

was associated with decreased recurrence-free ($P=0.021$), cancer-specific ($P=0.002$), and all-cause survival ($P<0.001$) after controlling for the effects of gender, tumor location, number of lymph nodes removed, tumor grade, stage, architecture, necrosis and lymphovascular invasion. After addition of ECOG status, age remained an independent predictor only for all-cause mortality ($P>0.001$).

Conclusion: We confirmed that advanced patient age at the time of RNU is associated with worse clinical outcomes after surgery. However, ECOG performance status abrogated the association. Furthermore, a large proportion of elderly patients was cured with RNU. This suggests that chronological age alone is an inadequate indicator criterion to predict response of older UTUC patients to RNU.

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Abstract ID: #0061

Topic: Urology/Infection

HUMAN HEALTH: THERAPY OF MICROBIAL INFECTIONS WITH THE NOVEL PEPTIDE AGENT GEAPON (HEP1)

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Background: Human ezrin peptide 324-337 (HEP1, TEKKRRETVEREKE, Gepon®) is a synthetic 14 amino acid peptide amplifying immune responses to a wide range of different viral, bacterial and fungal infections. No toxicity or adverse reactions have been detected (see: www.gepon.ru). Here, we demonstrate the therapeutic benefit of Gepon and present a mouse model to elucidate its possible mode of action.

Materials & Methods: Clinical studies on the therapy of HCV infection in HIV infected patients, and for the treatment of ulcerative colitis were performed. In a mouse model, the therapeutic effect of Gepon for the treatment of dextran sulphate induced colitis was investigated.

Results: We show the therapeutic benefit of Gepon (HEP1; Human Ezrin Peptide 324-337; TEKKRRETVEREKE) monotherapy for HCV infection in HIV infected patients. In two studies, all genotypes of HCV were sensitive to HEP1 treatment. Analysis of the combined data from both studies showed the efficacy of therapy. In 37 HCV+HIV patients, HEP1 therapy gave the following results: 10/37 (27%) HCV+HIV patients showed a reduction in viral load of between -7 log (-10,000,000x) and -3 log (-1,000x); 4/37 (11%) showed a reduction of -3 log (-1,000x); 6/37 (16%) showed a reduction of -2 log (-100x); 11/37 (30%) showed a reduction of -1 log (-10x); 6/37 (16%) showed a reduction of less than -1 log (-10x); 0/37 (0%) had an increase in viral load, and the average reduction in viral load for all 37 patients was -2 log (-100x). The drug was also applied for treatment of ulcerative colitis, and 36 patients resistant to 5-ASA corticosteroids were treated. In 24/36 patients a significant improvement in symptoms was seen (Malakhova N.S., Pichugin A.V., Khaliph I.L., Ataullakhanov R.I.) No adverse reactions or side effects were detected. In a mouse model, dextran sulphate-induced colitis was also significantly improved: after the administration of Gepon, mice did not show a substantial loss of weight, in contrast to untreated animals.

Conclusion: The synthetic Ezrin-derivative Gepon (Hep1) has been shown to be a novel useful therapeutic agent for the therapy of microbial infections.

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MEN'S HEALTH: THE BACTERIAL EXTRACT URO-VAXOM® PROTECTS AGAINST MICROBIAL INFECTIONS OF THE URINARY TRACT

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Background: The therapeutic agent Uro-Vaxom® (OM-89) contains immunostimulating fractions from 18 *Escherichia coli* strains occurring in urinary tract infections. It has been shown to provide protection against these infections as demonstrated in a large number of clinical studies. Here, the immunostimulatory properties of OM-89 were investigated by in vitro- and in vivo-assays.

Materials & Methods: The metabolic activity of human peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL) and the spontaneous apoptosis of polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMN) were determined. In a murine system, the serum antibody production against a variety of uropathogenic bacteria and against several enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) strains was investigated. The activation of murine spleen cells was determined using the AlamarBlue™ assay. The activation of murine bone marrow derived macrophages by OM-89 was shown by the induction of NO production. In vivo the protection of mice from an infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* after the oral administration of OM-89 was investigated. Serum antibody production against various bacterial strains was tested using ELISA.

Results: In the human system, the metabolic activity of PBLs was stimulated, starting at concentrations of around 250 µg/ml OM-89, and the spontaneous apoptosis of PMN was reduced. In mice, OM-89 was effective in stimulating the metabolism of spleen cells within a concentration range of 0.625–2.5 mg/ml. OM-89 was also a most effective stimulant of NO production in murine bone marrow derived macrophages at concentrations of around 6 mg/ml. The in vivo protection of mice from an infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* after the oral administration of OM-89 was tested. The extract proved to be effective: 90% of the OM-89 treated animals survived compared to 58% of the untreated control group. Markedly, a pronounced increase in serum antibody production against a variety of uropathogenic bacteria and against several EHEC strains was found after the oral or parenteral administration of the extract.

Conclusion: The therapeutic agent Uro-Vaxom® (OM-89) has been shown to be a novel useful therapeutic agent for the therapy of infections of the urogenital tract inducing cellular immune defense reactions and antibody production against a variety of uropathogenic bacteria including enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) strains.

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Topic: Urology/Male Infertility

THE EXPERIENCE OF CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT OF LEFT-SIDE VARICOCELE IN ADOLESCENTS

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Background: Surgical treatment of varicocele is the most common procedure. However, interest in the possibilities of the place of conservative treatment is preserved. Varicocele, which arises during puberty, is a consequence of differences in the degree of functional maturity of the arterial and venous systems, and testicular tissue. Thus, supplementation of temporally poor venous function can prevent the development of a varicocele at an older age.

Materials & Methods: The study involved 54 patients aged 15–17 years, with newly diagnosed left-sided varicocele, included after an assessment of conformity to inclusion/exclusion criteria. Subclinical degree -11; I – 26, II – 17. The diagnosis was established by clinical and ultrasound examination. The diameter of the seminal veins at the level of the external inguinal was 4.6 mm; peak flow velocity at a Valsalva altitude maneuver was 32.4 cm/sec; reflux time was 4.9 sec. Patients underwent the following treatment: (1) Changes in lifestyle; (2) Physical exercise aimed at accelerat-