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**CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS:  
CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES**

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**Summary:** *The review presents the concept of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in nephrology. The characteristics of the risk of kidney damage in patients with rheumatoid arthritis are discussed. One of the pressing problems in modern medicine is kidney damage in rheumatoid arthritis. Issues of the prevalence and risk factors for chronic kidney disease are considered. The kidneys are affected more often in rheumatoid arthritis than they are diagnosed. Consequently, early diagnosis of kidney damage in patients with rheumatoid arthritis has important clinical and prognostic significance. Possible morphological variants and mechanisms of kidney damage are also considered. In rheumatoid arthritis, the occurrence of chronic kidney disease depends primarily on the duration of the disease and the nature of the inflammatory process. These data are now fully confirmed. The problem of kidney damage in rheumatoid arthritis has not been fully studied and requires further research.*

**Keywords:** *rheumatoid arthritis, risk factor, amyloidosis, chronic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis.*

**ХРОНИЧЕСКАЯ БОЛЕЗНЬ ПОЧЕК У БОЛЬНЫХ РЕВМАТОИДНЫМ  
АРТРИТОМ: КЛИНИКО-ДИАГНОСТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ**

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**Резюме:** *В обзоре представлена концепция хронической болезни почек (ХБП) в нефрологии. Говорится о характеристике причины риска поражения почек у больных с ревматоидным артритом. Одной из актуальных проблем современной медицине поражению почек при ревматоидном артрите. Рассматриваются вопросы распространенности и факторов риска хронической болезни почек. Почки поражаются при ревматоидном артрите чаще, чем его диагностируют. Вследствие этого ранняя диагностика поражения почек у больных ревматоидный артрит имеет важное клиническое и прогностическое значение. Также рассмотрены возможные морфологические варианты и механизмы поражения почек. При ревматоидном артрите возникновение хронической болезни почек*

*зависит, прежде всего, продолжительность заболевания и характера воспалительного процесса. Эти данные полностью подтверждаются в настоящее время. Проблема поражения почек при ревматоидном артрите мало изучена и требует дальнейших исследований.*

**Ключевые слова:** *ревматоидный артрит, фактор риска, амилоидоз, хроническая болезнь почек, гломерулонефрит.*

Rheumatic diseases are the oldest human pathology and are considered the most common disease of the 21st century. In recent decades, there has been a certain progress in the field of theoretical and clinical rheumatology. According to E.A. Galushko and E.L. Nasonov, rheumatic diseases include more than 80 diseases and syndromes [31].

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by the development of chronic destructive polyarthritis with the involvement of other systems in the pathological process. Extra-articular systemic lesions in RA can have a serious impact on the prognosis of the disease [8, 39].

Масштабное исследования, проведенные в последние годы, продемонстрировали ассоциацию РА с высоким риском хронической болезни почек (ХБП) и сердечно-сосудистых осложнений, что связано с повышением смертности в этой категории пациентов [9, 27, 18].

The spectrum of renal pathology underlying CKD in RA is quite broad. Secondary amyloidosis has occupied a leading position among nephropathy variants in RA patients for many years [23, 44]. According to some studies, there is a trend towards changes in the structure of kidney damage in RA [5], taking into account the use of highly effective treatment regimens, including genetic engineering drugs, which serves as an additional prerequisite for studying this category of patients.

Previously, in the works of V.A. Nasonova, it was noted that RA is more common in women than in men (4:1). Moreover, the frequency of RA occurrence in women increases with age [40]. Moreover, it has been established that RA occurs more frequently among relatives of patients with the first degree of kinship than in the general population. These data are now fully confirmed [3].

The formation of nephropathies in RA is multifactorial, represented by the diversity of their clinical and morphological variants with minor, nonspecific changes in urine tests. The course of rheumatoid nephropathy, like other chronic kidney diseases, is progressive with the development of nephrosclerosis and a decrease in the placenta of functioning nephrons, with the outcome of chronic renal failure, with an extremely unfavorable prognosis, which determines the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of nephropathies in RA. Kidney pathology is found in RA with a high frequency - about 60%, according to various authors [36].

In RA patients, various kidney diseases can occur: secondary renal amyloidosis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial nephritis, renal vasculitis, nephrosclerosis, and in some cases, their combinations [30, 37]. Etiologically, kidney damage in RA patients can be

conditionally divided into 2 groups: firstly, nephropathy as one of the extraarticular manifestations or complications of RA itself, for example, renal vasculitis, chronic glomerulonephritis, secondary amyloidosis, and secondly, as a complication of drug therapy for RA: analgesic nephropathy (AN), drug-induced glomerulonephritis.

The pathogenesis of such different kidney diseases cannot be the same. A certain contribution to the progression of chronic kidney disease is made by disorders in the hemostasis system, endothelial dysfunction [41,43,24], the frequency of disease exacerbations, the presence of crescents, and the severity of tubulointerstitial changes in the nephroblast [21].

In patients with rheumatoid vasculitis of the renal vessels, a slight transient decrease in renal function is more often detected along with transient hematuria, indicating local inflammation, and severe renal failure is rarely observed [38,1].

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Many researchers have noted that in RA patients, the development of CKD and the severity of its manifestations are determined by the duration and activity of the underlying disease, age, the presence of arterial hypertension (AH), lipid metabolism disorders, and hyperglycemia [46, 2, 17].

The unfavorable prognostic significance of kidney damage in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been actively attracting researchers' attention in recent years [10]. Certain clinical variants of kidney involvement in the pathological process in rheumatoid arthritis are noted in most patients [33].

Various variants of kidney damage in rheumatoid arthritis have been described, in particular, glomerulonephritis, amyloidosis, vasculitis, as well as iatrogenic forms (analgesic tubulopathies, membranous nephropathy, etc.) [35,29,32].

Early manifestations of functional renal disorders, especially with moderate severity, do not always attract the attention of clinicians, while the progression of chronic renal disease (CHD) in RA can be rapid, especially in old age, as well as in association with cardiovascular pathology [11,14]. According to some researchers, the development of CHD in RA can be associated with cardiovascular damage to a greater extent than with the activity of RA itself [16].

Currently, the leading pathogenetic mechanism for the development of glomeruli and tubulointerstitial changes in the kidneys is chronic inflammation. In particular, elevated levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) in RA patients cause dysfunction of the glomerular vessel endothelium and trigger the synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines. [20,25]. Previously published works have shown that in RA patients treated with cytokine inhibitors, kidney function remained stable for a long time [19]. According to other data, in RA and renal amyloidosis, therapy with alpha tumor necrosis factor inhibitors led to a simultaneous decrease in proteinuria [4,7].

The study of the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis continues, as existing treatment methods do not have the desired effectiveness [34]. A connection has been proven between glomerulonephritis and changes in cytokine synthesis balance associated with immune response mechanisms [13,22]. It has been established that cytokines participate in the regulation of proliferative processes, differentiation, growth, and cell activity [12,26]. The quantitative content of cytokines and their ratio reflect the dynamics of the pathological process, correlate with the activity of the disease, which allows us to judge the effectiveness of the ongoing therapy and predict the outcome of the disease [42].

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