**Keywords:** gastro-duodenal diseases, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, children, enzymatic medications.

In recent years, the pathology of the digestive system dominates in the structure of general morbidity of children and displays a steady upward trend. The pathology of upper digestive tract ranks first among gastroenterological diseases, and constitutes almost half of all nosologies, primarily due to gastro-duodenal diseases. Chronic inflammatory diseases of the upper digestive system prevail within the structure of diseases of child population, and they are often accompanied by damage of the pancreas.

The aim of our research was to evaluate the effectiveness of microtableted enzymatic medication “Ermital 10000” in the correction of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency in children with functional and organic diseases of gastro-duodenal region.

We observed 49 children aged from 6 to 15, among them girls were 59.2±4.8%, boys – 40.8±4.8%, children over the age of 9 dominated (65.3±4.6%), who were treated in Pediatric Department No1 of regional children's hospital of Poltava with regard to exacerbation of chronic gastro-duodenal pathology.

After examination, patients were diagnosed with pathology of the digestive tract: chronic gastroduodenitis in 19 (38.8%) patients; gastroesophageal reflux disease – in 13 (26.5%) children, functional dyspepsia – in 12 (24.5%) patients; chronic gastritis – in 9 (18.4%), functional disorders of the gallbladder and Oddi’s sphincter – in 28 (57.2%), chronic cholecystitis – in 3 (6.13%) patients. Among the patients’ complaints we identified those typical of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency: pain of varying intensity in the left upper quadrant which occurred more frequently after meals, nausea, flatulence, loss of appetite, gaseous eructation, unstable stool with undigested food residues (lientery), reduced weight gain.

According to coprogram, in 87.8% of patients at least one coprological syndrome was registered, in almost every third child (28.6%) the combination of two or three (16.3%) syndromes was observed. In scatoscopy, neutral fat in small quantities (++ or +) was detected in 61.2% of children, type 2 steatorrhea – in every third child, amylorrhea – in 75.5%, undigested fat – in 67.3%, creatorrhea – in 14.3%. During ultrasound investigation, increased size of the pancreas was detected in 42.7% of cases, in one third of patients – restructured pancreas due to increase of parenchymal echogenicity, and heterogeneity of parenchyma due to hyperechoic linear or point inclusions – in 61.2% of children. Signs of mild hepatomegaly were detected in 16.3% of patients, peribiliary infiltration – in 18.4% of children.
All patients received basic protocol therapy and were under dynamic supervision for two months. Treatment correction of the underlying disease was carried out taking into account the exocrine pancreatic function with medication “Ermital 10000” at the rate of 500 IU/kg (as per lipase) for 14 days.

As a result of treatment, the significant positive clinical and laboratory dynamics of the disease was observed. Severity of abdominal syndrome in children against the background of therapy decreased by three times during the first week of treatment, and in 2 weeks only 4 patients complained of intermittent pain. Complete regression of dyspeptic manifestations was achieved in 85.7% of patients. Inclusion of enzymatic medication into the complex therapy helped to normalize scatological syndrome in the majority of patients. At the same time, it should be noted that disappearance of steatorrhea and amylorrhea was observed in some patients during the second and even the third month after repeated courses of enzymotherapy.

Thus, the results of the research displayed high clinical efficacy and safety of microtableted enzymatic medication “Ermital 10000” which is characterized by pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic effects of minimicrospheric enzymatic medications of the fourth generation. It should be noted that due to enterosoluble coatings, microtablets do not lose their potency in the stomach and evenly get into the intestine with food, providing normal intracavitary digestion. Integrated protocol therapy of functional and organic gastro-duodenal diseases of children which includes antisecretory agents enhances the potency of enzymes that are part of medication.