COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY OF CYTOCHROME ISOENZYME P450 CYP2C9 IN ELDERLY AND SENILE PATIENTS AND WITH THAT IN HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS OF THE FIRST PERIOD OF MIDDLE AGE

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At the first phase of the research the evaluation of the activity of cytochrome CYP2C9 in 18 elderly and geriatric patients was carried out, mean age of the patients was 71.6±9.6 years. At the second phase the efficiency and safety of losartan trial in 18 healthy volunteers of the first period of mature age 26.3±3.5 years was evaluated. To evaluate the activity of isoenzyme of cytochrome P450 CYP2C9 the determination of the concentration of active metabolite of Losartan E-3174 in the urine to the concentration of losartan was used. The concentration ratio E-3174 to losartan in elderly and senile patients was 1.84±0.15, in healthy young volunteers – 3.28±0.77. A statistically significant metabolic E-3174/losartan ratio decrease in elderly and senile patients was demonstrated, which indicates about the decreased activity of CYP2C9 in that age group.

Keywords: drug therapy, drug side effects, CYP2C9 isoform, losartan, elderly people

Nowadays the percentage of geriatric and elderly people in the whole population tends to grow [7]. According to the data from Russian Federal State Statistics Service the population size of people past retiring age increased by 4 million during the last 10 years. Elderly-dependency ratio of the population in Russian Federation outnumbered 20 % and has stayed at the level of 20.7–20.8 % since 1997 till present. According to some researchers’ perspectives, elderly-dependency ratio must have increased to 24.8 % by 2016.
People over age of 60 have 2 times higher frequency of adverse effects, people over age of 70 have 7 times higher comparing to patients of juvenile age [2].

One of the greatest issues of elderly and geriatric people drug therapy is age-dependent changes of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the drugs prescribed [2]. Patients’ age is one of the most consequential factors, as it influences many organs’ function greatly, liver in particular, where major drug metabolism reactions take place. Therefore exploring drug metabolism changes in liver of aged patients is of great importance for safety of aged patients’ drug therapy.

Drugs biotransformation in elderly and geriatric people has been reported to slow down due to liver pulp atrophy, the depletion of active hepatic cells, decreased activity of microsomal enzymes and their perverted metabolism. Expression of isoforms of cytochrome P450 changes with age [8]. Hepatic blood flow is decreased almost by 35–45 % in comparison with that of young and middle aged people. Thus, age-related changes lead to increased drug bioavailability and plasma concentration. At the same time due to renal drug clearance decrease, biological half-life of drugs having both high and low metabolism is changed [1].

At the present time various methods are used in order to evaluate drug metabolism in vitro such as breath tests, metabolic ratio counting (MRs), and the most frequently used – clearance counting (CL) using testing drugs.

CYP2C9 is the enzyme that is involved in drug metabolism of such significant drugs as warfarin [9], some anticonvulsants [6] and NSAIDs [10]. Currently several methods of CYP2C9 phenotyping are known.

Tolbutamid test requires administration of 125 mg tolbutamid and taking blood samples in 24 hours. After the intake of the drug substance the research of biomaterials is conducted using highly effective liquid chromatography with the mass analysis capabilities of mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS) [4]. This method doesn’t take into account metabolic activity of another enzyme isoform – CYP2C19 towards tolbutamid, which may lead to inaccurate test data.

Administration of 300 mg phenytoin is also used in order to test CYP2C9 activity. CYP2C9 phenotyping is performed be counting phenytoin concentration and its metabolite, p-hydroxyphenyl hydantoin using HPLC-MS [3]. This method, as well as the previous one, doesn’t consider metabolic activity of other enzyme isoforms – CYP2C19 and CYP3F4 towards phenytoin, which may lead to inaccurate test data.

Losartan test is recommended for CYP2C9 activity definition in vivo by Russian guidelines for studying biotransformation and new drug transporter testing by pharmaceutical companies [11]. The test is based on counting losartan and its active metabolite E-3174 concentration in urine samples. E-3174 is formed mostly by CYP2C9. Another enzyme isoform CYP3F4 activity in losartan metabolism isn’t taken into account in this method which may again lead to inaccurate test data concerning CYP2C9 activity.

CYP2C9 was found to be the determinative enzyme in losartan metabolism at its physiological concentration meanwhile CYP3A4 gets involved in losartan metabolism only at its higher concentrations [5]. This discovery was made during losartan phase test using yeasts and human hepatic microsomal enzymes.

At this stage there are no data concerning CYP2C9 activity changes in elderly and geriatric people in comparison with the first period of mature aged people.

The purpose of this research is to compare CYP2C9 isoenzyme activity in elderly and senile patients and in people of the first period of middle age.

Material and Methods. The clinical study was conducted at the therapeutic department of «Medsantrud» City Clinical Hospital № 23. The design of the research is represented by an experimental study conducted on two groups of patients.

The work was carried out in 2 phases. The first phase evaluated the activity of cytochrome CYP2C9 in elderly and geriatric patients. The study included 18 elderly and senile patients (10 women, 8 men), mean age was 71.6±9.6 years. All of the patients were corresponding to the following criteria:

Criteria for inclusion into the study: a) senile and elderly age; b) Signed informed consent.

Criteria for exclusion from the study: a) receiving inhibitors and/or inducers of CYP2C9; b) Carriers of ‘slow’ allele variants CYP2C9*2, CYP2C9*3 (determined by polymerase chain reaction restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) after DNA extraction from peripheral blood leucocytes); c) acute hepatic (significant increase in liver transaminases and the AST/ALT ratio ≤ 1) and/or renal failure (progressive increase in serum creatinine concentration of more than 1.5 from standard (172 mg/dL for men, 145 mg/dL for women) or progressively decreased urine output – less than 0.5 ml/kg over 6 hours); d) hypersensitivity to the drug or its components, as well as intolerance of study drug; e) any chronic disease that may interfere with the study (malignant neoplasms in the last five years, alcoholism, drug addiction, uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, chronic renal insufficiency, severe chronic lung disease, sepsis, neurologic illness or disability; g) the lack of willingness to cooperate.

In the second phase we evaluated the efficiency and safety of losartan trials in healthy volunteers of the first period of mature age (18 people).

The control group consisted of 18 healthy people of the first period of mature age (12 women, 6 men) aged 26.3±3.5 years. Persons with any chronic disease, alcohol abuse, and pregnancy, contraindications to receiving losartan or persons permanently taking drugs were not included. All volunteers carried out physical examination, performed routine clinical laboratory tests (ECG, blood count, blood chemistry, urinalysis, studies on HIV, hepatitis viruses B and C, Wasserman reaction) as a result of which all parameters were within normal limits.

Inclusion criteria were the absence of a history of allergies, cardiovascular diseases, COPD and endocrine diseases in the control group, acute respiratory viral infections at least 1 month 54 prior to the study, medication of any drugs and supplements at least 1 month prior to the study, any chronic diseases and bad habits, media «slow» allele variants CYP2C9*2, CYP2C9*3 (determined by PCR RFLP after DNA extraction from peripheral blood leucocytes). All volunteers signed an informed consent.

A total of 12 men and 6 women were included in the pharmacokinetic study of losartan, all of them from the Russian ethnic group.

Determination of the concentration of losartan and E-3174 (active metabolite of losartan) in the urine was performed by HPLC with spectrophotometric detection (PCR-RFLP).

Genotyping of allelic variants CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 of patients was performed by PCR-RFLP after prior isolation of DNA from peripheral blood leucocytes.

Identification of the ADR was carried out using a questionnaire (a specially designed questionnaire addressed to the study participants on the basis of the ADR, which were listed in the typical clinical pharmacological drug article).
An assessment of differences of CYP2C9 activity in patients treated with substrates of this isoenzyme, and in patients not taking CYP2C9 substrates was also conducted. The E-3174/losartan ratio in patients treated with substrates of CYP2C9 was 1.93±0.37 (Table 2).

The E-3174/losartan ratio in patients who didn’t take CYP2C9 substrates was found to be higher (p=0.94) than in patients who took CYP2C9 substrates and makes 1.96±0.33.

A research in vivo conducted on 18 patients of elderly or senile age and 18 young volunteers of the first period of middle age showed a statistically significant metabolic E-3174/losartan ratio decrease in elderly and senile patients, which indicates that the CYP2C9 activity in that group is lower than that in young volunteers of the first period of middle age.

There was found no statistically significant difference of enzyme isoform activity in people receiving CYP2C9 substrates comparing with people who didn’t receive them during the comparative analysis.

During comparative analysis of other clinical researches the activity of other enzyme P450 isoforms, in particular CYP2C19, CYP3A4, CYP2E1, CYP2C9, was found to have a tendency to decrease [12].

The conducted research hasn’t detected any significant relation between one of the most base cytochrome P450 isoform – CYP2C9 activity and the quantity of drug received.

Conclusions. Having conducted comparative analysis of CYP2C9 activity in elderly and senile people and healthy volunteers of the first period of mature age we found that the activity of CYP2C9 in elderly people has a tendency to decrease. Such changes influence elimination of drugs metabolized by this enzyme isoform, thus prescribing them to elderly and senile patients, without concerning age-related decrease of CYP2C9 activity, may appear to be the reason of adverse side effects which usually lead to increased therapy expenses and higher frequency of hospitalization and death among patients of this age group.

The right dose schedule of drugs will help to decrease therapy expenses and increase its efficiency.

### References


### Table 1

Mean values of concentrations of E-3174, Losartan and their ratio in the test sample based on the standard deviation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Elderly and senile patients</th>
<th>Healthy young volunteers</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Losartan (ng/ml)</td>
<td>517.41±76.68</td>
<td>587.89±134.06</td>
<td>p&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-3174 (ng/ml)</td>
<td>582.98±88.11</td>
<td>1128.09±202.73</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-3174/Losartan</td>
<td>1.84±0.15</td>
<td>3.28±0.77</td>
<td>0.0750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In young patients the E-3174/losartan ratio, the concentration of E-3174 and losartan concentrations were higher than in elderly and senile patients.

A correlation analysis between the CYP2C9 activity (metabolic ratio) and the amount of medication patient received was also conducted. According to the results of the correlation analysis between the number of drugs and CYP2C9 activity Spearman’s correlation coefficient was – 0.12; P=0.73.

### Table 2

Descriptive statistics: the ratio of the E-3174/losartan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-3174/losartan ratio</th>
<th>Patients who took CYP2C9 substrates</th>
<th>Patients who didn’t take CYP2C9 substrates</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.93±0.37 [0.89;2.57]</td>
<td>1.96±0.33 [0.72;2.5]</td>
<td>0.9393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the study 236 patients was included. Decoding of the genotypes was carried out with kits of reagent for determining genetic polymorphisms associated with the metabolism of warfarin or clopidogrel with detection PCR results in real-time; and melting curve analysis, qualitative analysis («НПО ДНК-Технология», Russia). The age mean age of the patients was 57.5±12.01 years. Gender differences included 54.6 % male. Clopidogrel sensitivity is influenced by several genetic polymorphisms: ABCB1: CC – 19.1 %, CT – 42.6 %, TT – 31.2 %. CYP2C19*2: GG – 78.7 %, AA – 2.1 %. CYP2C19*3: GG – 100 %. CYP2C19*17: CC – 57.4 %, CT – 36.9 %, TT – 5.7 %. Allelic variants:*1/*1 – 39.7 %, *1/*2 – 15.6 %, *2/*17 – 4.3 %, *2/*2 – 2.1 %, *1/*17 – 32.6 %, *17/*17 – 5.7 %. Thus, the prevalence of genotypes associated with resistance to clopidogrel in the studied population is 22.0 %. The frequency of genotypes associated with high sensitivity to warfarin in the studied population was: CYP2C9*1/*2 – 17.9 %, CYP2C9*1/*3 – 13.7 %, CY-P2C9*2/*3 – 2.1 %, AA VKORC1 – 21.1 %.

Keywords: pharmacogenetics, pharmacogenetic testing, warfarin, clopidogrel, personalized medicine