

## NEW POTENTIAL OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES IMMUNOBIOLOGICAL THERAPY

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**Introduction.** Chronic inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and many other systemic diseases of connective tissue extend beyond the joints. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a long lasting autoimmune disorder that primarily affects joints. It typically results in warm, swollen, and painful joints. Pain and stiffness often worsen following rest. Most commonly, the wrist and hands are involved, with the same joints typically involved on both sides of the body. The disease may also affect other parts of the body.

While the cause of rheumatoid arthritis is not clear, it is believed to involve a combination of genetic and environmental factors. The underlying mechanism involves the body's immune system attacking the joints. This results in inflammation and thickening of the joint capsule. Patients with RA have an increased risk of disease development in cardio-vascular system, lungs, eyes, musculoskeletal system. Effective control of inflammation becomes important and is the key to improve outcomes for patients with rapidly progressive RA. Traditional treatments are often ineffective for patients with RA, as they do not completely suppress the inflammation : causes its progression. Thanks to the appearance of biological agents, especially inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , there were alternative effective means obtained, which are characterized by efficiency and ensure rapid and sustained improvement.

**Aim.** To study the state of rheumatic diseases immunobiological treatment.

**Materials and methods.** We have researched the effectiveness of the drug "Rituximab" for patients with an inadequate response to the ongoing complex treatment in serum department 27 GKB Kharkov.

**Results and discussion.** Rituximab application for 22 patients with RA is accompanied clinical improvement of state of the disease with a marked reduction in the inflammatory activity. Rituximab prescription for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus with active lupus nephritis resistant to basic drugs leads to reduction of nephritic syndrome and stabilization of the nephritis course. Rituximab prescription for patients with Sjogren's syndrome, accompanied by high activity, leads to normalization clinical and laboratory parameters of the disease.

**Conclusions.** Thus, the use of new biological agents for the treatment of systemic connective tissue diseases can slow the progression of the disease, and also to achieve long-term remission of it in most cases.