

## **DRUG ADDICTION AS A RISK FACTOR OF BARTONELLOSIS**

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World practice testifies to the leading role of Injection Drug Users (IDU) in support of epidemic process of infectious diseases with the haemocontact mechanism of transmission (HIV-, HCV-, HBV-infections and others). Parasitic strategy of *Bartonella* consists in development of persistent infection.

**Purpose.** Screening of the HIV-infected persons for specific anti*Bartonella* antibodies presence in comparison with the ways of infection transmission and presence of concomitant HBV- and HCV-infections.

**Results.** 176 HIV-infected persons were examined. 31,8 % of inspected were IDU. 16,5 % were infected with HBV, 41,5 % – with HCV. Anti*Bartonella* antibodies were revealed in Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Assay in 34,7 % of HIV-infected, that testifies to the active character of epidemic process in this group of population. On the basis of analysis of epidemiological data the greater percent of anti*Bartonella* antibodies were detected in the group of the HIV-infected IDU in comparison with non-IDU (44,3 % and 25,2 %, accordingly). Direct connection between drug addiction and infecting of *Bartonella* ( $\chi^2 = 6,66$ ,  $p = 0,01$ ;  $r = 0,19$ ,  $p = 0,01$ ) was set, that puts a question about possibility of haemocontact route of bartonellosis transmission, which may be related with endoglobular persistence of *Bartonella* and ability to cause chronic bacteriemia in patients with asymptomatic course. In addition, connection between HCV-infection and bartonellosis ( $\chi^2 = 4,64$ ,  $p = 0,03$ ;  $r = 0,16$ ,  $p = 0,03$ ), and absence of statistically reliable connection between HBV-infection, which is passed by a mainly sexual way, and bartonellosis ( $\chi^2 = 2,84$ ,  $p > 0,05$ ;  $r = 0,12$ ,  $p > 0,05$ ) was set.

**Conclusions.** 1. HIV-infected patients with bartonellosis is an epidemiological cohort that constitutes the massive reservoir of *Bartonella* in a general population. 2. The basic subpopulation involved in epidemic process is IDU. 3. Correlation between injection drug addiction and *Bartonella*-infection in HIV-infected was found. 4. Direct connection between HCV-infection and bartonellosis was set.