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ULINASTATIN IN THE CONSERVATIVE THERAPY OF CHRONIC PANCREATITIS

Mirvosit M. Karimov¹, Pulat S. Zufarov², Go'zal N. Sobirova³, Pulatova I. Nargiza⁴, Shahlo S. Aripdjanova⁵

1 DSc, Professor, Head of the Department of Gastroenterology of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center for Therapy and Medical Rehabilitation, Uzbekistan

2 DSc, Professor of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Uzbekistan
E-mail: pulatzufarov@gmail.com

3 DSc, Associate Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation and Traditional Medicine of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Uzbekistan

4 DSc, Assistant of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Uzbekistan

5 PhD, Assistant of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article presents the results of the anti-inflammatory efficacy of the new generation protease inhibitor ulinastatin in the treatment of exacerbation of chronic pancreatitis of moderate severity. It is shown that exacerbation of chronic pancreatitis of alimentary, alcoholic and biliary etiology was expressed by abdominal pain and dyspeptic symptoms. An increase in the level of serum aminotransferases, bilirubin and alpha amylase was noted, which was accompanied by a significant increase in the activity of pro-inflammatory cytokines. The use of ulinastatin in the complex of pharmacotherapy of chronic pancreatitis contributed to the effective relief of exacerbation of pancreatitis, which was due to the anticytokine effect of the drug.

Key words: chronic pancreatitis, etiology, treatment, clinical, adverse reaction.

INTRODUCTION

Among diseases of the pancreas, chronic pancreatitis (CP) occupies a significant place, which is characterized by various etiological factors, the presence

of focal necrosis in the pancreas against the background of segmental fibrosis with the development of functional insufficiency of varying severity. The progression of CP leads to the appearance and development of atrophy of the glandular tissue, fibrosis and replacement of the cellular elements of the pancreatic parenchyma with connective tissue. In the literature of recent years, there are publications that provide the opinions of some researchers on the stages of the course (progression) of CP. According to one of them, the initial period of the disease, the stage of exocrine (exocrine) pancreatic insufficiency and a complicated variant of the course of CP - tumors of this organ are distinguished; however, apparently, other variants of the course of the disease are also possible [1,2].

Treatment of patients with CP largely depends on the severity of its exacerbation (including the presence or absence of various complications), manifested by various, more or less pronounced symptoms in pain, dyspeptic, hypoglycemic, so-called "metabolic" and / or "icteric" options. Often it is not possible to accurately determine one or another clinical variant [3,4,5].

The appearance of complications of CP largely determines, as the disease progresses, and often significantly changes the clinical manifestations of chronic pancreatitis. In the treatment of patients with CP, depending on their condition, various drugs are used: those that reduce pancreatic secretion, most often proton pump inhibitors, anticholinergics, enzyme preparations, antispasmodics, prokinetics, painkillers, antibiotics, plasma-substituting solutions. At present, the use of drugs that suppress the activity of pancreatic enzymes (Contrykal, Gordox, Trasylol, etc.) in modern pancreatology has been significantly limited due to the emergence of more effective and safe antienzymatic drugs, one of which is an inhibitor of proinflammatory cytokine, tumor necrosis factor (TNF α) ulinastatin.

The purpose of the study: to study the clinical efficacy and tolerability of ulinastatin (the drug "ROAN" 100,000 IU. lyophilisate for the preparation of an injection solution in patients with chronic pancreatitis in the acute stage of mild to moderate degree.

Research objectives:

1. Evaluation of the clinical, diagnostic and laboratory efficacy of the study drug.
2. Evaluation of tolerability of the study drug based on patient complaints and monitoring of adverse reactions.

Materials and methods:

In the group that received the study drug, there were 20 patients with mild to moderate CP who were hospitalized, of both sexes (men 8, women 12), over the age of 18 years (mean age 52.5 ± 4.5 years) who agreed to participate in the study,

with a diagnosis of chronic biliary pancreatitis, alcoholic, alimentary or mixed etiology in the acute stage. When diagnosing CP, the classification M - ANNHEIM was used, where the main diagnostic criteria were: M - Multiple, A - Alcohol, N - Nicotin, N - Nutrition, H - Heredity, E - Efferent pancreatic duct factors, I - Immunological, M - Miscellaneous and Metabolic factors[1]. In this case, the diagnosis of CP implies the presence of a typical clinical picture (recurrent pancreatic attacks, abdominal pain, etc.), as well as the presence of a number of the following criteria:

"Definite" CP (at least 1 criterion): calcification of the pancreas; moderate or severe changes in the ducts of the pancreas (Cambridge, 1984); severe exocrine insufficiency; morphological picture typical for CP.

"Probable" CP (at least 1 criterion): mild changes in the ducts of the pancreas (Cambridge, 1984); pseudocyst (s) - constantly existing or recurrent; pathological results of functional tests (fecal elastase, coprogram); endocrine insufficiency.

"Borderline" CP : typical clinical presentation without "probable"/"definite" CP criteria; expected after the first episode of acute pancreatitis.

Before and after treatment, all patients underwent a clinical examination (scored), including a general examination, clinical and biochemical studies: complete blood count, bilirubin, AlAT, AsAT, alpha amylase. Pro-inflammatory cytokines: IL-6 and TNF α , and also carried out the determination of fecal elastase. Of the instrumental studies, all patients underwent ultrasound examination (ultrasound) or, according to indications, computed tomography (CT) of the pancreas, where imaging criteria (Cambridge) were used to diagnose mild to moderate CP - the presence of two or more pathological signs:

- GPP width 2-4 mm;
- uneven width of the ducts
- moderate increase in prostate (up to 2 times)
- heterogeneity of the parenchyma with areas of increased and decreased echogenicity
- cavities less than 10 mm
- increased echogenicity of the MPD wall
- irregular contour of the pancreas.

The patients were prescribed ulinastatin 100,000 IU intravenously, drip, previously diluted in 100 ml of 0.9% sodium chloride 1 time per day for 3 days. The patients were also prescribed drugs necessary for the treatment of the underlying disease: proton pump inhibitors, antispasmodics, analgesics, enzyme preparations according to indications. The dose of drugs taken remained

unchanged throughout the study period. If during the course of the study it became necessary to change the dose or prescribe a new drug, continuation of the study for this patient was allowed, provided that these changes do not have a significant positive or negative effect on the course of the underlying disease. A repeated clinical and instrumental study was performed 7 days after the start of therapy.

Results: In patients with CP, the etiological factors of exacerbation were calculous cholecystitis, alcoholic and alimentary factors, and in 3 patients a combination of alcoholic and alimentary factors (Table 1).

Table 1

Etiological characteristics of patients with chronic pancreatitis

Etiological factors of CP	Number of patients
Biliary	10 (50%)
Alcoholic	4 (20%)
Alimentary	3 (15%)
Mixed	3 (15%)

Determination of fecal elastase showed that exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (below 200 units) was noted only in 4 patients.

The effectiveness of the treatment was evaluated based on the improvement of the patient's clinical condition and the dynamics of laboratory tests. The conducted studies revealed high efficiency in patients in the form of reliable relief of abdominal pain and dyspeptic symptoms of exacerbation of CP (Table 2).

Table 2

Dynamics of clinical symptoms of patients before and after treatment, in points

Complaints	Ulinastatin 100,000 IU, 3 days	
	Before treatment	After treatment
Abdominal pain syndrome	2.8 \pm 0.23	1.1 \pm 0.05*
Nausea	2.9 \pm 0.12	0.7 \pm 0.04*
Vomit	2.2 \pm 0.05	0.5 \pm 0.05*
Flatulence	2.5 \pm 0.06	0.7 \pm 0.03*
Diarrhea	2.0 \pm 0.06	0.5 \pm 0.05*

Note: hereinafter* - the difference is significant in relation to the indicators before and after treatment ($p < 0.05$)

Points:

0- no symptoms

1-Moderately pronounced symptoms

2-Medium pronounced symptoms

3-Expressed symptoms

Analysis of the obtained results showed that in the general blood test in patients before treatment, a moderate increase in leukocytosis and ESR was noted (Table 3). In their biochemical parameters, a significant increase in the parameters of AlAT, AsAT, bilirubin and alpha amylase was also noted (Table 4).

Table 3

Dynamics of the main indicators of peripheral blood of patients before and after treatment

UAC indicators	Before treatment	After treatment
Hemoglobin , g/l	124,5 ± 3,42	120.5 ± 2.55
Erythrocytes , 10 ¹² /l	4,8 ± 0,12	4.4 ± 0.17
Leukocytes , 10 ⁹ /l	12,5 ± 1,9	8.4 ± 0.20*
ESR mm / hour	15,2 ± 1,50	7.40 ± 0.90*

Table 4

Dynamics of hepatic transaminases and bilirubin in the blood of patients before and after treatment

	Before treatment	After treatment
AlAT , U/l	67,19 ± 4,20	37,2 ± 3,30*
AsAT , U/l	34,7 ± 2,85	17,8 ± 0,55*
Bilirubin , mmol /l	32,05 ± 3,02	19,05 ± 2,90 *
Alpha amylase, U/l	323,5 ± 30,50	221,7 ± 22,40*

When studying the level of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the blood serum of patients with CP during the period of exacerbation, an increase in the levels of IL-6 and TNF α was found (Table 5).

Table 5

Dynamics of IL-6 and TNF α in patients before and after treatment

Interleukins	Before treatment	After treatment
IL-6 (pg / ml)	65,8±5,4	40,3±3,6*
TNF α (pg / ml)	124,0±7,4	66,5±5,2*

Tolerability of the drug was assessed on the basis of subjective symptoms and sensations reported by the patient and objective data obtained by the investigator during treatment. The dynamics of laboratory parameters, as well as the frequency and nature of adverse reactions, were taken into account. In our patients, no

adverse reactions from the drug therapy used were observed. The drug was well tolerated. Only in 3 patients, laboratory tests over time revealed a slight increase in AlAT, AsAT and bilirubin, which was associated with an attack of existing cholelithiasis, as a result of which an exacerbation of CP occurred. These patients, after consulting an abdominal surgeon, were recommended to undergo cholecystectomy in a planned manner.

Discussion: CP is still an urgent problem of modern gastroenterology. The standards of treatment for such patients included anti-enzyme drugs (Aprotinin). However, due to their low efficiency and the presence of pronounced side effects, indications for their use in modern pancreatology have been extremely reduced. According to modern guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of CP, inhibitors of proinflammatory drugs are most often used to relieve exacerbations, cytokines, in particular ulinastatin [6,7,8,9].

The study to study the clinical efficacy and tolerability of ulinastatin included 20 patients with exacerbation of CP.

Of the 20 patients with exacerbation of CP, 10 patients with etiological factors of the disease had calculous cholecystitis and a complication in the form of biliary pancreatitis. In 4 patients, exacerbation of the disease was associated with the use of strong alcoholic beverages. In 3 patients, exacerbation of the disease was associated with frequent malnutrition (excessive consumption of fatty foods). Also, in 3 patients, exacerbation of CP was due to a combination of factors such as alcohol and fatty foods. The clinic of exacerbation of the disease was expressed by a combination of abdominal pain and dyspeptic manifestations. Pain in patients was more often localized in the epigastrium and in the left upper square of the abdomen with irradiation into the interscapular space. Dyspeptic symptoms were manifested by nausea, vomiting, often not leading to relief, and flatulence. 18 patients also had diarrhea (more than 3 times a day or more) with steatorrhea. In 12 patients, a manifestation of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency was noted, which was expressed by a decrease in the level of mild fecal elastase (below 200 units in 4 patients). In 9 patients, moderate leukocytosis, an increase in ESR (in 15 patients), a moderate increase in transaminases, and an increase in bilirubin (often due to direct fraction) were noted in the blood serum. In 12 patients, an increase in the activity of alpha amylase in the blood serum was noted. Also, the majority of patients (16) showed an increase in the activity of IL-6 and TNF-alpha more than twice.

Thus, the studies revealed that the study drug in patients with exacerbation of chronic pancreatitis during treatment contributed to the relief of pain and dyspeptic symptoms, as evidenced by a decrease in patients' complaints about abdominal

pain symptoms and dyspeptic disorders. Control studies of biochemical blood parameters 7 days after the start of treatment showed normalization of leukocytes and ESR. In blood plasma, a significant decrease in the level of serum transaminases, bilirubin and alpha amylase was recorded. Accordingly, there were significant decreases in IL-6 and TNF α levels. However, in three patients with CP, no significant dynamics of clinical manifestations and biochemical blood parameters was observed, which was associated with attacks of calculous cholecystitis. In these patients, on the recommendation of an abdominal surgeon, cholecystectomy was recommended in a planned manner.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The anti-inflammatory efficacy of the protease inhibitor ulinastatin in the conservative pharmacotherapy of CP is associated with inhibition of the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-6 (by 65%) and more than twofold TNF α .
2. The protease inhibitor ulinastatin can be effectively and safely used in the treatment of patients with chronic pancreatitis to relieve exacerbations of the disease.

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Contents

FREQUENCY OF IL 12B GENE POLYMORPHISM AMONG PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RHINOSINUSITIS POLYPOSIS Ulugbek S. Khasanov, Ulugbek N. Vokhidov, Jamolbek A. Djuraev	5
GENDER AND AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN HOSPITALIZED WITH CORONAVIRUS INFECTION IN UZBEKISTAN Laziz N. Tuychiev, Umid E. Eraliev, Gulnara K. Khudaykulova Nilufar K. Djuraeva.....	16
AUTOIMMUNE DIATHESIS END RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN CHILDREN Lola K. Rakhmanova, Akramjon M. Rakhmanov	22
PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL SUBSTANTIATION OF THE USE OF A NEW DRUG BASED ON G. LUCIDUM AND ALKHADIA IN THE TREATMENT OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTION CAUSED BY SARS COV-2. Pulat M. Abilov, Bakhtiyor U. Iriskulov, Zukhra N. Boboeva	36
ASSESSMENT OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH POST-COVIDAL CEREBROASTENIC SYNDROME Ulugbek D. Shadiev, G.S. Rakhimbaeva.....	45
ULINASTATIN IN THE CONSERVATIVE THERAPY OF CHRONIC PANCREATITIS Mirvosit M. Karimov, Pulat S. Zufarov, Go'zal N. Sobirova, Pulatova I. Nargiza, Shahlo S. Aripdjanova	54
TREATMENT OF ACUTE EROSIVE-ULCERATIVE GASTRODUODENAL BLEEDING M.Sh. Khakimov, U.I. Matkuliev, Sh.E. Ashurov, O.T. Sattarov, J.K. Dekhkonov.....	62
TREATMENT PROCEDURES FOR ANEMIA IN EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS WITH LOCAL VEGETABLE PROTEIN PRODUCTS Mavlonjon Nasirdinov, Nizom Ermatov	72
NURSES' ROLE IN CARRYING OUT REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN HYPERTENSIVE PATIENTS Zarifa T. Usmanova, Mutabar A. Mirpayzieva, Barno H. Abdullaeva	80
EFFECT OF PLANT PHOTOSENSITIZER PSORALEN ON MITOCHONDRIAL STRUCTURES IN INFLAMMATORY PROCESSES Nigora F. Abdukhalikova, Bakhtiyor U. Iriskulov	88
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TREATMENT RESULTS IN PATIENTS WITH DAMAGE TO DUENUM IN DIFFERENT SURGICAL TACTICS S.A. Ruziboev, Kh.R. Amonov	99
MONITORING OF WATER POLLUTION IN HOT CLIMATES Guzal T. Iskandarova, Aziza M. Yusupxo'jaeva	109