A burn wound occurs as a result of exposure to high-temperature skin or chemicals and is a serious injury with systemic effects. The problem of treatment of thermal trauma is urgent for modern medicine. Despite the fact that the overall mortality rate has dropped significantly in recent years, research about the development of new treatments and technologies for patients with skin burns is extremely important. The aim of the study is to research the features of electron microscopic changes in the skin of rats during the month after burns of II-III degree against the background of the introduction of the first 7 days of 0.9% NaCl solution. Studies were performed on 180 laboratory white rats-males weighing 155-160 g. In the course of the experiment, the animals were divided into 2 groups: 1 - rats without thermal injury, which were infused with 0.9% NaCl solution at a dose of 10 ml/kg; group 2 - rats which infused 0.9% NaCl solution at a dose of 10 ml/kg for 7 days after skin burns. Burning skin damage was caused by applying to the lateral surfaces of the trunk of rats for 10 seconds four copper plates, heated in water at a constant temperature of 100°C. The total area of skin lesion in rats was 21-23%. Shaving of the lateral surfaces of rats’ trunk, catheterization of veins, staging of skin burns, and decapitation of animals (after 1, 3, 7, 14, 21 and 30 days) were performed under intravenous propofol anesthesia (calculated at 60 mg/kg body weight). Preparations for electron microscopic examination were prepared according to the standard procedure. The data obtained were studied using a PEM-125K electron microscope. Electron microscopic studies of the skin of animals after thermal trauma under the conditions of application of 0.9% NaCl solution have found that in the early stages of the experiment - the stage of shock and early toxemia (1, 3, 7 days) compensatory and adaptive changes of its structural components are combined with signs of destructive disorders. In the epitheliocytes of the epidermis of the affected area of the skin is the destruction of nuclei and cytoplasm. Vascular disorders in the dermis are combined with changes in fibroblasts, an intercellular substance of fibrous connective tissue. In the late stages of the experiment - the stages of late toxemia and septicotoxemia (14, 21 and 30 days), there is a further development and deepening of destructive-dystrophic changes of all structural components of the affected skin, they become irreversible. The processes of granulation tissue formation, its transformation into connective tissue, as well as marginal epithelialization are slow. This morphological condition of the burn wound indicates the need for the use of corrective drugs to reduce destructive changes and the activation of regenerative processes in the area of skin lesions. Keywords: skin burns, electron microscopic changes, burn wound, epidermocytes, 0.9% NaCl solution.
to the development of purulent processes and a high risk of generalization of infection. Microflora, spreading through the lymphatic and circulatory systems, worsens the course of the wound process. With inadequate treatment, prolonged stress leads to a transition from dysfunction to functional failure [8, 10-12]. It has been established that the pathogenic mechanism of pathological changes in burn disease is the numerical morphofunctional changes in the area of the affected area [3, 21].

The burn wound acts as a trigger mechanism that triggers all chains of pathogenesis of thermal trauma. Despite the fact that it is the systemic disorders that cause the lethal consequences and severe complications of burn disease, the treatment of the burn wound itself should be given importance, because the timely termination of pathological processes in the wound focus can significantly reduce the degree of damage to vital organs [2, 5, 13, 15, 20]. That is why it is important to study the features of skin morphological changes in conditions of thermal trauma at the optical and electron microscopic levels, which will be the basis for a better understanding of pathological processes in the burn wound and the development of effective treatments.

The purpose of the study is to research the characteristics of electron microscopic changes in the skin of rats during the month after the burn of the II-III degree against the background of the introduction of the first 7 days of 0.9% NaCl solution.

Materials and methods

Studies were performed on 180 laboratory white rats - males weighing 155-160 g. In the course of the experiment, the animals were divided into 2 groups: group 1 - rats without thermal injury which infused 0.9% NaCl solution at a dose of 10 ml/kg for 7 days; group 2 - rats, which after a thermal injury of the skin for 7 days were infused 0.9% NaCl solution at a dose of 10 ml/kg. Skin burn was caused by applying to the pre-depilated lateral surfaces of the trunk 0.9% NaCl solution after 1 day have found that its structural components are characterized by reorganization characterizing the reactive changes of the organ to the damaging factor.

Destructive changes of the epidermocytes are found in the central areas of the affected skin burn. In cells of the basal and spinous layers pyknotic with homogeneous karyoplasm nucleus are observed. Perinuclear spaces are enlarged. Areas of destruction of karyolemma are also available. Damage to the cytoplasm is manifested by the destruction of organelles. Mitochondria are swollen with electron-light matrix and destructed cristae, some of them in the form of vacuole-like structures. The hyaloplasm is destruction of organelles. Mitochondria are swollen with electron-light matrix and destructed cristae, some of them in the form of vacuole-like structures. The hyaloplasm is

Electron microscopic changes in the skin of rats 1, 3, 7, 14, 21 and 30 days after thermal trauma on the background...
Fig. 1. Submicroscopic changes of the epidermocytes of the basal and spinous layers after 1 day after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - epidermocyte nucleus, 2 - epidermocyte cytoplasm with damaged organelles, 3 - intercellular space. x12000.

Fig. 2. Submicroscopic changes of the epidermocytes of the granular layer 1 day after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - pyknotic nucleus, 2 - homogenized cytoplasm. x12000.

Fig. 3. Ultrastructural changes of the components of the dermis 1 day after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - destructured fibroblast nucleus, 2 - fibroblast cytoplasm, 3 - intercellular substance swelling, 4 - fibrous structures lysis. x14000.

Fig. 4. Ultrastructural changes of the blood capillary of the dermis of the skin after 1 day after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - enlarged, blood-filled lumen, 2 - cytoplasm of endothelial cells, 3 - perivascular edema. x7000.

Fig. 5. Submicroscopic changes of epidermocytes 3 days after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - pyknotic nucleus, 2 - damaged cytoplasm. x12000.

Fig. 6. Submicroscopic changes of the surface layers of the epidermis after 7 days after burn injury with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution: 1 - detached horn scales, 2 - damaged epidermocytes. x17000.
In fibroblasts destruction of the nucleus and organelles. The nuclei are irregular in shape, dominated by heterochromatin. In the cytoplasm, the tubules of the granular endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi cistern are unevenly expanded and vacuolated. The mitochondria are hypertrophied, the matrix is enlightened with signs of edema, the cristae are destroyed. The number of lysosomes is increasing (Fig. 3).

The gaps of the blood capillaries are full-blooded, enlarged. The cytoplasm of endothelial cells is enlightened, in the state of edema, the organelles are damaged, the number of foamy cytopsis is smaller. The basement membrane is slightly contoured, unevenly thickened (Fig. 4).

Subsequently (3, 7 days of study) necrobiotic changes in the central and marginal areas of the wound grow. The epidermocytes of all layers of the epidermis are necrotically damaged, in many cells pyknosis and karyorrhexis of the nuclei are present (Fig. 5). Their cytoplasm is electron-dense homogenized, organelles are destructed. Intercellular spaces enlarged, horn scales flaked (Fig. 6).

In the stage of early toxemia in the central area of the wound revealed deep necrotic changes in the dermis. Fibroblasts and fibrocytes have an osmiophilic hyaloplasm in which damaged organelles are present. The tubules of the granular endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi cisterns are irregularly expanded, fragmented on the membranes of the endoplasmic reticulum. Significantly altered mitochondria, they destroyed not only the cristae, but also the focal outer membrane. Some organelles are vacuole-shaped and have an electron-light matrix. The nuclei are pyknotic, having an osmiophilic karyoplasm, irregular shape, deep invasions of the karyolemma (Fig. 7).

The established changes in the ultrastructure of fibroblasts indicate inhibition of their synthetic activity, which significantly affects the state of the intercellular substance. The inflammatory reaction of the dermis, the formation of a demarcation shaft in the wound is accompanied by an
increase in the number of lymphocytes, neutrophils, macrophages. In lymphocytes osmiophilic karyoplasm of nuclei, fuzzy karyolemma, in the cytoplasm damaged organelles. The cytoplasm of neutrophilic leukocytes is degranularized, contains numerous autophagosomes. Macrophage plasmolemma forms significant outgrowths and invaginations. In their cytoplasm, phagosomes and osmiophilous residual bodies are detected (Fig. 8).

In the intercellular substance, the fibrous structures are sophisticated, fragmented. Hemocapillary lumens are full-blooded enlarged, there is swelling of the cytoplasm of endothelial cells, organelles are destructed, the basement membrane is not clearly contoured, of uneven thickness. Hemocapillaries with the ruptured wall and hemorrhage were detected (Fig. 9).

After 14 days, the burn wound under the scab is represented by a structureless dermis, which includes fragments of destroyed cells placed in the swollen intercellular substance. Fragmented collagen and elastic fibers are present in the wound. The endothelial cytoplasm and the basement membrane are disturbed in the walls of the blood capillaries. This leads to hemorrhage, and erythrocytes are often found in the extracellular substance (Fig. 10). Modified neutrophilic leukocytes and macrophages are also present in the damaged dermis. The formation of connective tissue in the wound is inhibited by the destruction of the protein synthesis organelles and energy supply in the fibroblasts (Fig. 11). In the marginal areas of the wound during this period of study, the proliferation of epidermal cells is suppressed. The nucleus and cytoplasm are destructively altered in the germinal epidermocytes. The basement membrane is poorly contoured.

Submicroscopic examination of the affected area of the animal skin in the long term (21-30 days) - the stage of late toxemia and septicotoxemia after thermal trauma showed that in the wound the structure of the epidermis and dermis are similar to the previous term of the experiment. In the damaged dermis, there is no boundary between the papillary and mesh layers due to the destruction of the fibrous structures and homogenization of the intercellular substance. Defective walls of many blood capillaries are present. This leads to perivascular edema and hemorrhage (Fig. 12). The established ultrastructural changes of the hemocapillaries of the burn wound aggravate its trophism, promote hypoxia, and inhibit regeneration.

In the long term, the granulation tissue is poorly formed in the wound. Destructively altered fibroblasts with osmiophilic, pyknotic nuclei are observed. Deep invaginations of their karyolemma lead to karyorrhexis. In electron-dense cytoplasm, there are destructured organelles, fragmented, thickened tubules of granular endoplasmic reticulum and cisterns of the Golgi complex. Numerous hypertrophied mitochondria have a light matrix and few cristae (Fig. 13).

The intercellular substance in the central and peripheral areas of the wound is swollen. It has lymphocytes with small pyknotic nuclei, neutrophils and basophils that degranulate. There are also macrophages, the cytoplasm of which contains different in size, mainly rounded autophagosome (Fig. 14).

In the marginal areas of the burn wound in the preserved epidermis, there is a regeneration of the epidermocytes of the germ layer, but it is insignificant. Only individual cells have nuclei with large nuclei and ribosomal granules in the karyoplasm, and the signs of mitotic division are isolated. In many epidermocytes, osmiophilic nuclei with karyolemma invaginations are noted, organelles and tonofilaments are damaged in the cytoplasm. This indicates an inhibition of intracellular regeneration in them.

The intercellular spaces are foci enlarged in some places, and the intercellular contacts are preserved only in some areas (Fig. 15). The basement membrane in the marginal area is unevenly thickened, swollen.
Hemocapillary lumens full-blooded, expanded. The cytoplasm of endothelial cells in their walls with signs of edema. However, perivascular edema, destruction of the basement membrane and hemorrhage are less (Fig. 16).

Discussion
The revealed features of electron microscopic changes in the skin of rats at different periods after thermal trauma confirm the available data in the scientific literature. It was established that deep destruction of the epidermocytes was observed at the 7th day after skin burns in the marginal and central areas of the wound. Much of the cells of the basal and spinous layers of the epidermis had nuclei with signs of pyknosis. Intercellular contacts were broken. Deep necrosis of the dermis of the skin was combined with the destruction of the components of its vascular system. The presence of blood clots in the lumen of the capillaries was characteristic. Violation of the permeability of their wall was observed, which was accompanied by dermal edema, cellular infiltration of the connective tissue, and significant hemorrhages. On the 14th day of this study, an unformed homogeneous mass containing fragments of destroyed cells, collagen and elastic fibers was found in the wound. The blood capillaries were destructured. In addition, the keratinocytes of the germinal layer of the epidermis showed signs of inhibition of intracellular regeneration. In later periods of thermal trauma (21, 30 days), worsening of the trophism and regeneration of the affected tissues due to disorders of microcirculation were observed, and destructive changes became irreversible [14].

The study of the effect of infusion of 0.9% NaCl solution on the peculiarities of morphological changes of organs and tissues in different periods of burn injury of the skin showed the presence of agreement with the data of our
study. Thus, it was found that in the wall of the small intestine in the period from 14 to 30 days after a thermal injury of the skin under the conditions of the introduction for the first seven days of 0.9% NaCl solution there were significant disturbances of the microcirculatory bed, which were manifested by the expansion or vice versa of narrowing of the lumps and uneven blood filling. Destructive changes in the cells of the epithelial lamina of the villi and the lamina of the small intestinal mucosa were observed. It is characteristic that these changes are not compensatory and adaptive and led to the further development of necrobiotic processes [6].

Electron microscopic examination of the components of the aerohematic barrier of rats after skin burns with the introduction of 0.9% NaCl solution for the first seven days revealed significant reactive alveolar changes. Their blood capillaries are enlarged. There is a noticeable restructuring of the components of the aerohematic barrier in the form of uneven thickness of its wall due to swelling and enlightenment of the cytoplasmic region of the respiratory epithelioocytes. Initial signs of inhibition of regeneration and destruction of the walls of the alveoli and blood capillaries are available. On the 7th day the thinning of the basement membrane of hemocapillaries was characteristic. Alveolocytes II showed signs of swelling and vacuolation, had rounded nuclei with nuclear membrane invaginations. In late terms (14, 21 days) revealed profound destructive changes of the alveolar wall, hemocapillaries and alveolar macrophages. Changes in this period were irreversible [17-19].

The established morphological condition of the burn wound indicates the need for the use of corrective drugs in order to reduce destructive changes and activate regenerative processes in the skin lesion area.

**Conclusions**

1. Conducted electron microscopic studies of the skin of animals after thermal injury under the conditions of application of 0.9% NaCl solution found that in the early stages of the experiment (1, 3, 7 days) compensatory and adaptive changes of its structural components are combined with signs of destructive disorders.

2. In the later stages of the study (14, 21 and 30 days) there is a further development and deepening of destructive-dystrophic changes of all structural components of the affected skin, they become irreversible.

---

**References**


Электронно-микроскопические изменения в шкуре крыс через 1, 3, 7, 14, 21 и 30 дней после термической травмы на фоне введения первых 7 дней 0,9% раствора NaCl

Маевский О.Е., Мищенко Е.В., Галунко Г.М., Галунко И.В.

Ожоговая рана возникает в результате воздействия на кожу высокой температуры или химических веществ и принадлежит к тяжелым травмам с системными последствиями. Проблема лечения термической травмы является актуальной для современной медицины. Компенсаторно-простоствульные изменения и структурные компоненты кожи подвергаются осложнениям, включая некробиотические изменения. В соответствии с этими данными, ожоговая рана, возникающая в результате действия химических и физических факторов, является важной проблемой в современной медицине.

Целью работы является изучение особенностей электронно-микроскопических изменений в коже крыс в течение 30 дней после термической травмы на фоне введения 0,9% раствора NaCl.

В эксперименте использовались 2 группы: 1 группа — крысы без термической травмы, которым проводили инфузию 0,9% раствора NaCl на протяжении 7 дней; 2 группа — крысы, которым приложение к боковым поверхностям тулуба на 10 секунд четырех медных пластинок, нагретых в воде с постоянной температурой 100°С. Загальна площа ураження поверхні шкіри у щурів складала 21-23%.

Ожоговые изменения в коже крыс проявляются через 1, 3, 7, 14, 21 и 30 дней после термической травмы. Основными изменениями являются деструкция ядер и цитоплазмы, сосудистые приспособительные изменения ее структурных компонентов и признаки деструктивных нарушений. В поздние сроки эксперимента — стадии поздней токсемии и септикотоксемии (14, 21 и 30 дней) происходит увеличение зон некроза, что свидетельствует о необратимости заст�кованных изменений.

Ключевые слова: ожоговые изменения, электронно-микроскопические изменения, клеточная дегенерация, компенсаторные изменения.
ее преобразования в соединительную ткань, а также краевая эпителизация. Такое морфологическое состояние ожоговой раны свидетельствует о необходимости применения корректирующих препаратов с целью уменьшения деструктивных изменений и активации регенераторных процессов в области поражения кожи.

Ключевые слова: ожоги кожи, электронно-микроскопические изменения, ожоговая рана, эпидермоциты, 0,9% раствор NaCl.