

**Dear readers!**

We present to you the first issue of the Russian Journal of Cardiology this year, dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases associated with the development and progression of chronic heart failure (CHF). An extremely unfavourable prognosis, an increase in the prevalence of the disease, difficulties and errors in diagnosis, and management tactics, especially during the pandemic of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), determine the relevance of the topic of the issue.

Patient management is becoming more complex, and new approaches to drug therapy and interventional treatment are emerging. The most significant recent treatment achievements include the introduction of new classes of drugs—combined antiotensin/neprilysin receptor inhibitors and the use of sodium-glucose transport protein 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors. Among the non-drug methods, cardiomodulatory therapy has been introduced. In the diagnosis of heart failure, both with a decrease in left ventricular systolic function and with a preserved left ventricular ejection fraction and associated conditions, the assessment of the levels of biomarkers of inflammation and neurohumoral activation is becoming increasingly important. Also, one of the new directions is the assessment of atrioathy-atrial lesions, in particular the left atrium, which is often found in diastolic and systolic dysfunction of the left ventricle, reflects the degree of fibrous changes and is associated with the progression of the disease and the development/maintenance of atrial fibrillation and other atrial arrhythmias.

The issue deals with issues that reflect all stages of the cardiovascular continuum: from risk factors and causes of CHF to the formation of its terminal stage. The authors propose for discussion new diagnostic and prognostic criteria of circulatory insufficiency, such as echocardiographic parameters of speckle tracking, blood concentrations of neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin and cystatin C, in patients after myocardial infarction and depending on the left ventricular ejection fraction.

The article presents the results of large multicentre registers devoted to the problems of COVID-19 in patients with cardiovascular system damage or against the background of severe pathology, the formation of heart failure in patients with atrial fibrillation (RIF-CHF register), epidemiological studies with an in-depth analysis of mortality data from circulatory diseases in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Such research is both knowledge-intensive and important for practical health care.

Four literature reviews are available for readers to study, which are devoted to new biomarkers in the differential diagnosis of types of heart failure, the formation of cardiorenal syndrome and the stratification of the risk of sudden death in CHF, the possibilities of detecting and monitoring asymptomatic stagnation in circulatory failure.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who sent their works to the issue, and wish them further creative success. We are sure that every reader will find important and new information for themselves, no matter in what direction of therapy or cardiology they work. We wish you a pleasant reading!

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