

# Shalenkova M.A.<sup>1</sup>, Ivanov A.V.<sup>1</sup>, Klimkin P. F.<sup>2</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Municipal Clinical Hospital #38, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia
- <sup>2</sup> Municipal Clinical Hospital #5, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia

# Acute coronary syndrome in patients with cancer: features of the course and the possibility of predicting hospital and long-term (6 months) periods using GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP biomarkers

Aim To evaluate clinical features of the course of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) in patients with

oncological diseases (OD) and to determine the role of biomarkers GDF-15, NT-proBNP, and hs-CRP

in short-term and long-term prognoses.

Material and methods In 88 patients (34 patients with ACS and OD and 54 patients with ACS without OD), complaints and

historical, objective, and laboratory and instrumental data were evaluated and blood concentrations of GDF-15, NT-proBNP, and hs-CRP biomarkers were measured on the first day of hospitalization. Incidence of cardiovascular complications (CVC) and outcomes of hospital and long-term (6 months) periods were analyzed. Statistical analysis of results was performed with the Statistica 12.0, MedCalc

19.1.7 software. The level of statistical significance was p<0.05.

Results In the ACS+OD group as compared to the ACS without OD group, the onset of disease was mostly

atypical, with shortness of breath and/or general weakness; the ACS+OD patients more frequently had III–IV Killip class acute heart failure (29 and 7%, p=0.01); mean hemoglobin concentration (125.6±27.9 and 141±16.6 g/l, p=0.003), prothrombin index (76.4±15.2 and 84.9±17.6%, p=0.003), and left ventricular ejection fraction (47.7±6.1 and 50.7±7.2%, p=0.02) were lower; and median concentrations of GDF-15 (1.95 [1.3; 2.8] and 1.45 [1.2; 2.0] ng/ml, p=0.03), NT-proBNP (947.3 [517.8; 1598.2], and 491.1 [85.1; 1069.1] pg/ml, p=0.006), and hs-CRP (14.1 [8.15; 36.75] and 7.8 [4.4; 16.2] mg/l, p=0.01) were higher. The presence of OD was associated with development of CVC, including urgent endpoints in the long-term and also increased the probability of fatal outcome within 6 months after discharge from the hospital. To predict the risk of CVC in patients with ACS and OD, two models with high prognostic values (AUC>0.9) were proposed. In the long-term, the value of NT-proBNP (cut-off point >524.5 pg/ml) was a statistically significant predictor for development of

endpoints with a high predictive value (AUC>0.8).

Conclusion The features of the clinical course of ACS in patients with OD indicate the importance of isolating

such patients into a separate group. Additional use of the developed models, along with a standard risk assessment by the GRACE scale, will allow individualized management of patients with ACS and OD

during the hospital and long-term (6 months) periods.

Keywords Acute coronary syndrome; oncological diseases; GDF-15; NT-proBNP, hs-CRP

For citation Shalenkova M.A., Ivanov A.V., Klimkin P. F. Acute coronary syndrome in patients with cancer:

features of the course and the possibility of predicting hospital and long-term (6 months) periods using GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP biomarkers. Kardiologiia. 2021;61(10):4–13. [Russian: Шаленкова М.А., Иванов А.В., Климкин П.Ф. Острый коронарный синдром у пациентов с онкологическим заболеванием: особенности течения и возможности прогнозирования госпитального и отдаленного (6 месяцев) периодов с использованием биомаркеров GDF-15, NT-proBNP,

hs-CRP. Кардиология. 2021;61(10):4-13]

Corresponding author Shalenkova M.A. E-mail: mshalenkova@yandex.ru

### Introduction

The maximum risk of death having cardiovascular causes, including acute coronary syndrome (ACS), is observed in the first 6 months and 5 years following confirmation of cancer diagnosis and commencement of anti-tumor therapy [1].

The high incidence of ACS in cancer patients (1.9–4.2%) is due to the rapid development and/or progression of atherosclerosis, hemostasis disorders, coronary artery

damage following radiation therapy, and cardiotoxicity of anti-tumor treatment. Moreover, ACS often develops as the cancer progresses, along with chemo- and radiation therapy and surgical procedures [2].

The course of ACS in cancer patients often ends with an adverse outcome. According to Velders et al. (2013), cancer patients who underwent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) had a more than twofold increase in the risk of fatal outcomes during hospital stay,



compared to patients without cancer (17.4% and 6.5%, respectively, p<0.05), as well as the highest mortality rate within the first 12 months following discharge (28.1% and 11.9%, respectively, p<0.05) [3]. The study by Iannaccone et al. (2018) (n=15,401 including 926 cancer patients) showed that the presence of cancer in patients with ACS was an independent predictor in developing primary endpoint (death and nonfatal myocardial infarction (MI)) within 12 months after discharge (odds ratio (OR) 2.1; confidence interval (CI): 1.8–2.5, p=0.001) [4].

Known methods for predicting the course of ACS include various models and scales (GRACE, TIMI, CRUSADE, PURSUIT, RECORD, etc.) [5–7]. However, these do not consider the presence of cancer. Moreover, there are no explicit provisions in the current guidelines for managing ACS patients who also have cancer and who may or may not have ST-segment elevation (STE-ACS and N STE-ACS, respectively) [5, 6]. Therefore, the identification of an approach for stratifying the risk in this category of patients is a relevant endeavor.

In recent years, the literature has discussed the predictive role of various biomarkers (growth differentiation factor 15 (GDF-15), N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP), high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), etc.) in patients with ACS [8–15].

GDF-15, which mainly involves atypical cells, is a marker of inflammation (including in atherosclerotic plaque) and cell apoptosis. This marker is actively expressed in the heart in the ischemic injury of cardiomyocytes, progression of fibrosis and myocardial remodeling [8]. At the same time, changes in the GDF-15 level are known to reflect the progression of cancer, the efficacy of antitumor therapies, as well as the development of cardiotoxicity during chemotherapy [9].

Representing one of the best-studied biomarkers, NT-proBNP is an independent predictor of low immediate and long-term survival rates in ACS patients [10]. It has previously been shown that control of NT-proBNP levels in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy is effective for assessing the risk of cardiotoxicity [11].

A typical protein of the acute phase of inflammatory reactions is hs-CRP. A meta-analysis (n=83,995) of 14 studies of the impact of increased hs-CRP levels on prognosis in various diseases found that this indicator could be used to independently predict the risk of all-cause death (OR 1.75; 95% CI: 1.55–1.98), including death of cancer (OR 1.25; 95% CI: 1.13–1.38, p=0.003) and cardiovascular death (OR 2.03, 95% CI: 1.65–2.50) [12].

Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of such biomarkers in ACS. For example, a multifactor model for stratification of the immediate and longterm risk of fatal outcomes of STE-ACS was developed using the GRACE scale and GDF-15 [13]. According to other data, using GDF-15 and NT-proBNP with the GRACE scale improved the prognostic value of the latter concerning fatal outcomes and/or nonfatal MI in patients with ACS within 6 months after discharge [14].

However, until now the prognostic efficiency of these models and scales has not been evaluated in ACS patients with cancer.

### **Objective**

To evaluate the clinical course of ACS in cancer patients and determine the role of GDF-15, NT-proBNP, and hs-CRP biomarkers in predicting the immediate and long-term (6 months) periods of the disease.

### Material and Methods

The study was carried out in Regional Vascular Center No. 2 of N.A. Semashko Nizhny Novgorod Regional Hospital.

The inclusion criteria were STE-ACS or NSTE-ACS (diagnosed following the current clinical guidelines [5, 6]), age of patients ≤85 years and verified cancer (preparation for treatment, during the treatment, or after its completion within <10 years) for the main group. Exclusion criteria were age >85 years, cancer cachexia, chronic heart failure stage III having occurred prior to current hospitalization, GFR<15 mL/min/1.73 m² acute infectious disease and mental disorders.

Examination and treatment of patients were carried out following the current standards and guidelines [5, 21–6].

The study protocol was designed following the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the local ethics committee. All patients signed informed consent to participate in the study.

The study included 88 patients (ACS with cancer n=34, ACS without cancer n=54); the blood levels of the following biomarkers were studied: GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP. The subgroups were referred to as ACS with cancer (n=34) and ACS without cancer (n=54).

The mean age of ACS patients (n=88) was  $65.5\pm8.8$  years; 49 (56%) were male. NSTE-ACS was detected in 50% of patients (n=44) at admission. MI was diagnosed in 80% of patients (n=70, of whom 48 patients had had Q-MI) during the hospital stay.

Complaints, anamnesis, laboratory and clinical data, the incidence of cardiovascular events, and outcomes of hospital and long-term (6 months) periods were assessed in all patients with ACS. Cardiovascular events were classified as emergencies (cardiogenic shock, pulmonary edema, stent thrombosis, ventricular fibrillation, myocardial rupture) and conventional (early postinfarction angina, acute left



ventricular aneurysm, paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia, atrial fibrillation).

The endpoints (within the 6-month follow-up) included: cardiovascular death, recurrent MI, re-hospitalization with ACS, PCI, or coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG).

Blood samples were collected to determine the levels of GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP in patients with ACS (n=88) on day 1 of hospital stay. Tubes containing blood were centrifuged and frozen under special conditions. Later, the following tests were performed simultaneously in the authorized AVK-Med Centralized Laboratory following the manufacturers' instructions: GDF-15 (ng/mL) and NT-proBNP (pg/mL) by enzyme immunoassay [Cloud-Clone Corp. (China) and Vector-Best (Russia) test systems, respectively], hs-CRP (mg/L) by immunoturbidimetry (Cobas test system, RocheDiagnostics, Switzerland). The reference ranges were 0.15–1.2 ng/mL for GDF-15 (according to the literature [9, 10, 14]), 0–200 pg/mL NT-proBNP, 0-5 mg/L hs-CRP (in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions). It should be noted that blood samples were collected in all patients before the onset of cardiovascular events.

The GRACE scale was used to assess the risk of death and recurrent MI in the hospital and post-hospital periods [5, 6].

Selective coronary angiography (SCAG) was performed in 82% of patients (n=72; 18% signed the written refusal to undergo invasive intervention). Coronary stenosis > 50% was considered hemodynamically significant [5, 6] and was detected in 75% of patients (n=66). Coronary stenting was performed in 70% of patients (n=62): all had normal coronary flow (TIMI-3) at the area of intervention.

The structure of cancers in patients with ACS (n=34) was heterogeneous: lung cancer (n=8), hematological diseases (n=7), breast cancer (n=5), prostate cancer (n=4), uterine cancer (n=3), gastrointestinal cancer (n=3), other (n=4). The structure of cancers in our patients with ACS corresponded to the literature data [3], including the multicenter studies [1, 4].

According to the TNM classification of malignant tumors, 50% of patients had a score of  $T_{1-2}$ , while 27% of patients had T3–4 (23% of patients were not classified (hematological diseases, glioblastoma)). At the time of hospitalization for ACS, 59% of patients (n=20) were undergoing cancer treatment, in the rest (n=14) had undergone antitumor therapy from 2 to 8 years before the onset of ACS (mean 4±1.8 years). The following therapies were carried out: surgical interventions in 62% of patients (n=21); chemotherapy in 41% of patients (n=14); radiation therapy in 18% of patients (n=6).

Statistical processing of the data obtained was performed using Statistica 12.0 (StatSoft, USA) and MedCalc version 19.1.7. (MedCalc Software, Belgium). The type of

distribution was determined using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Quantitative data are expressed as the mean and standard deviation (M±SD) in the case of the normal distribution and as the median (Me) and quartile interval ( $Q_{25}$ ;  $Q_{75}$ ) in the case of non-normal distribution. Qualitative variables are presented as the absolute values and percentages (%). Quantitative indicators were compared using the Mann-Whitney test, while categorical indicators were compared using the two-tailed Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test. The correlation power was evaluated using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (R). Logistic regression analysis was performed to identify the parameters associated with the development of adverse events (cardiovascular events in the hospital period). A logistic regression equation for predicting the object's state was constructed using the formula:

$$Y=a+\beta 1\times X1+\beta 2\times X2+...$$
  
+\beta n\timex Xn [16],

where Y – response variable; a – constant; X1, X2, Xn – predictor variables;  $\beta$ 1,  $\beta$ 2,  $\beta$ n – coefficients of the corresponding predictor variables. In order to determine an optimal ratio of the sensitivity and specificity of the model, ROC analysis was performed, the characteristic ROC curve (ROC-curve) was plotted, and the area under the curve (AUC) was calculated. Kaplan–Meier survival curves were constructed for estimating the effect of the examined parameters on the survival of patients with ACS. The Gehan – Wilcoxon test was applied to assess the differences between empirical functions of survival in the study groups. Differences were statistically significant when p was less than 0.05.

## **Results and Discussion**

Table 1 provides the characteristics of ACS patients with cancer (n=34) and without cancer (n=54) on day 1 of hospital treatment.

As shown in Table 1, ACS patients with cancer significantly more often complained of dyspnea and asthenia and had a higher incidence of coronary artery disease and a history of MI at admission than ACS patients without cancer. However, the groups were comparable in terms of age and the presence of concomitant diseases.

It was established that ACS patients with cancer had a statistically significantly higher respiratory rate and prevalence of acute heart failure (AHF) Killip III–IV, as well as lower mean levels of hemoglobin (Hb), prothrombin ratio (PR), and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), as compared with those in ACS patients without cancer (Table 1); this was also consistent with the literature data. Luboyatnikova et al. (2018) showed that STEMI patients with cancer (n=45), as compared with STEMI patients without cancer (n=90), had lower Hb (115.56±23.07 g/L and 133.70±16.45 g/l,



**Table 1.** Comparative characteristics of groups of patients with ACS with and without cancer

Parameter	ACS with cancer (n=34)	ACS without cancer (n=54)	p	
Complaints at admission				
Chest pain/ discomfort, n (%)	25 (74)	44 (82)	0.5	
Dyspnea, n (%)	16 (47)	14 (26)	0.04	
Weakness, n (%)	17 (50)	15 (30)	0.03	
History				
Age, years <sup>2</sup>	66.7±7.8	64.1±9.6	0.2	
History of MI, n (%)	24 (65)	25 (46)	0.03	
History of MI, n (%)	12 (35)	9 (17)	0.045	
PCI, n (%)	7 (21)	8 (15)	0.5	
Essential hypertension, n (%)	32 (94)	48 (89)	0.6	
DM, n (%)	8 (24) 17 (32)		0.6	
Physical examination dat	a			
SBP, mm Hg <sup>2</sup>	131,2±22,2	138,2±22,4	0,2	
RR, brpm <sup>2</sup>	18,9±2,5	17,8±1,6	0,04	
HR, bpm <sup>2</sup>	80,4±13,8	79,3±12,7	0,6	
AHF, Killip class III-IV, n (%)	10 (29)	4 (7)	0,01	
Laboratory and clinical findings				
Troponin, ng/mL <sup>1</sup>	0.16  [0.0085; 1.865]	0.22 [0.0015; 2.015]	0.6	
Total cholesterol, mmol/L <sup>1</sup>	4.9 [4.2; 5.8]	5.1 [4.2; 6.2]	0.6	
Creatinine, µmol/L <sup>2</sup>	109.5±36.8 96.8±23.6		0.14	
GFR (CKD EPI), mL/ min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	58.5±19.8	67.4±20.1	0.07	
Urea, mmol/L1	6.8 [5.3; 9.4]	6 [4.6; 8.2]	0.09	
Hemoglobin, g/L <sup>2</sup>	125.6±27.9 141±16.6		0.003	
PR, % <sup>2</sup>	76.4±15.2 84.9±17.6		0.003	
LVEF, % <sup>2</sup>	47.7±6.1	50.7±7.2	0.02	
PAP, mm Hg <sup>1</sup>	36.5 [32; 42] 35 [30; 39]		0.1	

The data are expressed as  $^{1}$  – Me  $[Q_{25}-Q_{75}]$ ,  $^{2}$  – M±SD.

CAD – coronary artery disease; MI – myocardial infarction;

PCI – percutaneous coronary intervention; DM – diabetes mellitus;

SBP – systolic blood pressure; RR – respiratory rate; HR – heart rate;

AHF – acute heart failure; GFR – glomerular filtration rate;

PR – prothrombin ratio; LVEF – left ventricular ejection fraction;

PAP - pulmonary artery pressure.

**Table 2.** Median biomarker (GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP) levels in ACS patients with and without cancer

Parameter	ACS with cancer (n=34)	ACS without cancer (n=54)	p
GDF-15, ng/mL	1.95 [1.3; 2.8]	1.45 [1.2; 2.0]	0.03
NT-proBNP, pg/mL	947.3 [517.8; 1598.2]	491.1 [85.1; 1069.1]	0.006
hs-CRP, mg/L	14.1 [8.15; 36.75]	7.8 [4.4; 16.2]	0.01

The data are expressed as Me  $[Q_{25}; Q_{75}]$ .

respectively, p<0.001), as well as lower mean LVEF; however, the differences were not statistically significant  $(47.76\pm10.68\%$  and  $49.55\pm10.04\%$ , respectively, p > 0.05) [17].

At the same time, the higher prevalence of AHF manifestations in ACS patients with cancer are probably indicative of existing LV dysfunction. According to the literature data, it cannot be excluded that ACS was associated with undiagnosed LV dysfunction in these patients, including as a result of cardiotoxicity of antitumor therapy following its completion  $\lceil 1-3 \rceil$ .

It should be noted that the groups were comparable in terms of the GRACE scores (mean score was 131±34.2 and 132±29.7, respectively, p=0.8).

The median biomarker (GDF-15, NT-proBNP, hs-CRP) levels in ACS patients both with and without cancer are provided in Table 2.

As shown in Table 2, the median levels of all biomarkers of interest were statistically significantly higher in ACS patients with cancer than in the group of ACS patients without cancer.

At the time of hospitalization for ACS, 41% of patients (n=14) from the ACS group with cancer had completed chemotherapy. According to Putt et al. (2015), higher levels of GDF-15 were associated with chemotherapy cardiotoxicity [18]. At the same time, those levels remained elevated even following the completion of anti-tumor therapy and recovery of normal levels of other biomarkers, such as NT-proBNP.

The median level of NT-proBNP in the group of ACS patients with cancer was almost two times higher than in the group of ACS patients without cancer (Table 2); this was possibly associated with myocardial damage during anti-tumor therapy [19] and/or more frequent manifestations of AHF Killip class III–IV.

The median level of hs-CRP was more than 1.5 times higher in the group of ACS with cancer compared to ACS patients without cancer (Table 2). According to Shitara et al. (2019), increased levels of hs-CRP are prognostic of cardiovascular events in patients with ACS after PCI [20].

Thus, on the one hand, higher median levels of the biomarkers of interest in the group of ACS with cancer, compared to ACS patients without cancer, may be indicative of the presence and persistence of LV myocardial damage following anti-tumor treatment [19], while on the other hand, they can also be significant predictors of adverse outcomes in the future [13–15, 20].

The correlation analysis established a statistically significant relationship between the presence of cancer in ACS patients and the levels of GDF-15 (R=0.24; p=0.026), NT-proBNP (R=0.3; p=0.005), hs-CRP (R=0.27; p=0.01). It should be noted that the group of ACS patients with cancer was heterogeneous with respect to the type of cancer, the age at which diagnosis was confirmed, and the duration of anti-tumor therapy.



During the period of hospitalization, cardiovascular events developed in 53% of patients (n=47), of which more than half were emergencies (n=26). The most frequent conventional cardiovascular events were high-grade ventricular beats (according to Lown; n=17), atrial fibrillation (n=12), early postinfarction angina (n=7), while the most frequent cardiovascular emergencies were pulmonary edema (n=14), cardiogenic shock (n=4), VF (n=3). Cardiovascular events were registered more frequently in the group of ACS patients with cancer than in the group of ACS patients without cancer (71% and 43%, respectively, p=0.01), including cardiovascular emergencies (56% and 13%, respectively, p<0.001). Correlation analysis showed that the presence of cancer was statistically significantly associated with cardiovascular events (R=0.27, p=0.01), including cardiovascular emergencies (R=0.35, p<0.0001).

There were four fatal outcomes in the hospital period in the ACS group (n=88), including two patients with cancer (chronic and acute leukemia; ACS onset during chemotherapy). Fatal outcomes were reported on day 2 (n=2) and day 11 (n=2) day of hospital stay. Postmortem examinations confirmed that these patients (n=4) had myocardial infarction. The causes of fatal outcomes were cardiogenic shock (n=1), pulmonary edema (n=1), ventricular fibrillation (n=1), myocardial rupture followed by hemopericardium (n=1). The mean GRACE score was 176±41 in patients with fatal outcomes in the hospital period.

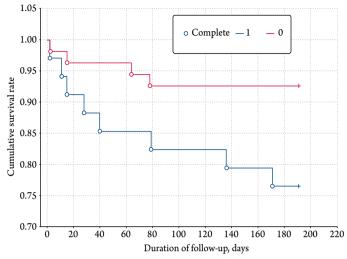
The follow-up of 84 patients with ACS continued for 6 months. Different endpoints were reported in 42% of patients with ACS (n=35, of whom 18 had cancer). The most common endpoints were re-hospitalization with ACS (n=14), cardiovascular death (n=8), PCI or CABG (n=7). The correlation analysis showed that the long-term endpoints were statistically significantly correlated with the presence of cancer (R=0.44; p<0.0001).

A fatal outcome was reported in 8 patients, whose mean GRACE score was 158.6±31.1. The ROC analysis established that the GRACE score was prognostically significant in our sample of ACS patients (n=88) for the risk of death and/or recurrent MI, both in the hospital period (AUC=0.830; 95% CI: 0.735–0.902, p=0.008) and the long-term period (AUC=0.823, 95% CI: 0.725–0.898; p=0.002).

In the follow-up period (hospital period and 6 months after discharge), fatal outcomes were reported in 12 patients, including 8 patients with cancer. The Kaplan–Meier curves were constructed to assess the survival rates of ACS patients depending on the presence of cancer (Figure 1).

As seen in Figure 1, the presence of cancer statistically significantly increased the likelihood of fatal outcomes in ACS patients during 6 months of the follow-up, which was consistent with the literature data [3, 4]. As can be seen, the curves constructed for the groups of ACS patients with and

**Figure 1.** Kaplan–Meier curves for assessing the survival of ACS patients depending on the presence of cancer



1 - ACS with cancer (n=34). 0 - ACS without cancer (n=54). Chi-square test=4,5, p=0,033.

without cancer began to diverge in the hospital period with statistically significant differences achieved 1 month after discharge; for this reason, it is essential to follow-up ACS patients with cancer over the long-term period.

Thus, in our sample of ACS patients the presence of cancer was directly associated with the development of cardiovascular events in the hospital period and endpoints in the long-term period, increasing the likelihood of fatal outcome within the 6-month follow-up.

An attempt was made to predict the development of adverse outcomes (cardiovascular events, as well as fatal outcomes and/or recurrent) using an expanded system of indicators to optimize the management of ACS patients with cancer. First, the ROC analysis was performed to assess the significance of the GRACE scores concerning cardiovascular events, including separately cardiovascular emergencies, as well as fatal outcomes and/or recurrent MI, ACS patients with cancer, n=34 (Figure 2 A, B).

Although the GRACE scores were not found to be statistically significant for predicting any of the cardiovascular events in the sample of ACS patients with cancer (AUC=0.660; 95% CI: 0.478–0.813; p=0.089), this metric had statistical significance as a predictor of cardiovascular emergencies only (AUC=0.789; 95% CI: 0.616–0.910; p<0.001).

Therefore, in order to provide a comprehensive assessment of the correlation between various parameters and their roles in predicting the development of all cardiovascular events (Y1), cardiovascular emergencies (Y2), and the endpoints (Y3) in ACS patients with cancer, the next step comprised a logistic regression analysis. The latter included quantitative indicators [NT-proBNP (pg/mL), hs-CRP (mg/L), GDF-15 (ng/mL), K+ (mmol/L), Na+ (mmol/L), urea (mmol/L), creatinine (mmol/L), glomerular filtration rate (CKD-EPI) (GFRCKD-EPI; mL/min/1.73 m²), PR (%), Hb (g/L),



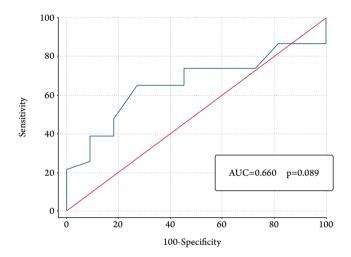
**Table 3.** Significant parameters of logistic regression for predicting cardiovascular disease in the hospital period of ACS in cancer patients (n=34)

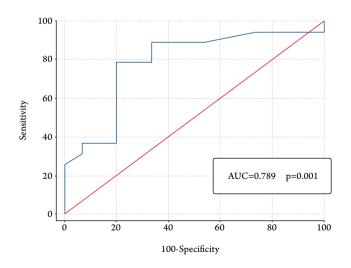
Variable	β	σ	p	Odds ratio	95% CI
NT-proBNP	0.0043693	0.0018958	0.0212*	1.0044	1.0007-1.0081
hs-CRP	0.036855	0.017697	0.0373*	0.9638	0.9310-0.9978
GFR (CKD-EPI)	-0.13162	0.063116	0.0370*	0.8767	0.7747-0.9921
Constant	7.16535	-	-	-	-

The percentage of correctly classified cases is 88.24%; AUC=0.949; 95% CI: 0.814-0.995, p<0.0001.

GFR – glomerular filtration rate calculated using the CKD-EPI formula, mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 2. ROC curve for the GRACE score concerning the prognosis of all cardiovascular events (A) and separate cardiovascular emergencies (B) in ACS patients with cancer (n=34)





LVEF (%), GRACE score] and qualitative indicators (a history of MI).

The Y1 response variable was coded: '0' – without cardiovascular events (n=10), '1' – with cardiovascular events (n=24). Three significant variables were obtained for the prognosis of cardiovascular events in ACS patients with cancer: NT-proBNP, hs-CRP, GFRCKD-EPI (Table 3). When the obtained variables (Table 3) were incorporated in the formula

[16], an equation was obtained for the prediction of cardiovascular events in ACS patients with cancer:

$$Y1=7.16535 + (0.0043693 \times cNT-proBNP) + (0.036855 \times hs-CRP) + (-0.13162 \times GFR_{CKD-EPI}).$$

The resulting integral indicator 'Y1' was named 'Cancer. NT-proBNP – hs-CRP – GFRCKD-EPI'.

To assess the predictive value of the model, the resulting indicator was included in the ROC analysis (Figure 3).

It was found that when 'Cancer. NT-proBNP – hs- CRP – GFRCKD-EPI' was > 0.9805, a cardiovascular event was highly likely to develop in cancer patients during the ACS hospitalization period (AUC=0.949; 95% CI: 0.814–0.995; p<0.0001). The predictive sensitivity of the obtained indicator was 82.61% (95% CI: 61.2–95.0), while specificity was 90.91% (95% CI: 58.7–99.8).

The role of the above parameters was then assessed in relation to the development of only cardiovascular emergencies in ACS patients with cancer (n=34). The Y2 response variable was coded: '0' – without cardiovascular emergencies (n=15); '1' – with cardiovascular emergencies (n=19).

As a result, two significant variables were obtained for the prognosis of cardiovascular emergencies in ACS patients with cancer: the GRACE score and NT-proBNP (Table 4).

To predict the development of cardiovascular emergencies in ACS patients with cancer, we used the formula [16], into which the obtained significant variables from Table 4 were incorporated:

$$Y2= -8.87992 + (0.048438 \times GRACE score) + (0.0031794 \times NT-proBNP).$$

The resulting integral indicator 'Y2' was named 'Cancer. GRACE – NT-proBNP'. In order to assess the predictive value of the model, the resulting indicator was included in the ROC analysis (Figure 4).

It was found that when 'Cancer. GRACE – NT-proBNP' was > -0.1667, a cardiovascular emergency was highly

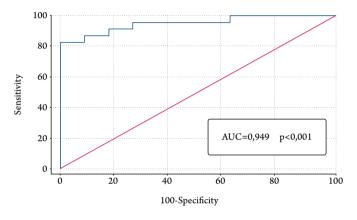


**Table 4.** Significant parameters of logistic regression for predicting cardiovascular emergencies in the hospital period of ACS in cancer patients (n=34)

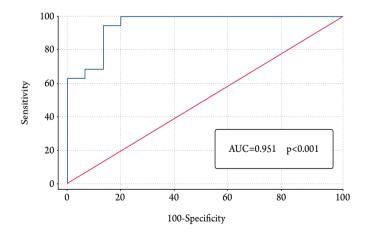
Variable	Coefficient	σ	p	Odds ratio	95% CI
GRACE	0.048438	0.024534	0.0483*	1.0496	1.0004-1.1013
NT-proBNP	0.0031794	0.0012571	0.0114*	1.0032	1.0007-1.0057
Constant	-8.87992	-	-	-	-

The percentage of correctly classified cases is 85.29%; AUC=0.951; 95% CI: 0.817-0.996, p<0.0001.

**Figure 3.** ROC curve for the parameter acquired 'Cancer. NT-proBNP – hs-CRP – GFRCKD-EPI' in predicting cardiovascular event in the hospital period of ACS in cancer patients (n=34)



**Figure 4.** ROC curve for the parameter acquired 'Cancer. GRACE-NT-proBNP' in predicting cardiovascular emergencies in the hospital period of ACS in cancer patients (n=34)



likely (AUC=0.951; 95% CI: 0.817–0.996; p<0.0001). The predictive sensitivity of 'Cancer. GRACE – NT-proBNP' was 94.74% (95% CI: 74–99.9); specificity was 86.67% (95% CI: 59.5–98.3). The developed prognostic method obtained a Russian Federation patent on invention No. 2741195 dated January 22, 2021 [21].

In relation to the development of cardiovascular emergencies in the hospital period of ACS in patients with cancer,

it is important to note that the prognostic value of the integral indicator 'Cancer. GRACE – NT-proBNP' (Figure 4) in our sample was 20.4% higher as compared to using only the GRACE score (Figure 2B) (p=0.027).

Thus, the obtained integral indicator 'Cancer. GRACE – NT-proBNP' can be used to predict with a high sensitivity of 94.74% and specificity of 86.67% not only the risk of death and/or recurrent MI, but also the risk of developing cardiovascular emergencies in ACS patients with cancer during the hospital stay.

In the long-term period, different endpoints were reported in 56% of patients (n=18) in the ACS group with cancer (n=32), among which re-hospitalization for ACS (n=8) and fatal outcomes (n=6) prevailed.

The Y3 response variable was coded: '0' – without endpoints (n=16), '1' – with endpoints (n=18). The logistic regression analysis (with the above parameters) showed that NT-proBNP, which was included in the ROC-analysis, was the only significant variable in terms of the development of endpoints in the long-term period in ACS patients with cancer (n=32). At the same time, it was found in our sample that, when NT-proBNP was >524.5 pg/mL, the likelihood of developing endpoints in the long-term period in ACS patients with cancer increased (AUC=0.808; 95% CI: 0.631–0.925; p=0.001). The predictive sensitivity of NT-proBNP was 84.0% (95% CI: 68.3–98.8), while specificity was 72.7% (95% CI: 34.9–90.1).

The proposed prognostic models can be relatively easily implemented in clinical practice and used in hospitals in ACS patients with cancer. It should be noted that all the developed models include NT-proBNP, which was proposed in the 2020 guidelines as a prognostic biomarker in the management of ACS without persistent St-segment elevation [22]. At the same time, NT-proBNP is essential in ACS patients with cancer, whose myocardium may have been compromised by previous anti-tumor therapy.

### Limitations

The limitations to this study include the small sample of ACS patients with cancer, heterogeneity in cancer



Краткая информация по безопасности — амлодилин/индапамиц/периндоприл МU-31762-67622

СОСЛАР: Трипинска 15 мг/1,25 мг/5 мг 15 мг амподитин/ 25 мг ирадиалици 26 мг ирадиалици 26





locations, age of cancer diagnosis, type of anti-tumor therapy, and the impossibility of accurately assessing the toxic effect of chemotherapeutic drugs on atherosclerotic plaques, coronary arteries, and the myocardium.

Conclusion

Given the established clinical picture and the blood levels of biomarkers in ACS patients with cancer, it is reasonable to distinguish such patients as a separate group. This is necessary to improve their management regardless of duration and type of anti-tumor treatment. The use of the proposed models, in addition to the standard risk assessment (GRACE), will allow personalizing the management of such patients to prevent complications and improve the immediate and long-term (6 months) prognosis.

### **Funding**

The study had no financial support.

No conflict of interest is reported.

The article was received on 15/07/2021

### REFERENCE

- Sturgeon KM, Deng L, Bluethmann SM, Zhou S, Trifiletti DM, Jiang C et al. A population-based study of cardiovascular disease mortality risk in US cancer patients. European Heart Journal. 2019;40(48):3889–97. DOI: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehz766
- Balluzek M.F., Ionova A.K. Cardio-oncology in treatment and rehabilitation programs of oncological patients. Russian Journal of Cardiology. 2014;19(5):75–80. [Russian: Баллюзек М.Ф., Ионова А.К. Кардиоонкология в программах лечениях и реабилитации онкологических больных. Российский кардиологический журнал. 2014;19(5):75–80]. DOI: 10.15829/1560-4071-2014-5-75-80
- Velders MA, Boden H, Hofma SH, Osanto S, van der Hoeven BL, Heestermans AACM et al. Outcome After ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction in Patients with Cancer Treated with Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. The American Journal of Cardiology. 2013;112(12):1867–72. DOI: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2013.08.019
- Iannaccone M, D'Ascenzo F, Vadalà P, Wilton SB, Noussan P, Colombo F et al. Prevalence and outcome of patients with cancer and acute coronary syndrome undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention:

   BleeMACS substudy. European Heart Journal: Acute Cardiovascular Care. 2018;7(7):631–8. DOI: 10.1177/2048872617706501
- 5. Esc Study Group. The task force for the management of acute myocardial infarction in patients presenting with ST-segment elevation of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) 2017 ESC guidelines for the management of acute myocardial infarction in patients presenting with ST-segment elevation. Russian Journal of Cardiology. 2018;23(5):103–58. [Russian: Рекомендации по ведению пациентов с острым инфарктом миокарда с подъемом сегмента ST 2017. Российский кардиологический журнал. 2018;23(5):103–58]. DOI: 10.15829/1560-4071-2018-5-103-158
- 6. Roffi M, Andreotti F, Bax JJ, Borger MA, Brotons C, Chew DP et al. 2015 ESC Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation. Russian Journal of Cardiology. 2016;23(3):9–63. [Russian: Roffi M, Andreotti F, Bax JJ, Borger MA, Brotons C, Chew DP и др. Рекомендации ESC по ведению пациентов с острым коронарным синдромом без стойкого подъема сегмента ST 2015. Российский кардиологический журнал. 2016;23(3):9-63]
- 7. Alieva M.G. Risk stratification, registers and prognostic scales in acute coronary syndrome. South of Russia: Ecology, Development. 2017;12(3):159–65. [Russian: Алиева М.Г. Стратификация риска, регистры и прогностические шкалы при остром коронарном синдром. Юг России: экология, развитие. 2017;12(3):159-65]
- 8. Zhang S, Dai D, Wang X, Zhu H, Jin H, Zhao R et al. Growth differentiation factor–15 predicts the prognoses of patients with acute coronary syndrome: a meta-analysis. BMC Cardiovascular Disorders. 2016;16(1):82. DOI: 10.1186/s12872-016-0250-2
- 9. Zimmers TA, Jin X, Hsiao EC, McGrath SA, Esquela AF, Koniaris LG. Growth differentiation factor-15/macrophage inhibitory cytokine-1 induction after kidney and lung injury. Shock (Augusta, Ga.). 2005;23(6):543–8. PMID: 15897808

- Khorolets E.V., Shlyk S.V. Evaluation prediction heart failure in patients with myocardial infarction in period of hospital treatment.
   Мodern problems of science and education. 2018;4:162–72. [Russian: Хоролец Е.В., Шлык С.В. Оценка прогноза сердечной недостаточности у пациентов с острым инфарктом миокарда в период стационарного лечения. Современные проблемы науки и образования. 2018;4:162-72]
- López-Sendón J, Álvarez-Ortega C, Zamora Auñon P, Buño Soto A, Lyon AR, Farmakis D et al. Classification, prevalence, and outcomes of anticancer therapy-induced cardiotoxicity: the CARDIOTOX registry. European Heart Journal. 2020;41(18):1720–9. DOI: 10.1093/ eurheartj/ehaa006
- 12. Li Y, Zhong X, Cheng G, Zhao C, Zhang L, Hong Y et al. Hs-CRP and all-cause, cardiovascular, and cancer mortality risk: A meta-analysis. Atherosclerosis. 2017;259:75–82. DOI: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2017.02.003
- Kopitsa N.P., Vishnevskaya I.R. Predicting death in patients with acute coronary outcome in the nearest and remote periods. ScienceRise. 2014;5(4(5)):7–10. [Russian: Копица Н.П., Вишневская И.Р. Прогнозирование летального исхода у больных острым коронарным исходом в ближайший и отдаленный периоды. Sciencerise. 2014;5(4(5)):7-10]. DOI: 10.15587/2313-8416.2014.31916
- 14. Widera C, Pencina MJ, Meisner A, Kempf T, Bethmann K, Marquardt I et al. Adjustment of the GRACE score by growth differentiation factor 15 enables a more accurate appreciation of risk in non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome. European Heart Journal. 2012;33(9):1095–104. DOI: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehr444
- 15. Khamitova A.F., Lakman I.A., Akhmetvaleev R.R., Tulbaev E.L., Gareeva D.F., Zagidullin Sh.Z. et al. Multifactor predictive model in patients with myocardial infarction based on modern biomarkers. Kardiologiia. 2020;60(3):14–20. [Russian: Хамитова А.Ф., Лакман И.А., Ахметвалеев Р.Р., Тулбаев Э.Л., Гареева Д.Ф., Загидуллин Ш.З. и др. Многофакторная прогностическая модель у пациентов с инфарктом миокарда в отдаленном периоде на основе современных биомаркеров. Кардиология. 2020;60(3):14-20]. DOI: 10.18087/cardio.2020.3.2593
- StatSoft, Inc. Electronic textbook on statistics. Moscow. StatSoft. 2012. Av. at: http://statsoft.ru/home/textbook/default.htm. [Russian: StatSoft, Inc. Электронный учебник по статистике. Москва, StatSoft. 2012. Доступно на: http://www.statsoft.ru/home/textbook/default.htm]
- 17. Luboyatnikova E.S., Kiselev A.R., Komarova M.V., Rodionova V.A., Kapp E.V., Duplyakov D.V. ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction in Patients with Malignancies. Kardiologiia. 2018;58(12):5–12. [Russian: Лубоятникова Е.С., Киселев А.Р., Комарова М.В., Родионова В.А., Дупляков Д.В. Инфаркт миокарда с подъемом сегмента ST у пациентов со злокачественными новообразованиями. Кардиология. 2018;58(12):5-12]. DOI: 10.18087/cardio.2018.12.10204



- Putt M, Hahn VS, Januzzi JL, Sawaya H, Sebag IA, Plana JC et al. Longitudinal Changes in Multiple Biomarkers Are Associated with Cardiotoxicity in Breast Cancer Patients Treated with Doxorubicin, Taxanes, and Trastuzumab. Clinical Chemistry. 2015;61(9):1164–72. DOI: 10.1373/clinchem.2015.241232
- 19. Trusheva K.S., Bajbolova M.K., Toktarbaeva A.A. Cardio-oncology: anti-cancer treatment and cardiovascular outcomes. Achievements of science and education. 2018;6(28):96–9. [Russian: Трушева К.С., Байболова М.К., Токтарбаева А.А. Кардиоонкология: противораковое лечение и сердечно-сосудистые исходы. Достижения науки и образования. 2018;6(28):96-9]
- Shitara J, Ogita M, Wada H, Tsuboi S, Endo H, Doi S et al. Clinical impact of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein during follow-up on long-term adverse clinical outcomes in patients with coronary artery disease treated with percutaneous coronary intervention. Journal of Cardiology. 2019;73(1):45–50. DOI: 10.1016/j.jjccc.2018.06.002
- 21. Shalenkova M.A., Ivanov A.V., Klimkin P.F., Rumyantseva S.M., Mironov N.N. A method for predicting urgent cardiovascular com-

- plications in the hospital period with acute coronary syndrome in patients with a history of cancer. Patent RU 2 741 195 C1. 2021. Av. at: https://patenton.ru/patent/RU2741195C1. [Russian: Шаленкова М.А., Иванов А.В., Климкин П.Ф., Румянцева С.М., Миронов Н.Н. Способ прогнозирования ургентных сердечнососудистых осложнений в госпитальном периоде при остром коронарном синдроме у больных с онкологическим заболеванием в анамнезе. Патент RU 2 741 195 C1. 2021. Доступно на: https://patenton.ru/patent/RU2741195C1]
- 22. Collet JP, Thiele H, Barbato E, Barthélémy O, Bauersachs J, Bhatt DL et al. 2020 ESC Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation. Russian Journal of Cardiology. 2021;26(3):125–93. [Russian: Collet J.P., Thiele H., Barbato E., Barthélémy O., Bauersachs J., Bhatt D.L. et al. Рекомендации ESC по ведению пациентов с острым коронарным синдромом без стойкого подъема сегмента ST 2020. Российский кардиологический журнал. 2021;26(3):125-93]. DOI: 10.15829/1560-4071-2021-4418