

**EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS IN THE "IN VITRO" SYSTEM OF
SYNTHETIC THYMIC HEXAPEPTIDE ON THE EXPRESSION LEVELS
OF NF- κ B, IFN α || β R AND CD119 NEUTROPHILIC GRANULOCYTES IN
PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HERPES VIRAL CO-INFECTIONS**

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**ОЦЕНКА ВЛИЯНИЯ СИНТЕТИЧЕСКОГО ТИМИЧЕСКОГО
ГЕКСАПЕПТИДА В СИСТЕМЕ «IN VITRO» НА УРОВНИ
ЭКСПРЕССИИ NF- κ B, IFN α || β R И CD119 НЕЙТРОФИЛЬНЫХ
ГРАНУЛОЦИТОВ У ПАЦИЕНТОВ С ХРОНИЧЕСКИМИ ГЕРПЕС-
ВИРУСНЫМИ КО-ИНФЕКЦИЯМИ**

Abstract. Background: Strategies used by herpes viruses with human cells are complex and multifaceted. On one hand, inborn defects in antiviral immune defense have been unveiled, which also affect interferon (IFN) system underlying development of chronic recalcitrant relapsing viral infections such as remittent respiratory viral infections, herpesvirus infections, and papillomavirus infections. On the other hand, numerous viruses are able to damage both immune system and IFN network. During inborn and acquired defects in IFN network, inborn or induced mutation in gene products involved in signaling cascades aimed at upregulating gene expression responsible for IFN production are observed. One of the strategies used by diverse viruses is altering some signaling pathways resulting in activated transcription factors including nuclear factor NF- κ B. However, antiviral mechanisms executed by neutrophilic granulocytes (NGs), particularly affecting NF- κ B expression have not been elucidated.

Aim of the study: to study in vitro features of NF- κ B expression and number of neutrophilic granulocytes (NG) expressing membrane IFN α || β R and IFN γ R in patients with atypical chronic active herpes virus infections (AChA-HVI), followed by assessing an effect of arginyl-alpha-aspartyl-lysyl-valyl-tyrosyl-arginine – hexapeptide (HP), a synthetic analogue of the active center of the thymopoietin (active substance of drug "Imunofan", Russia), on the expression of NG NF- κ B and IFN α || β R and IFN γ R.

Methods: We observed 25 patients of both sexes aged 23 to 64 years with AChA-HVI, manifested by chronic fatigue syndrome and cognitive disorders. Study design: stage 1- clinical, ELISA, PCR methods, FC was used. Stage 2- the in vitro experiment: 32 blood samples from 8 healthy adults and 375 blood samples from 25 patients with AChA-HVI were analyzed: % NG expressing NF- κ B, IFN α || β R, IFN γ R and the relevant MFI levels by using FC before and after incubation with HP.

Results: Our study demonstrated low level (MFI) of NF- κ B expression in 100 % NG associated with decreased % of NG expressing IFN α || β R and IFN γ R in all patients with AChA-HVI and low serum level for IFN α and IFN γ in comparison

with healthy individuals. In the *in vitro* experiment there was shown that 100 % of NG expressed NF- κ B after exposure to HP. However, only 48 % patients (SG2) restored NF- κ B expression level (MFI) to normal range and 52% of cases (SG1) had no response. HP increased % of NG expressing IFN α || β R in SG2 and increased % of NG expressing IFN γ R in SG 1.

Conclusions: It was shown, that influence of HP “*in vitro*” has ambiguous effects on the expression of NF- κ B, % of NG expressing IFN α || β R and IFN γ R in patients with AChA-HVI. We assume that different NF- κ B response to HP is associated with inborn or secondary NF- κ B deficiency.

Keywords: herpesvirus infections, interferon system, nuclear factor NF- κ B, neutrophilic granulocytes, transcription factors, hexapeptide

Резюме. Стратегии взаимодействия герпесвирусов с клетками организма человека весьма сложны и многогранны. С одной стороны существуют врожденные дефекты противовирусной иммунной защиты, в том числе и системы интерферонов, на фоне которых развиваются хронические упорно рецидивирующие вирусные инфекции, такие как повторные респираторные вирусные инфекции, герпесвирусные инфекции, папилломавирусные инфекции. С другой стороны многие вирусы сами способны повреждать как иммунную систему, так и систему интерферонов. При врожденных и приобретенных дефектах системы интерферонов наблюдается врожденная или индуцированная мутация генов молекул, участвующих в сигналинге, направленном на повышение экспрессии генов, ответственных за синтез IFN. Одной из стратегий вирусов является нарушение ряда клеточных сигнальных путей - факторов транскрипции, в том числе ядерного фактора NF- κ B. В настоящее время описана противовирусная активность НГ. При этом механизмы противовирусной защиты НГ и в частности особенности экспрессии NF- κ B в доступной нам литературе не освещены.

Цель исследования: изучить особенности экспрессии ядерного фактора NF- κ B, мембранных рецепторов к IFN α и IFN γ на нейтрофильных гранулоцитах (НГ) у пациентов, страдающих АХА-ГВИ, с последующей оценкой в эксперименте «*in vitro*» эффектов влияния на них синтетического аналога активного центра гормона тимопоэтина аргинил-альфа-аспартил-лизил-валил-тирозил-аргинин (гексапептид- ГП, «Иммунофан» Россия)

Материалы и методы: под нашим наблюдением находилось 25 пациентов обоих полов в возрасте от 23 до 64 лет, страдающих атипичными хроническими активными герпес-вирусными инфекциями (АХА-ГВИ), манифестирующими синдромом хронической усталости и различными когнитивными расстройствами. Дизайн исследования: этап 1 включал комплекс традиционных методов (сбор анамнеза, методы физикального обследования, ОАК и пр.), дополнительно для детекции герпес- вирусных инфекций использовались методы серодиагностики (определение IgM VCA EBV, IgG VCA EBV, IgM CMV, IgG CMV IgM HSV1/2, IgG HSV1/2 методом ИФА) Для обнаружения генома вирусов в биоматериалах (кровь, слюна, моча, соскоб с миндалин и задней стенки глотки) был использован метод ПЦР-РВ. Этап 2 - эксперимент «*in vitro*»: изучено 32 образца крови от 8 условно здоровых человека и 375 образцов крови от 25 пациентов с АХА-ГВИ: определен % NG, экспрессирующих NF- κ B, IFN α || β R, IFN γ R и уровни их MFI с помощью проточной цитофлуориметрии до и после инкубации с ГП (гексапепетидом).

Результаты: В результате проведенного исследования у пациентов, страдающих АХА-ГВИ, был выявлен низкий уровень экспрессии (MFI) NF- κ B у 100% НГ, который сочетался со сниженным % NG, экспрессирующих IFN α || β R и IFN γ R, и низким уровнем сывороточных IFN α и IFN γ по сравнению со здоровыми людьми. В эксперименте «*in vitro*» ГП оказывает неоднозначные вариативные эффекты влияния на экспрессию ядерного фактора NF- κ B и мембранных рецепторов IFN α || β и IFN γ НГ пациентов, страдающих АХА-ГВИ. Было показано, что 100% НГ экспрессировали NF- κ B после воздействия ГП.

Но только 48% пациентов (ГИ2) восстановили уровень экспрессии NF-κB (MFI) до нормального значения, а в 52% случаев (ГИ1) динамики не выявлено. В то же время ГП увеличил % НГ, экспрессирующих IFNα || βR в ГИ2 и увеличил % НГ, экспрессирующих IFNγR в ГИ 1.

Заключение: Было показано, что ГП в эксперименте «in vitro» оказывает неоднозначное влияние на экспрессию NF-κB, % NG экспрессирующих IFNα || βR и IFNγR у пациентов с АХА-ГВИ. Мы предполагаем, что различный ответ на влияние ГП связан с врожденным или вторичным дефицитом NF-κB.

Ключевые слова: герпесвирусные инфекции, система интерферона, ядерный фактор NF-κB, нейтрофильные гранулоциты, факторы транскрипции, гексапептид

1 **Introduction:** Diseases caused by viral agents are one of the most urgent and
2 difficult to solve in the modern medicine. Large DNA-containing enveloped viruses
3 that can interact with various cells of the human body in several ways. Those viruses
4 are causing the development of both acute infections (lytic pathway) and the
5 formation of chronic, often atypical, active forms of infection. Viral genome
6 integrates in different human cells that lead to the persistence of viruses:-

7 Among those viruses, the most interesting is the Herpesviridae family that includes
8 8 representatives. The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is one of the most striking. The
9 viruses of this family are characterized by the formation of both mono- and mixed
10 infections, often with the addition of bacterial, fungal or mixed nature co-infections.
11 The viral interaction strategies with human cells are very complex and multifaceted.
12 On the one hand, there are congenital defects of the antiviral mechanisms of immune
13 defense, including the interferon system [8,22,26,30]. Those innate mistakes of
14 antiviral immune defense lead to the development of recurrent and persistent viral
15 infections, such as repeated respiratory viral infections, chronic herpes viral
16 infections, papillomavirus infections and so on.

17 On the other hand, many viruses themselves are capable to damage both the
18 immune system and the interferon system. In both cases of innate or acquired defects
19 of the interferon system, congenital or induced genes' mutation of the molecules
20 involved in signaling pathway is observed. Today well known those genes'
21 mutation: TLR3, interferon-regulating factors 3, 7, interferon receptors, interferon-
22 stimulated genes, NF-kB, etc. On the other hand, many viruses themselves are
23 capable to damage both the immune system and the interferon system. In both cases
24 of innate or acquired defects of the interferon system, congenital or induced genes'
25 mutation of the molecules involved in signaling pathway is observed. Today well
26 known those genes' mutation: TLR3, interferon-regulating factors 3, 7, interferon
27 receptors, interferon-stimulated genes, NF-kB, etc. The existing of innate or
28 secondary genes' mutations leads to a violation of the synthesis of IFN type I: IFN α
29 and IFN β . One of the strategies of viruses is to disrupt a number of cellular signaling
30 pathways - transcription factors, especially NF-kB [2,4,11,16,25].

31 Transcription factors (TFs) are a large group of proteins that interact with DNA at
32 specific regulatory regions (loci), which entails changing gene transcription
33 (activation or inhibition) using domains transactivation or trans-repression [10,40].
34 TFs are involved in the immunopathogenesis of a wide range of human diseases.
35 The nuclear factor NF- κ B is one of the most important in those protein groups. For
36 the first time in 1986, Sen and Baltimore discovered transcription factors of the NF-
37 κ B family as specific for B cells [27]. Later it was shown, that the constitutive
38 activation of NF- κ B triggers the expression of a huge array of genes associated with
39 the regulation of the immune response, inflammation, including apoptotic resistance,
40 migration and angiogenesis. In this constitutive activation the NF- κ B-sensitive
41 genes TNF, IL-1,6,8 CXC-chemokine ligands are involved [24].
42 In addition, it is known that the activation of the nuclear factor NF- κ B is the main
43 mechanism that implements the antiviral activity of the innate immunity. This
44 mechanism can be triggered by various signals induced by the microenvironment.
45 They activate cellular receptors and induce intracellular signaling, by activating the
46 genes of molecules involved in signaling.
47 However, it should be noted that some of these activated genes, in turn, can target
48 NF- κ B. In this case, there is another mechanism. For example, one of the main
49 activated target genes of NF- κ B is I κ B, that blocks the activation of NF- κ B.
50 [9,35].

51

52 In works Zhang J and Kim JC it was shown experimentally that the HSV-1 UL2
53 protein and ICP27 can counteract the activation of NF- κ B mediated by tumor
54 necrosis factor α (TNF- α) and I κ B [15,20,33,39]. At the same time, the
55 works of other authors have demonstrated that proteins that are part of the structure
56 of the virion of herpes viruses negatively affect various parts of the NF- κ B signaling
57 cascade [1]. Those proteins can act through other mediators and signaling pathways
58 leading to long-term, active expression of NF- κ B. According to the data, it has been
59 shown that the insertion of EBV into neutrophilic granulocytes (NG) can induce the
60 transition of NG to apoptosis and multidirectionally activate the intracellular

61 signaling pathways, in particular, the cascade of the nuclear factor NF- κ B activation
62 [3]. Currently, the antiviral activity of NG has been described. Upon that, the
63 mechanisms of NG antiviral protection and, in particular, the features of NF- κ B
64 expression are not covered in the literature.

65 At the same time, there is practically no data in the modern scientific literature on
66 the features of NF- κ B expression in herpes virus co-infections, including atypical
67 chronic active herpes viral co-infections (AChA-HVI). Taking into account the
68 information given above, there is an urgent need for further studies of an expression
69 features of the nuclear factor NF- κ B NG in patients suffering from AChA-HVI co-
70 infections

71

72 **Purpose of the study:** to study in the "in vitro" system the features of the expression
73 of nuclear factor NF- κ B and the expression of membrane receptors IFN α || β R and
74 IFN γ (CD119) of neutrophilic granulocytes (NG) in patients suffering from ACHA-
75 HVI, followed by an assessment of the effect of arginyl-alpha-aspartyl-lysyl-valyl-
76 tyrosyl-arginine hexapeptide, a synthetic analogue of the active center of the
77 hormone thymopoietin, on the expression of factor NF- κ B and the expression of
78 membrane receptors IFN α || β R and IFN γ (CD119) of NG.

79

80 **MATERIALS AND METHODS.**

81 We observed 25 patients of both sexes aged 23 to 64 years suffering from atypical
82 chronic active herpes virus infections (ACHA-HVI), manifested by chronic fatigue
83 syndrome and various cognitive disorders (the main study group is MSG). This
84 group of patients is characterized by a certain symptom complex. To assess the
85 severity of clinical symptoms of CFS, we used a 5-point scale developed by us. The
86 presence or absence of symptoms, depending on the severity of their manifestation,
87 was evaluated in points from 0 to 4, where: 0 points - absence of symptoms; 1 point
88 - minimal symptoms; 2 points - average severity of symptoms; 3 points - severe
89 degree; 4 points - very severe degree. The control group (CG) consisted of 8
90 practically healthy individuals corresponding to gender and age.

91

92 STUDY DESIGN

93 Stage 1. In the complex of the study, in addition to traditional methods (collection
94 of anamnesis, methods of physical examination, CBC, etc.), serodiagnostic methods
95 were used to detect herpes virus infections (IgM VCA EBV, IgG VCA EBV, IgM
96 CMV, IgG CMV IgM HSV1/2, IgG HSV1/2) using ELISA test systems NPO
97 "Diagnostic Systems" (Russia). To detect the genome of viruses in biomaterials
98 (blood, saliva, urine, scraping from the tonsils and the posterior pharyngeal wall),
99 the PCR method of the «AmpliSens» test system (Russia) was used.

100 Stage 2. In the in vitro system, 32 blood samples from 8 apparently healthy adults
101 and 375 blood samples from 25 patients with AChA-HVI were examined. The
102 amount (%) of peripheral blood NG expressing the nuclear factor NF- κ B, membrane
103 receptors for IFN α || β R, IFN γ (CD119) and the intensity of their expression
104 according to MFI were estimated by flow cytometry using an FC 500 flow cytometer
105 (Beckman Coulter, USA) (value of fluorescence intensity) before and after
106 incubation with hexapeptide (name of the substance according to the nomenclature
107 of international non-proprietary names - INN, ATX code: L03AX).

108

109 The study was approved by the Ethics Commission, and informed consent was
110 obtained from all patients to participate in the study and to process personal data in
111 accordance with the World Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki (WMA
112 Declaration of Helsinki - Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human
113 Subjects, 2013).

114

115 For statistical processing of the data obtained, Microsoft Excel computer programs
116 were used. The results were presented as the median (upper and lower quartile) Me
117 [Q1; Q3], Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon tests. The significance of the difference was
118 determined at $p < 0.05$.

119

120 RESULTS:

121 When analyzing the clinical material, it was found that all patients of the main
122 study group suffered from mixed AChA-HVI in 100% of cases. The dominant
123 combinations were: EBV + CMV + HHV6 –52%, EBV + HSV1 - 36%; EBV +
124 CMV –12% of cases. It is important to note that EBV was the predominant virus
125 found in all patient's groups. A number of clinical features of mixed AChA-HVI has
126 been identified: a prolonged feeling of severe weakness, chronic fatigue, in addition,
127 patients worried about sweating, intermittent pain in the throat, muscles and joints
128 (fibromyalgia and arthralgia), headaches, low-grade fever, lymphadenopathy, sleep
129 disturbance, decreased memory, attention, intelligence, less often - psychogenic
130 depression. Often patients suffered from virus-associated recurrent ARVI, chronic
131 repeated herpes-viral infections (HSV1, HSV2), chronic CMV and HHV6
132 infections, chronic bacterial and fungal infections. Diseases associated with AChA-
133 HVI were characterized by a recurrent course.

134 All these symptoms were assessed according to our 5-point scale (Tab. 1). The
135 severity of symptoms on this scale was Me [Q1; Q3] - 44.5 [37.5; 51.5].

136 **Tab.1. Assessment scale of clinical symptom severity for post-viral chronic**
137 **fatigue syndrome**

138

139 The diagnosis of AChA-HVI was confirmed by serodiagnostic methods,
140 molecular genetic methods (PCR); in addition, violations of the induced IFN α
141 production in 100,0% and a deficiency of the induced IFN γ production in 76,0% of
142 cases were found. The patients of the main study group had a pronounced decrease
143 in the induced production of IFN α to 85 [50; 120] ME/ml and IFN γ to 16 [4; 28]
144 ME/ml.

145 Analysis of the data obtained showed that in conditionally healthy individuals
146 (control group), the number of NGs expressing nuclear factor NF-kB was 100%,
147 while MFI, assessing the level of expression of nuclear factor NF-kB, was 8.9 [8,7;
148 10.1]. In addition, it was shown that in the main study group (MG), as in the control
149 group, 100% of NG expressed the nuclear factor NF-kB. However, in comparison

150 with CG, a significant decrease in the level of expression of NF-kB according to
151 MFI was revealed to 5.1 [4.5; 6.5] ($p < 0.05$). (Fig. 1).

152 **Fig. 1. Expression levels of nuclear factor NF-kB in neutrophilic**
153 **granulocytes of patients suffering from AChA-HVI and in control group**
154 **(conditionally healthy individuals) according to MFI distribution.**

155 In addition, it was found that in patients of the control group, the number of
156 NGs expressing membrane $\text{IFN}\alpha\|\beta\text{R}$ was 4.55 [2.3; 7.2] % with MFI 1.19 [1.15;
157 1.22], and membrane CD119 ($\text{IFN}\gamma\text{R}$) - 19.9 [14.3; 27.6]% with MFI 1.48 [1.1; 2.2].
158 In the main study group (MSG), the number of NGs expressing $\text{IFN}\alpha\|\beta\text{R}$ was
159 significantly reduced to 1.0 [0.6; 1.9] % ($p < 0.05$) with MFI 1.71 [1.61; 1.91], and
160 the number of NG expressing CD119 ($\text{IFN}\gamma\text{R}$) had an insignificant upward trend and
161 amounted to 39.5 [28.7; 48.6] % with MFI 1.48 [1.35; 1.75] (Tab.2).

162 **Tab. 2. Comparative characteristics of the expressed nuclear factor NF-kB,**
163 **membrane $\text{IFN}\alpha\|\beta\text{R}$ and CD119 ($\text{IFN}\gamma\text{R}$) neutrophilic granulocytes in**
164 **apparently healthy individuals and patients with AChA-HVI.**

165
166 An in vitro experiment was carried out in which the effect of HP on the expression
167 of the nuclear factor NF-kB and the number of NGs expressing $\text{IFN}\alpha\|\beta\text{R}$ and $\text{IFN}\gamma$
168 was assessed in apparently healthy individuals and patients suffering from AChA-
169 HVI.

170 It was found that under the influence of a hexapeptide (HP) in the MSG, the
171 population of NG expressing the nuclear factor NF-kB is divided into two
172 subgroups: Study Group 1 (SG 1) and Study Group 2 (SG 2). The levels of NF-kB
173 expression were significantly differ in SG 1 and SG 2. In SG 2 a more high level of
174 MFI NF-kB – 7.5[6.9; 8.0] was detected than in SG 1, in which the level of MFI NF-
175 kB was only 5.5[5.4; 5.6] ($p < 0.01$). After HP influence the level of NF-kB NG
176 expression according to MFI was 5.5 [5.4;7.5] in the SG 1 and did not significantly
177 differ from the decreased level of MFI NF-kB in the MG before HP exposure - MFI
178 5.1 [4.5; 6.5] ($p \geq 0.01$). Moreover, the level of MFI NF-kB NG expression in SG 2
179 increased after HP influence from 5.1 [4.5; 6.5] to 7.5 [6.9; 8.0] ($p < 0.01$). At the

180 same time, it was significantly higher than it was been in SG1 -5.5 [5.4; 5.6] (p
181 <0.05) and didn't significantly change from the level of MFI NF-kB in the CG – 8.9
182 [8.7; 10.1] (p <0.05) (Fig 2).

183 **Fig. 2 Comparison of the expression levels (MFI) for NF-kB in neutrophilic**
184 **granulocytes from patients with AChA-HVI before and after exposure to HP**
185 **in in vitro experimental system.**

186 Under the influence of hexapeptide (HP), the NG population in the MSG was
187 divided into two groups (SG1 and SG2) according to the number of NGs expressing
188 membrane IFN α || β R and IFN γ (CD119) (Fig. 3).

189 **Fig. 3. Count of NG expressing membrane receptors IFN α || β R and IFN γ**
190 **(CD119) before and after HP exposure in patients suffering from AChA-HVI**

191 After influence of HP in SG 1 (52% of cases) an insignificant increasing of NG
192 number (%) expressing membrane IFN α || β R from 1.0 [0.6; 1.9] to 1.65 [1.5; 1.8]%
193 was revealed in comparison with the MG (p> 0.05). The expression level of surface
194 membrane IFN α || β R NG according MFI did not change in comparison with the MG
195 too (p> 0.05). Meanwhile there was a significant increasing in the number of level
196 NG, expressing membrane CD119 (IFN γ R) from 39.5[28.7; 48.6] % to 56.0 [49.6;
197 58.2]% (p <0.05) after exposure of HP. This fact indicates that the number NG,
198 expressing membrane CD119 (IFN γ R) was increased by 1.42 times or by 41.7%.
199 The expression level of surface membrane CD119 (IFN γ R) NG according MFI data
200 did not change (p> 0.05).

201 At the same time after exposure of HP an ambiguous effect of HP on the levels
202 of NG expressing membrane IFN α || β R and CD119 (IFN γ R) was revealed in the SG
203 2 (48% of cases). HP has influenced on the level of NG, expressing membrane
204 IFN α || β R in SG2, significantly increasing its number from 1,00 [0.6;1.9]% in MG
205 to 3.81 [3.8;4.2]% in SG2 (p<0.05) and reached the NG level of CG (p> 0.05). At
206 the same time after influence of HP the expression level according to MFI data of
207 membrane IFN α || β R NG in SG2 did not change in comparison with group CG and
208 MG (p_{1,2}> 0.05).

209 There was an insignificant decreasing in comparison with MSG in the number
210 of the NG (%), expressing membrane CD119 (IFN γ R) from 39.5 [28.7; 48.6]% to
211 32.3 [30.2; 48.1]% ($p > 0.05$). Meanwhile there was a significant increasing in the
212 level of NG, expressing membrane CD119 (IFN γ R), from 19.9 [14.3; 27.6] % to
213 32.3 [30.2; 48.1] %, in comparison with CG ($p > 0.05$). After influence of HP the
214 expression level according to MFI data of membrane CD119 (IFN γ R) NG in SG2
215 did not change in comparison with group CG and MSG ($p_{1,2} > 0.05$).

216 **Discussion:**

217 The problem of treating patients with chronic active herpes virus infections is
218 still very far from being solved. Taking into account that EBV is present in all
219 identified combinations of herpes-viral co-infections and is the dominant infection
220 in the patients included in this study (AHI). Also it's important to consider its
221 negative effect on the nuclear factor NF-kB and membrane receptors IFN α || β R NG,
222 CD119 (IFN γ R) expressing by NG.

223 According to the literature, EBV BGLF2 protein inhibits two key proteins
224 STAT1 and STAT2, which are involved in the stage 2 signaling of type I IFN
225 synthesis. In addition, BGLF2 recruits host cell enzymes to remove the phosphate
226 group from STAT1, thereby inactivating its activity and redirecting STAT2 to
227 degradation. It leads to defective ISG expression and disruption of type I IFN
228 synthesis, and, consequently, to a decrease in IFN type I antiviral and
229 immunomodulatory activity [6,7,13,14,18,19,28,29, 32,33,34,37]. These data
230 confirm the damaging effect of EBV, that causes the occurrence of secondary defects
231 in the expression of not only NF-kB, but also membrane receptors IFN α || β R NG,
232 and do not contradict the results obtained by us during the present study.

233 It should be noted that earlier in the works of foreign authors the presence of
234 congenital errors of immunity such as primary immunodeficiencies caused by
235 mutations in the genes STAT1 / STAT2, TLR3, UNC93B1, TICAM1, TBK1, IRF3,
236 IRF7, IFNAR1, IFNAR2, which explains the deficiency of spontaneous and induced
237 production of IFN I type was shown [17,21,23,31,36,38]. In this regard, the
238 likelihood of congenital disorders of the interferon system in patients with AChA-

239 HVI (SG1) is not excluded. It is confirmed by the lack of an adequate NF-kB
240 response to the effect of HP in the in vitro system and explains the occurrence of
241 atypical herpes-viral co-infections.

242 On the other hand, according to our data and according to the literature, autoimmune
243 diseases in parallel with atypical chronic active EBV infection can manifest in
244 patients with a genetic predisposition. There is also evidence that chronic EBV
245 infection can lead to an increase in the expression of the nuclear factor NF-kB,
246 which, in turn, can provoke the development of autoimmune diseases and tumor
247 processes [5,12]. It should be emphasized that we did not observe autoimmune
248 disorders and tumor processes in patients of MG. At the same time we noted the
249 leading syndrome of chronic fatigue, myalgia, arthralgia and the syndrome of minor
250 cognitive disorders that did not exclude the presence of neuroinflammatory changes.

251 In conclusion, we would like to note that the results obtained in this study allow us
252 to clarify the immunopathogenesis of atypical chronic active herpes virus co-
253 infections associated with the prevalence of EBV infection. The data obtained on the
254 positive effect of in vitro HP on the restoration of the nuclear factor NF-kB
255 expression level, as well as the expression of membrane receptors $IFN\alpha||\beta R$ NG in,
256 presumably, secondary defects of the interferon system, accompanied by deficiency
257 of type I and II IFNs. These results can serve as a basis for further development of
258 the strategy and tactics of immunotherapy with using active substance HP
259 ("Imunofan", Russia) for restoration of the level of expression of NF-kB NG with
260 further reconstruction of secondary defects of interferon system. This
261 immunomodulatory drug based on the active substance HP may be used in future in
262 clinical practice.

263 **Conclusion**

264 The data obtained made it possible to come to the main conclusions:

- 265 1. There is a violation of the nuclear factor NF-kB expression associated with a
266 decrease in the level of number NG expressing membrane receptors $IFN\alpha||\beta R$ and
267 CD119 ($IFN\gamma R$) in all patients suffering from AChA-HVI with the deficiencies of a
268 serum $IFN\alpha$ and $IFN\gamma$.

269 2. In the “in vitro” experiment, HP exhibited different effects of influences on the
270 levels of nuclear factor NF-kB expression (MFI) and the level of number NG
271 expressing membrane IFN α || β R NG and membrane IFN γ R in patients with AChA-
272 HVI:

273 - there were a significant restoration of the nuclear factor NF-kB NG expression to
274 the level of healthy individuals in NG of 48% patients with AChA-HVI (SG2) and
275 a significant increasing in the level of number NG expressing membrane IFN α || β R,
276 while the level of number NG expressing IFN γ R has not changed;

277 - in 52% of AChA-HVI (SG1) patients the level of NF-kB NG expression and the
278 level of number NG expressing IFN α || β R NG has not significantly changed, while
279 there was a significant increasing in the level of number NG expressing of membrane
280 IFN γ R.

281 3. Restoration of the expression of NF-kB NG in 48% patients suffering from AChA-
282 HVI under the influence of HP in the experiment may indicate secondary damage to
283 the expression of NF-kB that occurred under the damaging influences of herpes viral
284 co-infections. The absence of an effect of HP on the level of expression NF-kB in
285 52% patients with AChA-HVI evidences about deeper damages of NF-kB
286 expression, possibly due to congenital disorders expression of NF-kB. However
287 these assumptions require carrying out of further research.

288 4. These results may serve as a basis for further development of the strategy and
289 tactics of immunomodulate therapy with using active substance HP of drug
290 "Imunofan" (Russia) for restoration of secondary defects of expression of NF-kB,
291 the level of number NG, expressing membrane IFN α || β R, IFN γ R and for the
292 reconstruction of normal functioning of the interferon system in patients with
293 AChA-HVI

ТАБЛИЦЫ

Tab.1. Assessment scale of clinical symptom severity for post-viral chronic fatigue syndrome

| Symptoms | Score Me [Q1;Q3] |
|---|------------------|
| • Long term low grade fever; | 4,0 [3,5;4,5] |
| • Throat pain and discomfort; | 4,0 [3,5; 4,5] |
| • Increased sweatiness, sensitivity to cold; | 3,5 [2,5; 4,5] |
| • Headache, migraine; | 4,0 [3,5; 4,5] |
| • regional lymphadenopathy; | 4,5 [4,0; 5,0] |
| • increased fatigue, a significant decrease in efficiency; | 5,0 [5,0; 5,0] |
| • neurological disorders(paraesthesia, synaesthesia, sensitivity disorders, low muscle tone, etc.); | 4,5 [4,0; 5,0] |
| • decrease in memory processes , difficulty concentrating; | 3,0 [1,5; 4,5] |
| • headaches, joint pain, myalgia | 3,5 [2,5; 4,5] |
| • sleep disorders (insomnia or increased drowsiness); | 4,0 [3,5; 4,5] |
| • panic attacks, mood disorders; emotional lability; psychogenic depression etc | 4,5 [4,0; 5,0] |
| • Total Score | 44,5 [37,5;51,5] |

Tab. 2. Comparative characteristics of the expressed nuclear factor NF-kB, membrane IFN α / β R and CD119 (IFN γ R) neutrophilic granulocytes in apparently healthy individuals and patients with AChA-HVI.

| Before the in vitro influence of a hexapeptide | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | CD 119 Me (Q1;Q2) | | IFN α / β R Me (Q1;Q2) | | NF- kB Me (Q1;Q2) | |
| Control group n=6 | % NG | MFI | % NG | MFI | %NG | MFI |
| | 19,9 (14,3;27,6) | 1,48 (1,1;2,2) | 4,55 (2,3;7,2) | 1,19 (1,15;1,22) | 100 | 8,9 (8,7;10,1) |
| Main study group n=25 | 39,5* (28,7;48,6) | 1,48 (1,35;1,75) | 1* (0,6;1,9) | 1,71* (1,61;1,91) | 100 | 5,1* (4,5;6,5) |
| Under the in vitro influence of a hexapeptide | | | | | | |

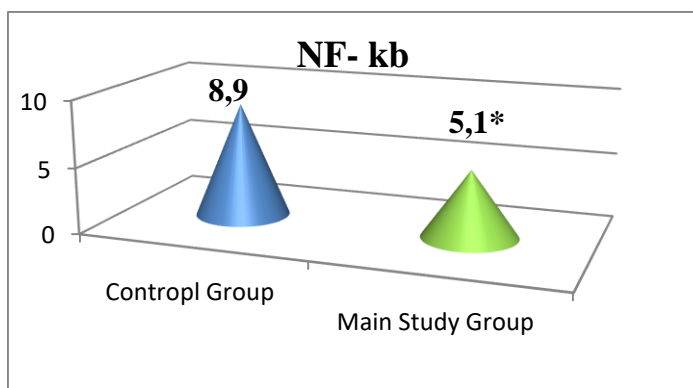
| | CD 119 | | IFNα βR | | NF-κB | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Study group 1 n=13 | 56,0* \blacklozenge (49,6;58,2) | 1,68 (1,5; 1,9) | 1,65* (1,5;1,8) | 1,7 (1,6;2,0) | 100 | 5,5* (5,4; 5,6) |
| Study group 2 n=12 | 32,3* \wedge (30,2; 48,1) | 1,5 (1,3; 1,6) | 3,81 \blacklozenge \wedge (3,8; 4,2) | 1,7 (1,6; 2,0) | 100 | 7,5* \blacklozenge \wedge (6,9; 8,0) |

* differences from control group

\blacklozenge differences from MSG (main study group)

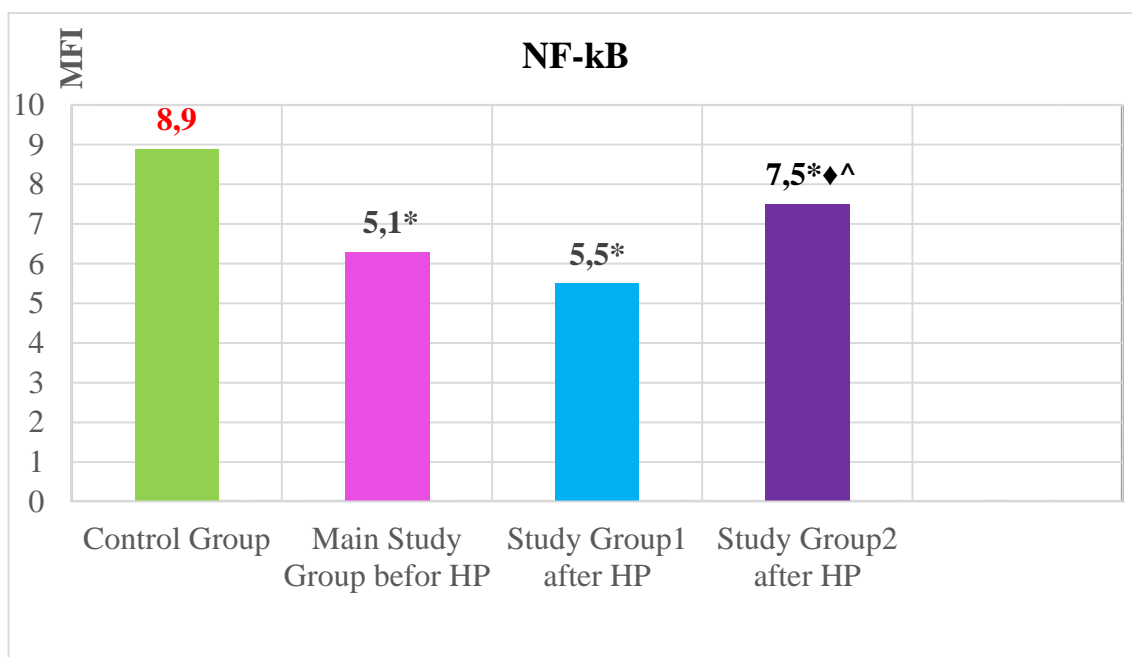
\wedge differences SG1 and SG2 (study group1 and study group2)

РИСУНКИ



*differences from control group

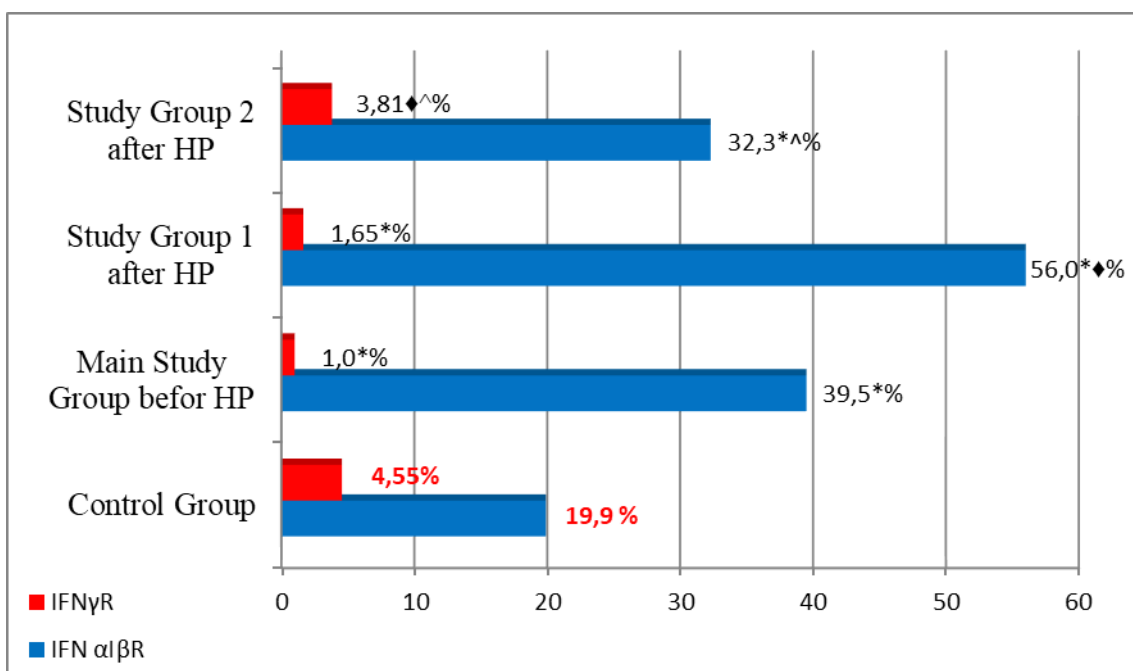
Fig. 1. Expression levels of nuclear factor NF-kB in neutrophilic granulocytes of patients suffering from AChA-HVI and in control group (conditionally healthy individuals) according to MFI distribution.



* differences from control group

◆ differences from MSG (main study group)

Fig. 2 Comparison of the expression levels (MFI) for NF-kB in neutrophilic granulocytes from patients with AChA-HVI before and after exposure to HP in in vitro experimental system.



* differences from control group
 \blacklozenge differences from MSG (main study group)
[^] differences SG1 and SG2 (study group1 and study group2)

Fig. 3. Count of NG expressing membrane receptors IFN $\alpha\beta$ R and IFN γ (CD119) before and after HP exposure in patients suffering from AChA-HVI

ТИТУЛЬНЫЙ ЛИСТ_МЕТАДААННЫЕ

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Блок 3. Метаданные статьи

Сокращенное название статьи для верхнего колонтитула:

Evaluation of thymic hexapeptide

Оценка влияния гексапептида

Keywords: herpesvirus infections, interferon system, nuclear factor NF- κ B, neutrophilic granulocytes, transcription factors, hexapeptide

Ключевые слова: герпесвирусные инфекции, система интерферона, ядерный фактор NF- κ B, нейтрофильные гранулоциты, факторы транскрипции, гексапептид

Оригинальная статья

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СПИСОК ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ

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