

**EFFECT OF N-ACETYLCYSTEINE COMBINED WITH EXOGENOUS SURFACTANT IN DOUBLE-HIT MODEL OF LUNG INJURY IN RATS**

Maros Kolomaznik, Juliana Hanusrichterova, Pavol Mikolka, Petra Kosutova, Ivan Zila, Daniela Mokra, Andrea Calkovska

Biomedical Centre Martin and Department of Physiology, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University in Bratislava, Martin, Slovakia

Hyperoxia and subsequent accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) together with secondary bacteria-induced inflammation lead to lung damage. N-acetylcysteine (NAC) is an antioxidant that in combination with a pulmonary surfactant may improve lung function. Therefore, we aimed to compare the efficacy of NAC combined with exogenous surfactant in the experimental double-hit model of lung injury.

Bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS; 500µg/kg) instilled intratracheally and hyperoxia were used to induce lung injury in adult Wistar rats. Animals were treated with intravenous (i.v.) NAC (10 mg/kg) alone or with i.v. NAC in combination with intratracheal surfactant (PSUR+NAC) (poractant alpha, 50mgPL/kg). Control received saline. After 4 hours of ventilation, inflammatory markers, oxidative damage, total white blood cell (WBC) count and lung oedema were evaluated.

Hyperoxia and LPS increase lung IL-1β, TNF-α, IL-6, TBARS, AOPP, lung oedema and decrease total antioxidant capacity (TAC) and total WBC count. In LPS-treated animals, NAC increases TAC and decreases IL-6. This effect is potentiated by combined administration of exogenous surfactant and NAC. In addition, PSUR+NAC improved TNF-α, IL-1β and TAC compared to NAC only.

Combination of exogenous surfactant with NAC suppresses lung inflammation and oxidative stress in the experimental double-hit model of lung injury.

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