Cardiac disorders in the treatment of infantile hemangiomas with propranolol

Konstantinova N. (1), Kotlukova N.(1), Karelina E.(2), Grishkin A.(2)

Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, Moscow (1), Bashlyaeva Children’s City Clinical Hospital, Moscow, Russia (2)

Objective. Investigate the effect of propranolol on the cardiovascular system in the treatment of infantile hemangiomas.

Methods. A total of 132 children who started treatment with propranolol at the age of 1 month to 4 years with infantile hemangiomas of various localization were examined. The children underwent a complete cardiac examination, including a clinical examination, ECG, echocardiogram, Holter monitoring. The survey was conducted before the appointment of therapy with propranolol, every 3 months during therapy and after its cancellation.

Results. According to the echocardiogram, 6% of children initially diagnosed heart disease, (CHD, syndrome of noncompact myocardium of the left ventricle, PH). During the treatment, no child had a decrease in myocardial contractility. During treatment with auscultatory and according to ECG data, 1% of children had bradycardia. However, the Holter monitoring showed that all children after 3 months of treatment showed a decrease in heart rate during wakefulness by 9% of the norm (Me 130 ± 9.54). In 6% of children, during the treatment, rhythm pauses were identified, significantly exceeding the age norm (deviation rate 102-161%), which was an indication for changing the dose of the drug in the direction of its reduction. In one child, syncopal states were noted against the background of a pause in rhythm, which required discontinuation of therapy with propranolol. During treatment, AV block 1 degree was detected in 4% of children according to ECG data; according to Holter monitoring data, 18% of children showed AV block I – II degree. In 7% of children, AV blockade remained after discontinuation of propranolol therapy. Hypotension during treatment occurred in 11% of children.

Conclusion. Clinical examination, ECG, echocardiogram, and Holter monitoring have made it possible to establish undesirable cardiovascular effects in 18% of children during therapy with propranolol. Holter monitoring before prescribing, during treatment and after termination allows to identify undesirable effects of therapy (bradycardia, cardiac rhythm pauses, AV-block II-III degrees) in time and adjust the dose of propranolol.