

LIPOIC ACID DECREASES PLATELET LIPID PEROXIDATION LEVEL IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETIC NEUROPATHY

E V. Melnikova, L. A. Alexandrova, E. R. Barantsevitch, R. A. Evtyuchin, N. N. Petrishev, A. A. Skoromets
Departments of Neurology and Pathophysiology, Pavlov State Medical University, St.-Petersburg, Russia

Increased generation of reactive oxygen species in platelets, along with impaired antioxidant mechanisms, play an important role in the aetiology of neurovascular abnormalities in insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. 28 diabetic patients with neuropathy and 26 age- and sex- mated controls were included in the study. Platelet's malondialdehyde (MDA) content was increased and platelet's superoxide dismutase activity was decreased in diabetic patients. After 21-day intravenous treatment with 600 mg of lipoic acid (Espa-lipon, Esparma, GmbH) platelet MDA content diminished. These changes correlated with the decrease in platelet aggregation activity and with the improvement of subjective symptoms (i.e. spontaneous pain, numbness, coldness, hypoesthesia) and objective tests (i.e. motor nerve conduction velocity, sensory nerve conduction velocity, and vibration threshold). Following treatment with 1200 mg of Espa- lipon *per os* (4 month) gave more successful results. These data show high efficiency of Espa-lipon in diabetic neurovascular disorders.