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Wiadomości Lekarskie Medical Advances



VOLUME LXXVI, ISSUE 10, OCTOBER 2023

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Memory of
dr Władysław
Biegański

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

THE IMPACT OF HORMONE-VITAMIN COMPLEX ON FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE MUSCLE TISSUE OF DESCENDANTS OF IRRADIATED ANIMALS

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ABSTRACT

The aim: To determine the hormone-vitamin complex impact on the terminal links of glycolysis, the tricarboxylic acids cycle, and the initial stage of gluconeogenesis in the muscle tissue in descendants of irradiated animals.

Materials and methods: Pyruvate kinase, lactate dehydrogenase, malate dehydrogenase, NADP-dependent malate dehydrogenase and phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase activities, the content of lactate, pyruvate, malate and oxaloacetate were determined in the blood, myocardium and thigh muscles of 66 rats after exposure to ionizing gamma-radiation. Rats were injected by a hormone-vitamin complex which efficacy was determined using the abovementioned indexes.

Results: Hormone-vitamin complex administration to descendants of irradiated animals exposed to 1.0 Gy results to pyruvate kinase activity increase in the myocardium and skeletal muscles of descendants from animals irradiated by 0.5 Gy and exposed to 1.0 Gy irradiation.

Blood serum pyruvate kinase activity in descendants from animals irradiated by 1.0 Gy and exposed to 1.0 Gy radiation after the pharmacological correction was higher compared with the same index before pharmacological correction.

The lactate dehydrogenase activity in the myocardium, skeletal muscles and blood in descendants born from animals irradiated by maximal dose exposed to 1.0 Gy radiation was less in these tissues after pharmacological correction.

Conclusions: The hormone-vitamin complex use in the descendants of irradiated animals led to muscle tissue energy resources improvement. Our data are the experimental background for the original hormone-vitamin complex efficacy further evaluation in the aspect of vital organs and body systems functional activity restoration under the influence of ionizing radiation.

KEY WORDS: total irradiation, descendants of irradiated animals, physical working capacity, hormone-vitamin complex, mechanisms of development

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of the biological effect of ionizing radiation, especially in small doses, and protection against it continues to be one of the fundamental problems in the of medical and biological sciences complex in Ukraine [1-3]. The impact of ionizing radiation on the body causes destructive changes that occur at all structural and functional levels of the organization [4-6].

The general state of the body after the effects of ionizing radiation and the changes caused by this radiation largely determine the functioning of muscle tissue [7-10], which plays an important role in ensuring the vital activity of the body, and considering that the descendants of irradiated animals are exposed to physical stress, deeper biochemical changes in the metabolism of muscle tissue should be expected [9]. Of particular importance is the substrate phosphorylation enzymes failure, which plays a leading role in bioenergetics, the

weakening of the function of NAD-dependent dehydrogenases of the tricarboxylic acid cycle and the lipid peroxidation intensification which results to biomembranes both structure and function failure [11]. In addition, catabolic processes leading to protein destruction and negative nitrogen balance are enhanced [12].

One of the real ways to improve the health of the population can be the use of agents that have antioxidant properties that increase the body's resistance to adverse factors [13, 14]. The results of previously conducted research and the analysis of data from the scientific literature prove the effectiveness of separate use of anabolic steroid drugs [15], vitamin E [16] and other vitamins [17], in particular, as radioprotective compounds that have protective effects, including increasing of the lifespan of experimental animals. The original idea was the joint introduction of the above-mentioned pharmacological compounds to

test their effectiveness in the descendants of irradiated animals [18].

THE AIM

The aim was to determine the hormone-vitamin complex impact on the terminal links of glycolysis, the tricarboxylic acids cycle and the initial stage of gluconeogenesis in the muscle tissue in descendants of irradiated animals.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental studies were carried out on 66 mature white Wistar rats kept on a standard vivarium diet. Keeping, processing and manipulation of animals was carried out in accordance with the "General Ethical Principles of Animal Experiments" adopted by the Fifth National Congress on Bioethics (Kyiv, 2013). We used the recommendations of the European Convention on the Protection of Vertebrate Animals for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (Strasbourg, 1985) and the rules of humane treatment of experimental animals and conditions approved by the Bioethics Commission of the Odessa National Medical University (protocol No. 32D dated 03/17/2016).

The mature rats were exposed to a single total gamma irradiation of ^{60}Co in the morning on an empty stomach on the "Agat" telegammatherapy unit (the distance to the device was 75 cm, the dose rate was 0.54 Gy/min, the absorbed dose was 0.5 Gy and 1.0 Gy).

The animals were randomized in the following way: the 1st group (n=10) – 1-month-old rats born from intact animals; the 2nd and the 3rd groups (n=2x10) – 1-month-old rat pups born from animals once totally irradiated by 0.5 Gy and 1.0 Gy; the 4th and the 5th groups (n=2x10) – 1-month-old rat pups born from animals once totally irradiated by 0.5 Gy and by 1.0 Gy and exposed to a dose of 1.0 Gy; the 6th and the 7th groups (n=2x8) – 1-month-old rat pups born from animals once totally irradiated by 0.5 Gy and by 1.0 Gy and exposed to a dose of 1.0 Gy, which were administered with a hormone-vitamin complex (HVC).

The HVC included tocopherol acetate (i.m., 50 mg/kg, 30 min after irradiation), retabolil (i.m., 2.5 mg/kg, 3 hrs after irradiation), cocarboxylase (s.c., 5 mg/kg) and nicotinamide (s.c., 10 mg/kg), which were administered 1 day after irradiation dissolved in 0.5 ml of saline. The HVC was administered during 12 days [18].

After euthanasia (i.v., propofol, 60 mg/kg) the animals' blood was collected, the heart (2/3 of the heart's apex) and the frontal group of thigh muscles (mainly quadriceps femoris and sartorius muscle) were removed. Blood was centrifuged at 3000 g for 10 min to obtain

serum. The removed cardiac and skeletal muscles were washed with chilled 0.9% physiological NaCl solution, minced and homogenized and subjected to differential centrifugation in a refrigerated centrifuge PC-6.

To detect the biosubstrates content in tissues, they were immersed in liquid nitrogen, deproteinized with 0.6N perchloric acid and homogenized. The protein precipitate was separated by centrifugation for 15 min at 3000 g.

Mitochondria, mitochondrial supernatant of myocardium, thigh muscles frontal group and blood serum were used for biochemical studies. We determined the activity of pyruvate kinase (PK), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), malate dehydrogenase (MDH), NADP-dependent MDH, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase and the content of lactate, pyruvate, malate, and oxaloacetate [19].

PK activity was determined according to [20] and expressed in μmoles of pyruvate per mg of protein in the sample for 1 min of incubation. LDH activity was determined according to [19] and expressed in nmol of used $\text{NADH}+\text{H}^+$ per mg of protein in the sample for 1 min of incubation.

MDH activity was determined according to [19] and expressed in μmol of formed NADH per mg of protein in the sample in 1 min. incubation The activity of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxy kinase was determined according to [21] and expressed in nmol of oxidized NADH per mg of protein in the sample for 1 min of incubation.

The content of lactate, pyruvate, malate, and oxaloacetate was determined according to [19] and expressed in μmol per 1 g of tissue and in nmol per 1 g of tissue (for oxaloacetate).

The data obtained were presented as mean (x) and the standard error of the mean (SE). χ^2 criterion was used to detect the significant differences between the investigated groups $p < 0.05$ was considered as a statistically significant difference.

RESULTS

The HVC administration to irradiated descendants, which were exposed to a dose of 1.0 Gy, leads to PK activity increase in the myocardium and skeletal muscles of the descendants born from animals once irradiated by 0.5 Gy and exposed to irradiation in a dose of 1.0 g. These indexes are increased by 6.7% in cardiac and 10.9% in skeletal muscles compared to such data in rats that did not receive HVC (in both cases $p > 0.05$).

In the muscle tissue of descendants born from animals irradiated at a dose of 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at the same dose, PK activity is reduced. The PK activity is greater by 15.5% and by 21% in cardiac and skeletal

Table I. The influence of the hormone-vitamin complex on the activity of NAD-dependent malate dehydrogenases and the content of reaction metabolites in the tissues of 1-month-old rats born from irradiated animals and exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy

N	Enzymes and metabolites	Myocardium		Skeletal muscle		Blood
		Cytoplasm	Mitochondria	Cytoplasm	Mitochondria	
Intact rat pups (the 1 st group), n=10						
1	NAD-MDH (direct reaction)	0.582±0.052	0.286±0.023	0.214±0.014	47,37±3,24	1,932±0,164
2	NAD-MDH (reverse reaction)	2.461±0.021	0.216±0.032	1.065±0.026	54,18±3,61	4,372±0,362
3	Malat	0.336±0.029		0.118±0.011		0.107±0.011
4	Oxaloacet	47.43±3.17		39.18±2.84		15.72±1.32
1-month-old rats born from animals once irradiated by 0.5 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy (the 4 th group), n=10						
Before correction						
1	NAD-MDH (direct reaction)	0.656±0.18	0.236±0.014	0.278±0.008	40,36±2,80	2,244±0,198
2	NAD-MDH (reverse reaction)	2.464±0.152	0.268±0.054	1.448±0.074*	68,24±2,92	4,618±0,314
3	Malat	0.389±0.024		0.164±0.013		0.117±0.014
4	Oxaloacet	43.76±2.75		36.19±2.65		14.82±1.33
After correction						
1	NAD-MDH (direct reaction)	0.632±0.18	0.226±0.01	0.264±0.008	43,28±3,20	1,786±0,178
2	NAD-MDH (reverse reaction)	2.084±0.144	0.248±0.056	1.284±0.056	66,48±2,86	4,282±0,312
3	Malat	0.392±0.026		0.172±0.014		0.124±0.012
4	Oxaloacet	42.68±1.96		34.52±1.74		14.48±1.26
1-month-old rats born from animals once irradiated by 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy (the 5 th group), n=10						
Before correction						
1	NAD-MDH (direct reaction)	0.984±0.36	0.178±0.012*	0.314±0.012*	26,56±1,4*	1,246±0,134*
2	NAD-MDH (reverse reaction)	3.814±0.236*	0.296±0.088	1.838±0.096*	78,52±3,64*	5,722±0,386*
3	Malat	0.492±0.084		0.236±0.022*		0.184±0.016*
4	Oxaloacet	59.12±3.96*		55.06±3.48*		19.24±2.16
After correction						
1	NAD-MDH (direct reaction)	0.686±0.20#	0.254±0.016	0.278±0.008	41,94±3,2#	1,924±0,186#
2	NAD-MDH (reverse reaction)	1.998±0.134#	0.278±0.072	1.296±0.068	68,42±2,92	4,546±0,342
3	Malat	0.416±0.032		0.178±0.016		0.128±0.014
4	Oxaloacet	43.62±1.94		35.84±1.76#		15.94±1.28

Notes: group numbers correspond to those given in "Materials and Methods" * - $p < 0.05$ - significant differences of the investigated indexes compared with the same in intact rat pups; # - $p < 0.05$ - significant differences of the investigated indexes compared with the same before correction.

muscles, respectively, compared to similar data in animals that did not receive HVC ($p > 0.05$). The activity of this enzyme is significantly lower in blood serum of descendants born from animals irradiated at a dose of 0.5 Gy and exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy ($p < 0.05$), and its increase by 1.5 times is observed in the blood serum of descendants born from animals irradiated at

a dose of 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at the same dose, to which HVC was administered ($p < 0.05$).

The activity of LDH in the myocardium, skeletal muscles and blood of descendants born from animals irradiated with the maximal dose, which were exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy, after the HVC injection is characterized by a significant decrease in activity ($p < 0.05$).

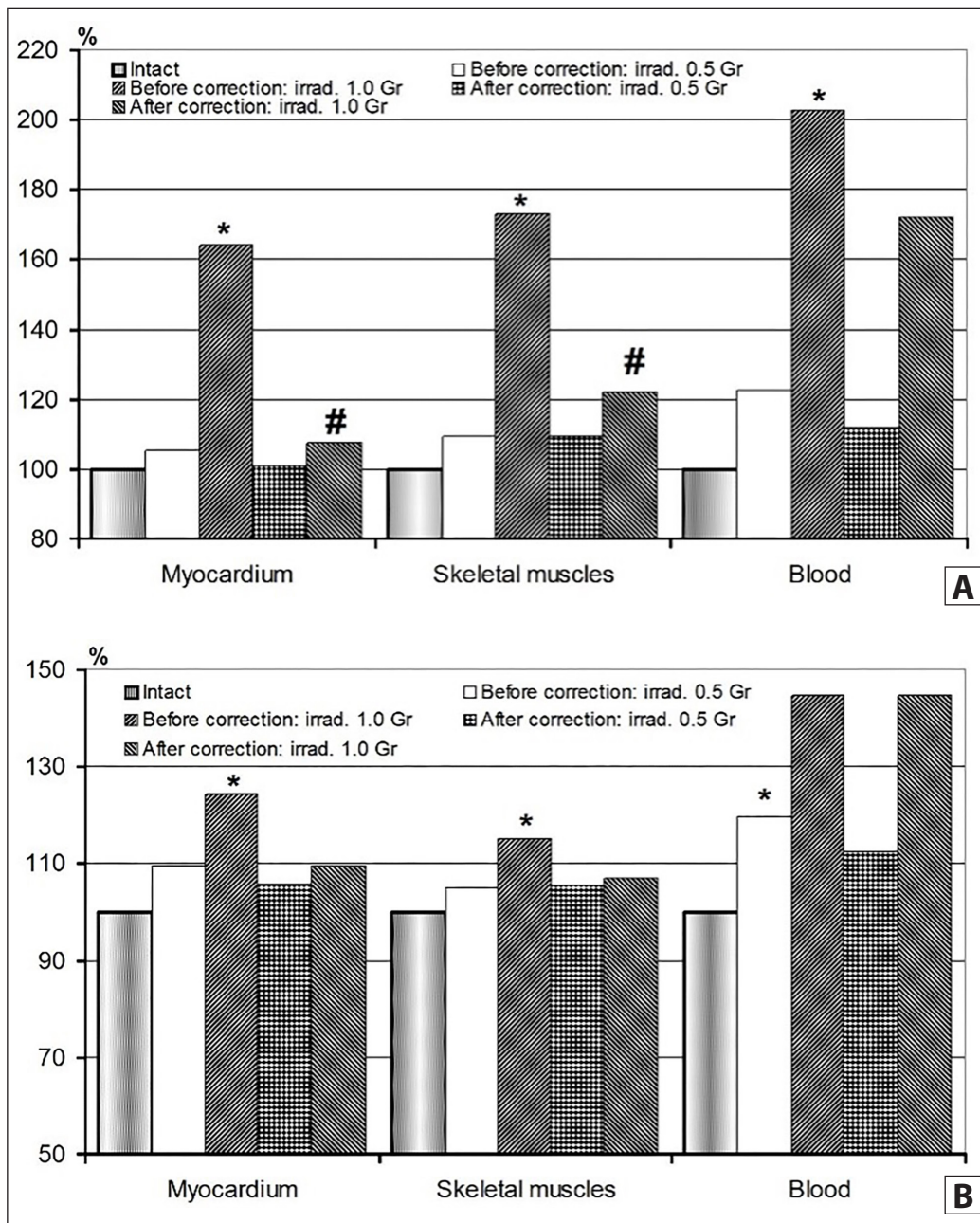


Fig. 1. The influence of the hormone-vitamin complex on the content of glycolysis metabolites (lactate; appendix A); (pyruvate; appendix B) in the investigated tissues of 1-month-old rats born from irradiated animals and exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy. Notes: * - $p < 0.05$ – significant differences of the investigated indexes compared with the same in intact rat pups; # - $p < 0.05$ – significant differences of the investigated indexes compared with the same before correction.

The pharmacological correction prevents the increase of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase activity in the tissues of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy.

The pyruvate and lactate content in the investigated tissues of irradiated descendants, which were exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy, after the HVC introduction has some parallelism with the same indexes in the same descendants which did not receive HVC therapy ($p > 0.05$; Fig. 1).

A slight increase in lactate content was observed in the myocardium and skeletal muscle of 1-month-

old rats born from animals once irradiated by 0.5 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC injection (Fig. 1, A). A more pronounced increase in lactate content in muscle tissue of irradiated descendants by 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy ($p < 0.05$). The content of lactate in the blood of the studied rats also exceeds the same control index, and a significantly higher lactate concentration is observed in the blood of irradiated descendants by 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy ($p < 0.05$).

The pyruvate content after the HVC introduction exceeds the same index both in the muscle tissue and blood of 1-month-old rats born from animals irradiated by 0.5 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy, as well as in all the investigated tissues of descendants born from irradiated animals by of 1.0 Gy and exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy ($p>0.05$; Fig. 1, B).

The activity of NAD-dependent MDH in the cytoplasm of cardiac and skeletal muscles of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC injection is comparable to the corresponding control index. The activity of the direct NAD-dependent MDH reaction in the mitochondria of cardiac and skeletal muscles of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction is reduced, and the lowest values are observed in rats born from animals irradiated at a dose of 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy, however, these indexes are identical to the same in intact rats ($p>0.05$; Table I).

The activity of the direct NAD-dependent MDH reaction in the blood of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction also reduced, and the lowest index is observed in rats born from irradiated animals by 0,5 Gy exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy ($p>0.05$).

The activity of NAD-dependent MDH in the myocardium cytoplasm of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation with a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction is lower compared to the intact group, and the lowest indicator of its activity is observed in the cytoplasm of the myocardium in rats born from animals irradiated by 1.0 Gy and exposed to irradiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after PMC introduction ($p>0.05$).

The activity of NAD-dependent MDH (reverse reaction) in the mitochondria of cardiac and skeletal muscles, as well as in the blood of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction is comparable to same control indexes ($p>0.05$).

The malate and oxaloacetate content in the muscle tissue and blood of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction has a multidirectional nature. Against the background of a slightly increased concentration of malate in muscle tissue and blood, the content of oxaloacetate decreases compared to intact rats. As a result, an increase in the ratio of malate to oxaloacetate was observed in the examined tissues of irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction compared to irradiated descendants exposed to radiation in a dose of 1.0 Gy which did not receive pharmacological correction.

DISCUSSION

Thus, the obtained results indicate that the HVC introduction to the irradiated of animals, exposed to radiation at a dose of 1.0 Gy, led to an energy resources improvement in muscle tissue both due to the increase in glycolytic substrate phosphorylation, which is of dominant importance for providing energy to skeletal muscles, and due to the increase in the oxidative potential of the tricarboxylic acid cycle not only at the stage of MDH action, but also at the stage that is catalyzed by succinate dehydrogenase. We consider it appropriate to stress the following ideas.

Firstly, we assumed that the pharmacological correction of radiation disorders of energy metabolism in irradiated descendants exposed to radiation at the same doses should be aimed at correcting disorders by the tissues provision with macroergic compounds that occur according to catabolism prevailing over anabolism, anaerobic processes strengthening, metabolic acidosis development in tissues, weakening of substrate phosphorylation and the cycle of tricarboxylic acids, as well as cellular genetic apparatus damage prevention, regeneration processes normalization [4, 11].

Secondly, we suppose to understand the mechanisms of the radioprotective effect realization in the used corrective pharmacological scheme: the improvement of lactate and pyruvate accumulation as the end products of glycolysis in the tissues of the descendants, the weakening of the processes of substrate and oxidative phosphorylation, which leads to malate and oxaloacetate - the final products of the tricarboxylic acid cycle - increase. It is important to understand that in the accumulation of malate, the leading role is played by the activation of the reverse NAD-dependent MDG in the cytoplasm and in the mitochondria of muscle tissue, as well as the predominance of the reverse NADP-dependent MDH reaction, which ensures the pyruvate carboxylation and its transformation into malate [11, 22].

Finally, let us add that glycolytic substrate phosphorylation is of dominant importance for providing energy to skeletal muscles, therefore, based on the results obtained, it can be stated that under the influence of the hormone-vitamin complex, the energy resources of skeletal muscles are improved, which will definitely be reflected in the physical performance of the descendants, born from irradiated animals and exposed to radiation at the same dose [9, 11, 23].

Therefore, the increase in malate and oxaloacetate content in the muscle tissue and blood in the irradiated descendants exposed to radiation by 1.0 Gy after the HVC introduction, according to our ideas, occurs due to malate content increase in both tissues and the oxaloacetate content decrease. Thus, we can talk about

the increase of the oxidation potential of the cycle of tricarboxylic acids not only at the MDG stage but also at the stage catalyzed by succinate dehydrogenase.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Pronounced radioprotective efficacy of the HVC, which includes tocopherol, retabolil, cocarboxylase, and nicotinamide, was proved for the normalizing energy processes in the muscle tissue of the irradiated animals descendants.
2. The radioprotective efficacy of the applied HVC consisted in blood PK activity normalization, LDH muscle tissue, and blood activity normalization as well as in preventing an increase of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase activity in the examined tissues of the irradiated animals descendants.
3. Under the influence of the hormone-vitamin complex, a decrease in the content of lactate in cardiac and skeletal muscles was noted, which improved the energy resources of the muscle tissue of the irradiated animals descendants.

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