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Title: Use of acetylcysteine in the treatment of patients with exogenic allergic alveolitis (EAA)

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Body: Aim: To evaluate effectiveness of a long-term treatment with high-dose acetylcysteine (NAC) in patients with chronic course of EAA. Materials and methods: We studied 24 patients with chronic course of morphologically verified EAA. Group 1 (14 patients) received prednisolone, 15 mg/day, and NAC, 1800 mg/day. Group 2 (10 patients) received prednisolone, 15 mg/day, and cyclophosphamide, 0.2 g intravenously twice a week. We evaluated clinical symptoms (cumulative index), a 6-minute walk test, spirometry, computed tomography (CT) of the lungs by Kazerooni, before and after the treatment. The reliability of differences was established using the Wilcoxon test. Results: There was no reliable difference between the groups. The analysis of the data within the both groups revealed improvement of clinical symptoms, MEF 75 rates, longer distances in 6-minute walk tests, better CT results due to the alveolar component. In group 2 we also observed increasing rates of VCIN, FEV1, MEF50.

Parameter	Prednisolone+ NAC		Prednisolone + Cyclophosphamide	
	Before treatment	After treatment	Before treatment	After treatment
Cumulative index	3.4±0.3	2.4±0.2*	3.8±0.2	2.7±0.3*
6-minute walk test	401.4±17.5	421.1±20.9*	345.5±18.4	401.5±28.4*
VCIN	72.5±3.2	75.7±2.5	54.7±5.0	64.0±5.5*
FEV1	63.4±4.8	68.3±9.3	53.3±5.7	62.1±4.9*
MEF 75	42.2±6.5	55.8±7.9*	46.9±9.4	57.0±9.1*
MEF 50	44.2±7.7	63.4±11.5	47.3±4.4	68.4±5.9*
Chest CT (A)	2.5±0.3	1.9±0.3*	2.5±0.3	1.7±0.3*
Chest CT (I)	1.8±0.3	1.8±0.3	2.3±0.2	2.3±0.2

* $p < 0.05$ Conclusion: Use of NAC in the treatment of patients with chronic EAA is less effective versus cyclophosphamide.