In this study, resorbable membranes based on polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis and fullerene (C_{60}) were implanted under the femoral muscles of 73 outbred white mice with the aim of targeted bone tissue regeneration. The results of morphological studies showed that the final resorption of the membranes was achieved within 90 days. In the control group that was implanted with membranes based on polyvinyl alcohols without C_{60}, the membranes became encapsulated and did not undergo biore sorption within 90 days.

Keywords: tissue regeneration, resorbable membrane, fullerene, morphological study


PVA – polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis
PVAF – polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis and added fullerene
dissolving at the temperature of the human body. Such membranes can possess the ability to optimize wound healing processes [7, 8].

The purpose of the work is to experimentally evaluate the bioresorption of membranes based on polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis and C60 for the directed regeneration of bone tissue.

**Material and Methods.** The experiment was carried out using outbred white mice of both sexes under standard vivarium conditions in accordance with GOST ISO 10993-6-2011 «Medical devices. Assessment of the biological effects of medical devices. Part 6. Local studies after implantation».

The biodegradation of membranes composed of polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis and C60 (hereafter abbreviated as PVAF membranes) was studied by implanting PVAF membranes with a size of 1×1 cm freely under the right femoral muscle of 73 mice (Group A).

The control experiment used a membrane composed of polyvinyl alcohols of varying degrees of hydrolysis (hereafter abbreviated as PVA) without C60. PVAF membranes with a size of 1×1 cm were introduced under the left femoral muscles of the mice in Group A (Subgroup A a). Mice were withdrawn from the experiments on day 14, 28, and 42 (21 animals each time).

To study the long-term results of membrane resorption (Group B), cuts with a length of 15 mm and width of 2 mm were incised on the right and left femurs of ten animals, which were withdrawn from the experiment at 90 days. A PVAF membrane (Subgroup B a) was placed in the right thigh on the bone defect. As a control, a PVA membrane was placed on the bone defect in the left thigh (Subgroup B b). After these experiments, a single fragment of the femoral muscle with a portion of the bone was biopsied.

After fixation of the biopsy specimen in a 10 % solution of neutral formalin, traditional wiring and pouring into paraffin, sections with a thickness of 8 μm were prepared from it. The preparations were stained with hematoxylin-eosin and picron of the material according to van Gieson. The bone was fixed with a 10 % neutral formalin solution for 24 h, decalcified in a saturated Trilon B solution, replaced in 10 % neutral formalin, dehydrated in ascending ethanol using a Microm STP-120 histological material posting unit (Micron Technology, USA), and then poured into paraffin using a Leica filling machine (Leica, Germany).

Sections with a thickness of 5 μm were obtained using a Leica sled microtome (Leica Microsystems, Germany) and stained with hematoxylin-eosin (Biovitrum, Russia) using a Raffaello stain (Diapath, S.p.A., Italy).

Visualization and optical images of microscale objects was carried out with the hardware-software complex Videotest-Morphology (Russia). Microscopic examination was carried out using a light microscope (MIKMED-2, Russia) at magnifications of 40×, 100×, 200×, and 400×.

Biodegradation was evaluated by the severity of the cellular reaction, the volume and maturity of granulations formed around the implant, and the degree of decomposition of the PVAF and PVA membranes. The histological state of each membrane was determined on the following three-point scale. One point: the membrane is present unchanged on the histological preparation and retains its integrity; two points: the membrane is partially absent, its integrity is disrupted, and it is fragmented; three points: only traces of the membrane were detected. The Estimate version 13.1 program was used for mathematical and statistical evaluation of the obtained results.

**Results and Discussion.** In the morphological study of the muscle tissue in Group A (free implanted PVAF membranes), small membrane fragments in granulations, clumps of foreign light-refracting material in the cytoplasm of macrophages and giant multinucleated cells were visible by 14 days. After 28 days (Fig. 1A), the granulations looked more mature, their number and volume decreased, and the response of macrophages and giant cells to the foreign material was less pronounced. At the site of the membrane implantation in the thigh muscle, a large number of free lumps of foreign light-refracting material were found, which were surrounded by epithelioid cells, a large number of giant cells of foreign bodies, granulation tissue with well-formed vessels, moderate infiltration of lympho-macrophage elements, and weak infiltration of segmented nuclei. In the cytoplasm of macrophages and multinucleated cells, granules of a foreign light-refracting substance were detected. Edema and plethora remained in the muscle tissue of the thigh, fibroblasts were accumulated between the fibers, and foci of proliferation of nuclei in the muscle fibers were observed. Similar responses persisted in animals on day 42; however, part of the implanted membrane was absent and a slit-shaped bed was detected in its place, which contained fragments of the membrane.

**Results and Discussion.** Thus, on day 14, in all animals of Subgroup A a, the PVAF membrane was partially absent; in the control Subgroup A b, the PVA membrane was unchanged. The state of the membrane in the control subgroup remained unchanged throughout the observation period. In experimental Subgroup A a, on day 28, traces of the membrane were detected in more than half of the animals; on day 42, this phenomenon was observed in all mice. Despite the less intense metabolic processes in Subgroup B a than those in Subgroup A a, PVA membrane fragments with signs of active vascularization were found in the area of the bone defect on day 90 (Fig. 2A). Fibrous tissue was not detected around the PVA membrane fragments.
The lymphocytic macrophage reaction around the membrane microfragments was weak or absent. Moreover, the structure of the residual membrane fragments in the microphotographs was cellular and friable with exfoliating droplet-like patches in the natural interstitial fluid (Fig. 2B). As on day 42, the PVA-based membrane at 90 days was surrounded by mature fibrous tissue. The structure of the PVA membrane did not change visually or in micropreparations between day 42 and 90 (Fig. 2B).

A statistical comparison based on the Chi-square Pearson criterion of the biocompatibilities of the PVAF and PVA membranes was carried out on a three-point scale for each period after which animals were removed from the experiment. The suitability of using the Chi-square criterion for contingency tables was verified using Simonov – Tsai diagnostics. The diagnostic value $S$ of 0.13, which is less than 0.25, indicated the validity of the Chi-square approximation. The null hypothesis is the absence of differences in the frequencies of different states of the membranes in the experimental and control groups. The result of the calculation of the Chi-square criterion (in each period, Chi-square criterion = 42.0, df=2, and P-value = 0.000) was highly statistically significant, which showed that the data obtained did not agree with the null hypothesis. Thus, there were highly statistically significant (p<0.001) differences in the biocompatibilities of the studied membranes. The PVAF membrane was bioresorbable to a greater extent than the control PVA membrane.

**Conclusions.** Membranes based on polyvinyl alcohols with varying degrees of hydrolysis and C$_{60}$ underwent effective bioresorption, which should aid the directed regeneration of bone tissue. Membrane bioresorption occurred naturally in the period from 14 to 90 days after implantation. In contrast, the control membrane composed of polyvinyl alcohols of varying degrees of hydrolysis without C$_{60}$ was encapsulated without bioresorption. The resorbable membrane did not adversely affect the surrounding tissues and is attractive for use in clinical practice.

**Disclosures:**
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS SULPHUR-CONTAINING HEPATOPROTCTORS AGAINST CHRONIC ALCOHOLIZATION


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Studies on the treatment of intoxication caused by prolonged use of alcohol are necessary. Herein, the influence of ademetionine, methionine and lipoic acid under various administration schemes on the course of chronic alcoholization was compared. The study was performed on 125 white nonlinear male rats (initial body mass: 220–250 g) divided into seven groups. Groups 2–7 underwent alcoholization for two months. The rats of groups 3–7 were administered ademetionine, methionine or lipoic acid. We determined herein that ademetionine injections had the most significant hepatoprotective and antioxidant effects, and they maintained the mitochondria in an adequate functional state. Methionine administration showed no cytoprotective effect, and it was characterized by mitochondrial dysfunction and a more significant increase in the activity of hepatic cytolysis markers. The lipoic acid injections had a significant antioxidant effect, but their cytoprotective effects were mild. On the basis of our findings, we concluded that the substances tested here mainly improved metabolic disorders induced by chronic alcoholization via maintenance of the detoxification and biosynthetic functions of the liver.

Keywords: alcoholization, oxidative stress, antioxidant system, methionine, lipoic acid, ademetionine