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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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GMN: Georgian Medical News is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board since 1994. GMN carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

GMN is indexed in MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PubMed and VINITI Russian Academy of Sciences. The full text content is available through EBSCO databases.

GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения. Журнал индексируется в MEDLINE, отражён в базе данных SCOPUS, PubMed и ВИНТИ РАН. Полнотекстовые статьи журнала доступны через БД EBSCO.

GMN: Georgian Medical News – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

ჟურნალი ინდექსირებულია MEDLINE-ის საერთაშორისო სისტემაში, ასახულია SCOPUS-ის, PubMed-ის და ВИНТИ РАН-ის მონაცემთა ბაზებში. სტატიების სრული ტექსტი ხელმისაწვდომია EBSCO-ს მონაცემთა ბაზებში.

WEBSITE

www.geomednews.com

К СВЕДЕНИЮ АВТОРОВ!

При направлении статьи в редакцию необходимо соблюдать следующие правила:

1. Статья должна быть представлена в двух экземплярах, на русском или английском языках, напечатанная через **полтора интервала на одной стороне стандартного листа с шириной левого поля в три сантиметра**. Используемый компьютерный шрифт для текста на русском и английском языках - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, для текста на грузинском языке следует использовать **AcadNusx**. Размер шрифта - **12**. К рукописи, напечатанной на компьютере, должен быть приложен CD со статьей.

2. Размер статьи должен быть не менее десяти и не более двадцати страниц машинописи, включая указатель литературы и резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках.

3. В статье должны быть освещены актуальность данного материала, методы и результаты исследования и их обсуждение.

При представлении в печать научных экспериментальных работ авторы должны указывать вид и количество экспериментальных животных, применявшиеся методы обезболивания и усыпления (в ходе острых опытов).

4. К статье должны быть приложены краткое (на полстраницы) резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках (включающее следующие разделы: цель исследования, материал и методы, результаты и заключение) и список ключевых слов (key words).

5. Таблицы необходимо представлять в печатной форме. Фотокопии не принимаются. **Все цифровые, итоговые и процентные данные в таблицах должны соответствовать таковым в тексте статьи.** Таблицы и графики должны быть озаглавлены.

6. Фотографии должны быть контрастными, фотокопии с рентгенограмм - в позитивном изображении. Рисунки, чертежи и диаграммы следует озаглавить, пронумеровать и вставить в соответствующее место текста **в tiff формате**.

В подписях к микрофотографиям следует указывать степень увеличения через окуляр или объектив и метод окраски или импрегнации срезов.

7. Фамилии отечественных авторов приводятся в оригинальной транскрипции.

8. При оформлении и направлении статей в журнал МНГ просим авторов соблюдать правила, изложенные в «Единых требованиях к рукописям, представляемым в биомедицинские журналы», принятых Международным комитетом редакторов медицинских журналов - <http://www.spinesurgery.ru/files/publish.pdf> и http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html. В конце каждой оригинальной статьи приводится библиографический список. В список литературы включаются все материалы, на которые имеются ссылки в тексте. Список составляется в алфавитном порядке и нумеруется. Литературный источник приводится на языке оригинала. В списке литературы сначала приводятся работы, написанные знаками грузинского алфавита, затем кириллицей и латиницей. Ссылки на цитируемые работы в тексте статьи даются в квадратных скобках в виде номера, соответствующего номеру данной работы в списке литературы. Большинство цитированных источников должны быть за последние 5-7 лет.

9. Для получения права на публикацию статья должна иметь от руководителя работы или учреждения визу и сопроводительное отношение, написанные или напечатанные на бланке и заверенные подписью и печатью.

10. В конце статьи должны быть подписи всех авторов, полностью приведены их фамилии, имена и отчества, указаны служебный и домашний номера телефонов и адреса или иные координаты. Количество авторов (соавторов) не должно превышать пяти человек.

11. Редакция оставляет за собой право сокращать и исправлять статьи. Корректур авторам не высылаются, вся работа и сверка проводится по авторскому оригиналу.

12. Недопустимо направление в редакцию работ, представленных к печати в иных издательствах или опубликованных в других изданиях.

При нарушении указанных правил статьи не рассматриваются.

REQUIREMENTS

Please note, materials submitted to the Editorial Office Staff are supposed to meet the following requirements:

1. Articles must be provided with a double copy, in English or Russian languages and typed or computer-printed on a single side of standard typing paper, with the left margin of 3 centimeters width, and 1.5 spacing between the lines, typeface - **Times New Roman (Cyrillic)**, print size - 12 (referring to Georgian and Russian materials). With computer-printed texts please enclose a CD carrying the same file titled with Latin symbols.

2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

Authors of the scientific-research works must indicate the number of experimental biological species drawn in, list the employed methods of anesthetization and soporific means used during acute tests.

4. Articles must have a short (half page) abstract in English, Russian and Georgian (including the following sections: aim of study, material and methods, results and conclusions) and a list of key words.

5. Tables must be presented in an original typed or computer-printed form, instead of a photocopied version. **Numbers, totals, percentile data on the tables must coincide with those in the texts of the articles.** Tables and graphs must be headed.

6. Photographs are required to be contrasted and must be submitted with doubles. Please number each photograph with a pencil on its back, indicate author's name, title of the article (short version), and mark out its top and bottom parts. Drawings must be accurate, drafts and diagrams drawn in Indian ink (or black ink). Photocopies of the X-ray photographs must be presented in a positive image in **tiff format**.

Accurately numbered subtitles for each illustration must be listed on a separate sheet of paper. In the subtitles for the microphotographs please indicate the ocular and objective lens magnification power, method of coloring or impregnation of the microscopic sections (preparations).

7. Please indicate last names, first and middle initials of the native authors, present names and initials of the foreign authors in the transcription of the original language, enclose in parenthesis corresponding number under which the author is listed in the reference materials.

8. Please follow guidance offered to authors by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidance in its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals publication available online at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html
http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf

In GMN style for each work cited in the text, a bibliographic reference is given, and this is located at the end of the article under the title "References". All references cited in the text must be listed. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically and then numbered. References are numbered in the text [numbers in square brackets] and in the reference list and numbers are repeated throughout the text as needed. The bibliographic description is given in the language of publication (citations in Georgian script are followed by Cyrillic and Latin).

9. To obtain the rights of publication articles must be accompanied by a visa from the project instructor or the establishment, where the work has been performed, and a reference letter, both written or typed on a special signed form, certified by a stamp or a seal.

10. Articles must be signed by all of the authors at the end, and they must be provided with a list of full names, office and home phone numbers and addresses or other non-office locations where the authors could be reached. The number of the authors (co-authors) must not exceed the limit of 5 people.

11. Editorial Staff reserves the rights to cut down in size and correct the articles. Proof-sheets are not sent out to the authors. The entire editorial and collation work is performed according to the author's original text.

12. Sending in the works that have already been assigned to the press by other Editorial Staffs or have been printed by other publishers is not permissible.

**Articles that Fail to Meet the Aforementioned
Requirements are not Assigned to be Reviewed.**

ავტორთა საყურადღებო!

რედაქციაში სტატიის წარმოდგენისას საჭიროა დავიცვათ შემდეგი წესები:

1. სტატია უნდა წარმოადგინოთ 2 ცალად, რუსულ ან ინგლისურ ენებზე, დაბეჭდილი სტანდარტული ფურცლის 1 გვერდზე, 3 სმ სიგანის მარცხენა ველისა და სტრიქონებს შორის 1,5 ინტერვალის დაცვით. გამოყენებული კომპიუტერული შრიფტი რუსულ და ინგლისურენოვან ტექსტებში - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, ხოლო ქართულენოვან ტექსტში საჭიროა გამოვიყენოთ **AcadNusx**. შრიფტის ზომა – 12. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს CD სტატიით.

2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემავჯამებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრაფიის ფოტოსურათები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალების შედეგების ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

აღნიშნული წესების დარღვევის შემთხვევაში სტატიები არ განიხილება.

Takuma Hayashi, Kaoru Abiko, Ikuro Konishi. CHARACTERISTIC OF MYELOID SARCOMA BY CANCER GENOME PROFILING AND ALGORITHM OF POTENTIAL BIOMARKERS FOR UTERINE MESENCHYMAL TUMOR.....	6-13
Feruza Abdullayeva, Kuralbay Kurakbayev, Madamin Karataev. MODERN STRATEGIES IN OUTPATIENT STROKE CARE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF METHODS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PROSPECTS.....	14-24
Shota Janjgava, Elene Giorgadze, Revazi Jamburia, Ana Davitashvili, Ketevan Asatiani. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DIABETIC FOOT.....	25-32
Isoyan A.S, Danielyan M.H, Antonyan I.V, Azizyan N.H, Mkrtchyan A.A, Nebogova K.A, Karapetyan K.V. CHANGES IN THE MORPHOLOGICAL AND FUNCTIONAL STATE OF HYPOTHALAMUS NUCLEI NEURONS IN LONG-TERM CRUSHING SYNDROME.....	33-40
Saduakassova Korlan Zarlykovna, Kassenova Gulzhan Toktaubekovna, Issayeva Raushan Binomovna. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN CHILDREN IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.....	41-46
Nurbol Tursynbaev, Samat Zharmenov, Altyn Dossanova. IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN IN KAZAKHSTAN: ASSESSMENT OF COVERAGE AND BARRIERS TO VACCINATION REFUSALS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS AND PARENTAL BELIEFS.....	47-56
Tariel V. Ghochikyan, Melanya A. Samvelyan, Armen S. Galstyan, Karine S. Avetisyan. BIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THIAZOLES OF NEW STRUCTURE.....	57-63
Yahya Qasem Mohammed Taher, Safeyya Adeeb Ibrahim, Duaa Mohammed Ahmed. BENIGN FASCICULATION SYNDROME AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS, A SINGLE CENTER STUDY.....	64-68
Marine A. Parsadanyan, Hrant M. Avanesyan, Arsen B. Lokyan, Sahak V. Hovhannisyan, Mariam A. Shahinyan, Marieta S. Mikaelyan, Gaspar H. Kocharyan, Ara P. Antonyan, Poghos O. Vardevanyan. INTERACTION OF DOPAMINE WITH DNA, DEPENDING ON THE IONIC STRENGTH OF THE SOLUTION: POTENTIAL APPLICATION IN SENSOR TECHNOLOGY.....	69-75
Ahmed Alaa Al-Temimi, Raja Ezman Raja Sharif, Mohd Shahezwan Abd Wahab, Hanis Hanum Zulkifly. GUIDELINE-DIRECTED MEDICAL THERAPY (GDMT) FOR HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT: ADDRESSING APPLICATIONS, BARRIERS AND OPTIMIZING IMPLEMENTATION.....	76-83
Yerbolat Iztleuov, Marat Iztleuov, Anar Tulyayeva, Gulmira Iztleuova, Elyanora Kydyrbayeva. THE USE OF HERBAL MEDICINES IN PREVENTING CANCER MUTATIONS IN ANIMAL MODELS EXPOSED TO TOXICANTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW.....	84-92
Mazyad M Alenezi, Faisal A. Al-Harbi, Rana S. Alqurini, Abdulrahman M. Aloufi, Sulaiman M. AlMushawwah, Mohammed S. Alkhaldi, Reman H. Alsaqrh, Abdullah Yahya Asiri, Manar O. Alharbi, Sultan Alanazy. HOW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS IN SAUDI ARABIA HANDLE SUDDEN SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.....	93-100
Hussein A Saheb, Hussam H Sahib, Ahmed M sultan, Luma hassnaui. THE INCIDENCE OF URINARY TRACT INFECTION AMONG PATIENTS TREATED WITH VARIABLE DOSES OF DAPAGLIFLOZIN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY.....	101-105
Ilia Nakashidze, Ahishtan Febrian Nishanthan, Shota Nakashidze, Aleena Parveen Shaikh, Nameera Parveen Shaikh, Naman Chauhan, Salome Zoidze, Sarfraz Ahmad, Irina Nakashidze. PRECISION MEDICINE AND ANAESTHESIA: CURRENT CLINICAL AND GENOMICS APPROACHES.....	106-116
Gasparyan Diana V, Shishkova Valeria E, Gevorgyan Sergey A, Podorovskaya Alexandra I, Kudryashova Arina A, Parfilova Elizaveta A, Poltoratskaya Karina D, Djurabaeva Gulnozahn S, Patsukova Anastasia V, Bolban Svetlana E. PRIMARY HYPERPARATHYROIDISM: DIAGNOSTIC DIFFICULTIES AND RARE MANIFESTATION IN THE FORM OF HYPERCALCAEMIC CRISIS.....	117-119
Uday Mahajan, Muhammad Yousaf, Fahad Jalil, Asif Afridi, Meraj Akhtar, Haroon Yousaf, Amna Hilal, Adnan Asif, Muzammil Ahmed Khan, Anurag Dureja, Mohammed Jaffer Ali, Madeeha Hussaini. REVIEW OF INTRA-OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES TO ASSESS REDUCTION QUALITY IN TIBIAL PLATEAU FRACTURES.....	120-123
Sara Abdelmohmoud Omer, Abdelkarim Abobakr Abdrabo, Afif Abdelmohmoud Omar, Einas A Osman. DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF ANTI-CYCLIC CITRULLINATED PEPTIDE AND RHEUMATOID FACTOR IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS.....	124-128
Alan Adnan Saber. A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE TRENDS OF CAUSATIVE BACTERIA AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE PROFILES IN PATIENTS WHO DEVELOPED SEPSIS FOLLOWING GASTRIC SLEEVE RESECTION.....	129-134

Kuralay Amrenova, Askar Serikbayev, Altay Dyussupov, Alua Sharapiyeva, Altynay Dosbayeva, Ainur Krykpayeva, Ynkar Kairkhanova, Nazym Kudaibergenova, Zhanar Zhumanbayeva. HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF POST-COVID-19 PATIENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN.....	135-140
Anar Tulyayeva, Iztleuov Yerbolat, Dinara Zholmukhamedova, Nauryzbay Imanbayev, Maya Alibekova. CORRELATION OF HER2 STATUS WITH LYMPH NODE METASTASIS IN KAZAKH PATIENTS WITH GASTRIC.....	141-147
Ahmad MT. Kurukchi, Afya SD. Al-Radha, Athraa A. Mahmood. RADIOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF PRF MEMBRANE LAYERING ON PERI-IMPLANT TISSUE: RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL.....	148-154
Berdia Beridze, George Gogniashvili. LINGUISTIC VALIDATION, PSYCHOMETRIC EVALUATION AND CROSS- CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF THE GEORGIAN SINO- NASAL OUTCOME TEST.....	155-159
Sahib Memon, Mustafa Al-Yassen, Uday Mahajan, Sirtaaj Mattoo, Karim Hussien. OPERATIVE VERSUS NONOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF SALTER-HARRIS TYPE II DISTAL RADIUS FRACTURES IN CHILDREN: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY.....	160-163
Z.E. Alshimbayeva, R.Kh. Begaydarova, N.M. Khodzaeva, G. K. Alshynbekova, B.K. Koichubekov, Zolotaryova O.A. IMMUNOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR PREDICTING SEVERE AND COMPLICATED FORMS OF VARICELLA ZOSTER IN CHILDREN.....	164-169
Anastasiia Shumarova. COPING STRATEGIES IN CONDITIONS OF CONTINUOUS TRAUMATIC STRESS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ARMED CONFLICT.....	170-177
Noha O Mohamed, Rayan Yousef, Abobuker Elgak, Mohammed Mohammed, Sara Mohammed, Amna Mustafa, Tayseer Ahmed, Mutwakil Mubarak. PARADOXICAL ELEVATION OF PLATELET INDICES IN SUDANESE PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B: A CROSS- SECTIONAL ANALYSIS.....	178-183
Lyazzat Alibekova, Dinara Ospanova, Arailym Muratkhan, Bibinur Abdimuratova, Makhigul Maxudova. SELF-ASSESSMENT ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF NURSING SERVICE MANAGERS IN KAZAKHSTAN.....	184-188
Ze-Quan Liu, Wei-Wei Chang, Long Hua, Li-Jun Zhu, Li-Ying Wen, Jia-Jing Zhao, Yi-Chen Li, Ying-Shui Yao, Yue-Long Jin. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEGATIVE EMOTIONS AMONG BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF ANHUI PROVINCE AND FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATIONAL METHODS.....	189-195
Zozulya Aleksei V, Teslevich Vladislav S, Abkhazava Peride, Ramazanov Islam A, Tokhtarova Snezhana V, Streltsova Olga V, Kalsynov Gamzat M, Chernogoloviy Artem S, Antun Djemi F, Gamzaeva Saidat T. COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF SILYMARIN, FENOFIBRATE, BETAINE AND ADEMETIONINE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STEATOHEPATITIS IN WISTAR RATS.....	196-200
Maira Zh. Espenbetova, Alexandr Zubkov, Ainur S. Krykpayeva, Aida M. Bidakhmetova. CYTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THYROID NEOPLASMS IN INDIGENOUS RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE FORMER SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TEST SITE AREA.....	201-207

COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF SILYMARIN, FENOFIBRATE, BETAINE AND ADEMATIONINE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STEATOHEPATITIS IN WISTAR RATS

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Abstract.

Background: Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), previously termed NAFLD/MAFLD, can be reproduced in rats by a high-fructose diet and leads to hepatic steatosis and liver injury.

Aim: To evaluate and compare the effects of silymarin, fenofibrate, betaine and ademetonine on biochemical and morphological manifestations of high-fructose-induced MASLD in rats.

Methods: Male Wistar rats ($n = 20$ per group) were fed a high-fructose diet for 5 weeks and treated with one of the four agents. Serum ALT and AST activities and hepatic triglyceride (TG) content were measured. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA with Tukey HSD post hoc test; results are presented as mean $\pm$ SD.

Results: In the fructose control group ALT and AST were 95.2 ± 2.8 and 88.0 ± 2.1 U/L, respectively; hepatic TG concentration was 12.50 ± 0.38 mg/g. Fenofibrate produced the most pronounced effect, lowering hepatic TG by about 60 % (5.02 ± 0.22 mg/g, $p < 0.001$) and reducing ALT and AST by about 40 % (56.8 ± 2.9 U/L and 55.0 ± 2.4 U/L, $p < 0.001$). Silymarin and betaine induced intermediate reductions (all $p < 0.001$), whereas ademetonine markedly lowered transaminases ($p < 0.001$) with only modest effects on hepatic TG (11.94 ± 0.28 mg/g, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Fenofibrate was the most effective agent in preventing fructose-induced hepatic steatosis and transaminase elevation, in line with activation of PPAR- α -dependent β -oxidation and inhibition of lipogenesis.

Key words. MASLD, steatohepatitis, fructose, silymarin, fenofibrate, betaine, ademetonine.

Introduction.

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is one of the most prevalent and clinically significant liver disorders in the modern world. It is closely linked to metabolic syndrome, which encompasses abdominal obesity, elevated blood pressure, dyslipidemia, and insulin resistance.

The development of MASLD is driven by multiple factors, including genetic predisposition, lifestyle (notably physical activity and diet), and concomitant diseases. Excessive intake of saturated fats and simple carbohydrates, together with insufficient dietary fiber, contributes to disturbances in lipid metabolism and increased fat deposition in the liver.

To investigate the pathogenetic mechanisms of MASLD and to evaluate novel therapeutic strategies, experimental models using Wistar rats are widely employed. These models replicate key features of the disease, such as hepatic fat accumulation,

inflammation, and fibrosis. Studies utilizing these models facilitate the identification of the molecular mechanisms underlying disease progression and enable the assessment of the efficacy of various pharmacological agents with different mechanisms of action.

As of 2025, there is growing interest in natural and adjunctive remedies, particularly silymarin, betaine, and ademetonine. Their effects can complement emerging pharmacologic therapies or be employed in settings where contemporary medications remain unavailable or are limited by factors such as cost, safety, or contraindications. The review “MASLD Pharmacotherapy: Current Standards, Emerging Treatments, and Practical Guidance” emphasizes that the choice of agent, dosage, and timing of therapy initiation are critical—especially in early stages or in cases of moderate fibrosis, when tissue damage remains reversible [1-6].

To correct these changes, drugs with different mechanisms of action are used:

- **Silymarin** — an antioxidant and membrane stabiliser.
- **Fenofibrate** — a PPAR- α agonist that activates β -oxidation.
- **Betaine** — a methyl donor that reduces lipid accumulation.

Ademetonine is a universal methyl donor that exhibits an anticholestatic effect.

The aim of the study was to conduct a comparative study of the efficacy of these drugs in an experimental model of fructose-induced steatohepatitis in Wistar rats.

Materials and Methods.

A total of 100 male Wistar rats, 5 weeks of age and weighing 150–180 g, were used in the study. The animals were housed under standard vivarium conditions with free access to food and water ad libitum. The rats were randomized into five groups of 20 animals each:

Groups (20 animals each):

- **Group 1:** Control — high-fructose diet (70 % of total energy from fructose).
- **Group 2:** Fructose + Silymarin — high-fructose diet plus silymarin 200 mg/kg/day (oral administration).
- **Group 3:** Fructose + Fenofibrate — high-fructose diet plus fenofibrate 100 mg/kg/day (oral administration).
- **Group 4:** Fructose + Betaine — high-fructose diet plus betaine 1.5 g/kg/day (oral administration).
- **Group 5:** Fructose + Ademetonine — high-fructose diet plus ademetonine 20 mg/kg/day (oral administration).

The duration of the experiment was 5 weeks. Body weight was measured weekly; at the end of the study blood and liver samples were collected. Biochemical analyses included the determination of serum ALT, AST and triglycerides, as well

as hepatic triglyceride concentrations in liver homogenates. Histological examination was performed using hematoxylin-eosin and Masson's trichrome staining. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's HSD post hoc test ($\alpha = 0.05$). Results are expressed as mean $\pm$ SD. Tables and Figures present p-values for the comparisons of each group with the control.

Results and Discussion.

All animals were randomized into five groups, each receiving the respective diet and drug for 5 weeks. At the end of the experiment, body weight was measured, and blood and liver samples were collected for biochemical and histological analysis.

After 5 weeks of the experiment, the control group developed marked macrovesicular steatosis (grade 3 according to the

Experimental Design

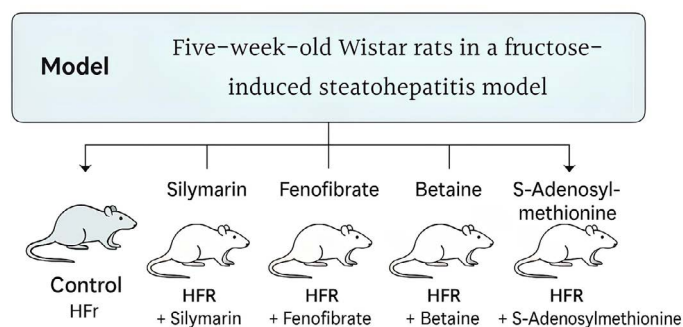


Figure 1. Experimental groups.

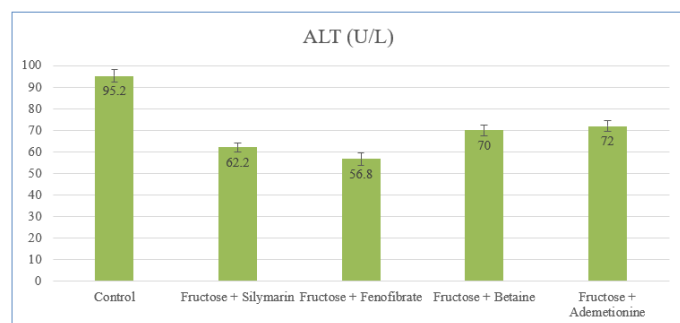


Figure 2. Serum ALT (mean $\pm$ SD; $n = 20$). p values by Tukey HSD vs control.

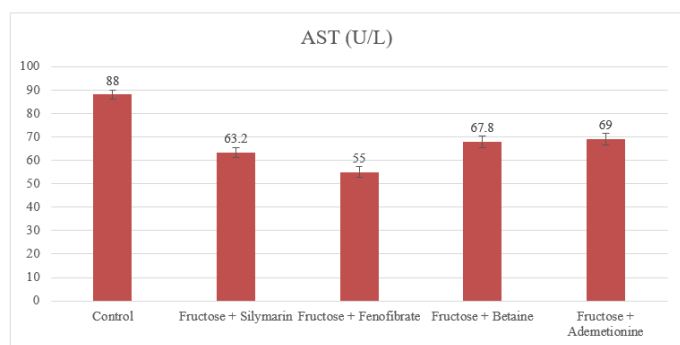


Figure 3. Serum AST (mean $\pm$ SD; $n = 20$). p values by Tukey HSD vs control.

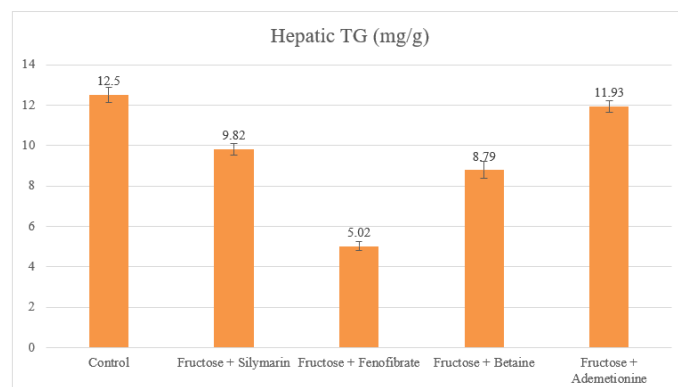


Figure 4. Hepatic TG (mg/g) (mean $\pm$ SD; $n = 20$). p values by Tukey HSD vs control.

NAFLD Activity Score, NAS), focal lobular inflammation and moderate pericellular fibrosis (F1).

In the control group ALT and AST reached 95.2 ± 2.8 and 88.0 ± 2.1 U/L, respectively; hepatic triglyceride (TG) concentration was 12.50 ± 0.38 mg/g.

Fenofibrate produced the most pronounced effect, lowering hepatic TG by about 60 % (5.02 ± 0.22 mg/g, $p < 0.001$) and reducing ALT and AST by about 40 % (56.8 ± 2.9 U/L and 55.0 ± 2.4 U/L, $p < 0.001$).

Silymarin and betaine induced intermediate reductions (all $p < 0.001$), whereas ademetionine markedly lowered transaminases ($p < 0.001$) with only modest effects on hepatic TG (11.94 ± 0.28 mg/g, $p < 0.001$).

Silymarin stabilizes hepatocyte membranes and scavenges free radicals. By reducing lipid peroxidation, it decreases mitochondrial damage and attenuates inflammatory signaling, indirectly improving fatty acid handling and limiting re-esterification into triacylglycerols. [4]. It may modulate lipid metabolism indirectly (e.g., via antioxidant and anti-inflammatory pathways) rather than acting as a direct PPAR- α agonist. In addition, silymarin has been reported to support apolipoprotein B synthesis and VLDL export, thereby facilitating triglyceride removal from the liver [5].

Fenofibrate, after hydrolysis to its active form fenofibric acid, binds to the nuclear receptor PPAR- α . The resulting PPAR- α /RXR complex activates transcription of genes responsible for fatty acid catabolism. Enhanced β -oxidation of fatty acids is driven by the induced expression of genes encoding carnitine palmitoyltransferase-1 (CPT-1), acyl-CoA oxidase, and other enzymes of peroxisomal and mitochondrial β -oxidation. In parallel, PPAR- α activation suppresses the transcription factor SREBP-1c, which normally promotes lipogenesis.

Betaine serves as a key methyl-group donor in the reaction catalyzed by betaine-homocysteine methyltransferase (BHMT): homocysteine + betaine $\rightarrow$ methionine + dimethylglycine.

The methionine thus formed is converted to S-adenosylmethionine (SAM).

Ademetionine (S-adenosylmethionine) is the principal methyl-group donor in transmethylation reactions and supports the synthesis of phosphatidylcholine (PC) via the enzyme phosphatidylethanolamine-N-methyltransferase (PEMT). Phosphatidylcholine is a key structural component of VLDL

particles. Adequate PC availability ensures normal assembly and secretion of VLDL from hepatocytes and facilitates the export of triacylglycerols from the liver, thereby reducing hepatic steatosis.

Liver Biopsy and Blood Biochemistry Results.

After 5 weeks of the experiment, the control group exhibited marked macrovesicular steatosis (grade 3 according to the NAFLD Activity Score), focal lobular inflammation, and moderate pericellular fibrosis (F1).

In the control group ALT and AST reached 95.2 ± 2.8 and 88.0 ± 2.1 U/L, respectively; hepatic TG concentration was 12.50 ± 0.38 mg/g. Fenofibrate reduced these indices to 56.8 ± 2.9 U/L (ALT), 55.0 ± 2.4 U/L (AST) and 5.02 ± 0.22 mg/g (hepatic TG), all $p < 0.001$ vs control. Silymarin and betaine showed intermediate reductions (all $p < 0.001$), while ademetionine markedly lowered transaminases ($p < 0.001$) with only a modest effect on TG (11.94 ± 0.28 mg/g, $p < 0.001$) (Table 1).

In the Fructose + Silymarin group, the degree of inflammation decreased to grades 1–2, with ALT activity reduced by 35% and AST by 28% compared with the control group; however, the severity of steatosis remained high (grade 2–3) (Table 2).

In the Fructose + Fenofibrate group, a marked reduction in steatosis (grade 1–2) was observed, accompanied by a 60% decrease in hepatic triglyceride concentration. ALT and AST levels decreased by 40% and 38%, respectively (Table 3).

In the Fructose + Betaine group, the steatosis grade was 2, inflammation was reduced, and hepatic triglyceride concentration decreased by 30%. Biochemical parameters improved moderately (Table 4).

In the Fructose + Ademetionine group, the main effects included a reduction in inflammation, however, the impact on lipid metabolism was minimal (Tables 5 and 6).

Our quantitative results ($\approx 60\%$ decrease in hepatic TG and $\sim 40\%$ fall in transaminases with fenofibrate) are consistent with

Table 1. Biochemical parameters Control.

Nº	ALT(U/L)	AST (U/L)	Hepatic TG (mg/g)
1	92	85	12.0
2	98	90	12.8
3	96	89	12.6
4	94	87	12.4
5	95	88	12.5
6	99	91	13.0
7	100	92	13.2
8	90	84	11.8
9	97	90	12.7
10	93	86	12.3
11	94	87	12.4
12	95	88	12.5
13	96	89	12.6
14	91	85	11.9
15	98	90	12.9
16	92	86	12.0
17	95	88	12.5
18	97	89	12.7
19	93	87	12.3
20	98	89	12.9

Table 2. Biochemical parameters Hfr + Silymarin.

Nº	ALT(U/L)	AST (U/L)	Hepatic TG (mg/g)
1	60	61	9.5
2	64	65	10.1
3	61	62	9.7
4	63	64	10.0
5	62	63	9.8
6	65	66	10.2
7	66	67	10.3
8	59	60	9.4
9	63	64	9.9
10	60	61	9.6
11	61	62	9.7
12	62	63	9.8
13	64	65	10.0
14	60	61	9.5
15	65	66	10.1
16	61	62	9.6
17	62	63	9.8
18	63	64	9.9
19	59	60	9.4
20	65	66	10.1

Table 3. Biochemical parameters HFr + Fenofibrate.

Nº	ALT(U/L)	AST (U/L)	Hepatic TG (mg/g)
1	55	52	4.7
2	59	58	5.1
3	60	56	5.2
4	54	54	4.8
5	56	55	5.0
6	58	57	5.4
7	63	59	5.3
8	52	53	4.9
9	60	54	4.8
10	55	56	5.0
11	56	55	5.1
12	57	52	4.7
13	54	54	5.0
14	61	56	5.2
15	53	57	5.3
16	59	53	4.9
17	60	55	5.0
18	55	58	5.4
19	58	54	4.8
20	55	56	5.0

data from Belfort et al. (2006) and support the role of PPAR- α activation in stimulating β -oxidation and inhibiting lipogenesis. The antioxidant and membrane-stabilising effects of silymarin observed here ($\approx 35\%$ ALT reduction) agree with Serviddio et al. (2013) and Federico et al. (2017). These findings confirm that the mechanisms discussed above directly explain the magnitude of the effects we observed.

Conclusion.

Our study demonstrates that among the tested hepatoprotective agents, fenofibrate produced the most pronounced improvements in a rat model of high-fructose-induced MASLD.

Table 4. Biochemical parameters HFr+ Betaine.

<i>N</i> ^o	<i>ALT</i> (U/L)	<i>AST</i> (U/L)	<i>Hepatic TG</i> (mg/g)
1	67	65	8.4
2	72	70	9.0
3	71	69	8.8
4	69	67	8.6
5	70	68	8.7
6	73	71	9.1
7	74	72	9.2
8	66	64	8.3
9	71	69	8.9
10	68	66	8.5
11	69	67	8.6
12	70	68	8.7
13	72	70	9.0
14	67	65	8.4
15	73	71	9.1
16	68	66	8.5
17	70	68	8.7
18	71	69	8.9
19	66	64	8.3
20	73	66	10.1

Table 5. Biochemical parameters HFr + Ademetionine.

<i>N</i> ^o	<i>ALT</i> (U/L)	<i>AST</i> (U/L)	<i>Hepatic TG</i> (mg/g)
1	69	66	11.6
2	74	71	12.2
3	73	70	12.0
4	71	68	11.8
5	72	69	11.9
6	75	72	12.3
7	76	73	12.4
8	68	65	11.5
9	73	70	12.1
10	70	67	11.7
11	71	68	11.8
12	72	69	11.9
13	74	71	12.2
14	69	66	11.6
15	75	72	12.3
16	70	67	11.7
17	72	69	11.9
18	73	70	12.1
19	68	65	11.5
20	75	72	12.2

Table 6. Biochemical parameters (mean $\pm$ SD) and *p*-values (Tukey HSD) compared with the control group (*n* = 20).

Group	<i>ALT</i> (mean $\pm$ SD)	<i>AST</i> (mean $\pm$ SD)	<i>TG</i> (mg/g, mean $\pm$ SD)	<i>ALT p</i> vs Control	<i>AST p</i> vs Control	<i>TG p</i> vs Control
Control	95.2 $\pm$ 2.8	88.0 $\pm$ 2.1	12.50 $\pm$ 0.38	—	—	—
Fructose + Silymarin	62.2 $\pm$ 2.1	63.2 $\pm$ 2.1	9.82 $\pm$ 0.27	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Fructose + Fenofibrate	56.8 $\pm$ 2.9	55.0 $\pm$ 2.4	5.02 $\pm$ 0.22	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Fructose + Betaine	70.0 $\pm$ 2.4	67.8 $\pm$ 2.4	8.79 $\pm$ 0.41	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Fructose + Ademetionine	72.0 $\pm$ 2.4	69.0 $\pm$ 2.4	11.94 $\pm$ 0.28	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

Data are presented as mean $\pm$ SD (*n* = 20). *p*-values are from the Tukey HSD post hoc test following one-way ANOVA, comparing each group with the control group.

Compared with the fructose control group (ALT 95.2 ± 2.8 U/L; AST 88.0 ± 2.1 U/L; hepatic TG 12.50 ± 0.38 mg/g), fenofibrate lowered hepatic triglycerides by approximately 60 % (5.02 ± 0.22 mg/g, $p < 0.001$) and reduced ALT and AST by about 40 % (56.8 ± 2.9 U/L and 55.0 ± 2.4 U/L, $p < 0.001$).

Silymarin and betaine achieved intermediate reductions in transaminases and hepatic triglycerides, whereas ademetionine mainly decreased ALT and AST ($p < 0.001$) with only modest effects on hepatic TG (11.94 ± 0.28 mg/g, $p < 0.001$).

These quantitative findings are consistent with the proposed mechanisms: PPAR- α activation by fenofibrate enhances β -oxidation and suppresses lipogenesis; silymarin's antioxidant and membrane-stabilising actions and betaine's methyl-donor properties explain their moderate effects; ademetionine primarily exerts an anti-cholestatic influence.

Taken together, these results confirm that fenofibrate is the most effective agent for preventing fructose-induced hepatic steatosis and transaminase elevation in this experimental model and support the mechanistic rationale for its superior therapeutic potential.

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