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Research Article

# Pharmacotherapy of Immunopathological Syndromes Among Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Based on ABC/VEN Analysis

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### **Abstract**

The article presents the results of the research of pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus is a systemic autoimmune disease that develops as a result of combined disorders of the immune system that lead to a chronic inflammatory process in many tissues and organs. Comprehensive understanding of immunopathological syndromes among patients with SLE is important for correct diagnosis and proper pharmacotherapy. With the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the role of pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with dual health disorders and in patients with systemic diseases becomes very relevant. Pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with SLE is carried out against the background of basic therapy in accordance with the clinical protocol of medical care on the basis of international and national regulations. Using the ABC/VEN analysis author formed a list of drugs used in pharmacotherapy keeping in mind average cost of treatment.

Keywords: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus; Immunopathological Syndromes; Pharmacotherapy; ABC/VEN Analysis

### Introduction

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease that develops as a result of combined disorders of the immune system that lead to a chronic inflammatory process in many tissues and organs [1].

SLE has the code of the International Classification of Diseases 10 edition M32 and the code of the International Classification for Primary Care-2 is L99.

Chronic inflammatory process causes the development of immunopathological syndromes and comorbidities (gastrointestinal, circulatory and hepatic disorders, cardiovascular, oncological, psychoneurological, endocrinological, addictive, respiratory system (diffuse alveolar bleeding, pain of various origins, etc.) [2,3].

According to the scientific literature, in the epidemiology of the disease, women suffer from systemic lupus erythematosus 6 - 10 times more often than men. SLE is recorded in the age group of 16 - 55 years in 75% of cases [4].

An analysis of the incidence and prevalence of SLE worldwide and their variations by age, gender, ethnicity and time were obtained in North America. The lowest incidence of SLE was reported in Africa and Ukraine (0.3 per 100,000 person-years), and the lowest prevalence was in Northern Australia (0 cases in a sample of 847). The incidence peaked in middle adulthood, and later among men. People of black ethnicity had the highest incidence and prevalence of SLE, while people of white ethnicity had the lowest incidence and prevalence. The prevalence of SLE was higher in males than in US females [5].

Patients with SLE in Spain have a later mean age at onset than the African American population in Spain [6].

Monitoring the incidence of SLE indicates that its prevalence has been increasing in the UK in recent years. The risk factors for SLE are age, gender, region of residence of the patient, ethnicity [7].

The average age of onset of the disease was 54 years in Switzerland [8].

The median time to diagnosis of SLE was 2.05 years in Denmark [9].

Comprehensive understanding of immunopathological syndromes among patients with SLE is important for correct diagnosis and proper pharmacotherapy [10,11].

With the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the role of pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with dual health disorders and among patients with systemic diseases (control regime of antibacterial drugs for pharmacotherapy of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) among patients with dual disorders: newsletter) becomes very relevant [12-14].

Today it is important to use modern, effective and safe drugs for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic autoimmune diseases, in particular systemic lupus erythematosus (ICD-10 code M32). ABC/VEN analysis is used to select effective and safe drugs.

# Aim of the Study

The aim is to research pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus based on ABC/VEN analysis.

### Materials and Methods of the Research

According to the clinical and pharmacological group for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus were selected drugs that have the diagnostic code ATC - Classification (ATC) A05BA03 "Drugs used in liver disease, lipotropic substances" [15].

To assess the cost of pharmacotherapy for immunopathological syndromes, ABC analysis was performed as a tool to study the cost of purchasing drugs. ABC analysis involves the distribution of drugs from the most to the least expensive depending on their share among the indicators of the general purpose of drugs.

To assess the effectiveness of drug use, a VEN analysis was performed to classify drugs into categories V, E and N, taking into account regulatory documents (medical care standards, clinical protocols, State Form of Medicines, National List of Essential Medicines) and principles of evidence-based medicine (evidence of efficacy, quality, safety, economy, affordability) [16-18].

The research of the article is a fragment of research works of Lviv Medical Institute LLC on the topic "Improvement of the drug circulation system during pharmacotherapy on the basis of evidentiary and judicial pharmacy, organization, technology, biopharmacy and pharmaceutical law" (state registration number 0120U105348, terms 2021-2026), Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education on "Improving the organizational and legal procedure for providing patients with drugs from the standpoint of forensic pharmacy, organization and management of pharmacy" (state registration number 0116U003137, terms 2016-2020) and "Pharmaceutical and medical law: integrated approaches to the system of drug circulation from the standpoint of forensic pharmacy and organization of pharmaceutical business" (state registration number D/21 U000031, terms 2021-2026).

### **Results and Discussion**

The approximate duration of pharmacotherapy for immuno-pathological syndromes among patients with SLE in hospital (specialized rheumatology departments) is 14 - 20 days, provided the selection of an adequate effective pharmacotherapeutic program, improvement of clinical and laboratory signs of the disease. Due to the polymorphic nature of the disease, pharmacotherapy is always selected individually. During pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with SLE, the elimination of pathological syndromes, control of the active phase of the disease, prevention of exacerbations, minimization of side effects of drugs, as well as improving quality of life and prognosis [19,20].

Pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with SLE is carried out against the background of basic therapy in accordance with the clinical protocol of medical care on the basis of international and national regulations. The lists of drugs were 13 INN (Hydroxychloroquine, Acetylsalicylic acid, Heparin, Rituximab, Methotrexate, Betamethasone, Dexamethasone, Azathioprine, Cyclophosphamide, Meloxicam, Alprostadil, Mycophenolic acid, Belimumab).

Clinical, biochemical and morphological analyzes among 145 patients showed that the use of Hepabene (according to INN Silymarin ATC code A05BA03) for the pharmacotherapy of patients with hepatobiliary disorders showed clinical and biochemical remission in a short time, which allowed to recommend Hepabene as a highly effective drug [21-23].

The range of drugs for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus includes 11 drugs according to INN Silymarin: A05BA03 - Drugs used in liver disease, lipotropic substances. By trade names - 11 drugs: Silymarin Sandoz; Legalon; Silibor forte; Silibor max; Silibor 35; Heparsil; Carsil forte; Darsil; Hepabene; Carsil [24,25].

Found that for the pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus the most saturated is the share of drugs of classification subgroup A05B "Drugs used in liver disease, lipotropic substances", which has 11 trade names of drugs and is 50% of the total range.

The structure of the range of drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus includes the following trade names: Silymarin Sandoz; Legalon; Silibor forte; Silibor max; Silibor 35; Heparsil; Carsil forte; Darsil; Hepabene; Carsil.

The next stage of the study was the implementation of marketing rating analysis to determine the countries-manufacturers of drugs used in pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (Table 1).

No.	Trade name	Country-manufacturer		
1	2	3		
	Silymarin Sandoz	Germany		
	Legalon	Germany		
	Silibor forte	Ukraine		
	Silibor max	Ukraine		
	Silibor 35	Ukraine		
	Heparsil	Ukraine		
	Carsil forte	Bulgaria		
	Darsil	Ukraine		
	Hepabene	Germany		
	Carsil	Bulgaria		

**Table 1:** List of countries-manufacturers of drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus on the pharmaceutical market of Ukraine.

According to the results of marketing analysis of Silymarin-producing countries under code A05BA03 (Table 2) established that 5 drugs (Silymarin Sandoz, Legalon, Carsil forte, Hepabene, Carsil) supplied to the pharmaceutical market of Ukraine from abroad and 5 drugs manufactured by domestic manufacturers (Silibor forte, Silibor max, Silibor 35, Heparsil, Darsil).

Thus, drugs of foreign manufacturers supplied to Ukraine from 2 countries (Germany, Bulgaria), their number in this market segment is 30% (in particular, Hepabene) and 20%, respectively. Ukraine also occupies 50% of the pharmaceutical market segment of drug manufacturers used for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

No.	Trade name	Number, validity period from/until according to the registration certificate of the medicines				
1	2	3				
	Triosil	UA/17202/01/01				
		11.01.2019 11.01.2024				
	Legalon	UA/7185/01/01				
		unlimited from 20.02.2018				
	Silibor	UA/5114/02/02				
	forte	unlimited from 08.12.2017				
	Silibor	UA/5114/02/01				
	max	unlimited from 17.11.2017				
	Silibor 35	UA/5114/01/01				
		unlimited from 10.12.2020				
	Fumart	UA/17593/01/01 16.08.2019 16.08.2024				
	Carsil forte	UA/2773/01/02				
		unlimited from 08.10.2018				
	Darsil	UA/2473/01/01				
		unlimited from 30.08.2019				
	Carsil	UA/2773/01/01				
		unlimited from 08.05.2019				
	Hepabene	UA/2381/01/01				
		unlimited from 04.04.2019				

**Table 2:** List of drugs registered in Ukraine by INN Silymarin under code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

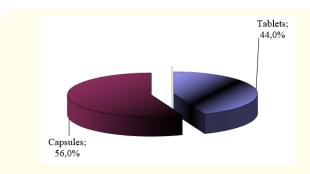
The main countries-exporters of INN Silymarin drugs under code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus are Germany (30%) and Bulgaria (20%).

The next stage of the research was to study the range of drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus according to the dosage forms in table 3.

No.	Trade name	Dosage form			
1	2	3			
	Triosil	Tablets of 22,5 mg N.30			
		Tablets of 22,5 mg N.50			
		Tablets of 22,5 mg N.100			
	Legalon	Capsules of 140 mg N. 20			
		Capsules of 140 mg N. 30			
		Capsules of 140 мг N. 60			
		Capsules of 70 mg N. 20			
		Capsules of 70 mg N. 30			
		Capsules of 70 mg N. 60			
	Silibor forte	Capsules of 70 mg N. 20			
		Capsules of 70 mg N. 40			
	Silibor max	Capsules of 140 mg N. 20			
		Capsules of 140 mg N. 40			
	Silibor 35	Coated tablets of 35 mg N. 20			
		Coated tablets of 35 mg N. 25			
		Coated tablets of 35 mg N. 30			
		Coated tablets of 35 mg N. 80			
	Fumart	Capsules of 50 mg N. 20			
		Capsules of 50 mg N. 30			
	Carsil forte	Hard capsules of 90 mg N. 30			
	Darsil	Coated tablets of 22,5 mg N. 30			
		Coated tablets of 22,5 mg N. 50			
		Coated tablets of 22,5 mg N. 100			
	Carsil	Coated tablets of 22,5 mg N. 80			
	Hepabene	Hard capsules N. 30			

**Table 3:** The range of drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus by dosage forms.

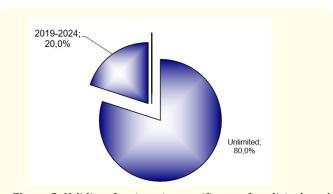
According to the results of the study of drugs by INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus by dosage forms (Table 3 and figure 1), most of the studied drugs are presented on the pharmaceutical market of Ukraine in capsules -56,0% (particularly Hepabene).



**Figure 1:** Distribution of drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus by types of dosage forms.

At the next stage of the study, the ratio of dosage forms to companies - manufacturers was calculated: Silymarin and in the form of 2 LF produced by 7 pharmaceutical companies.

It should be noted that the studied drugs under INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus are registered in Ukraine and have a validity of the registration certificate of the drug (Table 3 and figure 2): unlimited validity of the certificate have 80% (particularly Hepabene).



**Figure 2:** Validity of registration certificates of medicinal products according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

The next stage of research was the ABC/VEN-analysis, which involves the distribution of drugs by the cost of pharmacotherapy and evaluation of the effectiveness of drug use in a healthcare facility (Table 4).

No.	VEN group	Trade name	Cost per unit dose (UAH)	Specific weight (%)	Cumulative share (%)	ABC group
	Е	Hepabene	6,67	19,45	19,45	Α
	Е	Carsil forte	5,83	17,00	36,45	Α
	Е	Silibor max	5,35	15,60	52,05	Α
	Е	Fumart	4,38	12,77	64,82	Α
	Е	Legalon	3,05	8,89	73,71	Α
	Е	Silibor forte	2,91	8,48	82,19	Α
	Total for group A			82,19	-	6
	E Carsil		1,93	5,62	87,81	В
	Е	Silibor 35	1,41	4,11	91,92	В
	Е	E Triosil		4,08	96	В
	Total for group <b>B</b>			13,81	-	3
Total for groups <b>AB</b>			32,93	94,6	94,6	17
	E Darsil		1,37	4,00	100,00	С
Total for group C			1,37	4,00	-	1
Total for groups ABC			34,3	100	100	10

**Table 4:** ABC-VEN - analysis of drugs by INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

According to the results of the ABC analysis, category A included drugs whose use was equal to 80.0% of the total rate of use; to group B - 15.0%, and to group C - 5.0%.

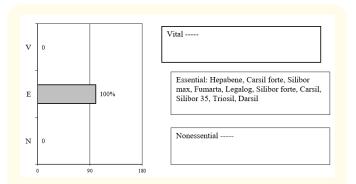
Category A includes 6 drugs (in particular, Hepabene), the cost of which per unit dose is UAH 28.19, which is 82.19% of the total cost of treatment of the patient.

Category B includes 3 drugs (in particular, Carsil) whose total cost per unit dose is UAH 4.74 (13.81%), and category C includes 1 drug (Darsil) with a cost of UAH 1.37 per unit dose (4.00%).

According to the results of VEN analysis, it was established that the studied drugs belong to group E (100%).

Group V (vital) N (secondary) and did not include any drug.

The distribution of drugs according to the results of VEN analysis is shown in figure 3.



**Figure 3:** Distribution according to the results of VEN-analysis of investigational drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Based on the ABC/VEN analysis, a matrix of the consolidated ABC/VEN analysis was developed (Table 5).

Drug	Quantity			Quantity	E		Quantity	N	
group	of drugs			of drugs Purpose of drug		of drug	of drugs Purpose of dru		of drug
		UAH	%		UAH	%		UAH	%
Α	-	-	-	6	28,19	82,19	-	-	-
В	-	-	-	3	4,74	13,81	-	-	-
С	-	-	-	1	1,37	4,00	-	-	-
Разом:	-	-	-	36	34,3	100	-	-	-

**Table 5:** Matrix of consolidated ABC/VEN - analysis of investigational drugs according to INN Silymarin code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Conducted studies show that category E drugs (in particular, Hepabene) accounted for the highest costs of 100%, group N and group V - no costs.

Share of costs accounted for by drugs:

- By category of A/E (82.19%) was the largest indicator of the general purpose indicator (in particular, Hepabene).
- By categories of B/E 13.81%.
- By categories of B/V and B/N 0%.
- Drugs for group C had the corresponding indicators: C/E -4.00%; C/N - 0.6%; C/V - 0%.

### Conclusion

The relevance and necessity of the chosen research topic as a result of a review of the scientific literature on epidemiology and pharmacotherapy are substantiated.

Marketing research of INN Silymarin drugs under code A05BA03 for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus by assortment, countries of origin, dosage forms, and registration certificates were carried out.

According to the results of the ABC analysis, the drugs were distributed according to the INN Silymarin code A05BA03 in descending order of value. Use of Hepabene (specific weight 19.45%) for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

According to the results of VEN analysis, proved that the investigational drugs under the INN Silymarin code A05BA03 belong to category E (in particular, Hepabene).

In terms of priority for pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus, a matrix of consolidated ABC/VEN analysis developed. Noted that the largest share of costs (82.19%) fell on the category of A/E (in particular, Hepabene).

The results of the study provide an opportunity to make administrative and managerial decisions in determining the pharmacotherapy of immunopathological syndromes to improve the use of drugs among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

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