# The effect of high fat food on erythrocyte phospholipids, fatty acids composition and glutathione redox-system of rats with alimentary dyslipidemia

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# ABSTRACT

To evaluate the effects of high fat food consisted of tallow (19% of total diets) and cholesterol (2%) on modification of erythrocyte phospholipids, fatty acids composition and glutathione redoxsystem of male Wistar rats with alimentary dyslipidemia. The results demonstrated that after 30 and 180 days of high-fat feed erythrocyte phosphatidylinositol and phosphatidylcholine levels were reduced, phosphatidylserine were increased. Only on the 90 days of the experiment phosphatidylinositol level increased. In all growups the erythrocyte 18:0 saturated fatty acids and 20:4n6, 22:4n6 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) were increased. Deficit of n3 PUFA-20:5n3 and 22:6n3 after 90 and 180 days high fat feed promoted compensatory synthesis from 18:1n9 on 20:3n9. Erythrocyte maleic dialdehyde increased, glutathione level decreased in all groups of rats after fed with high-fat feed. Glutathione reductase and glutathione peroxidase activity decreased in erythrocytes after 30 and 180 days of high-fat feed. In conclusion: high-fat diet during 30-90 days started adaptive answer in lipids of membrane and glutathione redox-system. Important mechanism of adaptation of a cellular membrane to high-fat diet is increase major, structuring a membrane phosphatidylethanolamine and minor, most metabolic significant fractions phospholipids (phosphatidylinositol), keeps homeostasis of 18:2n6 and 22:6n3, 20:3n9 compensatory synthesis, decrease in activity of processes lipid peroxidation, activation of enzymes of redox-system alutathione. But prolonging the high-fat feeding (180 days and more) formed failure compensatory processes (dysadaptation). It is a risk factor of developmening atherosclerosis, diabetes, steatogepatitis and other diseases.

**Keywords:** Fatty Acids; Phospholipids; Adaptation; Dyslipidemia; GSH; Glutathione Reductase; Glutathione Peroxidase

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

Clinical, experimental and epidemiological researches have proved that the high-fat feeding is a risk factor of development of atherosclerosis, diabetes, steatogepatitis and other diseases [1-4]. Insufficient or superfluous consumption of separate components of food (deficiency of fiber, surplus of fat, carbohydrates etc.) at the initial stages forms the cascade of the stressful reactions directed on activation of mechanisms of adaptation in an organism.

In cellular processes of adaptation one of leading roles is occupied with a plasma membrane and forming it phospholipids (PL) and fatty acid composition [5,6]. The fatty acid composition of phospholipids affects the physicochemical properties of the membrane and thus influences conformation and function of membrane-bound proteins, such as receptors, ion channels, and transporters and also influences cell function by serving as precursors for prostaglandins and other signaling molecules and modulating gene expression through the activation of transcription factors [7-9]. Thanks to ability PL transform each other and also to be redistributed in a membrane between an internal and external layer realize important adaptable mechanism supporting the structural organization and functional properties of a plasma membrane [10] is carried out. The lipid peroxidation initiate modification membrane PL and it fatty acid composition. The important role in realization antioxidant protection from lipid peroxidation is played by glutathione redox-system which regulation of NF  $\kappa\beta$  (nuclear factor- $\kappa\beta$ ), ARE (antioxidant response element) [11-14]. The urgent fast adaptive answer of glutathione redox-system, consisting of activation of enzymes glutathione reductase, glu-

Table 1. D	aily al	lowance of	rats (g/	kg of a	nimal v	weight).

Ingredients	Experimental diet	General vivarium diet
Tallow	42.5	5
Cholesterol	4.3	-
Sunflower oil	5	5
Grain mixture	50	50
Bread	20	20
Grits	13	13
Beef	20	20
Skim cheese	8	8
Carrot	33	33
Greens	33	33

Table 2. Effect of high-fat diet on serum lipids.

		Days of fed high-fat diet			
Parameter	Control group, n=10	30 days (group 1), n=10	<b>90 days</b> (group 2), n=10	180 days (group 3), n=10	
TC, mmol/l	1.57±0.04	3.34±0.04***	***1.68±0.08	2.04±0.17*	
TG, mmol/l	1.12±0.04	1.95±0.06***	***0.51±0.05***	$1.17\pm0.08$	
HDL-C, mmol/l	$0.67 \pm 0.04$	0.26±0.02***	***0.50±0.08	***0.5±0.15	
IA	1.43±0.15	11.87±1.55***	***2.46±0.35*	***7.4±0.8***	

in Table 2, 3, 4 (\*) left - statistic significance of differences in to control group; right - group 1;

\* p < 0.05; \*\* - p < 0.01; \*\*\* - p < 0.001.

tathione peroxidase and synthesis GSH prevents oxidation phospholipids and membrane infringement. Data on the specific features of membrane lipids behavior and adaptive answer by high-fat diet are scarce. Identification of adaptive response to the nutrition factor through the investigation of membrane forming lipids and glutathione redox-system will help to understand mechanism of cellular adaptation and dysadaptation, how predictor of pathogenesis many dietary-induced diseases.

The aim of the current study was to evaluate the effects of high fat food on serum lipid, erythrocyte phospholipids, fatty acids and oxidative stress in rats with experimental dyslipidemia and establish the possible adaptation mechanism by high-fat diet.

# 2. METHODS

## 2.1. Animals and Diets

Subject to the research were 40 pubescent white male Wistar rats with initial weight  $173 \pm 5.6$  g. Alimentary dyslipidemia was induced in rats by high-caloric diet (**Table 1**) [15].

The animals were divided into 4 groups, 10 rats in each: normal, control group, fed with basic feed; and groups comprising animals kept on experimental high-fat diet (30 days – group 1; 90 days – group 2; and 180 days – group 3). Experimental high-fat diet consisted on 19% tallow and 2% cholesterol. Euthanasia was performed by in conformity with the requirements of Directive 86/609 EEC on the protection of animals used in scientific research [16].

# 2.2. Material

Venous blood samples of rats were drawn after decapitation.

## 2.2.1. Blood Serum Lipid Investigation

Lipid spectrum of blood serum was investigated by Labsistems biochemical analyzer FP-901 (Finland). Parameters to be determined included level of total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), and high density lipoproteins (HDL). Index of atherogenesis (IA) was calculated by formula: (TG - HDL)/HDL.

### 2.2.2. Erythrocyte Phospholipids and Fatty Acid Investigation

The erythrocytes were washed three times with 0.9% NaCl solution. Lipids were extracted from erythrocytes by Bligh and Dyer method [17]. Bidirectional micro thin layer chromatography on glass plates 6x6 with silica gel and plaster suspension was used to separate polar lipids. Quantitative analysis of certain phospholipids (PL) classes after thin layer chromatography was made according to V.E. Vaskovsky et al method [18,19]. Content of each component was represented as percentage of total PL. FA methyl ethers were received by Carreau and Duback method [20], analyzed on Shimadzu GC17A gas-liquid chromatographer equipped with flame ioniza-

tion detector and capillary column (0.25 mm x 30 m) with implanted phase Supelcowax 10. Temperature of column and detector was 210°C, temperature of evaporator was 240°C. Media gas was helium. Gas discharge ratio in the evaporator was 1:30 at 1.8 atm. Z-Chrom station was used for calculating area of chromatographic peaks and processing the results. FA methyl ethers were identified by retention time using standards and carbon numbers [21]. Results were represented in relative percentage of total FA.

#### 2.2.3. Determination of Srythrocyte Pro-Oxidant and Anti-Oxidant

Erythrocyte maleic dialdehyde (MDA) was estimated spectrophotometrically using thiobarbituric acid assay [22]. GSH was measured according to the Ellman method [23]. Glutathione reductase activity was measured according to the method described [24], glutathione per-oxidase activity – [25].

#### 2.2.4. Statistic Methods

All data were analyzed by ANOVA using computer program Statistika 6.1 (series 1203C for Windows). Data present as means  $\pm$  SEM. (M). Differences between means were assessed by Student's significance test.

# 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis result of serum lipids indexes of rats in different stages are shown in **Table 2.** Serum TC, TG levels, index of atherogenesis increased (p < 0.001) of rats in the group 1. Serum HDL-C levels reduced (p < 0.001). After 90 days of the experiment, serum TG, TC levels of rats in the group 2 decreased compared with of rats in group1. At the end experiment, no significant difference was present between TG levels of group 3 and control group, neither between HDL-C levels. Compared with the result of group 2, the TG, TC levels were increased; the index of atherogenesis of group 3 was lower than that of group 1 and group 2.

# 3.1. Erythrocyte Phospholipids

Separation of erythrocyte PL of rats identified six components including phosphatidylcholine (PC), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), phosphatidylserine (PS), sphingomyelin (SM), phosphatidylinositol (PI) and phosphatidic acid. Phosphatidic acid was found as traces (**Table 3**).

Erythrocyte phospholipids fraction of phosphatidylinositol and phosphatidylcholine were reduced in the group 1 (p < 0.001). Levels of phosphatidylserine and phosphatidylethanolamine were increased in erythrocyte membrane. Onset of the deficit PI and PC which form outer layer of membrane, indicate activation of specific phospholipases and intensification of lipid peroxidation processes contributing to plasma membrane destruction [26,27]. A quick-response was increase in PE level accumulating in inner layer of membrane lipid fraction, where most of the active centers of membrane bonded enzymes are located. Research results prove that on the 30 day of high-fat diet membrane forming lipids promptly responded to the stress to prevent deep structural and functional damage to cell.

Changes in erythrocyte membrane at PS, PC and PE level in rats of group 2 was of the same direction as in rats of group 1. Decrease PC lever in outer layer of erythrocyte membranes was compensated by SM maintenance within the range pertinent to control group animals. Such condition can be described as a compensatory response of cell to long-term exposure to stress alimentary factors. Moreover, due to the high saturation of PE the cholesterol is not hardly building into the inner monolayer. This helps to preserve hydrophilic surrounding of cell membrane integral proteins and, therefore, their function [28].

Depletion of erythrocyte PC which forms outer shell of cell lipid matrix was evidenced at a longer exposure to high-caloric diet (180 days) as well. PC reduction in group 3 was accompanied by reliable increase in PS and SM level as compared to control group, meaning that erythrocyte cell was structurally and functionally inadequate. Due to high saturation with SM, the clusters forming phospholipids in a membrane receive large quantity of cholesterol, and this results in lower permeability of cell membrane and interference in active metabolic processes [28]. Thus, on the 180 day of the experiment cell membrane became unable to resist the continuous flow of alimentary stress factors, and the stage of cell compensatory protection depletion occurred that had been formed by the 90 day of high-caloric diet.

#### 3.2. Erythrocytes Fatty Acids

Qualitative composition of erythrocytes FA in rats was represented by components with carbon chain length from  $C_{10 \text{ to}} C_{24}$ , both even and odd, of normal and isomeric structure, saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated (**Table 3**). Certain FA with content below 0.1% were not included into Table 3. These mostly include saturated FA with normal structure, (10:0, 19:0, 20:0, 22:0), some monounsaturated (14:1, 18:1n5, 20:1, 22:1), 18:2n5/9 and 20:3n3 FA.

Analysis of the qualitative composition of FA of erythrocyte lipids showed that rats with dyslipidemia have considerable changes in FA composition as compared to control group. Myristic (14:0), stearic (18:0) FA share was observed to increase in group 1. Unsaturated FA demonstrated minor increase of monoenoic oleic FA (18:1n9, p<0.01) level, reliable accumulation of n6 FA – 20:4n6, 22:4n6, 22:5n6 and decrease in essentially li group 1 is related to the specific features of experimentalnoleic FA (18:2n6). Share of n3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) slightly reduced due to the identified de

Λ	0
4	0

		Days of fed high-fat diet			
Phospholipids and fatty acids components	Control group, – n=10	30 days (group 1), n=10	90 days (group 2), n=10	180 days (group 3), n=10	
		Phospholipids, %			
PS	6.80±0.85	13.00±0.67***	11.1±0.5***	*13.01±1.04***	
PI	3.90±0.00	1.14±0.17***	***4.69±0.19*	1.66±0.29***	
SM	14.42±0.97	15.77±2.09	14.5±0.39	***17.8±0.52***	
PC	55.88±1.14	42.38±0.96***	47.7±0.66**	46.4±2.37**	
PE	21.50±0.75	28.82±0.99***	*22.01±0.34	**20.4±1.05	
		Fatty acids, %			
12:0	0.25±0.02	tr	0.10±0.01***	***0.40±0.07***	
14:0	0.52±0.04	0.83±0.08*	**0.5±0.06	***1.01±0.12***	
15:0	0.74±0.11	$0.58 \pm 0.07$	0.43±0.02**	*0.56±0.04	
15:1	$0.24{\pm}0.08$	0.18±0.02	tr	**0.30±0.05	
16:0	23.72±0.84	24.38±0.57	**28.6±0.56***	27.6±1.4***	
16:1n7	1.90±0.25	1.83±0.12	***0.83±0.05***	2.04±0.21	
17:0	0.94±0.11	0.65±0.10*	0.7±0.01**	0.58±0.05	
17:1	0.96±0.16	0.32±0.02***	***0.18±0.03*	0.26±0.04	
18:0	10.1±0.5	14.68±0.48**	17.3±0.57***	13.9±2.77***	
18:1n9	7.66±0.57	11.45±1.22**	10.5±0.31	11.2±1.38	
18:1n7	3.90±0.25	2.95±0.38	3±0.08	2.59±0.13**	
18:2n6	14.02±0.64	9.78±0.23***	*12.6±0.4	**11.3±0.97**	
18:3n3	1.45±0.32	tr	tr	0.3±0.08***	
20:2n6	0.27±0.02	$0.43 \pm 0.03$	**0.78±0.06***	***0.29±0.02**	
20:3n9	0.35±0.12	tr	0.17±0.03	***0.95±0.09***	
20:3n6	0.6±0.13	$0.88 \pm 0.09$	*1.23±0.06**	0.9±0.08**	
20:4n6	6.78±1.72	21.27±1.92***	*16.3±0.5***	**16.3±0.94***	
20:4n3	0.17±0.03	0.38±0.02***	tr	0.32±0.08***	
20:5n3	0.9±0.23	0.73±0.29	$0.58{\pm}0.05*$	0.68±0.05**	
21:5n3	$0.67 \pm 0.09$	tr	0.3±0.01***	**0.78±0.18	
22:4n6	0.58±0.07	1.58±0.09**	***0.85±0.05**	***0.66±0.08	
22:5n6	0.23±0.15	0.55±0.05*	***0.17±0.03	***0.53±0.13***	
22:5n3	1.32±0.16	$1.62 \pm 0.27$	1.68±0.09**	1.15±0.27	
22:6n3	5.53±0.92	3.93±0.71	*2.22±0.08**	*2.85±0.53***	
Total n6	36.4±1.1	34.32±1.86	31.9±0.26**	*27.1±1.93***	
Total n3	8.77±0.22	6.47±1.19	4.55±0.1**	*3.75±0.68***	
UI	183.5±20.8	167.92±3.14*	*140±1.35*	***118±11.3***	

**Table 3.** Effect of high-fat diet on phospholipids and fatty acids percentage in the erythrocyte of rats.

UI - unsaturation index (sum of products of double bond and FA relative percentage in each FA); tr - less 0.1 %.

crease in eicosapentaenoic (20:5) and docosahexaenoic (22:6) FA. FA saturation index in rats of group 1 was low. The reduction of general erythrocyte lipids unsaturation revealed by the experiment is mostly conditioned by decrease in relative level of essential linoleic FA and redistribution between n6 and n3 family acids [29,30]. Metabolism of n6 FA is known to originate from linoleate consumed with food. Low linoleate content in rats of diet,

poor in PUFA. Further metabolic transformations of essential FA resulted in accumulation of arachidonic (20:4n6) FA, which is a predecessor of synthesis of anti-inflammatory leukotriens and thromboxanes with their strong aggregation and vasoconstriction properties [31, 32]. Growing share of 22:4n6 and 22:5n6 in erythrocyte lipids can be deemed a compensatory response to the deficiency of docosahexaenoic FA.

		Days of fed high-fat diet			
Parameter	Control group, n=10	30 days (group 1), n=10	90 days (group 2), n=10	30 days (group 1), n=10	
MDA, mkmol/g Hb	4,6±0,3	5,3±0,3*	***8,1±0,2**	9,1±0,2***	
GSH, nmol/g Hb	5,3±0,2	3,5±0,3***	**4,1±0,1*	**2,0±0,2***	
Glutatione reductase, mkmol NADPH/mgHb/min	75,1±1,5	68,0±1,5**	*73,3±1,6	**50,1±2,4***	
Glutathione peroxidase, mkmol GSH /mgHb/min	44,5±0,8	32,5±1,3**	**40,1±2,2	***21,4±1,2***	

Table 4. Effect of high-fat diet on parameter of erythrocytes pro-oxidant and anti-oxidant.

In group 2 unsaturated fatty acids (12:0, p<0.001) increase in comparison to the control group. On the contrary, rats of group 3 demonstrated growth of 12:0 level (p<0.001). Accumulation of saturated 14:0, 16:0 FA in erythrocyte lipids group 3 was more evident than in rats of group 2. Modification of n6 composition in PUFA was distinguished by reducing 18:2n6 (p<0.01) share in comparison to the control group, reliable figures being obtained from rats of group 3; and growth of 20:2n6 (p<0.001), 20:3n6 (p<0.01) and 22:4n6 (p<0.01) content, more considerable in rat of group 2. Increase in 22:5n6 (p<0.001) share was noticed for rats of group 3 only. Rats subject to long-term high-caloric diet demonstrated deficit of n3 PUFA – 20:5n3 (p<0.01) and 22:6n3 (p<0.001) FA. 20:3n9 compensatory synthesis from 18:1n9 FA was a natural consequence of n3 deficit in rats with prolonged dyslipidemia. The change in FA composition profile, as revealed by the experiment indicates higher risk of cardiovascular pathology occurrence [30].

## 3.3. Erythrocytes Pro-Oxidant and Anti-Oxidant

MDA erythrocytes content increased in all groups of rats with dyslipidemia in comparison to the control group (**Table 4**). GSH level decreased in all groups after fed with high-fat feed in comparison to the control group (p < 0.001). GSH differences of rats in group 1 and group 2 had no statistical significance. Glutathione reductase activity decreased in erythrocytes in group 1 (p < 0.01) and group 3 (p < 0.001) in comparison to the control group (p < 0.001). Glutathione reductase activity in group 2 was higher then in group 1 (p < 0.05) and no statistical significance in comparison to the control group. Glutathione peroxidase activity decreased in 1 group and 3 group of rats with dyslipidemia. Glutathione reductase activity in group 2 had no statistical significance the control group.

# 4. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, generalizing results of researches it is possible to conclude that the important mechanism of adaptation of a cellular membrane to high-fat diet loading is increase major, structuring a membrane PL (PE) and minor, most metabolic significant fractions PL (PI), keeps homeostasis of 18:2n6 and 22:6n3 FA, 20:3n9 compensatory synthesis, decrease in activity of processes lipid peroxidation at the expense of activation of enzymes of glutathione redox-system and glutathione synthesis. Active formation and realization by a cage of the adaptable answer at high-fat diet loading occurs during the period from 30 till 90 days. Apparently, at the expense of exhaustion compensatory mechanisms in glutathione system and intensifications of processes lipid peroxidation for 180 days of fatty loading occur more essential deep reorganizations of lipids at biological membrane. This is one of the important mechanisms of pathogenesis heart diseases, metabolic syndrome. The received results of research expand knowledge of mechanisms of adaptation and dysadaptation cages at stressful loadings and can be a basis for diagnostics and treatment of a cellular pathology.

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50