The substantiation of differentiated therapy of the combined disgormonal pathology of reproductive organs in women of reproductive age with comorbid conditions

S.O. Shurypak
Danylo Halitsky Lviv National Medical University

The objective: substantiation of differentiated therapeutic approaches to the treatment of combined dys hormonal pathology of the reproductive organs, taking into account the comorbidity of patients.

Materials and methods. 300 women of reproductive age (20–42 years, mean age – 29.9±5.6 years) with dys hormonal pathology of reproductive organs were examined: the main group included 180 patients who were prescribed complex differentiated pharmacotherapy for the treatment of combined dys hormonal pathology of the reproductive organs with correction of comorbid conditions, and the comparison group included 120 patients who received a standard set of measures. The control group included 50 healthy women without somatic and gynecological pathology. All women had ultrasound examination of the pelvic organs, mamm households, thyroid gland, determination of the levels of pituitary tropic hormones and steroid ovary hormones, thyroid hormones, antibodies to thyroperoxidase, and the level of 25 (OH) D in blood serum.

Results. Obesity of various degrees was observed in 31.0% of examined patients with dys hormonal pathology of the reproductive system, the prevalence of autoimmune thyroiditis in patients was 36.0%, and subclinical hypothyroidism was diagnosed in 21.3%. Among women with autoimmune thyroiditis, the frequency of subclinical hypothyroidism was 59.3% with 3.7% of manifest hypothyroidism. Vitamin D insufficiency was found in 34.0% of patients with dys hormonal pathology, vitamin D deficiency – in 44.3%, severe deficiency – in 21.7%. Treatment of patients in the main group led to the normalization of the menstrual cycle in 97.2% of cases, in the comparison group – in 73.3%, to a reduction of pain syndrome severity – in 94.7% and 60.6%, respectively, cyclic mastodynia – in 93.9% and 43.9%, manifestations of vegetative-vascular and non-specific symptoms – in 94.8±3.9% and 24.3±16.7% of cases, contributed to achieving the desired pregnancy – in 64.1% and 30.6% of patients, respectively, and also there was a reducing the frequency of relapses during 6 months of observation from 14.5% to 4.1%.

Conclusions. The use of complex differentiated pharmacotherapy for the treatment of combined dys hormonal pathology of the reproductive organs with the correction of comorbid conditions makes possible to achieve higher efficiency, which is manifested in a greater reduction in the frequency of clinical symptoms and disease relapses compared to the usual practice.

Keywords: combined dys hormonal pathology of reproductive organs, comorbidity, hormonal therapy, thyroid dysfunction, obesity, vitamin D.
The objective: substantiate the differentiated therapeutic approaches to treatment of combined dyshormonal pathology of reproductive organs, taking into account the comorbidity of patients.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study involved 300 women of reproductive age (20–42 years, an average of 29.9±5.6 years), residents of the Lviv region, with verified combined dys hormonal pathologic of the reproductive organs. The study was conducted in accordance with the main provisions of the ICH GCP and the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association “Ethical principles of medical research involving human subjects” (1964, 2008), the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (2007) with the positive conclusion of the Commission on bioethics of Danylo Halytskyi Lviv National Medical University (protocol No.2 from 26.02.2018).

Complex examination included ultrasonography (US) examination of the pelvic organs, mammary glands, thyroid gland, determination of pituitary hormone levels (FSH, LH, prolactin, TSH) and ovarian steroid hormones (estradiol, progesterone, free testosterone index) in the dynamics of menstrual flow cycle (MC), thyroid hormones (free T3 and T4), antibodies to thyroperoxidase (ATPO), serum level of 25 (OH) D. Diagnosis of endometrium pathology (hyperplasia, endometrial polyps) was based on the data from US, hysteroscopy, morphological and immunohistochemical examination of the material obtained with biopsy or fractional curettage of the uterine cavity, in the same time diagnosis of external endometriosis, adenomyosis, uterine leiomyoma based on data set from US, diagnostic / operative laparoscopy, hysterosalpinography.

The criteria for inclusion in the study were reproductive age, confirmed combined dys hormonal proliferative pathology of the reproductive organs, absence of severe extragenital pathology, informed consent for participation in the study, exclusion criteria – oncological pathology of any site, infiltrative retrocervical, genital endometriosis, submucous leiomyoma of the uterus, presence of leiomyoma more than 5 cm in diameter, infertility of tubal genesis, acute urogenital infection, psychic disorder. The nature of the combined dys hormonal pathology found in patients is shown in Table 1.

Morphological and immunohistochemical study of endometrial biopsies shows pathology of the endometrium in 239 (79.7%) women (Table 1). Endometrial hyperplasia (WHO classification, 2014) was diagnosed in 189 (79.1%) cases; endometrial polyps were detected in 50 (20.9%) women. Chronic endometritis was verified immunohistochemically (detection of CD 138+) in 107 (35.7%) cases: in 21 (42.0%) cases in patients with endometrial polyps, in 69 (36.5%) women with endometrial hyperplasia and in 17 (27.9%) of 61 patients without other endometrial pathology.

To assess the effectiveness of the proposed therapeutic and rehabilitation system the patients were randomized into two groups.

I (main) group included 180 women who received treatment according to the developed differentiated program with correction of comorbid conditions. The II group (comparisons) included 120 patients receiving treatment according to common practice. 50 healthy women without somatic and gynecological pathology were included in the control group.

The primary point of effectiveness was the reduction of clinical manifestations (dysmenorrhea, mastalgia, mastodynia), a secondary point of effectiveness – the duration of the disease-free period after completion of therapy and tertiary point – the onset of a desired pregnancy (observation for 6 to 12 months).

Statistical processing of the results was carried out using standard Microsoft Excel 6.0 and «Statistica 6.0» programs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average age of the women in group I was 25.3±2.2 years (20–29 years), group II – 35.3±3.3 years (30, 42 years) (Table 1). 76 (25.3%) and 52 (17.3%) patients complained only for violation of MC or pain syndrome, respectively. In most cases (172; 57.3%), there was a combination of complaints about violations of the MC, dysmenorrhea, dyspareunia. Cyclic mastalgia and mastodynia (engorge ment, increase in volume, increased sensitivity and tenderness during palpation of the mammary glands in the second phase of the MC) disturbed 155 (51.7%) patients. Among the violations of menstrual function – abnormal uterine bleeding, which were noted by 248 (82.7%) women, most often were observed irregular menstruation (81; 32.7%), hyperpolyomenorrhoea (77; 31.5%), meagre menstruation (28, 11.3%), smearing spotting before / after menstruation disturbed 62 (26.2%) women. Among the other complaints expressed by the patients, weight gain for the last 2 years (137; 45.7%), a constant feeling of fatigue (99; 33.0%), periodic headaches (89; 29.7%), violation sleep (77; 25.7%), sensation of «puffiness» (56; 18.7%), cosmetic problems (hair loss, dry skin) (61; 20.3%), vegetative-vascular disorders (tachycardia, numbness and «coldness» of the hands and feet) (65; 21.7%).

The reproductive function was not realized in 151 (50.3%) patients: 30 (19.9%) had not previously planned a pregnancy, primary infertility occurred in 52 (34.4%) cases, in 69 (45.7%) - secondary infertility. In the anamnesis of 67 (22.3%) women with a history of habitual miscarriage, were observed term births (7; 10.5%), early (51; 76.1%) and late (23; 34.3%) spontaneous miscarriage, very early premature births (22; 32.8%).

Assessment of mammary gland showed no changes (1 category according to the BI-RADS system) in 122 (40.7%) patients, dys hormonal benign breast dysplasia (BI-RADS category 2) in 158 (52.7%) women, and in 20 (11.2%) patients Category 3 in the BI-RADS system (the second examination was scheduled after 6 months).

Fatty tissue is an important link in the metabolism of sex steroids, which affects the functioning of the reproductive system. Obesity can be considered as a comorbid state in relation to the dys hormonal proliferative pathology of the reproductive system, because excess of fatty tissue, insulin resistance and hyperestrogenia are significant risk factors for the development of proliferative processes [16].

Excess body weight (average BMI 27.7±1.1 kg/m²) was in 97 (32.3%) patients, obesity of the 1 degree (average BMI 33.3±0.9 kg/m²) – in 68 (22.7%), obesity of the 2nd degree (average BMI 38.6±1.4 kg/m²) in 25 (8.3%) women, overall obesity of different degree was...
observed in 93 (31.0%) of the examined patients (Table 2). In this case, the waist circumference (a marker of excess visceral fat that is associated with the presence of insulin resistance) averaged 94.3±2.7 cm in 55.5% of obese patients, and the ratio of the circumference of the waist to the hip circumference was 0.87±0.04.

Analysis of clinical studies in which the relationship between dysfunction of the thyroid gland and reproductive function of women has been studied allows us to state that underestimation influences of thyroid gland function in the diagnosis and treatment of gynecological pathology leads to an increase reproductive disorders in women and a decrease quality of life [3].

According to the literature, a positive reaction to A-TPO is an early predictor of hypothyroidism in cases where the TSH level is above 2.0 mMU/L [25]. According to the recommendations of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) (2017) [1], all patients who are preparing for pregnancy, or become pregnant again, and have risk factors should undergo clinical examination with the determination of TSH levels.

The frequency of detection of diffuse goitre I-II st. did not differ between clinical groups (p>0.05), while the prevalence of autoimmune thyroiditis in patients with dys hormonal pathology of the reproductive system was 36.0%, and subclinical hypothyroidism was diagnosed in 64 (21.3%) women (Table 2), in relation to patients with autoimmune thyroiditis (108 cases), the incidence of subclinical hypothyroidism was 59.3% with 3.7% of manifest hypothyroidism.

When hypothyroidism changes the metabolism of estrogens with the change of normal 2-hydroxylation with the formation of an aggressive inducer of proliferation of 16α-hydroxyestrone (16α-ONE1), which is one of the pathogenetic links in the development of combined dysgормonal proliferative diseases of the reproductive organs and requires consideration in the development of therapeutic measures.

A study of vitamin D sufficiency showed that level in the serum with average value 34.5±3.8 ng/ml of 25 (OH) D occurred in 34 (13.3%) women in the control group and 22 (7.3%) in group with dys hormonal pathology of reproductive organs (p<0.0001). According to the experts of the International Endocrinology Association, vitamin D deficiency is defined as serum levels of 25(OH)D less than 20 ng/ml (50 nmol/L), and the optimal level of 25 (OH) D is more than 30 ng/ml (75 nmol/l) [16]. However, there are a number of studies demonstrating significant health and quality of life benefits of higher level of 25 (OH) D. According to the recommendations of “The Vitamin D Society” Canadian society of vitamin D experts (http://www.vitamin sociedad.org /benefits.php), an optimal level of 25 (OH) D in the blood serum should be considered as 40–60 ng/ml (100–150 nmol/l) [12, 33]. In the cohort of the women who were examined, the optimal level of 25 (OH) D in the blood serum (36.7±5.3 ng/ml) was detected only in 17 (34.0%) of women in the control group (Table 3).

Vitamin D deficiency with an average levels of 25(OH) D in serum 22.6±1.3 ng/ml was found in 102 (34.0%) of the 300 surveyed patients, and in 30 (60.0%) women in the control group (p=0.0005). Deficiency of vitamin D (25 (OH) D in serum with average levels 13.8±4.6 ng/ml) in women with no gynaecological and somatic pathology was detected only in 3 (6.0%) cases, whereas in women with concomitant dys hormonal benign proliferative disorders of reproductive organs vitamin D deficiency occurred in 133 (44.3%) cases (p<0.0001), and severe deficiency (25 (OH) D 6.34±1.39 ng/ml was detected in 65 (21.7%) women in group I with absence in the control group, that is a strong indicator of importance of sufficient provision of the body with vitamin D for the normal functioning of the female reproductive system.

At present, there are no uniform standards for pathogenetic therapy of combined benign proliferative pathology of reproductive organs and benign breast diseases, especially with regard to comorbid pathology. For treatment, a wide range of drugs with different directionality is used.

Considering all the above, we justified and tested differentiated pharmacotherapy of combined dys hormonal proliferative diseases of reproductive organs, depending on the patients reproductive plans.

According to the latest recommendations, subclinical hypothyroidism in women who plan pregnancy should be treated with levothyroxine, while the goal of treatment is to achieve a TSH concentration of <2.5 mU/l [3, 17]. Although there is currently insufficient evidence that levothyroxine therapy improves the fertility of euthyroid
ATPO-positive women, levothyroxine may be used, starting at a dose of 25–50 μg/day for this category of patients with a history of fetal loss. If TSH >4.2 mU/l, and there is no symptoms of hypothyroidism and patient have unrealized reproductive plans, therapy with levothyroxine is indicated, since the optimal level of TSH for pregnancy planning with subclinical and manifest hypothyroidism is 0.4–2.0 mU/L [1].

In I (main) group, the complex of differentiated pharmacotherapy assumed several successive stages. Therapy of the first stage in patients with chronic endometritis and in all – after intrauterine interventions, suggested the use of antibacterial therapy and drugs that improves the microcirculation in pelvic organs and contributes increasing concentration of antibiotics in the focus of chronic inflammation. Antibacterial therapy consisted of sequential administration of doxycycline (7 days at 200 mg/day in two doses) and josamycin (7 days at 1.0 g/day in two divided doses) was carried out in the first phase of MC against the background of 9-day rectal suppositories «Distreptase» (one suppository contains 15000 IU streptokinase and 1250 IU streptodornase) according to the official scheme.

Patients with subclinical hypothyroidism received levothyroxine in a daily dose of 100 mcg, euthyroid patients with a history of reproductive loss with a high concentration of A-TPO received levothyroxine at 50 mcg / day. All patients with vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency received cholecalciferol (aqueous solution for oral administration) in a daily dose of 4000 IU, in patients with severe vitamin D deficiency, the daily dose of cholecalciferol was 8000 IU. Control of TSH and 25 (OH) D levels in the blood serum was performed after 2 months with correction, of a dose of levothyroxine and cholecalciferol if necessary. The target parameters of the therapy were achievement of a TSH level of 0.4–2.0 mU/L and a level of 25 (OH) D 40–50 ng/ml [3, 10, 21].

At the second stage (duration of 3-6 months depending on reproductive plans), with continued taking of levothyroxine and cholecalciferol, Levokarnitin was administered as a metabolic and antioxidant therapy at a daily dose of 2 g (20 ml) in 2 doses 30 minutes before meals (course 30 days). Patients with mastopathy received drugs with antiproliferative effect, containing epigallocatechin-3-gallate, 3,3-diindolylmethane and a vitex extract of the sacred.

From the second stage, differentiated gestagentherapy began. Patients with unrealized reproductive plans (89) received micronized progesterone vaginally and sublingually from 14 to 26 days of MC at daily dose of 400 mg. Special attention should be paid to the use of micronized progesterone in the third menstrual cycle on the

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Control, n=50</th>
<th>All, n=300</th>
<th>Main group, n=180</th>
<th>Comparison group, n=120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age (years), M±m</td>
<td>31.0±6.1 (20;41)</td>
<td>30.7±4.3 (22;42)</td>
<td>31.98±5.5 (22;40)</td>
<td>30.8±5.2 (22;40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal weight</td>
<td>42 (84.0)</td>
<td>110 (36.7)</td>
<td>65 (36.1)</td>
<td>45 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess body weight</td>
<td>8 (16.0)</td>
<td>97 (32.3)</td>
<td>59 (32.8)</td>
<td>38 (31.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity of the I degree</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>68 (22.7)</td>
<td>41 (22.8)</td>
<td>27 (22.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity of the 2nd degree</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>25 (8.3)</td>
<td>15 (8.3)</td>
<td>10 (8.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffusive goitre I–II st.</td>
<td>18 (36.0)</td>
<td>119 (39.7)</td>
<td>69 (38.3)</td>
<td>50 (41.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autoimmune thyroiditis</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>108 (36.0)</td>
<td>63 (35.0)</td>
<td>45 (37.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subclinical hypothyroidism</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>64 (21.3)</td>
<td>39 (21.7)</td>
<td>25 (20.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifest hypothyroidism</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>11 (3.7)</td>
<td>7 (3.9)</td>
<td>4 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infertility</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>151 (50.3)</td>
<td>89 (49.4)</td>
<td>62 (51.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitual miscarriage</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>67 (22.3)</td>
<td>41 (22.8)</td>
<td>26 (21.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. p – The difference between control and dyshormonal pathology.

### Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of 25 (OH) D in the serum, ng/ml</th>
<th>Control, n=50</th>
<th>Dyshormonal pathology, n=300</th>
<th>Main Group, n=180</th>
<th>Comparison Group, n=120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 30 ng/ml</td>
<td>17 (34.0)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29–20 ng/ml</td>
<td>30 (60.0)</td>
<td>102 (34.0) p=0.0005</td>
<td>54 (30.0)</td>
<td>48 (40.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–10 ng/ml</td>
<td>3 (6.0)</td>
<td>133 (44.3) p=0.0001</td>
<td>67 (37.2)</td>
<td>66 (55.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10 ng/ml</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>65 (21.7)</td>
<td>34 (18.9)</td>
<td>31 (25.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. p – The difference between control and dyshormonal pathology.
background of rectal suppositories with streptokinase and streptodornase (from 14 to 23 days MC for 1 suppository twice a day). Women who did not plan pregnancy received dienogest 2 mg/day for 6 months (55 patients with genital endometriosis), the remaining patients (36 patients with uterine leiomyoma and adenomyosis) received COC containing 0.02 mg of ethinylestradiol and 0.15 mg desogestrel in the prolonged mode 63+7.

Patients of group II received similar therapy with gestagens and COC, only 4 (3.3%) women with manifest hypothyroidism (125 μg/day) received levothyroxine. All patients were given an aqueous solution of cholecalciferol at 1000 U/day. The analysis of the primary efficacy point showed a faster and more effective reduction of clinical manifestations and complaints of patients in the main (I) group (Table 4).

The analysis of the obtained data showed that efficacy of proposed differential individualized therapy (primary efficacy point) for normalization of MC was 97.2% in the main group at 73.3% in the comparison group (p<0.0001), with respect to the pain syndrome reduction – 94.7% and 60.6% (p<0.0001) respectively.
and cyclic mastodynia – 93.9% and 43.9% (p<0.0001) respectively. Even more significant was the reduction of vegetative-vascular and nonspecific symptoms – 94.8±3.9% in the main group and 24.3±16.7% in the comparison group (p=0.0128).

After the completion of treatment, the thyroid function was improved, which was manifested by a successful correction of manifest hypothyroidism (100.0% in both clinical groups), but if the establishment of a low normal level of TSH (2.4±0.2 mIU/L) in the main group was achieved in 100% of patients, in the comparison group progression of subclinical hypothyroidism was noted, which required correction of thyroid status with levothyroxine in the future.

The recurrence frequency for clinical manifestations of combined dyshormonal pathologies of reproductive organs after 6 months follow-up after completion of therapy (secondary efficacy point) in the main group was 4.1% at 14.5% in the comparison group (p=0.0128).

Among 89 patients of I group with unresolved reproductive plans, the desired pregnancy (without ovulation stimulation and ART) (tertiary point of efficacy) during 12 months of follow-up was confirmed in 57 (64.1%) of patients in the main group and 19 (30.6%) in the group comparison (p=0.0079). All pregnancies finished by childbirth in term of 37–40 weeks by live new-born’s.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Patients with benign dysmorphic proliferative pathologies of reproductive organs are significantly more likely than healthy women have thyroid dysfunction, severe vitamin D deficiency, obesity, which, taking into account common pathogenetic aspects, allows to consider revealed violations as important comorbid conditions requiring adequate correction.

2. The use of complex differentiated pharmacotherapy of combined proliferative dyshormonal pathology of the reproductive organs, taking into account and correcting the comorbid states (disfunction of the thyroid gland, excessive nutrition / obesity) allows to achieve a higher efficacy in comparison with usual practice (normalization of the MC 97.2% at 73.3%; p<0.0001, reduction of pain syndrome 94.7% at 60.6% and cyclic mastodynia – 93.9% at 43.9% (p<0.0001), a decrease in vegetative-vascular and nonspecific symptoms – 94.8±3.9% at 24.3±16.7%; p=0.0001 respectively.

3. The use of differentiated pharmacotherapy of combined proliferative dyshormonal pathology allows to reduce the frequency of recurrences in clinical manifestations during 6 months of observation after therapy completion from 14.5% to 4.1% (p=0.0128) and reach the desired pregnancy without stimulation of ovulation and ART in 64, 1% of patients compared with 30.6% (p=0.0079) in normal practice.

Information about the author

Shurpyak Serhiy Oleksandrovych – MD, PhD, DSc, Professor of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology Faculty of postgraduate education Danylo Halitvsky Lviv National Medical University; tel: (097) 051-42-21. E-mail: shurpyak_sergiy@yahoo.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-5445-6375

Відомості про автора

Шурипак Сергій Олександрович – д-р мед. наук, проф. кафедри акушерства, гінекології та перинатології ФІО Львівського національного медичного університету імені Данила Галицького, тел: (097) 051-42-21. E-mail: shurpyak_sergiy@yahoo.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-5445-6375

REFERENCES

2. Belyalov FI. Twelve theses of comorbid endometriosis, 2016.0457.

Стаття надійшла до редакції 11.05.2022. – Дата першого рішення 18.05.2022. – Стаття подана до друку 14.06.2022