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THE ROLE OF ALIPHATIC POLYAMINES AND α -SYNUCLEIN IN THE FORMATION OF PERIPHERAL MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN THE PARKINSON'S DISEASE INDUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Currently, aspects of the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease associated with a disorder of aliphatic polyamine metabolism not only in neurons and gliocytes of the brain, but also in parenchymatous and stromal cells of peripheral internal organs are being widely developed.

In the development of the pathological process according to the "brain-first" subtype, the leading role in Parkinson's disease should be given to central mechanisms, in which aliphatic polyamines produced in the central nervous system directly participate in the induction of neurodegenerative disorders. Enhanced synthesis of aliphatic polyamines in dopaminergic neurons is accompanied by aggregation and fibrillation of α -synuclein *in situ*, which participates in the formation of Lewy bodies. A similar polyamine-dependent mechanism of α -synuclein aggregation at the level of neurons and glial cells of the brain has long been considered established.

When the pathological process unfolds according to the "body-first" subtype, peripheral mechanisms are more interested in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease, in which, in our opinion, an important role is given to the increased synthesis of aliphatic polyamines in a number of peripheral organs, primarily in their peripheral nerve endings. In the same nerve structures, aggregation of α -synuclein occurs, which retrogrades through the blood-brain barrier, causing a symptom complex in dopaminergic neurons that is pathognomonic for Parkinson's disease.

Our own studies on the determination of aliphatic polyamines in the blood plasma of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease were carried out by us taking into account the clinical characteristics of the degrees of disability and gradation by stage. Thus, it was found that the highest levels of all three polyamines were observed at the first stage of disability. A sharp decrease in the level of all three polyamines occurred at the fourth stage. In our opinion, the levels of polyamines in the peripheral blood quite adequately reflect the processes of formation of peripheral mechanisms interested in the induction of Parkinson's disease, especially in the early stages of the disease.

KEYWORDS: Parkinson's disease, pathogenesis, brain-first, body-first, α -synucleins, aliphatic polyamines.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the level of alpha-synuclein in body fluids and tissues has been investigated by several researchers as an informative diagnostic and prognostic marker of Parkinson's disease severity.

However, a comparison of literature sources in this area reveals that different authors have obtained diametrically opposite results, regardless of the type of biological samples used to determine alpha-synuclein levels [Foulds P. et al., 2013].

Highly inconclusive results were obtained by several authors [Foulds et al., 2013; Koehler N et al., 2015; Chang C-W et al., 2020] when assessing plasma alpha-synuclein levels, taking into account different motor subtypes and the potential relationship between alpha-synuclein concentration and the severity of motor symptoms.

GBA-associated Parkinson's disease is associated with mutations in the GBA gene, which encodes the enzyme glucocerebrosidase (GCase). Based on clinical and genetic studies conducted in patients with Parkinson's disease (58 individuals with a sequenced GBA gene, compared with 38 healthy volunteers), the authors conclude that the level of alpha-synuclein in blood plasma is not an informative marker of the disease [Malec-Litwinowicz M. et al., 2018]. Similar conclusions have been reached by other researchers studying the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease, who argue that neither plasma-derived alpha-synuclein nor alpha-synuclein detected in cerebrospinal fluid serve as reliable biomarkers of the disease [Park M. et al., 2011; Kasuga K. et al., 2012; Malek N. et al., 2014]. At the same time, the authors note that alpha-synuclein in the tissues of the enteric and peripheral nervous systems may serve as a "surrogate" marker of brain synucleinopathies.

In addition to the topographic characteristics of alpha-synuclein localization, considerable attention in Parkinson's disease and other synucleinopathies should be given to identifying its structural features, such as truncation, phosphorylation, and aggregation, accompanied by the formation of oligomeric structures [Kasuga K et al., 2012]. This view is also supported by Pchelina S. (2011). It still remains to be determined which alpha-synuclein aggregates possess neurotoxic properties. In this particular context, the focus is on "modified"

forms of alpha-synuclein in the blood, with identification of its oligomeric species associated with aggregation and fibrillation [Vrijzen S, et al.,].

Somewhat optimistic (in our opinion) is the conclusion that the concentrations of alpha-synuclein in biological fluids, tissues and biopsies, with the aim of their correction in BP, allow us to assume the presence of alpha-synuclein as an early diagnostic biomarker [Atik A. et al., 2016].

There is evidence indicating that patients with Parkinson's disease exhibit higher levels of alpha-synuclein in plasma and serum compared to the control group, i.e., healthy individuals. Particularly, a significant correlation has been observed between alpha-synuclein levels and disease stage in patients at Hoehn and Yahr stages 1–3 ($r = 0.40$, $p = 0.025$), which suggests that serum alpha-synuclein levels are "moderately" correlated with the severity of motor symptoms in patients at the early stages of the disease [Chang C-W et al., 2020].

In the study by Malec-Litwinowicz M. et al. (2018), encouraging results were obtained for alpha-synuclein level determination at various stages of both progressive and non-progressive forms of Parkinson's disease, supporting its consideration as a potential diagnostic marker. The protein concentration was determined using the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method, following the product protocol for the Human α -Synuclein ELISA Kit (Catalog No. KHB0061, 96 tests; Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Accordingly, we considered it appropriate to present the relevant data from the cited study in the form of an informative table 1 for the readers' consideration [Malec-Litwinowicz M, et al., 2018].

Parkinson's disease is one of the most common neurodegenerative chronic systemic multifactorial diseases.

TABLE 1.
The comparison of plasma alpha-synuclein level at different stages of the Parkinson disease

Groups of the Parkinson disease	Median (ng/ml)	plasma ASN (ng/ml)		Mean (ng/ml)	SD
		Lower quartile	Upper quartile		
Non-advanced	4.69	3.05	6.56	4.93	2.35
Advance	3.13	2.20	5.41	3.65	1.70
Control group	3.73	2.75	4.86	3.90	1.56

Notes: ASN – alpha-synuclein, SD – Standard Deviation, PD - Parkinson's disease.

It affects more than six million people worldwide, with the disease being most pronounced in individuals over the age of sixty. However, the initial symptoms of Parkinson's disease can emerge much earlier, following the degeneration of 50-60% of dopaminergic neurons located in the substantia nigra and corpus striatum. The symptoms become particularly evident at the relatively late stages of the pathological process, when 70-80% of dopaminergic neurons are affected [Ehringer H, Hornykiewicz O, 1960; Bernheimer H et al., 1973; Albin P et al., 1998; Maruyama W et al., 2001; Reader T et al., 2001; Lev N et al., 2003; Khaindrava V et al., 2010].

The clinical manifestations of Parkinson's disease include bradykinesia, muscle rigidity, gait disturbances, movement insufficiency and limitations, and akinesia [Fahn S, 2003].

There is some uncertainty regarding the Parkinson's disease staging, as it is often associated with the scales used by neurologists to assess the severity and characteristics of the disease. In this regard, a review article by several leading Russian researchers [Katunina E et al., 2023 a, b] provides valuable data. The authors present analytical information on the potential central and peripheral mechanisms of Parkinson's disease development, taking into account the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale system.

Currently, several scales are being considered to determine topical and clinical criteria that are pathognomonic for Parkinson's disease, with the aim of finding out the potential mechanisms underlying the induction of neurodegenerative disorders of the central nervous system in case of this disease [Perlmutter J et al., 2009]. Two scales are particularly informative: the Webster scale from Columbia University and the Schwab and England and Northwestern University disability scale. A combined approach using both scales, based on the combination of their clinical and cognitive features, is also being tested, such as the UPDRS and the New York University scale. However, the UPDRS scale has gained the greatest recognition, as it attempts to characterize the disease based on both its earliest and latest manifestations, incorporating instrumental diagnostic tools and clinical and morphological findings underlying neurodegenerative disorders in the central nervous system

[Martínez-Martín P et al., 1994; van Hilten et al., 1994; Goetz G et al., 2004; 2007; 2020]. Thus, the UPDRS scale consists of four subscales. Subscale 1 focuses on thinking, behavior, and mood. Notably, even at an early stage of the disease, Lewy bodies begin to be detected in the olfactory bulbs and lower parts of the brainstem [Braak H et al., 2003; Pinter B et al., 2015].

Clinically, this is manifested by olfactory dysfunction and dyspeptic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract.

Subscale 2 addresses thinking, behavior, and mood. The pathological process extends to the overlying structures of the brainstem, leading to behavioral disorders during the sleep phase, with rapid eye movement, as well as anxiety-depressive disorders and cognitive dysfunction.

Subscale 3 includes criteria that assess clinical manifestations pathognomonic for Parkinson's disease. The substantia nigra and corpus striatum become involved in the neurodegenerative process, resulting in the development of motor symptoms such as bradykinesia, tremor, and muscle rigidity [Katunina E et al., 2023].

Subscale 4 reflects the spread of neurodegenerative disorders to other parts of the brain, including the limbic system and cortex, which results in a broader range of neurological manifestations. This subscale also includes the symptom complex related to therapeutic complications associated with Parkinson's disease.

It should be especially noted that the indices of subscales 1, 2, and 4 are, to some extent, preclinical in nature, as they are based on reports from patients and caregivers. In contrast, the indices in subscale 3 are based on clinical and laboratory studies that specifically characterize the symptoms of Parkinson's disease [Perlmutter J, 2009]. The indices in subscales 1, 2, and 4 are also partly subjective, as they cannot be considered obligatory stages in the progressive development of the disease, which ultimately leads to the formation of symptoms characteristic of Parkinson's disease –the occurrence of neurodegenerative disorders in certain brain regions. This mainly refers to the formation of Lewy bodies, containing aggregated α -synuclein, and an elevated level of aliphatic polyamines in synapse formations localized in the dopaminergic neurons of the substantia nigra and corpus striatum.

While studying the progressive pathological process associated with the step-by-step development of Parkinson's disease, the most acceptable approach, in our opinion, is the clinical assessment of the disease by the degrees of disability in patients, as proposed 58 years ago [Hoehn M, Yahr M, 1967]. The authors outline five stages based on the principle of clinical disability:

Stage I: Patients experience unilateral damage with minimal functional disorders.

Stage II: Patients show bilateral or median damage, without balance or coordination disorders.

Stage III: The first sign of impaired righting reflexes (unsteadiness when turning or when pushed from a standing position with the legs pressed together and the eyes closed) is noted in patients. Disability at this stage is mild to moderate.

Stage IV: The disease has progressed to a severe disabling stage. The patient is incapacitated but can still walk and stand without assistance.

Stage V: Patients are confined to a bed or wheelchair.

According to *Stockholm M et al.*, and *Lionnet A et al.*, Parkinson's disease may involve two subtypes based on the mechanisms underlying the pathological process in the neurons of the brain. These subtypes can be conditionally classified as central and peripheral, with corresponding designations: brain-first and body-first [Stockholm M et al., 2016, Lionnet A, et al., 2018].

The central mechanism involved in the onset of neurodegenerative disorders in Parkinson's disease (brain-first subtype) has been studied relatively well.

Thus, neurodegenerative disorders localized primarily in the substantia nigra and corpus striatum, both in familial and sporadic forms of Parkinson's disease, are progressive. This progression is marked by the accumulation of aggregated forms of α -synuclein in dopaminergic neurons, which leads to the death of large groups of neurons [Polymeropoulos M et al., 1997; Kruger R et al., 1998; Singleton A et al., 2003; Chartier-Harlin M et al., 2004; Farrer M et al., 2004; 2006; Ibáñez P et al., 2004; 2009; Yu F et al., 2005; Yu S et al., 2004, 2007; Yu L et al., 2012]. It should be noted that even intermediate forms of α -synuclein, such as oligomers, exhibit pronounced neurotoxic-

ity [Conway K et al., 2000; Volles M et al., 2001; Ding T et al., 2002; Volles M, Lansbury P, 2002; Fredenburg R et al., 2007].

It has long been established that aliphatic polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, and spermine) play a crucial role in neuromodulatory processes, specifically in activating neuromotor functions in various parts of the brain [Rock D, Macdonald R, 1992, 1995; Yatin S et al., 1999; Antony T et al., 2003; Rhee H et al., 2007; Velloso N, 2008; Paik M et al., 2010]. At the same time, over the past 25 years, numerous informative publications have highlighted the significant role of aliphatic polyamines in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease, particularly in relation to their hyperproduction in the relevant regions of the brain [Gomes-Trolin C et al., 2002; Kaplan B et al., 2003; Paik M et al., 2010; Krasnoslobodtser A et al., 2012; Koehler N et al., 2015]. It is now well-established that the development of neurodegenerative disorders in Parkinson's disease is largely due to the enhanced in situ synthesis of aliphatic polyamines, which promotes the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synuclein in dopaminergic neurons, leading to the formation of Lewy bodies [Antony T et al., 2003; Fernandez C, 2004; Bertoncini C, 2005; Rasia R, 2005; Avagyan S, Zilfyan A, 2019; Makletsova M et al., 2022].

The body-first subtype is characterized by the appearance of autonomic disorders at the earliest stages of neurodegenerative changes in the brain that are typical of Parkinson's disease. These disorders are clinically manifested by parasomnias (such as rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder) and bowel dysfunction [Knudsen K et al., 2021; Katunina E et al., 2023]. The dynamics of the development of the peripheral mechanisms involved in Parkinson's disease are primarily reflected in the "dual hit" hypothesis proposed by Hawkes C et al. (2007). According to this hypothesis, α -synuclein aggregates, which are localized at the earliest stages of Parkinson's disease in the olfactory bulb and the intestine, reach brain structures through the olfactory pathways, as well as through the parasympathetic and sympathetic pathways. In our opinion, it is also possible that peripheral aggregated α -synuclein penetrates the central nervous system through selective increased permeability of the blood-brain barrier.

Currently, the possible mechanisms involved in the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synuclein in the peripheral nerve structures of the gastrointestinal tract remain highly controversial. In Parkinson's disease, in addition to the increased aliphatic polyamine content in neurons and glial cells of the brain, high levels of all three aliphatic polyamines – putrescine, spermidine, and spermine, are also observed in the plasma and erythrocytes of peripheral blood [Shin E et al., 2000; Gomez-Trolin C et al., 2002; Kaplan B et al., 2003; Krasnoslobodtsev A et al., 2012; Koehler N et al., 2015; Avagyan S et al., 2019].

In our opinion, the high levels of aliphatic polyamines in peripheral blood may result from the disruption of intracellular mechanisms governing their balanced synthesis in somatic cells, caused by various provoking factors, including infectious and non-infectious diseases. It is possible that neuronal and mesenchymal cells located in the peripheral nerve endings of the gastrointestinal tract, vagus nerve, intramural nervous apparatus of the heart, and other areas, also act as potential sources of increased synthesis of aliphatic polyamines under certain extreme conditions.

According to the currently debated “dual hit” hypothesis [Hawkes C et al., 2007], under certain conditions, α -synuclein produced in peripheral nerve structures undergoes aggregation. In Parkinson's disease, aggregated α -synuclein penetrates the blood-brain barrier and/or retrogradely through perineural pathways into the brain, leading to the development of neurodegenerative disorders in specific central nervous system structures, such as the corpus striatum, substantia nigra, and locus coeruleus.

It can be assumed with a high degree of certainty that a possible source of such aggregation of α -synuclein in situ are the high concentrations of aliphatic polyamines produced both in somatic cells of internal organs and in submucosal structures of the stomach and intestinal tract by nerve and glial cells of peripheral nerve endings. It is also possible that, under certain extreme conditions, peripheral mechanisms associated with increased level of aliphatic polyamines in somatic cells of internal organs, including those localized in peripheral nerve endings, may contribute to the broader spectrum of neurodegenerative disorders in the central nervous system in Parkinson's disease. In such case, it is possible that, by entering the peripheral bloodstream and lymph, aliphatic polyamines could penetrate the brain as a result of selective increase of the permeability of the blood-brain barrier.

If we adhere to the currently widely discussed hypothesis of two subtypes of possible development of the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease – body-first and brain-first, the above-described retrograde pathway of α -synuclein penetration into the brain is realized according to the body-first mechanism [Stockholm M et al., 2016; Lionnet A et al., 2018].

The Head of the Laboratory of immunoenzymatic researches at the Scientific Research Center of YSMU, Avagyan S.A., during his business trip to the Scientific Center of Neurology (RF, Moscow), along with the co-authors of this publication and employees of the Laboratory of Neurochemistry at the same center, conducted chromatographic studies back in 2017 to investigate shifts in the content of aliphatic polyamines (putrescine, spermidine,

TABLE 2.
Aliphatic polyamines levels in blood plasma of patients with Parkinson's disease at different stages (according to Hoehn, Yahr, 1967)

Indicators	Donors (n=21)	Stages of development of Parkinson's disease			
		First (n=27)	Second (n=23)	Third (n=20)	Fourth (n=10)
Putrescine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	189.3 $\pm$ 20.7	471.4 $\pm$ 50.9 p<0.0005	223.6 $\pm$ 33.6 0.1<p<0.25	296.4 $\pm$ 29.6 0.0005<p<0.005	83.5 $\pm$ 14.9 0.0005<p<0.005
Spermidine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	279.7 $\pm$ 30.3	813.6 $\pm$ 90.9 p<0.0005	213.8 $\pm$ 35.8 0.05<p<0.1	57.3 $\pm$ 18.2 p<0.0005	63.9 $\pm$ 10.8 p<0.0005
Spermine ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	90.5 $\pm$ 13.5	603.6 $\pm$ 60.7 p<0.0005	212.5 $\pm$ 30.6 0.0005<p<0.005	320.0 $\pm$ 40.5 p<0.0005	40.4 $\pm$ 8.9 0.0005<p<0.01

Note: p value in relation to the indicators of each stage of the biochemical parameter of blood corresponds to the indicators of donors (control group).

and spermine) in the blood plasma of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease. The patient cohort was divided into stages (from I to V) based on their disability levels [Hoehn M, Yahr M, 1967].

The results of the chromatographic studies on the content of polyamines in the blood of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease are presented in the table 2.

As can be seen from the table, the highest values of all three aliphatic polyamines were determined in patients with the first degree of disability. Specifically, the level of putrescine in the blood plasma exceeded the control level by 2.5 times, spermidine by 2.9 times, and spermine by 6.7 times. In patients at the second stage of disability, the values for putrescine and spermidine were within the control range, while the spermine level remained elevated, exceeding the control by 2.35 times. In patients classified as stage III disability, the putrescine content remained high compared to the control, the spermine level increased by 3.5 times, and the spermidine level, conversely, decreased by nearly five times compared to the control. The fourth stage of disability was characterized by a sharp decrease in the content of all three aliphatic polyamines in the blood plasma in Parkinson's disease compared to the control level: putrescine by 2.8 times, spermidine by 4.4 times, and spermine by 2.25 times [Makletsova M 2017; Makletsova M et al., 2019].

The dynamics of shifts in the content of aliphatic polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, and spermine) in the blood of patients at different stages of Parkinson's disease development are shown in the figure.

We tried to analyze the chromatographic study

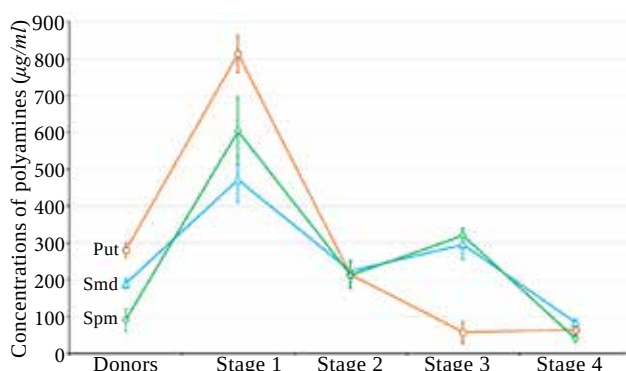


FIGURE. The level of polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, spermine) in blood of patients with Parkinson's disease at their stage gradation

results of the content of aliphatic polyamines in the blood plasma of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, adhering to the distribution of the disease by degrees of disability. This interpretation takes into account the early symptoms of the disease and its conditional gradation into brain-first and body-first subtypes.

Thus, high levels of all three aliphatic polyamines in blood plasma at the first stage of disability, as well as high levels of putrescine and spermine at the third stage, can be considered as additional, yet informative criteria, indicating the important role of peripheral aliphatic polyamines in the induction of aggregation and fibrillation of α -synucleins localized in peripheral nerve endings. Subsequently, it is possible that denatured α -synucleins are able to penetrate the brain retrogradely (perineurally, or due to increased permeability of the blood-brain barrier), leading to the development of a symptom complex characteristic of Parkinson's disease. In this case, it is not excluded that the early manifestations of Parkinson's disease also follow the "body-first" subtype.

Hyperproduction of aliphatic polyamines in internal organs, particularly in their neuritis, with a subsequent increase in their content in the blood, should be considered a degree of risk for developing peripheral neurodegenerative disorders, which significantly exacerbate the course of Parkinson's disease. At the fourth stage of disability, where very low concentrations of all three aliphatic polyamines are found in the blood of patients, this stage, in our opinion, most objectively reflects the full spectrum of neurodegenerative disorders in the brain, which are primarily realized according to the "brain-first" subtype.

It should be especially noted that, even at the early stages of the disease, central polyamine-dependent mechanisms involved in the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synucleins in dopaminergic neurons of the brain may already be active.

In the induction mechanism of neurodegenerative disorders in the central nervous system, according to the "body-first" subtype, aspects related to the role of infection are currently the subject of special discussion, particularly considering the taxonomic potentials and features of the persistence of resident opportunistic and pathogenic microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract. In this regard, information on

the role of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease, as presented in several informative publications over the last 20 years, deserves particular attention [Necchi V et al., 2007; Hildebrandt E, McGee D, 2009; Dobbs R et al., 2012; Mulak A, Bonar B, 2015; Noto J, Peek R, 2017; McGee D et al., 2018].

Epidemiological studies have been especially informative, showing that individuals with Parkinson's disease have a threefold increased risk of *H. pylori* seropositivity compared to controls [Charlett A et al., 1999; Dobbs R et al., 2000; Weller C et al., 2005; Nielsen H et al., 2012; Çamcı G, Oğuz S. S, 2016; Shen X et al., 2017; Huang H et al., 2018].

There is an opinion suggesting that several toxic substances, which are products of *H. pylori* synthesis, are "interested" in the induction of neurodegenerative disorders in the brain in Parkinson's disease, such as tetrahydropyridine [Altschuler E, 1996], vacuolating toxin [Weller C et al., 2005], and cholesterol glucosides [Bjorkhem J et al., 2013]. Furthermore, the aggregation of α -synuclein in dopaminergic neurons is also facilitated by neurotoxic factors produced by immunocompetent cells in situ, as a result of their penetration through the blood-brain barrier into brain tissue [Dobbs R et al., 2000; 2016; Noto J, Peck R, 2007; Mulak A, Bonar B, 2015; Avagyan S et al., 2019].

Possible peripheral mechanisms contributing to the induction of neurodegenerative disorders involving α -synuclein produced in various regions of the gastrointestinal tract have been extensively analyzed and summarized in the form of a hypothesis [Mulak A, Bonar B, 2015]. The proposed hypothesis suggests the existence of a brain-gastrointestinal tract-microbiota axis in Parkinson's disease, which progresses through the following chronological stages:

1. Dysbiosis associated with disruption of intestinal bacterial homeostasis.
2. Synthesis and aggregation of α -synuclein in the neurites of the gastrointestinal tract's nervous tissue, followed by the production of autoantibodies against aggregated α -synuclein by immunocompetent cells.
3. α -synuclein that enters the brain from the periphery primarily accumulates in glial cells.
4. Due to the established association between glial cells and neurons, α -synuclein begins to accu-

mulate within the cytoplasm of neurons, leading to the formation of Lewy bodies.

5. The accumulation of α -synuclein in dopaminergic neurons of the brain, initiating the development of neurodegenerative processes in dopaminergic neurons.

The abovementioned hypothesis primarily relies on literature data concerning the mechanisms of peripheral synthesis and aggregation of α -synuclein in neurites localized in the gastrointestinal tract, specifically in the context of *H. pylori* infection. However, the role of resident opportunistic microorganisms persisting in the intestinal tract has not been sufficiently studied. Only a few studies explore the role of *Escherichia coli* in the targeted synthesis of antibodies to α -synuclein by immunocompetent cells.

Thus, a single intraperitoneal injection of bacterial endotoxin (commercial preparation of lipopolysaccharides from *Escherichia coli*) significantly increased the number of immunocompetent cells (macrophages and lymphocytes) expressing high levels of α -synuclein in the lymph nodes. Stimulation of immunocompetent cells with *Escherichia coli* endotoxin, following prior administration of specific stimulated macrophages to animals, resulted in the activation of humoral immune responses that selectively promoted the synthesis of antibodies against α -synuclein [Sergeeva T, Sergeev V, 2011].

In our opinion, the perineural and/or hematogenous pathways of α -synuclein entry from the periphery into the brain in Parkinson's disease are highly questionable, as α -synucleins, during their perineural migration or entry into the bloodstream may be exposed to various hematogenic factors, including phagocytosis, which likely prevents their entry into the brain. Conversely, we propose that in Parkinson's disease, particularly in the context of intestinal dysbiosis, the autoimmune mechanism leading to dopaminergic neuron damage through the penetration of autoantibodies to α -synuclein into the brain seems more plausible. This hypothesis appears reasonable, as it is supported by informative experimental data indicating that autoantibodies to α -synuclein, produced in immunogenic organs, are toxic and induce selective death of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra [Huber V et al., 2006]. Moreover, it is likely that dysbiosis in the intestinal tract, particularly

with the activation of resident gram-negative microflora, influences the morphofunctional state of the brain [Avagyan S et al., 2019]. We further suggest that in Parkinson's disease, bacterial translocation processes may be activated, leading to the migration of opportunistic microorganisms (primarily *E. coli*) from the intestine. These microorganisms, along with their metabolic by-products (including putrescine and endotoxins) may then spread hematogenously to new ecological niches in the host, potentially allowing their entry into the central nervous system.

According to the "body-first" subtype, the induction of peripheral mechanisms underlying the early manifestations of Parkinson's disease should also consider the role of dysbiosis, which selectively promotes the aggregation of α -synuclein in gastrointestinal tract neurites, as well as the production of biologically active factors that exert a neurotoxic effect on dopaminergic neurons localized in specific brain areas.

CONCLUSION

Currently, the mechanisms underlying the development of Parkinson's disease are the subject of extensive discussion, with both central and peripheral mechanisms being of significant interest. In the case of peripheral mechanisms, the "dual hit" hypothesis proposed by Hawkes C et al. (2007) highlights the critical role of α -synucleins, which are produced in the peripheral nerve endings of various internal organs. These α -synucleins, upon aggregation, retrogradely spread from the periphery to the central nervous system, leading to neurodegenerative processes in dopaminergic neurons, primarily in the corpus striatum, substantia nigra, and locus coeruleus.

In our view, one potential cause of α -synuclein aggregation and fibrillation in the periphery is the increased synthesis of aliphatic polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, and spermine) in somatic cells of internal organs.

When analyzing the results obtained from studying the shifts in the levels of three aliphatic polyamines in blood plasma in Parkinson's disease (table 2), it is important, in our opinion, to take into account following point. High levels of all three polyamines at the first stage of disability reflect their equal involvement in the formation of

the peripheral mechanisms of the disease. In patients with the second and third stages of disability, the role of each of the three polyamines in the development of peripheral mechanisms, according to the "body-first" subtype, was far from straightforward.

Thus, elevated spermine levels, in the context of normalized putrescine and spermidine levels, suggest that only spermine is involved in the development of peripheral mechanisms in the induction of Parkinson's disease. Similarly, high levels of putrescine and spermine at the third stage, with a significant decrease in spermidine content, indicate that only two polyamines – putrescine and spermine, are involved in the formation of peripheral mechanisms. In our opinion, each of the three aliphatic polyamines, even individually, has the potential to trigger the "body-first" subtype, as all three polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, spermine) can induce the aggregation of α -synuclein in peripheral nerve endings.

The hypothesis we proposed is supported by a foundational study on the aggregation potential of the three aliphatic polyamines, carried out by a team of leading researchers [Antony T et al., 2003].

The authors showed that aliphatic polyamines, whether combined or used individually, promote the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synuclein, a key protein component of Lewy bodies linked to Parkinson's disease.

Using scanning electron microscopy to identify the substrate, aggregated particles – protofibrils and small fibrils, were detected.

Upon completion of the transient phase, α -synuclein forms long fibrils with minimal morphological variations. In the presence of each of the three polyamines, the fibrils begin to form extensive network-like structures, ultimately leading to the thickening of aggregates. In the absence of aliphatic polyamines, the fibrils remain more isolated, showing no signs of adhesion to one another or the formation of aggregates.

Therefore, polyamine-dependent processes that lead to the hyperproduction of aliphatic polyamines in peripheral internal organs are of significant interest in understanding one of the potential mechanisms of Parkinson's disease induction. High concentrations of these polyamines could be considered a contributing factor to the aggregation

of α -synucleins localized in peripheral nerve terminals. This mechanism likely plays a role when the peripheral nervous system is engaged early in the pathological process, consistent with the "body-first" subtype.

In cases where high levels of aliphatic polyamines (putrescine, spermidine, and spermine) are observed in the peripheral blood (plasma, serum, and erythrocytes), these should, in our opinion, be considered informative criteria for assessing the risk of developing Parkinson's disease. Additionally, under certain extreme conditions, where there is a significant increase in the levels of aliphatic polyamines in the peripheral blood, these poly-

amines may be capable of penetrating the brain through the blood-brain barrier, thereby potentially triggering processes in specific areas of the brain that promote the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synucleins in dopaminergic neurons.

The study of the pathogenetic aspects of Parkinson's disease should also be approached from a new perspective, focusing on the induction of the peripheral pathological process. This process, characterized by the aggregation and fibrillation of α -synuclein in the nerve fibers of the gastrointestinal tract, may involve infectious agents, persisting in situ, including conditionally pathogenic and pathogenic microorganisms.

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