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**MODERN CONCEPT OF CLINIC AND DIAGNOSIS OF
CARDIOVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS OF ANTICANCER THERAPY**
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Abstract. The given review is devoted to the problem of the cardiotoxicity of chemotherapeutic agents. Many of chemotherapeutic agents can cause cardiovascular complications such as left ventricular dysfunction and heart failure development, myocardial ischemia, arterial hypertension, thromboembolism, QT prolongation and arrhythmias. The toxic influence of the most often used chemotherapeutic agents on heart (such as antimetabolites, alkylating agents, platinum compounds, taxanes, vinca alkaloids, monoclonal antibodies, anthracycline antibiotics, topoisomerase and protein kinase inhibitors, immunomodulatory agents and cytokines) has been described. The results of recent studies on etiology, pathogenesis and clinical features of chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity were present in the first part of review. The clinical features, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the cardiotoxicity of chemotherapeutic agents, are described in the second part of the review

Keywords: chemotherapy; cardiotoxicity; pathogenesis; drug-induced cardiomyopathy.

Clinical symptoms

The manifestations of cardiotoxicity (CT) are very variable and can be observed both on the first day of taking the drug, and decades after the start of treatment. In patients receiving therapy with antimetabolites, taxanes, monoclonal antibodies and protease inhibitors, CT can manifest as acute coronary syndrome (ACS) (intense chest pain of a pressing, compressing or burning character, often radiating to the left arm, lower jaw, severe weakness and pallor, difficulty breathing, sweating, etc.) [1–4]. A number of patients on the background of chemotherapy (CT) develop various rhythm and conduction disturbances, including life-threatening variants [1].

Inhibitors of tyrosine kinases and anthracyclines are capable of prolonging the Q-T interval. The duration of the Q-T interval and the risk factors contributing to its lengthening should be monitored before, during and after the course of treatment, since prolongation of the Q-T interval is associated with the risk of life-threatening tachyarrhythmias and sudden cardiac death [4]. The risk of lengthening the Q-T interval varies for different drugs, this is especially true in the case of using arsenic trioxide (when using it, Q-T interval lengthening is observed in 26–93% of cases) [1, 5].

Against the background of therapy with sorafenib and immunomodulatory agents, venous thromboembolic complications (VTO) may develop with an appropriate clinical picture depending on the localization of the process.

The use of anthracycline antibiotics very often leads to the development of left ventricular (LV) dysfunction and / or severe heart failure (HF) with a corresponding clinical picture [5, 6].

Screening, monitoring and diagnosis of cardiotoxicity

CT diagnostic methods in accordance with the recommendations of the European Association of Cardiology (ESC) 2016 are presented in table. 3 [1].

According to the recommendations of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) [7] and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) [1], mandatory monitoring of the state of the cardiovascular system is required before and during chemotherapy, including instrumental and laboratory research methods.

Instrumental research methods:

- ECG - must be performed without fail before starting chemotherapy in order to identify possible initially existing rhythm disturbances, conduction, lengthening of the Q-T interval [1, 7];

- echocardiography (EchoCG) is the most common and accessible method for assessing systolic (LV shortening fraction and LV ejection fraction (EF)) and diastolic (transmitral diastolic flow, the ratio of the rate of early diastolic filling of the ventricles to the rate of their late diastolic filling (atrial systole) (E / A), an estimate of the time of deceleration of the peak E and isovolumetric relaxation) of the function. Echocardiography should be performed without fail in all patients before starting therapy with trastuzumab and anthracyclines. A decrease in LVEF by more than 10% of the lower limit of the norm, determined at the level of 53%, suggests CT [8];

- speckle-tracking EchoCG - a technique for evaluating an ultrasound image, which makes it possible to assess the displacement, speed of movement, deformation and deformation rate of any part of the myocardium that falls within the scanning sector. It is one of the most sensitive methods for early detection of heart pathology. There is evidence that already a month after treatment with anthracyclines by this method, significant deterioration in the indices of torsion, the rate of torsion, and unwinding is revealed, although changes in the size of the cavity and LVEF are usually not detected. The most significant among all indicators is the longitudinal deformation index (GLS), a decrease in which by more than 15% from the norm is a criterion for the development of CT [3];

- Multiportal radionuclide angiography (MRA) is a reliable method for assessing LVEF. A decrease in EF of more than 10% with a value of less than 50% according to MRA indicates the development of CT. However, the use of this method is significantly limited due to radioactive exposure [1, 7];

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is used to assess myocardial function, perfusion and tissue health, but it is not an ideal method for initial screening. As a rule, it is used when it is impossible to perform other methods or their lack of information content [1, 7];

- endomyocardial biopsy is the "gold standard" of CT diagnostics, but in general clinical practice it is used extremely rarely due to the limited equipment of medical institutions, the invasiveness of the procedure and the lack of appropriate skills of medical personnel [7].

Laboratory research methods

Currently, the strategy of interpreting changes in the levels of cardiac biomarkers has not yet been proven to be effective in preventing or improving the prognosis of long-term events associated with CT. However, it should be noted that an increase in the levels of cardiac biomarkers makes it possible to identify patients with a high risk of CT, for whom it may be advisable to prescribe prophylactic measures [9–11, 12]. Despite the obvious lack of objective information on the use of cardiac troponins for CT diagnosis and the relative high cost of the technique, the current recommendations of ESMO, ESC and the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology (RUSSCO) provide for the use of troponin tests in patients with CT risk factors, especially when treated with anthracyclines [1, 7, 13].

Timing of examination of patients receiving cardiotoxic chemotherapy

- When treating with anthracyclines and trastuzumab, monitoring of the function of the cardiovascular system should be carried out before starting therapy and then after 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 months. More frequent monitoring is possible according to clinical indications [7, 10, 14].

- When prescribing anthracycline-containing courses in a patient with an initially high risk of CT, an early assessment of cardiac activity (EchoCG) should be performed after reaching a cumulative dose of 240 mg / m² doxorubicin (or equivalent other drugs) [7, 16]. With a decrease in LVEF by 15% or more from the initial value (provided that the value of the indicator is equal to or more than 50%), anthracyclines therapy can be continued under the supervision of a cardiologist and with regular monitoring of cardiac function [7, 11, 15]. With a decrease in LVEF below 50%, re-evaluation by echocardiography is recommended after 3 weeks. If the EF value is confirmed below 50%, chemotherapy is temporarily stopped, and cardiac therapy is performed. With a decrease in LVEF below 40%, the cessation of the prescribed chemotherapy regimen, cardiac therapy and discussion of an alternative treatment strategy are indicated [1, 7, 11, 17, 20].

- Evaluation of cardiovascular function is recommended 4 years and 10 years after anthracyclines therapy in patients under 15 years of age and in patients over 15 years of age if the cumulative dose of doxorubicin exceeds 240 mg / m², and the dose of epirubicin is 360 mg / m² [11, 18, 21, 24].

- Assessment of the level of at least one cardiac biomarker - highly sensitive troponins (I or T) or natriuretic peptide B-type (NP-B) is recommended before starting chemotherapy. Determination of highly sensitive troponin I in patients with risk factors for the development of CT is recommended after each course of anthracycline-containing chemotherapy [1, 7, 11, 19, 22].

In addition to the traditionally used biomarkers (troponins, NUP-B), special attention has recently been paid to the study of additional markers of cardiac damage, oxidative stress, and other pathological processes activated during the development of CT, caused by the intake of chemotherapeutic drugs. In particular, the role of myeloperoxidase, an enzyme involved in lipid peroxidation (LPO) and released during periods of inflammatory oxidative stress by neutrophils, is being studied. In addition, attention is paid to growth / differentiation factor 15 (GDF-15),

phosphatidylinositol glycan biosynthesis class F protein (PIGF), soluble receptor FMS-like tyrosine kinase 1 (sFlt-1), galectin 3, etc. [2, 23, 25].

Conclusion. Thus, CT is an important problem affecting many aspects of oncology, hematology and cardiology. And, despite certain achievements, today there are many unresolved issues related to its diagnosis, prevention and treatment. It is hoped that future research on CT chemotherapy can not only expand the body's tolerance to special treatments, but also increase their effectiveness without developing serious side effects.

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