ANTICANCER EFFECT OF AgTOEPyP4 PORPHYRIN

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The silver-containing porphyrin Ag-meso-tetra(4-N-hydroxyethylpyridyl) porphyrin (AgTOEPyP4) was investigated as a potential anticancer drug using spectrophotometric, calorimetric and electrophoretic measurements. The studies were conducted on healthy, cancer-induced, and treated by AgTOEPyP4 white mice. DNA was isolated from the liver and tumor tissues of mice. Melting curves were studied in the presence of various stoichiometric concentrations of Mn2+ ions. The character of the DNA–Mn2+ interaction in the tumor differs from that in the norm due to defects in the secondary structure of tumor DNA, which is expressed in the DNA melting characteristics of DNA. It was revealed that the melting parameters, enthalpy, and electrophoretic mobility of DNA isolated from the tumor-bearing mice tissues differed from healthy DNA. It was shown that all studied parameters of the DNA isolated from the liver and tumor treated by AgTOEPyP4 mice approached the norm. The obtained results revealed that AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin has a pronounced therapeutic effect against sarcoma S180 and requires further investigation as an anticancer drug.

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Introduction. New compounds based on porphyrins are actively synthesized and studied along with antitumor drugs currently used in clinics. These compounds must meet certain requirements: have a high selectivity for cancer cells and slight retention by normal tissues; they must have low toxicity and are easily excreted from the body, are stable during storage and administration, and fluoresce. The significant efficacy and low toxicity of porphyrins as natural substances, as well as their inertness when interacting with other anticancer drugs, make photodynamic therapy a perspective for further study and application. Photosensitization of porphyrins and cytotoxic response to photodynamic therapy of tumors can involve apoptosis, necrosis or both [1, 2].

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Porphyrrins perform many different functions in living organisms, including participation in plant photosynthesis (chlorophyll), oxygen transport (hemoglobin), and redox reactions (cytochromes) [3].

Using fluorescence microscopy, it was shown that photosensitizers are initially adsorbed on the outer membrane of the cell. Within a few hours, depending on the type of photosensitizer, a greater or less part of it passes through the membrane into the cell and then is adsorbed on the membranes of the organelles. The type of organelle, in which the photosensitizer is localized, is also largely determined by its chemical nature. For some substances, high selectivity has been shown in relation to mitochondria, the outer cell membrane or lysosomes. More hydrophilic photosensitizers, as well as aggregates of photosensitizers, are often captured by the cell by pinocytosis and, thus, are localized in lysosomes. In general, it is correct to talk about the distribution of the sensitizer in various cell membranes [4, 5].

Porphyrrins can accumulate selectively in cancer cells and can be used as new drugs. The presence of metal, the functional position of the substituent and the alkyl chain length affect the accumulation of porphyrin and its effectiveness. For example, it was found that a series of gold(III) tetraaryl porphyrins is much more effective than cisplatin in killing human cancer cells, including the drug resistant tumor variants [6]. It was shown that the meso-derivative showed higher accumulation in cancer cells than the β-derivative, and porphyrins with less bulky substituents actively accumulate in cancer cells. Therefore, a meso-derivative may have a higher anti-tumor effect than a β-derivative [7]. Being DNA-binding molecules porphyrins can find application in biology and medicine as potential antitumor and antiviral therapeutic drugs [8].

In the present work Ag-meso-tetra(4-N-hydroxyethylpyridyl)porphyrin (AgTOEPyP4) was used as an anticancer agent against mice Sarcoma S180. A new synthetic water-soluble AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin is planar molecule and carries a positive charge in periphery radicals. The coordination number of Ag is four and, as a result of this, in the composition of metalloporphyrins, it forms four-coordination bonds with the nitrogen atoms of the porphyrin core.

In this investigation we used the original and relatively new method to study the structural changes in tumor DNA, which was developed at the department of Molecular Physics at YSU [9]. This method allows revealing the conformational state of DNA at the influence of Mn$^{2+}$ metal ions on the DNA intramolecular melting. As opposed to the well-known, classical melting method this method allows more clearly evaluating changes and gets a more pronounced effect of structural changes at the molecular level of DNA. According to modern concepts, nucleotides have three types of binding sites for alkali and transition metal ions: nitrogenous bases, phosphate groups and sugars (ribose or deoxyribose). Sugars are weak ligands and are not of interest as a binding site. Phosphate groups are strong ligands, due to the high density of negative charge localized to oxygen atoms. Nitrogenous bases are also strong ligands for transition metal ions [10].

The DNA melting was performed in the presence of different stoichiometric concentrations of Mn$^{2+}$ ions. It is known that DNA samples from tumor cells have defects in the helical structure. The structural changes may influence the character of the DNA–Mn$^{2+}$ ion interactions, which allows one to reliably detect the structural
differences of DNA isolated from normal and tumor cells. So, this method allows for trustworthy evaluate structural changes in DNA molecules.

The calorimetric and electrophoretic measurements were used also to confirm obtained results.

Materials and Methods. All used chemicals and reagents of analytical reagent grade were obtained from “Sigma-Aldrich”. AgTOEPyP4 (Fig. 1) was synthesized at the Department of Pharmacological Chemistry of the Yerevan State Medical University [11].

Experimental Animals. White male outbreed mice of 7 weeks old with a mass of 23±5 g were inoculated with sarcoma S180 (“Sigma”). Sarcoma 180 cells (~10^6) in 0.1 mL saline were subcutaneously injected into the mice. After 24 h, mice were treated by AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin once a 48 h for 10 days (5 times).

Three groups of animals were taken into consideration:
- I group: healthy animals as control (normal);
- II group: animals inoculated with sarcoma S180;
- III group: mice inoculated with sarcoma S180 and treated by AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin intraperitoneally at the rate of 13 μg/g.

The total dose of five injections was 1.5 mg per mouse. The animals were slaughtered two weeks after the treatment had ended. The tumor was excised and weighed. 7–10 animals for each experimental group were used. This part of experiments carried out in the base of Institute of Fine Organic Chemistry.

During the experiments, all institutional, national and international rules for the use and care of animals were observed.

DNA was isolated by the standard chloroform method as described before [12]. After purification, the optical characteristics of DNA were determined from the ratios A_{260}/A_{280}=1.8, A_{260}/A_{230}=2.0, which corresponded to the optical characteristics for highly purified DNA [13].

Spectroscopy. The absorption spectra and melting curves of DNA samples were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 800 UV/VIS spectrophotometer. All the experiments were carried out in 0.1 SSC buffered saline, 1 SSC content of 0.15 M NaCl and 0.015 M sodium citrate, pH 7.4. DNA concentrations in base pairs were determined spectrophotometrically at λ=260 nm with ε = 1.31·10^4 M⁻¹cm⁻¹ [14].
Melting experiments were carried out at 260 nm, with a heating rate of 0.25°C/min, in 25–95°C temperature interval, using 10 mm thermostatic quartz cuvettes. The degree of DNA denaturation $1-\theta$, versus temperature, was calculated using the following formula:

$$1 - \theta = \frac{A - A_{\min}}{A_{\max} - A_{\min}},$$

where $\theta$ is the degree of helicity; $A$, $A_{\min}$ and $A_{\max}$ are the absorbencies of the experimental curve the lower baseline (helix) and the upper baseline (coil), respectively at a given temperature $T$ [15]. The melting temperature ($T_m$) is defined as the temperature at which half of the total base pairs are “melted”, i.e., $1-\theta = 0.5$ and $\Delta T$ the melting interval equaled to the difference of temperatures, at which the tangent in the bend point crosses the levels $\theta=0$ and $\theta=1$, i.e.

$$\Delta T = \left(\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial T}\right)^{-1}_{T=T_0}.$$

The melting of DNA isolated from different mice tissues was investigated in the absence and presence of Mn$^{2+}$ ions, the molar ratios [Mn$^{2+}$]/[DNA] were in the range of 0–4 M/bp (0 – means the melting without Mn$^{2+}$ ions).

**Microcalorimetry.** The DNA microcalorimetric curves were obtained on differential adiabatic scanning microcalorimeter DASM-4. The volume of the measuring cell was 0.8 mL, the heating rate was 0.25°C/min, and the temperature range of measurement made was 20–100°C [16]. The values of DNA helix-coil transition enthalpy $\Delta H$ was calculated from the area of the melting peak using a Scal Dos program, according to the formula:

$$\Delta H = \int C_p \, dT,$$

where $C_p$ is a specific heat capacity at the constant pressure. All curves were analyzed with Origin 7.

**Agarose Gel Electrophoresis.** The DNA samples containing 3 μg DNA were analyzed by electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel using Tris-boric acid–EDTA buffer, pH 8.0, at voltage 5 V/cm. The gel was stained with ethidium bromide (at 0.5 ng/mL) and photographed under UV-transilluminator. The 1 kb DNA Ladder (“Promega Product”, Fitchburg, Wisconsin) was used as a marker for determining the size of DNA from 0.25 to 10 kbp [17].

All presented data were averages of 3–4 studies. The experimental data were statistically processed. For all studied parameters the values of standard deviations were calculated [18].

**Results.** The anticancer effect of AgTOEPyP4 was carried out by index of tumor suppression (ITS):

$$\text{ITS} = \frac{MTW_{\text{tumor}} - MTW_{\text{treated}}}{MTW_{\text{tumor}}} \times 100\%,$$
where MTW_{tumor} is middle tumor weight; MTW_{treated} is middle tumor weight after treated with AgTOEPyP4 [19]. The value of ITS, calculated for treated by AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin, was 57%.

DNA was isolated from all investigated groups and compared with healthy mice liver DNA. Detection of DNA structural changes is characterized by their melting curves. The changes in melting temperature ($T_m$) and interval of helix-coil transition ($\Delta T$) indicate damage to the secondary structure of DNA.

DNA melting was carried out in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions at different stoichiometric concentrations (0–4 M Mn^{2+} per one mole nucleotide).

Fig. 2. a) Integral and differential melting curves of DNA isolated from a healthy (normal) mice liver; b) differential melting curves of DNA from untreated and treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin mice tumor tissues; c) differential melting curves of DNA from untreated and treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin mice liver tissues.

DNA melting was carried out in the presence of Mn^{2+} ions at different stoichiometric concentrations (0–4 M Mn^{2+} per one mole nucleotide).
The obtained experimental melting curves were normalized and differenced (see Table and Fig. 2). Differential melting curves reveal the fine structure of DNA melting. The melting parameters of DNA isolated from the tumor-diseased mice tissues differ from healthy DNA. Thus, the melting parameters of DNA isolated from a healthy liver had the following values: $T_m = 71.41^\circ C$, $\Delta T = 6.63^\circ C$. Compared to the norm for tumor DNA, a decrease in $T_m$ and an increase in $\Delta T$ are found (see Table, row noted 0, the melting without Mn$^{2+}$ ions). An increase of the $\Delta T$ up to a value of 8.85$^\circ C$ and 8.23$^\circ C$ were observed respectively in melting curves of DNA from tumor-bearing mice liver and cancer cells. This fact indicates the destabilization of the tumor-bearing mice liver and cancer DNA due to defects in the primary and secondary structure [20]. As noted in [21, 22], an increase in the content of 5-methylcytosine leads to DNA mutations (replacement of GC pairs by AT). Defects in the secondary structure (the formation of open areas or regions of DNA with tightly bound proteins) increase the heterogeneity of tumor DNA.

The melting temperature ($T_m$) and melting interval ($\Delta T$) of DNA from a healthy mice liver and tumor tissues of an untreated and treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin tumor-bearing mice under different concentrations of Mn$^{2+}$ ions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of DNA</th>
<th>$[\text{Mn}^{2+}] / [\text{DNA}]$, M/bp</th>
<th>$T_m$, $^\circ C$</th>
<th>$\Delta T$, $^\circ C$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>71.41±0.10</td>
<td>6.63±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>75.32±0.15</td>
<td>3.35±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>74.73±0.15</td>
<td>2.19±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>72.65±0.10</td>
<td>1.90±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>73.43±0.15</td>
<td>1.71±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>69.34±0.10</td>
<td>8.23±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>70.02±0.10</td>
<td>7.15±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>73.38±0.15</td>
<td>6.90±0.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>75.42±0.15</td>
<td>6.44±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>75.99±0.10</td>
<td>5.97±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>69.51±0.10</td>
<td>8.85±0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>73.30±0.15</td>
<td>8.12±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>74.63±0.10</td>
<td>7.21±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>74.25±0.15</td>
<td>6.85±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>73.76±0.15</td>
<td>5.94±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer + AgTOEPyP4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>70.88±0.10</td>
<td>6.70±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>77.86±0.15</td>
<td>4.60±0.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2.04±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>75.43±0.15</td>
<td>2.00±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>74.74±0.10</td>
<td>1.79±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver, cancer + AgTOEPyP4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>71.08±0.05</td>
<td>7.06±0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>75.75±0.10</td>
<td>5.01±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>73.96±0.15</td>
<td>2.50±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>72.01±0.10</td>
<td>1.98±0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>72.00±0.15</td>
<td>1.95±0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A study of DNA melting in the presence of Mn$^{2+}$ ions at different stoichiometric concentrations allows one to assess structural changes in the DNA molecules. The Mn$^{2+}$ ions interact differently with normal and tumor DNA due to the presence of defects in the structure of tumor DNA. The essence of the method is as follows. Transition metal ions such as Mn$^{2+}$, due to their incomplete 3d electron
configuration, can form coordination bonds with donor atoms. Crystallographic data obtained for Mn\(^{2+}\) ions revealed chelate binding of ions with the oxygen of phosphate groups, with N(7) of guanine and O(2) of cytosine [10].

More information about defects in DNA structure can be obtained from changes in the $\Delta T$ parameter, rather than the $T_m$ parameter. At a molar ratio of $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]=1$, metal ions shield the negatively charged phosphate groups of nucleic acids, which leads to an increase in the $T_m$ value in all investigated groups (see Table).

In DNA samples of healthy animals, the Mn\(^{2+}\) ion binds to the sites of excess charge density at the guanine bases, leading to selective destabilization of GC base pairs [10, 23]. This leads to an approximation of the thermal stability of GC pairs to AT pairs and, consequently, to a narrowing of the melting interval $\Delta T$. However, the melting range narrows sharply at a molar ratio of $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]=1$, and the narrowing slows at higher concentrations of Mn\(^{2+}\) ions. If there are defects in the secondary structure of tumor DNA, the access of metal ions to the defective sites is complicated, which leads to a smaller narrowing of the melting interval of tumor DNA compared to healthy. The melting parameters of the DNA isolated from the treated AgTOEPyP4 mice liver and tumor tissues were approaching the norm.

![Fig. 3](Image)

Fig. 3. The dependence of the melting interval on the $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]$ molar ratio in DNA samples isolated from the healthy mice liver and tumor tissues of untreated and treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin mice.

Fig. 3 shows the dependencies of the melting interval $\Delta T$ on the $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]$ molar ratio. Upon melting of DNA isolated from healthy liver cells, the $\Delta T$ parameter was 6.63°C. In the presence of Mn\(^{2+}\) ions, when $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]=4$, a decrease in the $\Delta T$ value to 1.71°C was observed. So, in healthy DNA, the $\Delta T$ parameter decreases by 3.87 (6.63/1.71) times at the $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]$ molar ratio equal to four. The same parameters calculated for DNA isolated from cancer-induced mice liver and tumor tissue were 1.48 (8.85/5.94) and 1.37 (8.23/5.97) times, respectively. According to the literature [24], this indicates the presence of defects in the structure of tumor DNA, as a result of which metal access to these sites is complicated.

The treatment of cancer-induced animals with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin improved the liver and tumor DNA melting characteristics. As can be seen from the obtained data, the value of $\Delta T$ decreased by 3.6 (7.06/1.95) and 3.7 (6.7/1.79) times
respectively. These results revealed that the AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin closely approximates the melting parameters of the tumor DNA to the norm.

*Microcalorimetry.* A significant change in the calorimetric melting curve profile and shift of the curve to a lower temperature range is observed for cancer-induced mice DNA (II group) in comparison with the control (Fig. 4). The value of helix-coil transition enthalpy for healthy mice DNA was equal to $9.25 \pm 0.15 \text{kcal/mol}$. The melting enthalpies calculated for liver and tumor tissue of cancer-induced mice DNA were decreased to $7.24 \pm 0.2 \text{kcal/mol}$ and $5.64 \pm 0.15 \text{kcal/mol}$, respectively. It should be noted that the values of transition enthalpy, for the AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin treated mice liver and tumor DNA increased to $9.1 \pm 0.1 \text{kcal/mol}$ and $7.24 \pm 0.15 \text{kcal/mol}$, respectively.

![Calorimetric melting curves of investigated DNA.](image1)

**DNA Electrophoresis.** Fig. 5 depicts the respective agarose gel electrophoresis patterns of DNA isolated from I, II and III groups.

![DNA electrophoresis:](image2)

Track 1 corresponds to marker DNA. Track 2 corresponds to the normal DNA with a size of 15 kbp. The fractions corresponding to liver DNA and tumor DNA,
from cancer-induced mice are more mobile compared to healthy. The DNA fragments with different lengths are visualized in the tumor fractions. Thus, the fragments with sizes about 8–12 kbp and 10–13 kbp were found for group II mice tumor (track 3) and liver (track 5) tissues correspondingly. The DNA samples from treated by AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin mice tumor and liver have electrophoretic bands similar to healthy DNA. According to electrophoresis data, after treatment of mice, DNA fractions corresponding to sizes of 13 kbp and 14 kbp were obtained from the tumor (track 4) and liver (track 6) tissues.

**Discussion.** The anticancer effect of AgTOEPyP4 was investigated against mice Sarcoma S180 in vivo. Sarcoma 180 is an animal model of tumor, which universally used for the evaluation of anticancer drugs in vivo [25]. Therefore, identifying new molecules to treat these tumors is essential for improving the therapeutic and prognosis. According to the results obtained, a decrease in the tumor by up to 57% was observed in the two weeks after injections in the group of mice treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin. DNA was isolated from the liver of healthy animals, from the tumor and liver of sarcoma inoculated mice untreated and treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin. Structural changes in DNA were studied by melting, calorimetry, and electrophoresis methods.

We developed a novel method for detecting DNA defects during tumor formation and for evaluating the effectiveness of anticancer therapy. The thermal melting of DNA was conducted at different concentrations of Mn²⁺ ions. This makes it possible to detect DNA changes in a more pronounced form, because a significant change in the shape of the melting curves occurs depending on the concentration of Mn²⁺ metal ions. The measurement results showed that the melting parameters of DNA isolated from tumor-induced mice differ from the corresponding parameters of healthy animals. Tumor DNA contains defective regions with a disturbed primary and secondary structure. Defects in the tumor DNA structure affect the DNA melting parameters. The decrease in melting temperature testifies to DNA destabilization, which could occur due to base modifications, strand breaks or breaks of hydrogen bonds between the DNA strands. An increase in the value of $T_m$ indicates the stabilization of the DNA molecule, possibly due to crosslink's, by the action of various ligands. Changing the $\Delta T$ parameter suggests the changing degree of DNA heterogeneity. With an increasing the defects of DNA the heterogeneity and, consequently, the $\Delta T$ parameter also increase.

The differential melting curves of tumor DNA are shifted relative to healthy DNA towards low temperatures, i.e., in tumor DNA a decrease in the melting point $T_m$ and an increase in the melting range $\Delta T$ was observed. It was shown that the DNA melting characteristics of DNA from mice treated with AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin improved. This is especially more pronounced in the changes in the $\Delta T$ parameter (graph of the dependence of $\Delta T$ on the $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]/[\text{DNA}]$ molar ratio) (Fig. 3).

Differential scanning calorimetry monitors heat effects associated with DNA phase transitions as a function of temperature. As a result of these experiments, it was shown that the melting enthalpy of DNA isolated from the liver and tumors of cancer-induced mice decreased compared to the norm. This fact indicates the presence of damage in the DNA structure. At the same time, as a result of the
treatment of mice with porphyrin, an improvement in the values of the melting enthality was observed (Fig. 4).

Electrophoresis was used to identify and visualize DNA fragments. In DNA fractions isolated from the liver and tumor of mice induced by cancer, DNA fragments were found that, during electrophoresis, moved faster than normal. DNA fractions from porphyrin-treated mice have electrophoretic characteristics close to normal. Thus, porphyrins are effective pharmaceutical agents in cancer therapy.

It is known that the binding mode of porphyrins to DNA depends on the chemical features of porphyrin, the nature of the central metal, the coordination number of transition metal atoms and the peripheral substituent of the pyridylic ring as well as the conformation of DNA. The three types of binding modes such as intercalation, outside self-stacking, and outside random binding for the porphyrin-DNA complexes have been generally accepted [26]. The coordination number for Ag is four. In AgTOEPyP4 the silver ion is located in the plane of the porphyrin ring, does not form any axial ligand, and so porphyrins molecules are planar. Such metalloporphyrins easily intercalate between base pairs of DNA and at GC-rich sequences in general. AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin, being a flat molecule, intercalates in the major groove of DNA and shows selectivity for GC sequences [27]. So the effectiveness of AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin as an antitumor agent is mainly determined by the planarity and presence of a silver ion in the center of the porphyrin molecule. As a result, tumor DNA with structural defects will not fully participate in reduplication and transcription. At the same time, cationic porphyrins produce singlet oxygen, thereby causing DNA damage [28]. This will reduce the size of the tumor and restore DNA characteristics.

**Conclusion.** The obtained results revealed that AgTOEPyP4 porphyrin has an antitumor effect against sarcoma S180. The melting, calorimetric and electrophoretic parameters of tumor and liver DNA treated with Ag-meso-tetra(4-N-hydroxyethyl-pyridyl)porphyrin mice approach to values of healthy animals DNA. A decrease in tumor sizes by about 57% was observed in our experiments.

**Statement of Human and Animal Rights Experiments** were fulfilled according to the “International Recommendations on carrying out of biomedical Researches with use of Animals” (CIOMS, 1985), to the “Human Rights and Biomedicine, Oviedo Convention” (CE, 1997), to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebral Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (CE, 2005) and approved by the National Center of Bioethics (Armenia).

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AgTOEPyP4 PORPHYRIN WITH Meso-Tetra(4-N-hydroxyethylpyridyl)porphyrin (AgTOEPyP4) has been investigated as a potential antitumor agent using spectroscopic, calorimetric, and electrophoretic measurements. Studies were conducted on healthy, healthy mice treated with AgTOEPyP4. DNA was extracted from the liver and nucleic acid samples. Hemodynamic parameters were examined under different stoichiometric concentrations of Mn^{2+} ions in the presence and absence of AgTOEPyP4. It was observed that the parameters of hemodynamics of AgTOEPyP4 extracted from healthy liver samples differ from those of normal liver samples. It was concluded that AgTOEPyP4 has a significant therapeutic effect on the S180 sarcoma and is required for further research as an antitumor agent.
Серебросодержащий порфирин Ag-мезо-тетра(4-N-гидрокситетилпиридил)порфирин (AgTOEPyP4) был исследован как потенциальное противопухоловое средство с помощью спектрофотометрических, калориметрических и электрофоретических измерений. Исследования проводились на здоровых, индуцированных раком и пролеченных порфирином AgTOEPyP4 белых мышах. ДНК выделяли из печени и опухолевых тканей мышей. Кривые плавления изучали в присутствии различных стехиометрических концентраций ионов Mn²⁺. Характер взаимодействия ДНК–Mn²⁺ в опухоли отличается от такового в норме из-за дефектов вторичной структуры, что выражается в характеристиках плавления ДНК. Выявлено, что параметры плавления, энталпия и электрофоретическая подвижность ДНК, выделенной из тканей мышей-опухоленосителей, отличались от таковых для ДНК здоровых мышей. Показано, что все изученные параметры ДНК, выделенной из печени и опухоли мышей, обработанных AgTOEPyP4, приближаются к норме. Полученные результаты позволяют предположить, что порфирин AgTOEPyP4 обладает выраженным терапевтическим действием в отношении саркомы S180 и требует дальнейшего изучения в качестве противоопухолового препарата.