



Targeted therapy of bronchial asthma in children and adolescents: A narrative review

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The aim. To evaluate the results of clinical studies on the efficacy and safety of bronchial asthma (BA) therapy with genetically engineered biologicals (GEBP) in children and adolescents.

Materials and methods. For writing this review article, a search for full-text publications was conducted in the PubMed database. Studies on the efficacy and safety of biologicals — monoclonal antibodies, in the treatment of BA refractory to therapy with inhaled glucocorticosteroids and beta-2-agonists, in children and adolescents from 2010 to 2025 were analyzed using the following key queries “bronchial asthma”, “monoclonal antibodies”, “anti-IgE antibody”, “anti-IL-receptor antibody”, “anti-thymic stromal lymphopoietin antibody”, “adolescents”, “children”.

Results. The observed continuing and steady increase in the incidence of BA, the involvement of several organ systems in the pathological process, the difficulty in choosing treatment tactics, the high cost of therapy, and the need to monitor the patient’s condition place this disease in a special place among modern medical problems. To date, advances in genetic engineering have made it possible to introduce GEBPs — monoclonal antibody drugs, into medical practice as one of the steps in the treatment of poorly controlled and resistant to first-line therapy BA of moderate and severe severity. According to recent clinical studies among children and adolescents, biologicals to varying degrees can affect symptom control, lung function, frequency of exacerbations, requests for emergency medical care and hospitalizations, as well as reducing the dosages of glucocorticosteroids and beta-2-agonists used.

Conclusion. To date, positive results have been noted in the use of monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of BA, but clinical trial data among children and adolescents are limited. There is also insufficient information about the consequences of the mechanism of influence of these drugs in relation to long-term inhibition of the immune system and a decrease in the content of eosinophils in the blood serum in the developing child’s body. To formulate a final conclusion, further study of the long-term efficacy and safety of biologicals in pediatric practice is necessary in order to combat this serious public threat.

Keywords: bronchial asthma; monoclonal antibodies; immunoglobulin E; interleukins; thymic stromal lymphopoietin; pediatrics

Abbreviations: BA — bronchial asthma; GEBP — genetically engineered biological products / biologicals; GCs — glucocorticosteroids; GINA — Global Initiative for Asthma; IgE — immunoglobulin E; FEV1 — forced expiratory volume in 1 second; IFN-α — interferon-alpha; IL — interleukin-4; TSLP — thymic stromal lymphopoietin.

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Таргетная терапия бронхиальной астмы у детей и подростков: описательный обзор

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Цель. Провести оценку результатов клинических исследований, посвящённых изучению эффективности и безопасности терапии бронхиальной астмы (БА) генно-инженерными биологическими препаратами (ГИБП) у детей и подростков.

Материалы и методы. Для написания данной обзорной статьи был проведён поиск полнотекстовых публикаций в базе данных PubMed. Были проанализированы работы по изучению эффективности и безопасности применения биологических препаратов — моноклональных антител, в лечении БА, рефрактерной к терапии ингаляционными глюкокортикостероидами и бета-2-агонистами, у детей и подростков с 2010 по 2025 гг. с использованием следующих ключевых запросов: «bronchial asthma», «monoclonal antibodies», «anti-IgE antibody», «anti-IL-receptor antibody», «anti-thymic stromal lymphopoietin antibody», «adolescents», «children».

Результаты. Наблюдаемый продолжающийся и неуклонный рост заболеваемости БА, вовлечённость нескольких систем органов в патологический процесс, сложность выбора тактики лечения, высокая стоимость терапии и необходимость в мониторинге состояния пациента ставят рассматриваемое заболевание на особое место среди современных проблем медицины. На сегодняшний день достижения в области генной инженерии позволили внедрить в медицинскую практику ГИБП — препараты моноклональных антител, в качестве одной из ступеней лечения плохо контролируемой и резистентной к терапии препаратами первой линии БА средней и тяжёлой степени тяжести. По данным последних клинических исследований среди детей и подростков, биологические препараты в разной степени способны влиять на контроль симптомов, функцию лёгких, частоту обострений, обращений за неотложной медицинской помощью и госпитализаций, а также снижение дозировок применяемых глюкокортикостероидов и бета-2-агонистов.

Заключение. На сегодняшний день отмечаются положительные результаты применения моноклональных антител в терапии БА, однако данные клинических исследований среди детей и подростков ограничены. Также недостаточно информации о последствиях механизма действия данных препаратов в отношении длительного ингибирования иммунной системы и снижения содержания эозинофилов в сыворотке крови в развивающемся организме ребенка. Для формулирования окончательного вывода необходимо дальнейшее изучение долгосрочной эффективности и безопасности применения биологических препаратов в педиатрической практике в целях борьбы с этой серьёзной общественной угрозой.

Ключевые слова: бронхиальная астма; моноклональные антитела; иммуноглобулин E; интерлейкины; тимический стромальный лимфопоэтин; педиатрия

Список сокращений: БА — бронхиальная астма; ГИБП — генно-инженерные биологические препараты; ГКС — глюкокортикостероиды; GINA — Глобальная инициатива по борьбе с астмой; IgE — иммуноглобулин E; ОФВ1 — объём форсированного выдоха за 1 секунду; ИФН-α — интерферон-альфа; ИЛ — интерлейкин-4; ТСЛП — тимический стромальный лимфопоэтин.

INTRODUCTION

Bronchial asthma (BA) is a heterogeneous disease characterized by chronic airways inflammation. Currently, BA is one of the most common pathologies among children and adolescents. The basis for the disease development is a hyperactive immune response

of the body to the effects of specific environmental factors — causally significant triggers [1].

To date, the observed tendency of increasing asthma incidence is directly related to the level of urbanization and the environmental situation in the

world [2]. Thus, according to epidemiological data, in 2019, the disease was observed in 262 million people [3]. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published data on the prevalence of BA in the United States: the disease is noted in 25.25 million patients, of which 4.2 million are children. Already in 2021, there is an increase in the latter indicator — 4.68 million people. In Russia¹, as of 2022, 313 thousand children suffering from this pathology were registered². According to the forecasts of the World Health Organization (WHO), there will be a further increase in the number of patients, and already in 2025 there will be more than 400 million people suffering from BA in the world [4].

The disease significantly reduces the quality of life of patients, having a negative impact not only on indicators of physical health, but also on daily activities: academic performance in school and additional sections, playing sports, interacting with peers, socialization in society, which is an important and integral stage in the life of every child [5, 6]. Undoubtedly, this affects the mental state of the growing organism, causing such symptoms as depressed mood, increased fatigue, and loss of strength. The connection between the disease and mental disorders in adulthood is under consideration, it finds its confirmation again in one of the recent studies: major depressive disorder, bipolar affective disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, specific phobias, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder, overeating and alcohol abuse are more common in patients suffering from BA than in the general population [7].

A significant number of patients (10% of patients according to the latest epidemiological data [8], of which 5% are children and adolescents [9]) have refractory asthma, the therapy with first-line drugs — high doses of inhaled glucocorticosteroids (GCs) and beta-2-agonists — does not lead to proper symptom control, which requires the search for new, more effective drugs [10]. In addition, the mechanism of action of GCs is characterized by its non-selectivity — hormonal drugs have a negative impact on many organs and tissues. Long-term use of this pharmacological group entails the development of a number of undesirable reactions and side effects, significantly reducing the quality of life of patients. Thus, studies among people taking GCs show an increased risk of complications from a number of organ systems: musculoskeletal (fractures, osteoporosis, myopathy),

cardiovascular (arterial hypertension, heart failure, coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction), endocrine (obesity, diabetes mellitus, amenorrhea), digestive (gastric and duodenal ulcer). Vision organs complications are noted — glaucoma and cataracts. Growth retardation is most often observed in children. Acne appears on the skin, dryness and peeling are observed. Taking GCs is associated with the risk of developing mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. Cases of increased infectious diseases are also described, which is associated with the immunosuppressive effect of this group of drugs [11]. Daily intake of GCs in high doses contributes to the suppression of adrenal function according to the mechanism of negative feedback due to exogenous hormones in the body [12]. It was found that even short-term therapy can lead to the development of these adverse events [13]. Therapy with high doses of beta-2-agonists also demonstrates ambiguous results in a number of studies. To date, a conclusion has been formulated about the minimum effective dose of drugs for this pharmacological group in the treatment of BA in adults and adolescents, but it has not yet been determined in young children [14]. Moreover, taking this group of drugs can lead to side effects associated with a stimulating effect on the sympathetic nervous system, which is especially dangerous in patients of the age group under consideration.

Currently, International Clinical Guidelines for the treatment of asthma in children and adolescents consider the prescription of biologicals — monoclonal antibodies — depending on the phenotype of the disease, in order to achieve BA control that has not been achieved with drugs recommended in previous stages of treatment. The creation of genetically engineered biological products (GEBPs) is undoubtedly a revolutionary breakthrough and one of the main achievements of modern medicine. Their introduction into clinical practice has opened up new opportunities and made a major step forward in the treatment of many pathologicals. The mechanism of action of this pharmacological group lies in their interaction with specific molecules that are key links in pathogenesis, which prevents the development of pathology and improves the quality of life of patients.

THE AIM. To evaluate the results of clinical studies on the efficacy and safety of monoclonal antibody therapy for bronchial asthma in children and adolescents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The search of full-text publications was conducted in the PubMed database. Studies on the use of

¹ Most Recent Asthma Data. CDC. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data.htm

² Russian Research Institute of Health. Available from: <https://mednet.ru>

monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of BA refractory to therapy with inhaled GCs and beta-2-agonists in children and adolescents from 2010 to 2025 were analyzed using the following key queries: "bronchial asthma", "monoclonal antibodies", "anti-IgE antibody", "anti-IL-receptor antibody", "anti-thymic stromal lymphopoietin antibody", "adolescents", "children". As a result, 1296 sources were found. Exclusion criteria were: non-full-text articles ($n=21$), as well as works that do not directly address the topic of the review ($n=1\ 222$). As a result, 53 scientific works were included in this review.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Monoclonal antibodies to immunoglobulin E

In the International Clinical Guidelines of the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), children over 6 years of age with refractory moderate to severe BA, uncontrolled by high doses of inhaled GCs and long-acting beta-2-agonists, are recommended to take a humanized monoclonal antibody to immunoglobulin E (IgE) — omalizumab³. Omalizumab not only interacts with IgE, reducing their content in the blood serum, but also inhibits the binding of these molecules to high-affinity FCER1 receptors on mast cells, basophils and dendritic cells (Fig. 1.). Thus, the release of biologically active substances — inflammatory mediators — by the listed immunocompetent cells is prevented [15].

Nowadays, there are a number of scientific papers on the evaluation of the efficacy and safety of this drug in pediatric practice. In a study involving 38 children aged 7 to 16 years, 35 of whom (92.1%) completed it, children were injected with omalizumab subcutaneously at a dosage of 75 to 375 mg every 2 or 4 weeks. As a result, 29 patients (76.3%) had good BA control, based on the results of the Japanese pediatric BA Control Program Questionnaire [16].

After 6 months of treatment, according to the results of a study among children and adolescents with severe BA, a decrease in the number of exacerbations was recorded during omalizumab therapy compared to the previous year (1.03 and 7.2, respectively). After another year of observation, the number of exacerbations was 0.8. In addition, it was noted that the frequency of hospitalizations decreased by 96%. No adverse events were reported [17].

Omalizumab also demonstrated efficacy and safety in study involving 6 patients with moderate to severe BA aged 10 to 13 years. The drug was administered

subcutaneously at a dosage of 150 to 600 mg every 2 or 4 weeks. Already after 16 weeks, an increase in the score in the Asthma Control test was registered by 55%, and one of the subjects had complete symptom control. In 3 patients, the dosage of inhaled GCs used decreased by 28.2%. The number of exacerbations decreased in 76.93% of participants, and no hospitalizations were observed [18].

According to the latest clinical observations, viral respiratory infections contribute to the exacerbation of BA symptoms. In studies, omalizumab has demonstrated an enhanced response of the non-specific immune system defense factor — interferon-alpha (IFN- α), which reduced the frequency of virus-induced respiratory infections, as well as their duration in children and adolescents with BA [19, 20].

However, despite the fact that omalizumab therapy has demonstrated high efficacy, and studies examining its safety have not found statistically significant differences in the incidence of adverse events among patients taking this monoclonal antibody and placebo ($p < 0.05$) [21, 22], further research is needed to study the development of side effects, as well as the long-term effect of the drug in pediatric practice.

Monoclonal antibodies to interleukin-4 and interleukin-13

The GINA also consider the use of a humanized monoclonal antibody to the α -chain of the interleukin-4 (IL-4) receptor, capable of, among other things, inhibiting the activity of interleukin-13 (IL-13) — dupilumab, in children over 6 years of age with BA. IL-4, being a signaling molecule, activates T-helpers involved in the implementation of the inflammatory reaction, and IL-13 stimulates the synthesis of periostin by epithelial cells of the bronchi (Fig. 2). Periostin participates in the contraction of smooth muscles of the bronchi and hyperplasia of cells of endoepithelial glands [23]. Consequently, exposure to these targets prevents the development of bronchospasm and mucus hypersecretion, which makes it impossible to implement a hyperactive reaction of the upper respiratory tract in response to a specific allergen or other causative triggers [24].

To date, there are few studies on the efficacy of dupilumab, limited to adult and adolescents patients. According to the results of one such scientific work, 0.46 exacerbations per year were recorded in subjects older than 12 years who took the drug at a dosage of 200 mg every 2 weeks. Among patients who took placebo, this figure was 0.87 per year. Also, in the group of subjects taking dupilumab, an improvement in lung function

³ Global Initiative for Asthma. Global strategy for asthma management and prevention. Available from: https://ginasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GINA-2024-Strategy-Report-24_05_22_WMS.pdf

was noted: the value of forced expiratory volume in 1 sec (FEV1) increased by 0.32 L. The drug showed its effectiveness regardless of the initial content of eosinophils in the serum of studied participants [25]. The most common side effects of dupilumab were injection site reactions (pain, tissue swelling, hyperemia and itching), inflammation of the mucous membrane of the eyes, herpetic infection of the oral cavity, and joint pain [26]. In a study among patients with GCs-dependent BA, a decrease in the dosage of GCs used was recorded (70.1%) compared with the results in the placebo group (41.9%): 80% of individuals in the control group reduced the dosage by 50%, and 48% of subjects completely stopped taking hormone therapy [27].

It was also found that taking dupilumab helps to improve the quality of life in patients with concomitant allergic diseases. Thus, in patients with severe uncontrolled BA and concomitant allergic rhinitis, taking dupilumab at a dosage of 300 mg 2 times/week contributed to a significant improvement in symptoms [28]. Recent studies have revealed that taking dupilumab for concomitant atopic dermatitis contributes to a significant improvement in the clinical picture. The mechanism of alleviating the symptoms of concomitant atopic dermatitis with dupilumab is that systemic blockade of the α -chain of the IL-4 receptor helps to reduce the level of type 2 memory B cells — precursors of B-lymphocytes, and, consequently, IgE in the blood serum [29]. Thus, in one study among children aged 6 months to 5 years suffering from concomitant moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, relief of symptoms was observed as early as 16 weeks of the trial: improvement in the area of eczema and severity index by $\geq 75\%$ [30]. Among patients with chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps, taking dupilumab demonstrated an improvement in the quality of life of participants. During the survey of patients, there was a significant decrease in the severity of obstruction and discharge from the nose, impaired sense of smell, and a feeling of facial pressure [31]. There is a need for further evaluation of the effectiveness of this monoclonal antibody among children under 12 years of age.

Earlier studies have also been conducted on a drug capable of directly inhibiting IL-13 — lebrikizumab. This humanized monoclonal antibody demonstrated a significant improvement in the clinical picture, according to the results of a recent study among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years with refractory and uncontrolled BA. Over 52 weeks, 113 asthma exacerbations were observed: 31 cases in patients receiving lebrikizumab at a dosage of 125 and 37.5 mg, and 51 cases in participants from the placebo group. As a result, it was concluded that taking

lebrikizumab at a dosage of 125 mg contributed to a 51% reduction in the frequency of exacerbations, and at a dosage of 37.5 mg — a 40% reduction. The number of patients with adverse events was the same in both groups of subjects [32]. However, in studies among adult patients, a significant number of subjects experienced adverse events (79%), serious adverse events (8%), and adverse events leading to drug withdrawal (3%). In addition, phase 3 clinical trials did not demonstrate a significant improvement in the clinical picture and a decrease in the frequency of BA exacerbations, even in the group of patients with higher levels of diagnostic markers, therefore, further work with this monoclonal antibody was no longer carried out [33].

Further study of the efficacy and safety of the drug from this group of monoclonal antibodies — tralokinumab — was also discontinued, as this GEBP did not have a significant effect on the frequency of BA exacerbations (only 44%) and improvement in lung function (12.2%) in patients with severe refractory BA compared with placebo [34]. To date, lebrikizumab and tralokinumab are not used in the treatment of BA in children and adolescents due to limited and inconsistent data on their efficacy and safety.

Monoclonal antibodies to interleukin-5

Interleukin-5 (IL-5) is a pro-inflammatory cytokine that promotes the activation and increased lifespan of eosinophils, which is one of the key links in the pathogenesis of BA. Studies on this group of monoclonal antibodies are limited to BA with eosinophilia, as this factor is considered to be prognostic [35]. The IL-5 inhibitor — reslizumab, as well as a humanized monoclonal antibody to the α -chain of the receptor of this signaling molecule — benralizumab, demonstrated mixed results in clinical studies among patients older than 12 years.

The use of reslizumab, according to the results of phase 3 studies among patients aged 12 years and older, contributed to a decrease in the annual frequency of BA exacerbations by 50–59% compared with placebo [36]. However, a number of trials have reported adverse events and side effects, including an increase in the content of the enzyme creatine phosphokinase in the blood serum [37], which confirms the need for further monitoring. Benralizumab was used among patients older than 12 years. During a phase 3 trial involving 728 people (866 patients received benralizumab, and 440 received placebo), it was concluded that the use of this monoclonal antibody led to a decrease in the frequency of exacerbations in the control group ($n=221$). The most common side effect was nasopharyngitis — 39% in the

control group, 21% in the placebo group [38]. However, data on its safety among children and adolescents are limited. To date, in clinical practice, reslizumab and benralizumab are used in the treatment of BA in patients older than 18 years.

From the group of humanized monoclonal antibodies to IL-5 receptors, mepolizumab is the drug of choice for the treatment of BA in children older than 6 years. The mechanism of action is shown in Figure 3.

The study of phase 2 was conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of this humanized monoclonal antibody in 36 children with severe BA and eosinophilic airway inflammation. Mepolizumab was administered subcutaneously at a dose of 40 mg (for children weighing less than 40 kg) and 100 mg (for children weighing more than 40 kg) once every 4 weeks. On the 12 weeks, the content of eosinophils in serum and sputum in patients receiving the drug under consideration at a dosage of

40 mg was reduced by 89%, and in patients receiving a dosage of 100 mg, by 83% from the baseline level. More than one exacerbation of BA was observed in 10 patients, 4 of them were hospitalized, and 6 patients reported adverse events [39]. In 2024, the results of work on evaluating the effectiveness of this drug among 16 patients aged 7 to 17 years were published. During therapy with mepolizumab, 3 patients had oral GCs treatment canceled, and another 3 patients had their daily dosage reduced. A decrease in the level of eosinophils in the blood serum was also recorded (on average, by $0.85 \times 10^9/L$) [40]. Data from a study examining the risk/benefit ratio of mepolizumab have also recently been published — in most children, this indicator remained favorable for 10 years of therapy [41]. However, further research is needed to formulate a final conclusion regarding the efficacy and safety of mepolizumab among patients for this age group.

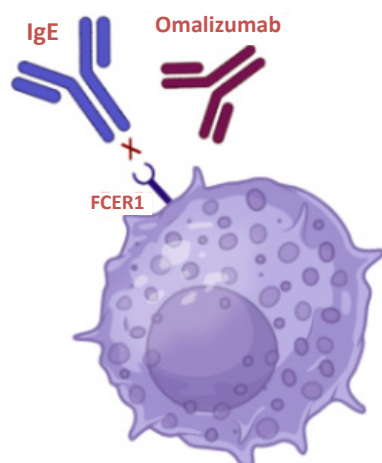


Figure 1 – Mechanism of action of omalizumab

Note: Drawn using the "BioRender" program.

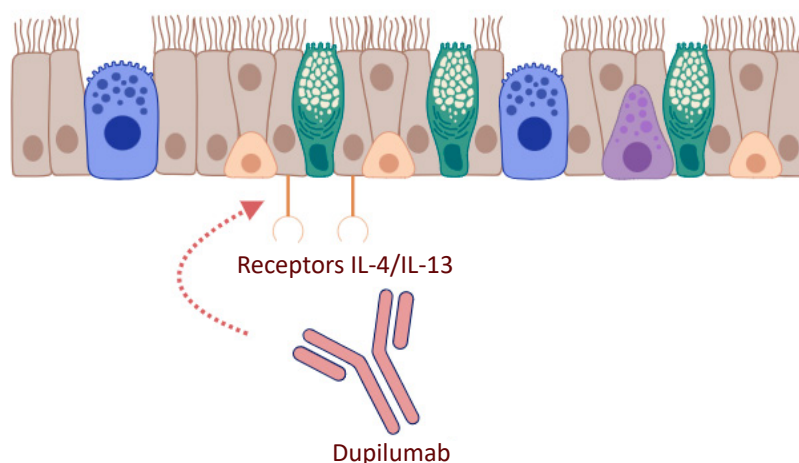


Figure 2 – Mechanism of action of dupilumab

Drawn using the "BioRender" program.

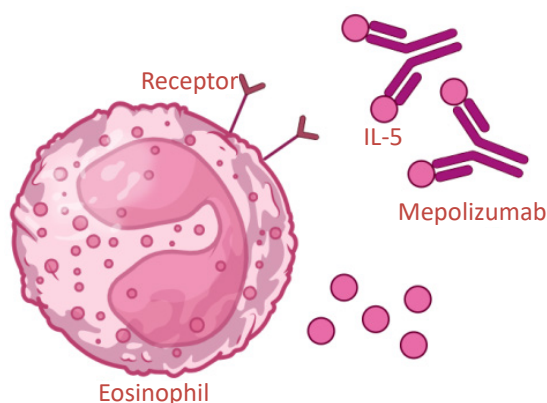


Figure 3 – Mechanism of action of mepolizumab

Note: Drawn using the "BioRender" program.

Table 1 – Results of studies of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of asthma in children and adolescents

Drug	Mechanism of action	Age of participants	Dose	Result	Reference
Omalizumab	Binds to IgE, reducing its content in the blood serum, inhibits the binding of IgE to FCER1 receptors on mast cells, basophils and dendritic cells.	From 7 to 16 years	75–375 mg every 2 or 4 weeks	Good BA control was recorded in 76.3% of patients. The frequency of hospitalizations decreased by 88%. Among the undesirable phenomena, infectious diseases of the upper respiratory tract were observed, but their frequency did not increase with prolonged use of the drug.	[16]
		From 6 years	75–375 mg every 2 or 4 weeks	After 6 months of treatment, a decrease in the number of exacerbations was noted compared to the previous year (1.03 and 7.2, respectively). After a year, the number of exacerbations was 0.8. The frequency of hospitalizations decreased by 96%. No adverse events were observed.	[17]
		From 10 to 13 years	150–600 mg every 2 or 4 weeks	After 16 weeks, an increase in the sum of points in the BA control test by 55% was recorded, one of the subjects had complete symptom control. In 50% of patients, the dosage of GCs used decreased by 28.2%. The number of exacerbations decreased in 76.93% of participants, no hospitalizations were observed.	[18]
Dupilumab	Binds to the α -chain of the IL-4 receptor, inhibits the activity of IL-13	From 12 years	200 mg every 2 weeks	0.46 exacerbations per year were recorded in subjects compared with the placebo group – 0.87 per year. The FEV1 indicator increased by 0.32 liters.	[25]
		From 6 to 11 years	200 mg every 2 weeks	Adverse events were observed: reactions at the injection site of the drug, inflammation of the conjunctiva, herpetic infection of the oral cavity, joint pain, increased levels of eosinophils in the blood serum.	[26]
		From 6 months to 5 years		After 16 week of testing, symptomatic relief was observed: improvement in eczema area and severity index by $\geq 75\%$.	[30]
Mepolizumab	Binds to the α -chain of the IL-5 receptor	From 6 to 11 years	40 mg (with body weight <40 kg) and 100 mg (with body weight >40 kg) 1 time every 4 weeks	At week 12, the content of eosinophils in the blood serum and sputum in patients taking the drug at a dosage of 40 mg was reduced by 89%, in patients receiving a dosage of 100 mg—by 83% of the initial level. More than one BA exacerbation was observed in 10 children out of 36, 4 of them were hospitalized, and adverse events were recorded in 6 patients.	[39]
		From 7 to 17 years	40 mg (with weight <40 kg) and 100 mg (with body weight >40 kg) 1 time every 4 weeks	3 out of 16 patients discontinued GCs treatment, and in another 3 patients, their daily dosage was reduced. The drug contributed to a decrease in the frequency of hospitalizations. A decrease in the content of eosinophils in the blood serum was recorded (on average by $0.85 \times 10^9/L$).	[40]
Tezepelumab	Binds to TSLP of the airways	From 12 years old	210 mg every 4 weeks	The exacerbation rate was 0.93 per year in the tezepelumab group and 2.1 in the placebo group. The FEV1 index at week 52 of the trial was 0.23 l in patients taking the drug and 0.09 l in patients taking placebo. The effect of therapy was recorded at 2 week of the study and tended to persist throughout the treatment period.	[47]
		From 12 years old	210 mg every 4 weeks	In 4 out of 65 participants, adverse events from the cardiovascular system (atrial fibrillation) were recorded, as well as the addition of viral and bacterial infectious diseases (gastroenteritis, tonsillitis, lung abscess). 39 patients experienced side effects, the most common of which was nasopharyngitis.	[48]

Note: BA — bronchial asthma; IL — interleukin; GCs — glucocorticosteroids; FEV1 — forced expiratory volume in 1 second; TSLP — thymic stromal lymphopoietin.

Monoclonal antibodies to thymic stromal lymphopoietin

Updated International Clinical Guidelines also include the use of humanized monoclonal antibody thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP), the main regulator of inflammatory processes of the respiratory tract — tezepelumab, in children over 12 years of age with severe refractory asthma. TSLP is a mediator synthesized in large quantities by epithelial cells of the respiratory tract when exposed to environmental factors [42]. It was found that basophils, dendritic and mast cells are also involved in the synthesis of this signaling molecule [43]. TSLP participates in the differentiation of T-helpers, and also promotes the activation of Janus kinase 1 and 2, which, in turn, transmit activating signals to a number of pro-inflammatory cytokines — IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13 [44]. Thus, inhibition of TSLP, a potential therapeutic target in severe asthma, by a monoclonal antibody prevents the production of these signaling molecules, thereby preventing the development of an inflammation [45].

Tezepelumab has shown its effectiveness in the treatment of refractory and uncontrolled BA among adult patients. Participants were divided into 4 groups: 145 patients used the drug at a dose of 70 mg every 4 weeks, 145 patients — at a dose of 210 mg every 4 weeks, 146 patients — 280 mg every 2 weeks, 148 patients made up the placebo group. As a result, a decrease in the frequency of exacerbations was observed for 52 weeks of the study — by 61, 71 and 66% in each group, respectively, in comparison with placebo. Indicators of external respiration also improved: the value of FEV1 before taking a bronchodilator was higher in all groups receiving tezepelumab than in the placebo group (the difference was 0.12, 0.11 and 0.15 L, respectively) [46]. According to the results of a recent study among patients aged 12 years and older to assess the effectiveness of the drug under consideration at a dosage of 210 mg, the frequency of BA exacerbations was 0.93 per year in the tezepelumab group and 2.1 in the placebo group. There was also an improvement in lung function: the FEV1 indicator at 52 weeks of the trial was 0.23 L in patients taking the drug and 0.09 L in patients taking placebo. This effect of therapy was recorded on the 2nd week of the study and tended to persist throughout the treatment period [47]. However, according to the results of clinical trials to assess the safety of this monoclonal antibody among 65 subjects, 4 had adverse events from the cardiovascular system (atrial fibrillation), as well as the addition of viral and bacterial infectious diseases, such as gastroenteritis, tonsillitis and lung abscess. 39 patients experienced side effects, the most common of which was nasopharyngitis [48]. These data confirm the

need for further study of the efficacy and safety of this GEBP in children and adolescents.

Genetic Engineering is constantly evolving, developing new promising biologicals for more effective and safer therapy for severe treatment-resistant asthma. Currently, research is being conducted on the first inhaled humanized monoclonal antibody to TSLP — ecleralimab. The inhaled route of administration has several advantages over intravenous and subcutaneous injections — low probability of side effects due to non-systemic administration, the presence of an effect and a high rate of its achievement when administered in small doses, as well as ease of use and lack of trauma [49]. Ecleralimab has shown its effectiveness in a study among adult patients with BA: a decrease in sputum eosinophil content by 64% was observed as early as 7 h and by 52% 24 hours after exposure to the provoking factor [50].

In addition, the use of GIBPs therapy in the treatment of BA helps to improve the mental well-being of patients [51, 52]. Thus, one recent study found that patients responding to monoclonal antibody therapy experienced a reduction in symptoms and a decrease in the severity of major depressive and generalized anxiety disorders [53].

The summary of the results of clinical studies on the use of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of BA in children and adolescents shown in Table 1.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the creation of GEBPs — monoclonal antibodies, has created new opportunities for the treatment of patients with refractory and uncontrolled BA. The use of monoclonal antibodies as targeted therapy contributes to proper symptom control, improved clinical picture, improved quality of life, as well as socialization and realization of their abilities in studies, creativity, sports, in many other areas of activity. It allows us to conclude that GEBPs have a positive impact not only on physical well-being, but also on the mental health of patients.

However, despite the fact that there are positive results of the usage of these drugs, an important question remains open about the consequences of prolonged inhibition of non-specific immune defense factors and a decrease in the content of eosinophils in the context of the developing immune system of the child's body. Unfortunately, the data from modern clinical trials and scientific research papers in this area are limited to adult patients, which does not allow us to formulate a final conclusion about the long-term effectiveness and safety of using monoclonal antibodies in pediatric practice today.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

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