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TOPICAL ISSUES OF NEW DRUGS DEVELOPMENT

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PHARMACOTHERAPY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

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Autoimmune diseases include more than 80 entities that are among the most common and serious human diseases. The frequency of autoimmune disease in the population reaches 8%. Autoimmunity forms the basis of a wide range of rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic sclerosis, systemic vasculitis, and others.

Systemic sclerosis (SS) - a systemic connective tissue disease characterized by progressive fibrosis and widespread vascular pathology of type obliterating microangiopathy, leading to the development of generalized Raynaud's syndrome, fibrotic changes in the skin, lesions of the musculoskeletal system and internal organs.

According to recent studies of pharmacotherapy for the treatment of cutaneous manifestations of SS used immunodepressants (mycophenolate mofetil), antifibrotic agents (D-penicillamine), antimetabolites (methotrexate in combination with folic acid), glucocorticosteroids (GCS). Rational use of these drugs in combination with extracorporeal blood purification methods during an exacerbation, has significantly improved the immediate and long-term prognosis, but in many cases does not allow to control the progression of the disease, the development of life-threatening complications or associated with severe side effects. Relevant is the search for new drugs and the development of schemes for the treatment of systemic sclerosis.

Currently, good results are obtained from the therapy with monoclonal antibodies in lymphocyte blocker - rituximab.

Rituximab - chimeric monoclonal antibody mouse / human, which specifically binds to a transmembrane CD20 antigen and B cells initiate immunological responses that mediate lysis of B-cells. The drug is available under the trade name MabThera / MABTHERA®, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Switzerland.

There is no doubt that rituximab is an extremely effective and relatively safe drug for the treatment of severe autoimmune diseases. Its introduction into clinical practice can truly be considered a major achievement of the early 21st century medicine, which not only has important clinical, but also the theoretical value, since it contributes to deciphering the fundamental pathogenesis of human autoimmune diseases. In fact, rituximab is the founder of a new direction in the treatment of autoimmune diseases in humans, based on the modulation of B cell immunity.

Diasamidze Natia, Misiurova S.V.	380
Kolodeznaya T. Yu., Ratushnaya K. L., Dobrova V. Ye.	381
Korniushkyna D.I., Kozyura C.A., Dolzhykova O.V.	382
Moroz V.A., Almohssen Karrar Ali	383
Orobchuk I.V, Kyslytsya R.I , Misiurova S.V.	385
Prisich K.S., Zhurenko D.S., Tsubanova N.A.	387
Sheptunova A.M., Ivanova K.S., Tarasenko O.O.	388
Shishkova D.V., Zhulay T.S.	389
Suwaed Zaid, Gerasymenko O.V.	391
Timchenko Yu.V. Goslinskaya H.S. Klepikov D.A.	392
Vetrova K.V., Davishnya N.V., Sakharova T.S., Shebeko S. K.	393
Volvak A., Misiurova S.V.	395
10.MODERN PHARMACOTHERAPY	397
Blinova T.V., Snezhko N.V, Tryshchuk N.M.	398
Ediberidze A.E., Serduk I.S., Ryabova O.A.	399
Emirova E.I., Kashuta V.E.	400
Fedoruk D.V., Pinkevich V.A., Pozdniakova A.Yu., Kutsenko T.A.	401
Joulali Zouhir, Zhabotynska N.V.	402
Kuznechenko O.L., Lytvynova O.N.	403
Maksimyuk K.M., Savokhina M.V.	404
Musievskaya I. M., Zabara I.P., Tryshchuk N.M.	405
Noskova Yu.O., Tryshchuk N.M.	406
Onashko Y.N., Iermolenko T.I.	408
Ovsienko.E.V., Drogovoz S.M.	409
Putnenko N.O., Kashuta V.E.	410
Ravshanov T., Iermolenko T.	411
Ryabov V.O., Zhabotynska N.V.	412
Smelova N.N, Ryabova O.A.	413
Solovieva V.O., Zhabotynska N.V.	414
Tolmacheva K.S., Ryabova O.A.	415
Tsemenko K.V., Kireyev I.V.	416
Urazova L.F., Ananko S.Ya.	418
Verkhovodova Y.V., Kireyev I.V.	419
Vozna I. O., Savokhina M.V.	421
11.PHARMACOECONOMIC RESEARCH OF MEDICINES	422
Bondarenko D.V., Barylyuk N.A.	423
Fedirko V. A.	424