

ASTHMA, VIRUS-INDUCED EXACERBATION: A VIEW THROUGH THE PRISM OF LEUKOTRIENE METABOLISM

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Abstract

In current article the authors review the mechanisms of inflammation in asthma, where the inflammatory mediators, such as cysteine leukotrienes, play an important role. In recent years more attention of the experts is attracted to medicines with anti-leukotriene effect, which launch on the market made a new contribution to better disease control.

Use of anti-leukotriene agents today is considered an alternative method of asthma management. Due to anti-inflammatory activity these drugs improve lung function, reduce the rate of exacerbations and the need in beta2-agonists, decrease a bronchial hyperresponsiveness. It is reasonable to administer anti-leukotriene medications as second-line option in management of patients with mild persistent asthma. In patients with moderate and severe disease use of these drugs helps to reduce the dose of inhaled corticosteroids, improve asthma control and achieve stable and long remission.

Leukotriene receptor antagonists (montelukast, zafirlukast, pranlukast) and leukotriene synthesis inhibitor (zeleuton) are used in asthma therapy. Only montelukast (including Milukan by Adamed, approved for use in children of 2 years and older) is currently marketed in Ukraine. This medicine is characterized by high-level safety. It is effective both in monotherapy or in combination with other asthma maintenance medications.

Key words: asthma, leukotriens, anti-leukotriene medicatins, montelukast.

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