more antihypertensive drugs of different classes are required for adequate BP control [2].

A randomized, parallel-group prospective study was conducted to investigate the clinical effectiveness of spironolactone in 60 patients (mean age 61.9 $\pm$ 9.1 years; 84.6% women) patients with RA and RH.

**Inclusion criteria:** age 45-74 years, patients with stage II RH and RA, receiving disease-modifying therapy - methotrexate, chronic kidney disease (CKD) not higher than stage II (GFR not less than 60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), K<sup>+</sup> serum level from 3.0 to 5.0 mmol/l, informed consent to participate in the study.

**Exclusion criteria:** stage 3 H, history of CKD III-V, acute renal damage, endocrine pathology (diabetes mellitus, Addison's disease, etc.), clinical signs of hypovolemia, office SBP <115 mm Hg or DBP <55 mm Hg, atrial fibrillation, and flutter, AV blocks 2nd and 3rd degree when performing an ECG, classes III and IV of chronic HF according to NYHA, decreased LV ejection fraction (<40%) or valvular heart disease, acute myocardial infarction or other cardiovascular events (Q wave myocardial infarction, non-Q wave myocardial infarction, unstable angina), myocardial revascularization, stroke, transient ischemic attack) in the anamnesis, alcoholism, drug or mental disorders, infectious diseases, active chronic diarrhea, oncological and hematological diseases, active phases of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, gout, liver, K<sup>+</sup> serum > 5.0 mmol/l, Na<sup>+</sup> serum <130 mmol/l, inability to give informed consent to participate in the study.

All patients were evaluated by general clinical, laboratory, and instrumental methods of examination. Complete blood count, urinalysis, blood glucose, lipid profile, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, creatinine, urea, AST, bilirubin, total protein, C-reactive protein (CRP), and

electrocardiography (ECG) were performed. All patients signed an informed consent to participate in the study. The Helsinki Declaration (2000) and international standards for research were taken into account.

All patients underwent office blood pressure (BP) measurement. 24-Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) was performed using ABPM50 (Heaco, Great Britain) with an oscillometric measurement method to assess BP levels. SBP, DBP, and pulse blood pressure (PBP) were determined. Doppler echocardiography was performed with an Arietta S60 device (Aloka-Hitachi) and a 2.5 - 3.5 MHz transducer. The main indicators of the structure and geometry of the heart were determined: left atrial volume (LAV), left atrial volume index (LAVI) by the formula:  $LAVI = LAV / BSA$  (where BSA is the body surface area and was calculated by the modified Dubois-Dubois formula ( $BSA = 0,007184 * Weight (kg) 0,425 * Height (cm) 0,725$ ), the thickness of an interventricular septum (IVS), a posterior wall of LV (PW), LV end-diastolic dimension (LVEDD), LV end-systolic dimension (LVESD), LV end-diastolic volume (LVEDV), LV end-systolic volume (LVESV), LV stroke volume (LVSV). LV mass (LVM) was calculated by the modified formula of R. Devereux:  $LVM = 0.8 * (1.04 * (LVEDD + IVS + PW)^3 - LVEDD^3) + 0.6$ , LVM index (LVMI) according to the formula:  $LVMI = LVM / BSA$ , relative wall thickness (RWT) according to the formula:  $RWT = 2 * PW / LVEDD$ , LV fractional shortening (FS), LV midwall fractional shortening (mFS), LV chamber dilatation (LVEDV/BSA).

We categorized patients into 4 groups based on LAVI: without LA dilatation (16-28 ml/m<sup>2</sup>), slight increase (29-33 ml/m<sup>2</sup>), moderate increase (34-39 ml/m<sup>2</sup>) and severe increase ( $\geq 40$  ml/m<sup>2</sup>). The types of LV geometry were assessed from RWT, LVMI and LVEDV/BSA values [4]: concentric LV hypertrophy (LVH) with dilatation ( $RWT \geq 0.42$ ,  $LVMI \geq 115$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in men and  $\geq 95$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in women,  $LVEDV / BSA \geq 74$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in men,  $LVEDV / BSA \geq 68$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in women); concentric LVH without dilatation ( $RWT \geq 0.42$ ,  $LVMI \geq 115$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in men and  $\geq 95$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in women,  $LVEDV / BSA < 74$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in men,  $LVEDV / BSA < 68$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in women); eccentric LVH with dilatation ( $RWT < 0.42$ ,  $LVMI \geq 115$  g/m<sup>2</sup>

in men and  $\geq 95$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in women,  $LVEDV / BSA \geq 74$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in men,  $LVEDV / BSA \geq 68$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in women); eccentric LVH without dilatation ( $RWT < 0.42$ ,  $LVMI \geq 115$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in men and  $\geq 95$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in women,  $LVEDV / BSA < 74$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in men,  $LVEDV / BSA < 68$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in women); normal LV geometry ( $RWT < 0.42$ ,  $LVMI < 115$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in men and  $< 95$  g/m<sup>2</sup> in women,  $LVEDV / BSA < 74$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in men,  $LVEDV / BSA < 68$  ml/m<sup>2</sup> in women).

Evaluation of left ventricular diastolic function (LVDF) and right ventricle (RV) was performed according to the assessment of transmitral blood flow from the apical 4-chamber position on the mitral and tricuspid valves, respectively, using pulsed-wave Doppler and Continuous-Wave Doppler. The peak modal velocity in early diastole (peak E, cm/sec) and the peak modal velocity in late diastole (peak A, cm/sec), the ratio of early to late transmitral diastolic velocity (E/A), the deceleration time of E (DT, msec), and time of LV isovolumetric relaxation time (IVRT, msec) were determined. Peak systolic mitral annular velocity at the lateral and medial parts of the mitral annulus (s' lat and s' med, respectively, cm/sec), as well as early diastolic myocardial velocity at the lateral and medial parts of the mitral annulus (e' lat and e' med, respectively, cm/sec) and late diastolic myocardial velocity at the lateral and medial parts of mitral annulus (a' lat and a' med, respectively, cm/sec) were determined using tissue Doppler to better assess diastolic function. The average values of these indicators were calculated as their half-sum (S', E', and A' respectively). Tricuspid regurgitation (TR) was also taken into account [19, 24, 28, 31].

The primary endpoints were highlighted as improved BP control, better diastolic function (E/A, DT, E/e'), and myocardial remodeling (decline of LVMI, LVEDV/BSA, LAVI) in Doppler echocardiography after 12 months. The groups of patients with RA and RH were comparable in age, sex, duration of RA and H, RA activity by CRP level and DAS28-CRP scale, which corresponded to high disease activity in both cases, Steinbrocker radiological stage, stage of functional impairment (FI), smoking status, the necessity to take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and glucocorticosteroids (GCs), Table 1.

Statistical processing of the results was performed with the

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of patients with RH in combination with RA

	Group 1 (n=30)	Group 2 (n=30)
Mean Age, years, M $\pm$ $\sigma$	60,5 $\pm$ 8,5	63,4 $\pm$ 9,6
Gender (female), n (%)	26 (86,7)	24 (80,0)
Seropositive RA, n (%)	26 (86,7)	22 (73,3)
DAS28-CRP, M $\pm$ $\sigma$	5,3 $\pm$ 1,0	5,5 $\pm$ 0,9
X-ray stage II, n (%)	9 (30,0)	8 (26,7)
X-ray stage III, n (%)	15 (50,0)	17 (56,7)
X-ray stage IV, n (%)	6 (20,0)	5 (16,7)
FI stage I, n(%)	8 (26,7)	7 (23,3)
FI stage II, n (%)	17 (56,7)	19 (63,3)
FI stage III, n (%)	5 (16,7)	4 (13,3)
NSAIDs, n (%)	24 (80,0)	22 (73,3)
GCs, n (%)	10 (33,3)	12 (40,0)
RA duration, years, M $\pm$ $\sigma$	10,9 $\pm$ 6,6	8,4 $\pm$ 6,1
H duration, years, M $\pm$ $\sigma$	9,8 $\pm$ 6,7	11,3 $\pm$ 7,5
I stage of H, n (%)	27 (90,0)	28 (93,3)
II stage of H, n (%)	3 (10,0)	2 (6,7)
Smoking status, n (%)	5 (16,3)	6 (20,0)

Table 2. Systemic hemodynamic parameters in patients of the main and comparison groups before and after 12 months of therapy, M±σ

	Group 1 (n = 30)		Group 2 (n = 30)	
	before treatment	after treatment	before treatment	after treatment
Office SBP, mm Hg	143,0±6,4	125,9±6,1**	140,8±7,6	132,6±4,4**
Office DBP, mm Hg.	84,4±5,1	72,8±4,0***	84,0±6,5	80,0±6,3**
Office PBP, mm Hg	58,5±6,6	53,1±5,6**	56,8±8,0	52,6±7,5***
SBP by ABPM, mm Hg	140,8±8,7	123,9±3,9**	141,7±6,4	133,2±4,6*
DBP by ABPM, mm Hg	83,1±6,7	73,8±4,5**	81,9±9,7	76,4±7,6
PBP by ABPM, mm Hg	57,7±7,1	50,1±4,3*	59,8±11,0	56,8±7,8

notes (here and in tables 4, 5): \* -  $P < 0,05$ , \*\* -  $P < 0,01$ , \*\*\* -  $P < 0,001$  in comparison with values of data before treatment

help of Statistics SPSS 22. The normality of the distribution was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Under the condition of the normal distribution of the studied trait in the sample, parametric statistical methods were used. The mean value of the indicator (M), standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ), standard error (SE), and 95% confidence interval for the mean (95% CI) were determined for descriptive statistics. The t-test for related samples was used to compare the mean values. When distributing of the trait was different from normal, nonparametric statistics was used. We choose the values of the median (Me), 25 and 75 quartiles (Q25 - Q75) for the descriptive part. Variables were expressed as a percentage (%) for categorical part. The Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare the two independent groups. A comparison of groups on qualitative binary data was performed using Pearson's chi-squared ( $\chi^2$ ) test (corrected by Yates) and Fisher's exact test.

**Results and discussion.** Prior to inclusion in the study, the groups were comparable in terms of BP. The target level of office BP was achieved in 26 (86.7%) patients versus 12 (40.0%) patients ( $\chi^2 = 12.6$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) in the group of 12-month antihypertensive therapy with spironolactone compared with treatment without it. This could be due to the corresponding changes in the office BP. Office SBP, DBP and PBP were significantly reduced by 11.9%, 13.7%, and 8.7%, in patients of group 1 respectively (in group 2 - by 5.7%, 4.6%, and 4.0%). Therefore, there was a more pronounced decrease in SBP and DBP in 2.1 and 2.9 times in patients who additionally took spironolactone compared with the group of patients who did not take it (Table 2). Taking into account "harder" indicators of ABPM, the target BP was recorded in 26 (86.7%) and 9 (30.0%) patients after treatment, respectively groups 1 and 2. After spironolactone therapy, the mean SBP, DBP, and PBP were likely dwindled by 11.8%, 17.8%, and 5.4% against the less significant dynamics of group 2, while only SBP reduced statistically significantly - by 8.8%. The findings were confirmed in a study by Roongsritong C., 2005, where SBP remained unchanged in the placebo group, while in the spironolactone group it was reduced from  $144 \pm 22$  to  $138 \pm 15$  mm Hg after 4 months of treatment [28].

Thus, in patients with RH in combination with RA, the addition of spironolactone to standard antihypertensive therapy for 12 months led to a significant reduction in BP and reaching its target level in 86.7% of cases, which improved cardiovascular prognosis.

It should be noted that in the group with spironolactone no electrolyte disturbances were obtained. In patients of group 1, the level of potassium did not exceed the reference ranges. It was slightly increased from 4.7 (4.2-5.0) to 4.8 (4.4-5.2) mmol/l ( $p = 0.02$ ), which corresponded to the results of another study, that showed an increase in potassium levels by 0.2 mmol/l ( $p < 0.001$ ) in patients with diastolic type of HF [9]. The level of

sodium on spironolactone therapy remained unchanged: 145.0 (141.0-146.0) mmol/l against 145.0 (141.0-147.0) mmol/l ( $p = 0.8$ ). In patients of group 2 there was a constant level of potassium: 4.5 (4.2-5.0) mmol/l against 4.5 (4.2-5.0) mmol/l ( $p = 0.3$ ), but the sodium level increased from 143.0 (140.0-145.0) mmol/l to 146.0 (142.5-150.0) mmol/l ( $p = 0.01$ ), indicating a potential prohypertensive effect caused by sodium retention.

The next stage of the work was the assessment of changes in the structural and functional state of the heart on different treatment options in patients with RH in combination with RA. According to recent studies, the size of the left atrium (LA) is an independent factor in predicting cardiovascular disease and heart failure. That's why, determining the dynamics of the frequency and stage of LA dilatation is strategic during the treatment [1, 21, 22]. LA dilatation at the beginning of research was defined at 26 (86.7%) patients in group 1, as well as in group 2. Patients with moderate LA dilatation (11 (36.7%) cases) and severe increase (10 (33.3%) patients) were the majority of all. A slight increase of LA was registered less often - in 5 (16.7%) people. There was a decrease in the number of patients with LA dilatation after 12 months of treatment in group 1: it was determined in 19 (63.3%) people ( $\chi^2 = 4.4$ ,  $p = 0.037$ ). There was a drop in a number of patients with severe and moderate stages of LA dilatation (1.5 (22.2%) and 2.8 times (13.3%) respectively), and an increase in the mild stage of LA dilatation - 1.8 times (30.0%) of patients. A positive dynamics was not observed in group 2. LA dilatation was defined in 25 (83.3%) of patients. Given that LAVI indirectly reflects the state of LV diastolic function, a significant decrease in its value in group 1 by 18.3% against the absence of shifts in group 2, might indicate a significant contribution of spironolactone in improving LV relaxation function in patients with RH and RA. It should be noted that the RV dimension of on long-term therapy in both groups of patients did not change.

At the time of inclusion in the study in groups 1 and 2, LVH was detected in 27 (90.0%) and 26 (86.7%) patients, respectively. Severe LVH was dominated in the structure of LVH in both groups (Table 3). The frequency of LVH detection declined by 10% ( $\chi^2 = 3.9$ ,  $p = 0.048$ ) in patients of group 1 due to a 1.8-fold reduction in the frequency of detection of severe LVH. The most common was eccentric LVH with LV dilatation in group 1 before the treatment, which indicated a worse prognosis for patients with the development of HF [20, 36]. The frequency of its reduced by 2.2 times after 12 months of therapy. A number of patients with concentric LVH with LV dilatation diminished by 2.5 times. Opposite changes were observed in group 2. Despite the lowering of BP, hypertensive LV remodeling continued its progression: the distribution of detection of concentric LV without dilatation of the LV increased ( $\chi^2 = 3.3$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ) (Table 3).

Changes in the parameters of the geometry and frequency of

Table 3. Distribution in patients of the main and comparison groups before and after 12 months of therapy according to the stage of LVH and the type of LV remodeling, n (%)

	Group 1 (n=30)		Group 2 (n=30)	
	before treatment	after treatment	before treatment	after treatment
Mild LVH, n (%)	2 (6,7%)	2 (6,7%)	4 (13,3%)	5 (16,7%)
Moderate LVH, n (%)	1 (3,3%)	9 (30,0%)*	6 (20,0%)	4 (13,3%)
Severe LVH, n (%)	24 (80,0%)	13 (43,3%)*	16 (53,3%)	20 (66,7%)
No LVH, n (%)	3 (10,0%)	6 (20,0%)*	4 (13,3%)	1 (3,3%)
Eccentric LVH with dilatation, n (%)	11 (36,7%)	5 (16,7%)*	9 (30,0%)	7 (23,3%)
Concentric LVH without dilatation, n (%)	8 (26,7%)	(23,3%)	8 (26,7%)	13 (43,3%)*
Concentric LVH with dilatation, n (%)	5 (16,7%)	2 (6,7%)*	5 (16,7%)	4 (13,3%)
Eccentric LVH without dilatation, n (%)	3 (10,0%)	10 (33,3%)*	4 (13,3%)	5 (16,7%)

notes: \* -  $P < 0,05$ , \*\* -  $P < 0,01$ , \*\*\* -  $P < 0,001$  in comparison with values of data before treatment

Table 4. Parameters of the structural and functional state of the heart in patients of the main and comparable groups before and after 12 months of therapy, Me (25% - 75%)

	Group 1 (n=30)		Group 2 (n=30)	
	before treatment	after treatment	before treatment	after treatment
LAVI, ml/m <sup>2</sup>	39,4 (31,9-45,1)	32,3 (24,2-39,4)**	40,6 (32,8-46,2)	40,2 (31,8-49,6)
IVS, mm	12,0 (11,0-13,0)	11,0 (9,0-11,0)**	11,1 (10,0-12,5)	11,0 (10,0-12,0)
PW, mm	10,4 (9,0-11,0)	9,7 (9,0-11,0)**	10,3 (9,0-11,0)	10,2 (10,0-11,0)
LVM, g	266,7 (206,0-307,0)	227,9 (175,0-278,0)**	238,0 (192,5-269,5)	235,1 (210,5-266,5)
LVMI, g/m <sup>2</sup>	141,7 (122,2-157,6)	122,8 (98,0-149,0)**	127,9 (104,4-149,0)	128,3 (119,8-143,8)
LVEDV/BSA, ml/m <sup>2</sup>	69,9 (58,8-78,4)	64,1 (53,2-71,2)**	67,6 (57,7-76,6)	68,2 (56,5-76,0)
FS, %	31,6 (28,4-35,6)	36,5 (33,0-39,3)**	36,5 (29,9-41,9)	33,7 (30,1-36,6)
mFS, %	17,1 (14,0-20,1)	20,7 (18,0-24,3)**	16,7 (12,7-21,5)	18,2 (14,6-21,4)
LV EF, %	59,3 (58,4-63,1)	64,0 (60,4-67,9)**	60,3 (54,9-65,0)	61,0 (55,8-64,9)

LVH were reflected in the dynamics of the values of LV structural and functional parameters. Analysis of the dynamics of data representing the stage of LVH showed concordance with the antihypertensive efficacy of the combined treatment of patients in both groups. There was a decrease in LVM and LVMI by 13.9% (-38.7 g) and 13.0% (-18.9 g / m<sup>2</sup>, both  $p < 0.01$ ) in patients of group 1 in the absence of probable changes in patients of group 2. A lowering in the thickness of its walls (respectively IVS and PW by 2.3 mm (17.3%) and 1.75 mm (15.2%), both  $p < 0.01$ ) was detected in group 1 at torpidity these indicators in group 2 (Table 4).

The values of the LV contractile were within the reference range in patients of both groups. However, the data that reflects the regional contractility (FS and mFS) were likely to increase by 15.5% and 21%, respectively, and the global LV contractility (EF) - by 7.9% (all  $p < 0, 01$ ) after 12 months of therapy in patients of group 1 in the absence of the dynamics of these figures in group 2.

ALDO-DHF, a randomized, prospective study, involving 422 elderly outpatients, the vast majority of whom had H, showed that the addition of spironolactone to antihypertensive therapy for 12 month led to a regression of LVH (decrease in LVMI by 6 g / m<sup>2</sup>,  $p = 0.009$ ), but did not improve the quality of life and did not reduce the frequency of hospitalizations [9]. The informativeness of the LV relaxation index ( $E / e'$ ) had been proven even in masked uncontrolled H. The value of  $E / e'$  diminished from 12.7 to 12.1 ( $p < 0.01$ ), which indicated an improvement in LVDF [14]. The lower antihypertrophic efficacy of treatment in this study may be due to a lower dose of spironolactone (25 mg/day without titration), a lower baseline LVH, and the fact that

not all patients had RH.

Similar results were obtained in another study, which included 34 patients with RH and studied the effect of spironolactone at a dose of 25 mg with a titration of up to 50 mg per day for 6 months [12]. It was found that the pronounced antihypertrophic efficacy of spironolactone did not depend on the level of aldosterone. However, there was no improvement in LVDF and the dynamics of connective tissue markers, which could be explained by a shorter duration of treatment and fewer patients involved.

In another study, patients with RH received spironolactone for 6 months [11]. Regardless of the concentration of aldosterone, a decrease in BP and a decline in the stage of LVH have been demonstrated. However, in patients with hyperaldosteronism, in addition to a pronounced diuretic effect, the reversal of LVH was identified mainly by reducing the stage of LV dilatation, while in patients with normal aldosterone concentration - by reducing wall thickness as well as stronger vasorelaxation.

Given that patients with H suffered the most from LV diastolic dysfunction (LVDD), it was interesting to analyze the effect of combination antihypertensive therapy on the LV relaxation in patients with RH and RA. The frequency of LVDD reduced from 25 (83.3%) to 12 (40.0%) ( $\chi^2 = 11.9$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) in patients of the spironolactone group, which was accompanied by changes in its structure: decline in a number of patients with impaired LV relaxation, pseudonormal and restrictive types, respectively, from 18 (60.0%) to 11 (36.7%), from 6 (20.0%) to 1 (3.3%) and from 1 (3.3%) to its absence. LVDD was detected in 28 (93.3%) patients of group 2 before the treatment, impaired LV relaxation, pseudonormal and restrictive types - in 19 (63.3%), 8 (26.7%)

and 1 (3, 3%) patients, then after 12 months- in 26 (85.8%), 13 (42.9%), 11 (36.7%) 2 (6.6%) patients respectively, which indicated the lack of improvement of LVDF without the addition of an aldosterone antagonist.

These data were confirmed by analyzing the parameters of Doppler echocardiography that characterize LVDF. There was an increase in peak E and the ratio of E / A by 14.7% and 24.9%, respectively (both  $p < 0,01$ ), a drop in peak A, the value of DT, and TR by 6.9%, 15.1%, and 16.7%, respectively (all  $p < 0,01$ ) after 12 months of treatment in patients receiving spironolactone, which indicated an improvement of LVDF. No significant changes in the data characterizing LVDF in patients of group 2 were found. There were no statistical differences in the dynamics of diastolic function of the RV in both groups.

Tissue Doppler echocardiography (a more sensitive method of assessing LVDF) was used. Significant positive changes in LV relaxation function on spironolactone therapy in the 1 group were confirmed and characterized by an increasing in  $e'$  med,  $e'$  lat and  $E'$  by 26.7%, 23.1 % and 23.8%, respectively (all  $p < 0,01$ ), and decreasing E /  $e'$  med, E /  $e'$  lat and E /  $E'$  by 8.6%, 6.0% and 7.3%, respectively (all  $p < 0,01$ ). No significant improvement in LV DF was found in group 2. The characteristics of systolic and early diastolic myocardial velocities in the area of the mitral annulus did not differ in both groups and were compared with pre- and post-treatment (Table 5).

Spironolactone at a dose of 25 mg/day, even with a short course of administration (for 4 months), improved LVDF in elderly people with isolated LVDD. The value of E / A was increased (from 0.71 +/- 0.08 to 0.84 +/- 0.19,  $p = 0.025$ ) and DT was decreased (from 285.5 +/- 73.1 to 230.0 +/- 54.7,  $p = 0.035$ ) in the group of spironolactone treatment, which corresponded to the data obtained in another study [26]. Other researchers analyzed the results of 80 patients with a metabolic syndrome who took spironolactone 25 mg per day for 6 months. A decrease in E /  $e'$  ( $\beta = -0.21$ ,  $p < 0.03$ ) and an increase in the peak E ( $\beta = -0.44$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) were noted, but E / A and DT remained unchanged [15, 16]. A German study evaluated the efficacy of spironolactone in 213 patients with H at a dose of 25 mg/day with treatment for 12 months. It has been determined that such a period of

therapy was sufficient to improve LVDF, which coincided with our results [9].

The results of 7 studies involving 4147 participants were analyzed in PubMed, EMBASE, and COCHRANE databases. Treatment of patients with H using spironolactone compared with placebo led to a lessening in E /  $e'$  (SD -1.38; 95% CI, -2.03 to -0.73;  $p < 0.001$ ) and an increase in E / A' (SD -0, 05; 95% CI, -0.10 to - 0.00;  $p = 0.03$ ), which coincided with the data of our study. The fact that DT remained unchanged was interesting (SD 1.04; 95% CI, -8.27 to 10.35;  $p = 1.83$ ). Improvement of LV relaxation may be associated with the additional antifibrotic effect of the aldosterone antagonist, which is especially inherent for patients with a combination of H and RA. The question of the duration of therapy with this diuretic to correct LVDD remains important. It was shown that for patients with H an improvement of LVDF (according to shifts in the E / A ratio) was observed on spironolactone therapy for > 6 months (SD -0.06; 95% CI, -0.11 to -0.00,  $p = 0.03$ ) against its absence during therapy  $\leq$  6 months (SD -0.04; 95% CI, -0.18-0.10;  $p = 0.61$ ) [18]. This was consistent with our results.

Along with the study of antihypertensive and antihypertrophic effects, the analysis of the effect of spironolactone on the clinical and laboratory activity of RA in patients with RH was performed. There was a decrease in RA activity: a decline in CRP from 6.4 (4.0-20.1) mg / l to 4.2 (2.0-11.6) mg / l ( $p = 0.04$ ) and reduction in the DAS28-CRP from 5.6 (4.9-6.4) to 4.0 (3.4-5.0) ( $p < 0.0001$ ) in patients of group 1. In contrast, patients in group 2 did not have the dynamics of RA activity: CRP changed from 8.2 (3.2-16.6) mg / l to 10.9 (2.5-27.6) mg / l ( $p = 0.3$ ) and the DAS28-CRP was 5.7 (5.0-6.1) against 5.6 (5.0-6.5) ( $p = 0.6$ ). This may indicate an increase in the anti-inflammatory effect of long-term use of aldosterone antagonists. Our data were comparable with data from another study involving 24 RA patients (mean age  $49 \pm 1.8$  years; disease duration  $8.5 \pm 5.8$  years) with high RA activity on 12-week spironolactone 2 mg/kg /day therapy. The reduction of both the level of CRP from  $15.2 \pm 3.8$  to  $9.4 \pm 2.6$  mg / dl ( $p = 0.019$ ) and the DAS28-CRP from  $6.9 \pm 0.25$  to  $4.1 \pm 0.31$  ( $p < 0.05$ ) was proved [30].

The number of patients with pericardial separation decreased

Table 5. Parameters of LV diastolic function in patients of the main and comparable groups before and after 12 months of therapy, Me (25% - 75%)

	Group 1 (n=30)		Group 2 (n=30)	
	before treatment	after treatment	before treatment	after treatment
LV E, cm / sec	66,9 (53,0-75,7)	75,4 (62,9-83,6)**	70,1 (54,2-85,1)	68,6 (54,2-77,4)
LV A, cm / sec	80,2 (64,6-95,4)	73,5 (61,0-83,0)**	75,2 (64,0-84,9)	75,0 (63,2-90,2)
LV E/A	0,9 (0,7-1,1)	1,1 (0,8-1,2)**	1,0 (0,7-1,2)	0,9 (0,7-1,1)
LV DT, msec	192,2 (160,0-220,0)	161,0 (136,0-180,0)**	184,4 (151,0-211,0)	183,6 (145,0-234,0)
LV IVRT, msec	92,8 (84,0-104,0)	90,7 (84,0-88,0)	89,8 (75,5-100,0)	88,0 (84,0-94,0)
$e'$ med, cm / sec	9,1 (7,0-11,0)	11,3 (9,7-12,9)**	9,1 (7,1-10,7)	8,3 (6,6-10,0)
$e'$ lat, cm / sec	10,0 (8,4-11,1)	12,1 (9,9-13,9)**	9,5 (7,6-10,7)	9,6 (8,3-10,8)
$E'$ , cm / sec	9,5 (8,5-10,5)	11,7 (10,3-12,9)**	9,3 (8,1-10,8)	9,0 (7,8-9,7)
E/ $e'$ med	7,8 (5,8-8,6)	7,1 (5,3-7,5)**	8,8 (6,5-8,4)	8,3 (6,8-9,7)
E/ $e'$ lat	7,1 (5,3-8,4)	6,6 (5,2-7,7)**	7,6 (6,2-8,6)	7,7 (5,3-9,2)
E/ $E'$	7,3 (5,9-8,1)	6,7 (5,6-7,3)**	7,7 (6,3-8,5)	7,8 (5,9-8,7)
TR, cm / sec	2,7 (2,4-3,0)	2,3 (2,2-2,7)**	2,5 (2,1-3,0)	2,5 (2,2-3,1)
$S'$ , cm / sec	7,4 (6,4-7,7)	7,0 (6,6-7,4)	7,6 (6,3-8,4)	7,1 (6,4-7,8)
$A'$ , cm / sec	9,0 (7,1-10,5)	8,9 (7,6-9,9)	9,6 (7,5-11,7)	8,9 (7,5-10,1)

from 11 (36.7%) to 3 (10.0%) ( $\chi^2 = 8.0$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) in patients of group 1 after treatment. Dynamics of pericarditis was absent in patients of group 2 ( $\chi^2 = 2.2$ ,  $p = 0.137$ ). The more pronounced anti-inflammatory and diuretic effects of combined antihypertensive and immunosuppressive treatment with the addition of spironolactone were confirmed clinically and instrumentally in patients with RH in combination with RA.

**Conclusions.** Additional administration of an aldosterone blocker to standard triple antihypertensive therapy in patients with RH and RA is characterized by high antihypertensive efficacy - the target blood pressure is reached three times more often than in the comparison group, and safety - it is not accompanied by hyperkalemia and/or hypotension. Therapy with the inclusion of spironolactone shows a probable decrease in the mean SBP and DBP by 11.8% and 17.8%, respectively. The addition of spironolactone to therapy leads to a decline in the number of patients with LA dilatation by 23.4% ( $\chi^2 = 4.4$ ,  $p = 0.037$ ) and LVH by 10% ( $\chi^2 = 3.9$ ,  $p = 0.048$ ), which is combined with a decline in eccentric and concentric LV dilatation 2.2 and 2.5 times, respectively, with the progression of LV hypertensive remodeling in patients without spironolactone treatment: detection of concentric LVH without LV dilatation is increased by 16.7% ( $\chi^2 = 3.3$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ). Spironolactone leads to a lessening of LVH (by 13.0%,  $p < 0.01$ ) by reducing the stage of LV dilatation (by 7.3%,  $p < 0.01$ ) and wall thickness (IVS by 17.3% and PW by 15.2%, both  $p < 0.01$ ). LVH regression is associated with an improvement in LV contractility, both regional (FS) and global (EF) - by 15.5% and 7.9%, respectively (both  $p < 0.01$ ). There is a diminution in the incidence of LLDD by 43.0% ( $\chi^2 = 11.9$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and changes in its structure on spironolactone treatment: a lowering in the ratio of patients with impaired LV relaxation and pseudonormal LVDD by 23.3% and 16.7%, respectively (both  $p < 0.05$ ). This is accompanied by a decline in  $E / e'$  med,  $E / e'$  lat and  $E / E'$  by 8.6%, 6.0% and 7.3%, respectively ( $p < 0.01$ ), which indicates an improvement in LVDF. Potent antihypertensive and antihypertrophic effects of spironolactone are combined with increased anti-inflammatory action in patients with RH and RA. It is expressed by a decrease in clinical and laboratory activity of RA: the DAS28-CRP lessens from 5.6 (4.9-6.4) to 4.0 (3.4-5.0) ( $p < 0.001$ ).

We consider that it is appropriate to conduct further studies with a larger sample of patients and a wider range of laboratory markers to clarify the relationship between aldosterone receptor blockade and mechanisms of the antihypertensive effect in patients with RA and RH, given the positive effect of spironolactone on hypertrophy, dilatation, and diastolic dysfunction.

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## SUMMARY

### EFFICACY OF SPIRONOLACTONE IN ANTIHYPERTENSIVE THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH RESISTANT HYPERTENSION IN COMBINATION WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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The aim of the study is to investigate the antihypertensive efficacy, structural and functional remodeling of the heart in patients with resistant hypertension (RH) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) after 12-month of therapy.

The treatment includes angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, calcium channel blocker, diuretics, aldosterone receptor blocker (spironolactone), and immunosuppressive drug (methotrexate). 101 patients with hypertension (H) and RA were examined at the screening visit. 60 patients (mean age 61.9±9.1 years; 84.6% of women) meeting the criteria for RH were selected after 1 month. A randomized, controlled, parallel-group prospective study was conducted. Patients underwent general clinical, laboratory, and Doppler echocardiography investigations. They were divided into 2 groups: the main group, which represented patients whom to the basic antihypertensive therapy were added spironolactone 25 mg/day (group 1, n=30), and the comparison group, which represented patients who continued antihypertensive treatment without the addition of spironolactone (group 2, n=30) with 12-monthly observation. Groups of patients are comparable in age, sex, duration of RA and H, RA activity. The target blood pressure was achieved in 86.7% against 30.0% of patients ( $p < 0.001$ ) on spironolactone treatment compared to the inclusion of it. Therapy with spironolactone shown a probable decrease in the mean systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, and pulse blood pressure by 11.8%, 17.8%, and 5.4%, respectively. There was a reduction in the number of patients with left atrium dilatation from 86.7% to 63.3% ( $\chi^2=4.4$ ,  $p=0.037$ ) in group 1. The frequency of left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) dropped by 10% ( $\chi^2=3.9$ ,  $p=0.048$ ) in patients of group 1. The incidence of eccentric LVH with left ventricular (LV) dilatation decreased by 2.2 times, concentric LVH with LV dilatation declined by 2.5 times after treatment in group 1. There was a further LV hypertensive remodeling in group 2: detection of concentric LVH without LV dilatation ( $\chi^2=3.3$ ,  $p=0.04$ ) was increased. There was a reduction of LV mass index (by 13.0%,  $p < 0.01$ ) due to a decrease in the stage of LV dilatation (by 7.3%,  $p < 0.01$ ), and the thickness of its walls (respectively interventricular septum and posterior wall by 17.3% and 15.2%, both  $p < 0.01$ ) in spironolactone group with the absence of probable changes in group 2. The LV contractile capacity, both regional fractional shortening and global ejection fraction improved (decline by 15.5% and 7.9% (both  $p < 0.01$ )) in group 1 in the absence of dynamics in group 2. The incidence of LV diastolic dysfunction subsided from 83.3% to 40.0% ( $\chi^2=11.9$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) in patients of the spironolactone group, mainly due to a probable lessening in a number of patients with an abnormal LV relaxation from 60.0% to 36.7%. There was a lowering in E/e' med, E/e' lat and E/E' by 8.6%, 6.0% and 7.3%, respectively (all p

<0.01) in patients on spironolactone therapy, which reflected the improvement of LV diastolic function. Patients of group 1 demonstrated a de-escalation of RA activity: a dropping of the DAS28-CRP from 5.6 (4.9-6.4) to 4.0 (3.4-5.0) ( $p<0,0001$ ) in the absence of its dynamics in patients of group 2 (from 5.7 (5.0-6.1) to 5.6 (5.0-6.5) ( $p=0,6$ )).

The addition of spironolactone to basic therapy demonstrates increased antihypertensive efficacy and potent antihypertrophic efficacy. These effects are combined with improved systolic and diastolic LV function and a decrease of clinical and laboratory activity of RA in elderly patients with RH in combination with RA.

**Keywords:** resistant arterial hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, spironolactone, left ventricular diastolic dysfunction.

## РЕЗЮМЕ

### ЭФФЕКТИВНОСТЬ СПИРОНОЛАКТОНА В СОСТАВЕ КОМБИНИРОВАННОЙ АНТИГИПЕРТЕНЗИВНОЙ ТЕРАПИИ У БОЛЬНЫХ РЕЗИСТЕНТНОЙ АРТЕРИАЛЬНОЙ ГИПЕРТЕНЗИЕЙ В СОЧЕТАНИИ С РЕВМАТОИДНЫМ АРТРИТОМ

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Целью исследования является изучение антигипертензивной эффективности и структурно-функциональной перестройки сердца у больных резистентной артериальной гипертензией и ревматоидным артритом (РА) на фоне 12-месячной комбинированной терапии, включающей: ингибитор ангиотензин превращающего фактора, блокатор кальциевых каналов, диуретик, антагонист альдостерона (спиронолактон) и иммуносупрессор (метотрексат). На скрининговом визите обследован 101 пациент с артериальной гипертензией (АГ) и ревматоидным артритом (РА). Спустя 1 мес. отобраны 60 пациентов, средний возраст  $61,9\pm 9,1$  г, 51 (84,6%) женщина и 9 (15,4%) мужчин, соответствующие критериям резистентной артериальной гипертензии (РАГ). Проспективное, рандомизированное исследование проведено в параллельных группах. Пациентам проведены обще-клиническое, лабораторное и доплерэхокардиографическое исследования. Больные разделены на 2 группы: I группа (основная) ( $n=30$ ) – пациенты, к базисной антигипертензивной терапии которых добавлялся спиронолактон 25 мг/сут, II группа (сравнения,  $n=30$ ), - пациенты, продолжившие антигипертензивное лечение без добавления спиронолактона с 12-месячным наблюдением. Группы больных сопоставимы по возрасту, полу, варианту РА, продолжительности РА и АГ, активности РА. На фоне терапии с включением спиронолактона в сравнении с лечением без него целевой уровень АД достигнут у 26 (86,7%) больных против 9 (30,0%) больных, ( $p<0,001$ ). Терапия с включением спиронолактона демонстрирует достоверное снижение среднесуточных систолического, диастолического и пульсового артериального давления на 11,8%, 17,8% и 5,4%, соответственно. В I группе наблюдалось уменьшение числа больных с дилатацией левого предсердия с 86,7% до 63,3% ( $\chi^2=4,4$ ,  $p=0,037$ ). У больных I группы частота гипертрофии левого желудочка (ГЛЖ) уменьшилась на 10% ( $\chi^2=3,9$ ,  $p=0,048$ ). После лечения в I группе уменьшились частота

выявления эксцентричной ГЛЖ с дилатацией левого желудочка (ЛЖ) в 2,2 раза и концентрической ГЛЖ с дилатацией ЛЖ в 2,5 раза. У пациентов II группы отмечается дальнейшее гипертензивное ремоделирование ЛЖ: увеличивается выявление концентрической ГЛЖ без дилатации ЛЖ ( $\chi^2=3,3$ ,  $p=0,04$ ). У пациентов группы спиронолактона отмечается уменьшение индекса массы миокарда ЛЖ на 13,0%, ( $p<0,01$ ) за счет уменьшения степени дилатации ЛЖ (на 7,3%,  $p<0,01$ ), и толщины его стенок (согласно межжелудочковой перегородке и задней стенке ЛЖ на 17,3% и 15,2%, в обоих случаях  $p<0,01$ ) при отсутствии достоверных сдвигов у больных II группы. У больных I группы улучшилась сократительная способность ЛЖ: регионарное фракционное укорочение и глобальная фракция выброса - на 15,5% и 7,9%, соответственно, ( $p<0,01$ ) при отсутствии динамики во II группе. На фоне лечения у больных группы спиронолактона частота выявления диастолической дисфункции ЛЖ уменьшается с 83,3% до 40,0% ( $\chi^2=11,9$ ,  $p<0,001$ ) преимущественно за счет возможного уменьшения доли аномального расслабления ЛЖ с 60,0% до 36,7%. На фоне терапии спиронолактоном отмечается уменьшение  $E/e'$  med,  $E/e'$  lat и  $E/E'$ , соответственно, на 8,6%, на 6,0% и 7,3% ( $p<0,01$ ), что отражает улучшение диастолической функции ЛЖ. На фоне лечения у больных I группы наблюдается уменьшение активности РА: снижение значения индекса DAS28-CRP с 5,6 (4,9-6,4) баллов до 4,0 (3,4-5,0) баллов ( $p<0,0001$ ) при отсутствии его динамики у больных II группы - с 5,7 (5,0-6,1) до 5,6 (5,0-6,5) баллов ( $p=0,6$ ).

У больных старшего возраста с РАГ в сочетании с РА добавление к базисной терапии спиронолактона демонстрирует усиление антигипертензивной эффективности, мощную антигипертрофическую эффективность, что сочетается с улучшением систоло-диастолической функции ЛЖ и снижением клинико-лабораторной активности РА.

## რეზიუმე

სპირონოლაქტონის ეფექტურობა კომბინირებულ ანტიჰიპერტენზიულ თერაპიაში პაციენტებში რეგმატიოდულ არტრიტთან შერწყმული რეზისტენტული არტერიული ჰიპერტენზიით

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ა.პოგომოლეცის სახელობის ეროვნული სამედიცინო უნივერსიტეტი, კიევი, უკრაინა

კვლევის მიზანს წარმოადგენდა ანტიჰიპერტენზიული ეფექტურობის და გულის სტრუქტურულ-ფუნქციური გარდაქმნების შეფასება პაციენტებში რეზისტენტული არტერიული ჰიპერტენზიით და რეგმატიოდული არტრიტით 12-თვიანი კომბინირებული თერაპიის ფონზე, რაც მოიცავდა: ანგიოტენზინგარდაქმნელი ფაქტორის ინჰიბიტორს, კალციუმის არსების ბლოკატორს, დიურეტიკს, ალდოსტერონის ანტაგონისტს (სპირონოლაქტონი) და იმუნოსუპრესორს (მეტოტრექსატი). სკრინინგულ ვიზიტზე გამოკვლეული იყო 101 პაციენტი არტერიული ჰიპერტენზიით და რეგმატიოდული არტრიტით. 1 თვის შემდეგ შერწყმული იყო 60 პაციენტი (საშუალო ასაკი -  $61,9\pm 9,1$  წელი, 51 (84,6%) ქალი და 9 (15,4%) მამაკაცი), რომლებიც შეესაბამებოდა რეზისტენტული არტერიული ჰიპერ-

ტენზიის კრიტერიუმებს. პროსპექტული, რანდომიზებული კვლევა ჩატარდა ორ პარალელურ ჯგუფში. პაციენტებს ჩაუტარდა საერთო კლინიკური, ლაბორატორიული და დოპლერექოკარდიოგრაფიული კვლევა. პაციენტები დაიყო ორ ჯგუფად: I ჯგუფი (ძირითადი, n=30) – პაციენტები, რომელთა ბაზისურ თერაპიას დამატებული ჰქონდა სპირონოლაქტონი – 25 მგ/დღეში, II ჯგუფი (შედარების, n=30) – პაციენტები, რომლებიც აგრძელებდნენ ანტიჰიპერტენზიულ მკურნალობას სპირონოლაქტონის დამატების გარეშე 12-თვიანი დაკვირვების პერიოდში.

თერაპიაში სპირონოლაქტონის ჩართვის ფონზე არტერიული წნევის სამიზნე დონე მიღწეული იქნა 26 პაციენტში (86,7%) (vs 9 (30%); p<0,001). სპირონოლაქტონის ჩართვა განსაზღვრავს სისტოლური, დიასტოლური და პულსური არტერიული წნევის საშუალო დღეღამური მანვერებლების სარწმუნო შემცირებას 11,8%-ით, 17,8%-ით და 5,4%-ით, შესაბამისად. I ჯგუფში აღინიშნა პაციენტების რაოდენობის შემცირება მარცხენა წინაგულის დილატაციით 86,7%-დან 63,3%-მდე ( $\chi^2=4,4$ , p=0,037). ამავე ჯგუფში მარცხენა პარკუჭის პიპერტროფიის სიხშირე შემცირდა 10%-ით ( $\chi^2=3,9$ , p=0,048). მკურნალობის შემდეგ I ჯგუფში შემცირდა მარცხენა პარკუჭის ექსცენტრული პიპერტროფიის, მარცხენა პარკუჭის დილატაციით, გამოვლენის სიხშირე 2,2-ჯერ, მარცხენა პარკუჭის კონცენტრული პიპერტროფიის, მარცხენა პარკუჭის დილატაციით, გამოვლენის სიხშირე კი - 2,5-ჯერ. II ჯგუფის პაციენტებში აღინიშნება შემდგომი პიპერტენზიული რემოდელირება: იმატებს მარცხენა პარკუჭის კონცენტრული პიპერტროფიის გამოვლინება მარცხენა

პარკუჭის დილატაციის გარეშე ( $\chi^2=3,3$ , p=0,04). სპირონოლაქტონის ჯგუფის პაციენტებში აღინიშნება მარცხენა პარკუჭის მიოკარდიუმის მასის ინდექსის შემცირება 13,0%-ით (p<0,01) მარცხენა პარკუჭის დილატაციის ხარისხის შემცირების (7,3%-ით, p<0,01) და მისი კედლების სისქის (პარკუჭთშორისი ძგიდის და მარცხენა პარკუჭის უკანა კედლის მიხედვით, 17,3%-ით და 15,2%-ით, ორივე შემთხვევაში p<0,01) ხარჯზე. I ჯგუფის პაციენტებს გაუმჯობესდა მარცხენა პარკუჭის კუმშვადი აქტივობა: რეგიონული ფრაქციული დამოკლება და განდენის გლობალური ფრაქცია – 15,5%-ით და 7,9%-ით (p<0,01), შესაბამისად, II ჯგუფში დინამიკის არარსებობის ფონზე. სპირონოლაქტონით მკურნალობის ფონზე აღინიშნება E/e' med-ის, E/e' lat-ის და E/E'-ის შემცირება, შესაბამისად, 8,6%-ით, 6,0%-ით და 7,3%-ით (p<0,01), რაც ასახავს მარცხენა პარკუჭის დიასტოლური ფუნქციის გაუმჯობესებას. I ჯგუფის პაციენტებში მკურნალობის ფონზე აღინიშნება რევემატოიდული ართრიტის აქტივობის შემცირება (5,6 ქულიდან 4,0 ქულამდე) ამ მანვერებლის დინამიკის არარსებობისას II ჯგუფის პაციენტებში (5,7 ქულიდან 5,6 ქულამდე) (p=0,6).

უფროსი ასაკის პაციენტებში რევისტენტული არტერიული პიპერტენზიით და რევემატოიდული ართრიტით ბაზისურ თერაპიაში სპირონოლაქტონის ჩართვა ზრდის ანტიჰიპერტენზიულ ეფექტურობას, ავლენს მძლავრ ანტიჰიპერტროფიულ ეფექტურობას, რაც შერწყმულია მარცხენა პარკუჭის სისტოლურ-დიასტოლური ფუნქციის გაუმჯობესებასთან და რევემატოიდული ართრიტის კლინიკურ-ლაბორატორიული აქტივობის შემცირებასთან.

## COMORBID CONDITION – DIABETES MELLITUS WITH CO-EXISTENT RAYNAUD'S SYNDROME IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Comorbidity (from Latin “co” – along with, “morbus” – disease) is defined as the co-existence of two and/or more syndromes (trans-syndromal comorbidity) or diseases (trans-nosological comorbidity), which are pathogenically interrelated or simultaneous (chronological comorbidity), in a single patient. The most common comorbidities in patients with rheumatic diseases include cardiovascular diseases (CVD), liver and biliary tract infection, lung diseases, amyloidosis, fractures of different localizations, malignant neoplasms, metabolic disorders and diabetes mellitus (DM) [11].

According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affected an estimated 112,960 individuals (49,420 people of working age) in 2016 [16]. In other words, the prevalence of RA in Ukraine is 340 cases per 100,000 adult population. Women are 3-4 times more likely to develop RA than men; however, in seropositive patients (rheumatoid

factor (RF)+) and elderly people, these gender differences are less obvious [15].

On one hand, the inflammatory process is accompanied by the formation of a great number of cytokines, including tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and interleukin-6 (IL-6), that induce the synthesis of C-reactive protein (CRP) which increases the expression of cell adhesion molecules in endothelial cells and promotes attachment of leukocytes to the endothelium [20]. On the other hand, there is a correlation between the presence and activity level of non-specific inflammation and the development of metabolic syndrome (MS) (obesity, arterial hypertension, dyslipidemia and DM) [15].

According to Ivanytskyi I.V., patients with RA present with higher plasma levels of cholesterol and blood glucose as compared to those with deforming osteoarthritis, reactive arthritis [13,15].