Treatment of Varicose Veins of Esophagus and Stomach in Children with Portal Hypertension

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Introduction. One of the most widespread clinical symptoms in patients with portal hypertension (PH) is acute bleeding from varicose veins of esophagus and stomach, in treatment of which endoscopic sclerotherapy takes an important and leading role.

The aim, materials and methods. The aim of the study is to analyze treatment results in PH patients with esophageal and stomach varicose veins. In 40 PH patients 580 endoscopies of upper gastrointestinal tract were performed from 1998 to 2008. 1% etoxysclerol solution was used to stop the acute bleeding, and also in preventing acute bleeding from esophageal and stomach varicose veins. 1% etoxysclerol solution was injected para- and intra-varicously. Taking into account the size of the varices of the esophagus and stomach, 1% etoxysclerol dose was adjusted individually, not exceeding the maximal dose 2 mg/kg.

Results. In total, 386 endoscopic sclerotherapy procedures were performed. 194 diagnostic endoscopies were performed without sclerotherapy. 21 patients had acute bleeding from esophageal and stomach varices, which in all cases was stopped by sclerotherapy (30 endoscopies). In 15 patients (71.5%) bleeding episodes stopped after sclerotherapy, but in 6 patients (28.5%) bleeding episodes reoccurred after some time (2-4 times). 256 endoscopies were performed for bleeding prophylaxis from varicose veins. Portal hypertension gastropathy was observed in 38 patients (95%), urease test was positive in 11.

Conclusions. Endoscopic sclerotherapy is an effective method in stopping acute bleeding from esophageal and stomach varices in PH patients. Endoscopic sclerotherapy method is effective and safe in treatment and prevention of acute bleeding from varicose veins of the esophagus and stomach in PH patients.