WOUND HEALING EFFECT OF “PROLIDOXID” AND “DEXPANTHENOL WITH CERAMIDES”: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BASED ON THE MODEL OF CHEMICAL BURNS WITH EXPRESSED ALTERATIVE SKIN PROCESSES

Yaroslava Butko, Oksana Tkachova, Tetyana Tishakova, Anatoly Gordienko, Yevhen Bondariev

Pharmacotherapy of chemical skin injuries remains an urgent issue today due to its serious health consequences and possible development of complications. Topical treatment is one of the most effective methods of wound treatment using hydrophilic ointments and creams. For now, range of hydrophilic medicinal products with a broad spectrum of action is limited. That is why a search and development of new hydrophilic ointments and creams remains an urgent challenge.

The aim. The aim of this research was to study effectiveness of ointment “Prolidoxid” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” on the experimental chemical burn model in rats.

Materials and methods. Wound healing effect of ointment “Prolidoxid” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” was proved by the study of planimetric and hematological parameters on the model of acetic acid burns in rats.

Results. Using animal model of chemical burns it was found that ointment “Prolidoxid” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” accelerate wound healing on Day 5 and Day 6, consequently, compared to untreated control animals, but in comparison with the action of reference medicine wounds were healed two days faster. Hematological parameters showed that studied medicines inhibit inflammation and reactivate blood rheological properties.

Conclusions. The results suggest that effectiveness of cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” is higher than for one-component cream “Dexpanthenol”, but ointment “Prolidoxid” exceeds therapeutic action of ointment “Wundahyl” as reported by hematological and planimetric parameters

Keywords: chemical wounds, dexpanthenol, ceramides, propolis, lidocaine, wound-healing effect, anti-inflammatory effect, healing area, cream, ointment

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1. Introduction

Wound healing process is an urgent problem of modern medicine. Alteration of epithelium and connective tissues is relevant to impaired ability of human body to provide protection from different damaging external factors [1].

According to the WHO data, burns are a serious public health problem. An estimated 180 000 deaths occur each year from fires alone [2, 3].

These injuries to the skin or other organic tissue primarily caused by heat or due to radiation, radioactivity, electricity, friction or contact with chemicals [4, 5].

Chemical burn is a skin lesion caused by the contact with an irritant, such as an acid or a base [6]. Chemical burns represent 3–5 % of all skin burns [7]. Despite the relatively small number of chemical burns, they have caused 30 % of death associated with burns [8, 9]. More than 25 000 chemicals are commonly used in industrial and domestic conditions [10]. Variety of chemical substances results in a wide range of clinical consequences [11].

Treatment of chemical burn is focused on the fast wound healing process [12, 13]. For this reason, in chemical inflammatory-necrotic skin lesions, along with general aggressive approaches, it would make sense to apply topical medications that repair skin barrier function and stimulate reparation [14, 15].

The aim of this study was to study wound healing effect of ointment “Prolidoxid” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” on the experimental model for chemical burns in rats.

2. Planning (methodology) of research

New combinations of topical medications (ointment “Prolidoxid” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides”) has been the subject of the research.

It is well known from literature [16–18] that wound healing effect caused by a set of different criteria. One of the most important criteria in wound healing is an inhibition of inflammation and normalization of blood rheological properties. In this context it is worthwhile investigating of therapeutic action of ointment “Prolidox-
id” and cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” on the model of chemical burn with expressed altered skin processes. This model was chosen on the following criteria: repeatability, adequacy of experimental pathology of chemical injuries in rats that are comparable with similar processes in humans. This lets us to extrapolate outcomes obtained in the animal experiment to the clinical practice.

3. Materials and methods
Preclinical studies of drugs were carried out at the Central research laboratory of the National University of Pharmacy in 2016.

3.1. Study subjects
The technology, the composition of the active ingredients and the ointment base of the new drugs “Prolidoxid” and “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” were developed by scientists from the National University of Pharmacy [19–21].

Ointment “Prolidoxid” contains biologically-active substance propolis that has antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, reparative action; and local anesthetic – lidocaine. High margin of activity of active substances and hydrophilic PEO base (PEO-400 and PEO-1500 at the ratio 4:1) with evident osmotic activity (340 %) complies the requirements for topical treatment of wounds and partial-thickness skin burns [19].

Ointment “Wundahyl”, produced by “AIM” (Kharkiv), was chosen as reference medicine. This ointment has anti-inflammatory, reparative action, speeds up regenerative process of epidermis; stimulates growth and maturation of granulation tissue in the region of traumatic defect. It is assigned for the treatment of non-healing wounds (inflamed, infected, postoperative). Ointment “Wundahyl” contains: Tinctura Sophorae japonicae – 3.0 g, Tinctura Potentillae – 2.0 g, Tinctura Millefolii – 2.0 g, Tinctura Propolisi – 5.0 g, Carophylenum – 3.0 g per 100 g. The base of medicinal product is pork fat (interior) and anhydrous lanolin. Disadvantage of this medicine is only its hydrophobic product.

Cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” contains dexpanthenol 5 g, that has wound healing, anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effect; ceramides LS 0.2 g and emulsion base of I type with hydrophilic properties up to 100 g. Ceramides have specific biological action in the top levels of epidermis improving its proliferation and barrier function, and normalizing skin moisture balance. “Dexpanthenol 5 %” (“Bayer Consumer Care AG”, Switzerland) was chosen as reference medicine [20, 21].

It should be noted, that one-component wound-healing preparations on a hydrophobic ointment base predominate on the Ukrainian pharmaceutical market. Such ointments are methyluracil, gentamicin, decamethoxin, calendula, tetracyclin and others. One-component topical preparations have a narrow spectrum of pharmacological activity that is insufficient for effective wound healing. Healing of wounds by mono-preparations needs simultaneous use of several medicinal products that creates a nuisance and comes at a price.

It has to be said that hydrophobic base has disadvantages such as: inhibition of diffusion, drug release as well as it interferes with skin function (breath, emission). Vaseline-lanolin or pork fat as an ingredient in ointment base inhibits mixing of active ingredients with wound exudate and its adsorption. In addition, hydrophobic ointment base is an essential barrier for releasing of active ingredients from medicinal product and their penetration into the injury (bioavailability). This causes deterioration in condition of the wound and increases the period of its healing [22].

In comparison with cream “Dexpanthenol”, developed cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” has advantage that includes broadening of pharmacological action because of addition of ceramides and administration of hydrophilic base. Ceramides show proliferative and moisturizing action as well as repair protective properties of skin. Hydrophilic base promotes releasing of active ingredients from dosage form and its distribution on the skin surface. Therefore, such base stimulates reparative processes in the wound.

Reference medicine “Dexpanthenol” is a multi-component medicinal product on a hydrophobic base that decreases bioavailability of active ingredient and increases healing time.

Compared to ointment “Wundahyl”, ointment “Prolidoxid” exhibits antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, reparative and analgesic action due to the presence of two components and hydrophilic base with evident osmotic effect. The active ingredients of the ointment are phenolic hydrophobic drug propolis (FGPP) and local anesthetic lidocain. The main components of propolis are: phenolcarboxylic acids, hydroxy coumarins, flavones, flavonols (81.33 % of total mass), that exhibit antioxidant properties and are able to maintain stability of cellular membranes affected by increased lipid peroxidation in the course of wound healing.

“Prolidoxid” is a composition of two polyethylene oxides (PEO) – PEO-400 and PEO-1500 at the ratio 8:2 that complies the requirements for topical treatment of wounds and superficial skin burns in the first phase of WP and in transition to the second phase when there are rests of purulonecrotic fragments and separation process begins.

High bioavailability of active ingredients and a wide spectrum of pharmacological activity of “Prolidoxid” stimulate reparative processes in the wound significantly. Although reference drug “Wundahyl” contains 5 active ingredients it was created on fat base with hydrophobic properties that decreases bioavailability of active components and rises time of wound healing.

3.2. Research methods
During the study of therapeutic action of investigated medicinal products chemical wounds with expressed altered processes of skin and subcutaneous tissue were imitated by the subcutaneous introduction of 0.5 mL of 9 % acetic acid solution that caused inflammation at the injection site. Dextran solution in the dose of 300 mg per kg of animal body weight was abdominally injected to increase rats’ responsiveness [22].

The effectiveness of ointment “Prolidoxid” on healing of wounds has been studied on the chemical burn model in 27 rats. The body weights of rats ranged from 150 to 170 g (1 set of experiments). Treatment was started on Day 8 after chemical injury, when skin ulcers with
maximal surface appeared. Animals were divided on 3 groups (n=9): group 1 – control pathology (group 1 – untreated animals), group 2 – “Prolidoxid”-treated animals and group 3 – “Wundahyl”-treated animals. Second set of experiments was performed in 18 rats weighed an average of 180–210 g. Animals were divided also on 3 groups (n=6): group 1 – control pathology (untreated animals); group 2 – animals were treated by the cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides”, group 3 – animals were treated by the cream “Dexpanthenol”. Topical medications were applied with sterile spatulas on the surface of aseptic ulcer bis in day at the conditionally therapeutic dose 20 mg/cm². Treatment was continued till complete cicatrization (27 days in І set of experiments, 21 days in the ІІ set of experiments). Skin healing area (S) and percentage of rats with healed wounds were main characteristics of wound-healing effect of medicinal products. Area of healing (S, mm²) was calculated according to a formula:

\[ S = S_{exp} - S_{inj} \]

where \( S_{inj} \) – initial area of wound (before treatment), mm²; \( S_{exp} \) – area of wound at the day of measurement, mm².

Intensity of irritation was estimated according the values of peripheral blood in rats: level of hemoglobin, leucocytes and erythrocytes, clotting time, leukogram [19]. Hematological parameters were registered 3 times: before experiment (raw data), on Day 4 and Day 15 of treatment.

Research was conducted in the central research laboratory of National University of Pharmacy (NUPh). This laboratory was certified by the State expert center MOH of Ukraine in accordance with generally accepted bioethical norms and in compliance of corresponding international regulations relating to the conducting of experimental research, that is also certified by the findings of NUPh bioethics commission (protocol No. 2 of 19.02.2016). All painful procedures were performed under the thiopental anaesthesia (40 mg/kg).

### 3. 3. Statistical analysis

All research results were processed statistically. Statistics were calculated with the help of standard computer programs: «Statistica 4.3» and «Statistica 6.0». The obtained results were treated based on one-way ANOVA using the Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon criteria at a significance level of p<0.05.

### 4. Results

Open ulcerous skin defects with apparent inflammatory process of adjacent tissues and rejection of secondary crustlike surface of a healing skin lesion were produced in rats on the place of injection of phlogogen after subcutaneous injection of acetic acid. Ulcers were clean without secondary infection and purulonecrotic processes. A surface area of skin ulcers ranged from 204.78 mm² to 307.0 mm² (Table 1).

#### Table 1

| Healing area, days of treatment, mm² | Study groups | I set of experiments, n=9 | II set of experiments, n=6 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                   | Control pathology | Ointment “Prolidoxid” | Ointment “Wundahyl” |
| S₄                                | 69.56±2.55                     | 84.92±4.36*            | 118.8±5.80* |
| S₇                                | 99.50±9.43                     | 127.1±9.79             | 145.3±13.25 |
| S₉                                | 122.8±10.87                    | 149.2±10.63            | 188.7±18.01 |
| S₁₃                               | 145.6±12.55                    | 170.4±11.87            | 193.5±19.67 |
| S₁₅                               | 158.40±8.87                    | 186.7±7.05*            | 198.3±12.36 |
| S₁₉                               | 178.80±7.95                    | 201.27±6.30*           | 206.5±11.95 |
| S₂₂                               | 206.5±14.43                    | 204.78±36.81           | 223.5±13.60 |
| S₂₄                               | 255.83±30.99                   | –                       | 227.22±19.67 |
| S₂₇                               | 307.0±43.35                    | Complete healing       | –                        |
|                                   | Control pathology | Cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” | Cream “Dexpanthenol” |
| S₄                                | 43.50±6.34                     | 72.17±9.21*            | 55.3±2.65 |
| S₇                                | 76.00±6.47                     | 110.83±9.25*           | 100.67±7.27* |
| S₉                                | 94.83±5.97                     | 181.50±4.77**          | 129.3±5.73* |
| S₁₃                               | 167.83±10.98                   | 271.50±9.93*           | 260.0±6.36* |
| S₁₅                               | 217.17±14.91                   | 289.17±8.21*           | 280.0±7.33* |
| S₁₇                               | 233.83±13.03                   | –                       | 287.17±8.43* |
| S₂₁                               | 263.83±14.94                   | Complete healing       | –                        |

Note: * – differences are likely in relation to the control group, p<0.05; ** – differences are likely in relation to reference medicine; n – number of animals
Further studies of wound healing process have demonstrated that in four days after the initiation of treatment the formation of granulation tissue and wound contraction was observed. Wound contraction reduces the surface area of the wound on Day 4, Day 15 and Day 19 of treatment with ointment “Prolidoxid”, but after application of reference medicine this reduction was observed on Day 4 and Day 15. Starting from Day 15 till Day 21 percentage of animals with scars after treatment with “Prolidoxid” increased from 22.2 % (2 rats) to 88.9 % (8 rats). At Day 22 all animals from this group (100 %) had scarring ulcers while in the group of “Dexpanthenol”-treated animals healing was observed in 77.8 % of rats. Complete healing of ulcers in experimental rats treated with “Dexpanthenol” was observed on Day 17 but in the group of control pathology it was only on Day 21.

After treatment of skin ulcers with cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” statistically significant healing area was observed on Day 4, Day 9, Day 13, Day 15, but after application of cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” statistically significant healing area was also observed on Day 24, but in the group of control pathology healing was observed only in 55.6 % of rats, but in the group of “Wundahyl”-treated animals healing was observed only in 55.6 % of rats, while in the group of control pathology it was only on Day 27.

Starting from Day 11 till Day 13 percentage of animals with scars after treatment with “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” increased from 16.6 % (1 rat) to 48.8 % (3 rats). At Day 15 all animals (100 %) had scarring ulcers while in the group of “Dexpanthenol”-treated animals healing was observed in 66.4 % of rats. Complete healing of ulcers in experimental rats treated with “Dexpanthenol” was observed on Day 17 but in the group of control pathology it was only on Day 21.

Study of hematological parameters in rats of group 1 (untreated animals) proved the development of inflammatory process, as evidenced by a statistically significant decrease in hemoglobin level (average 1.3 times), in erythrocytes level (1.4 times) and in clotting time (1.2 times), as well as a statistically significant increase in the level of white blood cells (1.7 times) on Day 4 and Day 15 (1.6 times) compared with basic data (Table 2).

The leukogram shows a neutropenia (decrease in the level of banded neutrophils by half), a slight increase in white blood count on Day 4 (by 1.1 times) and its decrease on Day 15 (by 1.1 times), and rise of count of monocytes on Day 4 (by 2.5 times) and on Day 15 (by 2.6 times).

| Parameters | Days of treatment | Study groups | I set of experiments, n=9 |
|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
|            |                  | Control       | Ointment “Prolidoxid”    | Ointment “Wundahyl”|
| 1          |                  | 3             | 4                        | 5                        |
| Clotting time, s | Initial data Day 4 | 146.48±3.20* | 135.33±2.36** | 127.67±1.45** |
| Hemoglobin, g/L | Initial data Day 4 | 146.48±3.20* | 135.33±2.36** | 127.67±1.45** |
| Erythrocytes, 10^{12}/L | Initial data Day 4 | 6.08±0.23 | 5.72±0.23 | 5.93±0.16 |
| Leucocytes, 10^{9}/L | Initial data Day 4 | 10.92±0.90 | 10.00±1.00** | 10.27±2.27** |
| Banded neutrophils | Initial data Day 4 | 2.00±0.32 | 2.00±0.32 | 1.80±0.37 |
| Lymphocytes | Initial data Day 4 | 51.00±3.74 | 59.20±3.79 | 52.40±3.48 |

Effect of investigated medicinal products on hematological parameters on the model of chemical skin burn in rats. \( \overline{X} \pm S_{x} \)
The dynamics of hematological parameters in the group of animals that were treated with ointments and creams was similar but it differed from the group of untreated animals. Such difference was evidence of the fact that investigated medicines have marked anti-inflammatory activity. In the group of treated animals on Day 4 the level of erythrocytes did not change and on Day 15 leukocytosis was not observed compared to the control group. In the group of treated animals on Day 15 leukocytosis was not observed compared to the initial data. After treatment with creams “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” and “Dexpanthenol” statistically significant decrease in a level of monocytes was not observed compared to raw data as opposed to the treatment with ointments “Prolidoxid” and “Wundahyl” where a statistically significant difference compared to the control group was reported (by 1.7 times).

5. Discussion
Dynamic processes that occur as a response on the chemical injury includes skin necrosis (ulcers) and stress reaction of blood system, development of nonspecific inflammatory response followed by structural metabolic disorders [9].

According to the results of planimetric research on the chemical wound model it was found that investigated medicinal products promote healing of skin ulcers. In order of its wound-healing effect these medications can be arranged in the following sequence: cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” (it decreased wound healing by 4 days), cream “Dexpanthenol” (it decreased wound healing by 5 days), cream “Wundahyl” (it decreased wound healing by 3 days) compared to group of untreated animals. Such difference was evidenced by an increase in platelet count and, consequently, with some slowdown in the healing process in this group.

The analysis of differential white blood cell count showed that chemical burns display severe inflammation as evidenced by an increased number of monocytes in the blood of untreated animals (in 1.3 times) and absence of change in the number of white blood cells compared to initial data. After treatment with creams “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” and “Dexpanthenol” statistically significant deviation in a level of monocytes was not observed compared to raw data as opposed to the treatment with ointments “Prolidoxid” and “Wundahyl” where a

| Parameters                  | I set of experiments, n=6 | II set of experiments, n=6 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Clotting time, s            |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 198.33±9.36               | 203.40±7.33               |
| Day 4                       | 160.33±5.66**             | 181.00±11.67*             |
| Day 15                      | 139.16±10.80**            | 169.33±17.33              |
| Hemoglobin, g/L             |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 153.33±5.67               | 146.33±4.36               |
| Day 4                       | 107.67±7.16**             | 118.81±1.45**             |
| Day 15                      | 131.93±3.67**             | 142.53±2.67               |
| Erythrocytes, 10^12/L       |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 5.98±0.17                 | 6.01±0.13                 |
| Day 4                       | 4.48±0.26**               | 5.63±0.16                 |
| Day 15                      | 5.24±0.19                 | 5.87±0.08                 |
| Leukocytes, 10^9/L          |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 9.89±0.67                 | 10.29±0.33                |
| Day 4                       | 16.33±1.56**              | 14.73±0.64**              |
| Day 15                      | 15.76±0.69**              | 11.47±0.74**              |
| Banded neutrophils          |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 2.33±0.29                 | 2.63±0.29                 |
| Day 4                       | 1.7±0.31                  | 2.09±0.36                 |
| Day 15                      | 2.46±0.36                 | 2.84±0.36                 |
| Segmentonuclear neutrophils |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 32.60±2.67                | 34.00±1.60                |
| Day 4                       | 22.97±1.83                | 32.00±1.93                |
| Day 15                      | 30.86±4.97                | 28.97±3.87                |
| Lymphocytes                 |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 60.77±2.94                | 58.40±0.67                |
| Day 4                       | 65.78±2.67                | 59.86±2.31                |
| Day 15                      | 57.33±6.33                | 61.00±3.33                |
| Monocytes                   |                           |                           |
| Initial data                | 4.30±0.86                 | 4.97±0.67                 |
| Day 4                       | 9.98±1.53**               | 6.05±0.73                 |
| Day 15                      | 9.35±2.06**               | 7.19±0.33                 |

Leukogram, %:

| Parameters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Days of treatment | Control pathology | Cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” | Cream “Dexpanthenol” |
| Clotting time, s | Initial data | 198.33±9.36 | 203.40±7.33 | 201.33±8.60 |
| | Day 4 | 160.33±5.66** | 181.00±11.67* | 186.00±6.67* |
| | Day 15 | 139.16±10.80** | 169.33±17.33 | 178.67±8.33 |
| Hemoglobin, g/L | Initial data | 153.33±5.67 | 146.33±4.36 | 149.60±2.34 |
| | Day 4 | 107.67±7.16** | 118.81±1.45** | 112.33±3.43** |
| | Day 15 | 131.93±3.67** | 142.53±2.67 | 135.24±5.86 |
| Erythrocytes, 10^12/L | Initial data | 5.98±0.17 | 6.01±0.13 | 5.46±0.27 |
| | Day 4 | 4.48±0.26** | 5.63±0.16 | 5.06±0.12 |
| | Day 15 | 5.24±0.19 | 5.87±0.08 | 5.53±0.16 |
| Leukocytes, 10^9/L | Initial data | 9.89±0.67 | 10.29±0.33 | 10.86±0.24 |
| | Day 4 | 16.33±1.56** | 14.73±0.64** | 15.14±0.76** |
| | Day 15 | 15.76±0.69** | 11.47±0.74* | 13.50±0.67* |

Note: * – differences are likely in relation to the control group, p<0.05; ** – differences are likely in relation to initial data, p<0.05.
that irritation process was short-term in all groups of animals and did not become chronic. Probably the development of inflammation was caused by the activation of lymphocytic-monocytic series [23], neutrophilic series did not cause inflammatory response in animals that supports high immune response in rat body. It should be noted that application of creams with dexpanthenol promoted inhibition of inflammation as confirmed by a normalization of monocyte count. Increased level of monocytes have been reported in rats on day 15 following application of ointments “Prolidoxid” and “Wundahyl”. Within this framework, we can make a conclusion about the development of moderate inflammation and absence of complete healing as it appears from planimetric study.

Reparative action of ointment “Prolidoxid” was higher than the reference drug ointment “Wundahyl” due to the presence of phenolic hydrophobic drug propolis (PHDP) that possess antioxidant properties. These antioxidants are able to intercept free radicals, form chelate complexes with reactive ions, suppress activity of radical generating enzymes and that's why protect lipids, nucleic acids and other vital cellular components from oxidation and destruction.

In addition, phenolic compounds in the composition of PHDP are able to stimulate reparative processes affecting the macrophage chain of inflammatory and reparative response. Wherein chemotaxis of macrophages intensifies, proliferation and differentiation of fibroblasts occurs. During proliferation, the wound is ‘rebuilt’ with new granulation tissue. Polyethylene oxide ointment base of “Prolidoxid” potentiates the antimicrobial activity of PHDP and boosts bioavailability of active ingredients.

Greater reparative activity of cream “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” in contrast to the activity of cream “Dexpanthenol” is caused by the addition of ceramides in its composition. Ceramides hydrate skin, prevent excessive drying of tissues and deepening of necrosis, facilitate transport of growth promoting substances (epidermal, fibroblastic), neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes and others cells, fasting wound healing. Maintenance of skin barrier function is vital to mitigate the skin’s susceptibility to irritants, allergens, and microbes. Hydrophilic base of developed cream improves bioavailability of active ingredients.

Difference in pharmacological effects of investigated medicinal products is attributable to its different therapeutic action. When tissue is damaged the need for structural (proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, water), energetic and nutritional (vitamins, especially pantothenic acid) material will grow, because all this biologically active compounds take part in a variety of biochemical processes, promoting them and restoring damaged tissues.

Consistent with the literature data, dexpanthenol is well absorbed when applied topically to the skin and rapidly converted to pantothenic acid, that plays an important role in cellular metabolism (synthesis of N-acetylglycosamines and mucopolysaccharides, phospholipid metabolism etc.) [17]. It is known that pantothenic acid accelerates cell division along with restorative properties due to which adds strength to collagen fibers that restores skin defects and it has also been shown to have an anti-inflammatory effect on burns [17]. Ceramides are a structurally complicated and heterogeneous group of sphingolipids that play a key function in structuring and preserving the skin water permeability barrier. It should be emphasized that skin hydration is one of the promising approaches for optimization of regenerative processes because it prevents excessive drying out of the wound and deepening of necrosis averting the formation of cicatricial deformities [1]. Additionally, hydrophilic base of cream does not affect the bioavailability of dexpanthenol as evidenced by marked therapeutic action.

“Prolidoxid” ointment shows a marked reparative effect probably due to the presence of phenolic compounds that are capable of intercepting the free radicals. Phenolic antioxidants can inhibit free radical formation and/or interrupt propagation of autoxidation [14, 15]. Phenolic compounds, that contain flavones (apigenin, luteolin) and flavonols (kaempferol and quercetin) stimulate reparative processes affecting the anti-inflammatory macrophage response [14]. While doing that macrophage chemotaxis intensifies, proliferation and differentiation occur and the granulation tissue matures.

Study results can be promising for future development of plant-based medicines for wound healing.

Study limitations. Some hematological parameters have not been investigated (for example, the erythrocyte sedimentation rate et al.). It was rational to study leukocyte indices for a detailed analysis of the mechanism of action of drugs.

Prospects for further research. The obtained results might be used in preclinical research of new wound-healing drugs.

6. Conclusion
1. This study has allowed to establish therapeutic action of “Prolidoxid” and “Dexpanthenol with ceramides” using the rat burn model. According to the data of planimetric research these medicinal products accelerated epithelialization and granulation of skin ulcers on 2 days compared to reference medicines.
2. The results of hematological studies confirmed the effectiveness of “Dexpanthenol cream with ceramides” and “Prolidoxid”. It has been established that studied medicinal products inhibit inflammatory processes and normalize blood rheology. Strength of these medications equals in strength of reference medicines.
3. Hence we infer that further all-sided pharmacological investigation of above-mentioned medicinal products and their introduction into clinical practice is highly prospective.

Conflict of interests
The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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Yaroslava Butko. Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, National University of Pharmacy, Pushkinska str., 53, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61002 E-mail: yaroslavabutko79@gmail.com

Oksana Tkachova. Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Marketing, Pushkinska str., 53, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61002 E-mail: tkachevaov@gmail.com

Tetyana Tishakova. PhD. Associated Professor, Department of Medical and Bioorganic Chemistry, Kharkiv National Medical University, Nauky ave., 4, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61022 E-mail: tishakova@gmail.com

Anatoly Gordienko. Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor, Department of Organic Synthesis and Nanotechnology, National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kirpichova str, 2, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61002 E-mail: gordeyad@gmail.com

Yevhen Bondariev. Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Institute for Advanced Training of Pharmacy Specialists, National University of Pharmacy, Pushkinska str., 53, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61002 E-mail: ev_bondarev@ukr.net