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TOXICOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE NEW GEL CONTAINING OAK BARK EXTRACT AND ALOE EXTRACT UNDER LONG-TERM USE

Topicality. The significant prevalence of destructive-inflammatory periodontal diseases and the imperfection of existing medicines determine the feasibility to develope new topical dosage forms with polymodal pharmacological activity and low toxicity. Scientists of NUPh developed a new gel, containing an oak bark extract and aloe extract with strong parodontoprotective effect.

Aim. To study the toxicity of a new gel containing an oak bark extract and aloe extract under the long-term use. This new gel is developed by the scientists of NUPh, under the direction of prof. N. V. Khokhlenkova, and is intended for treatment of oral cavity inflammatory diseases. In previous studies a pronounced membran-protective, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory activity and parodont-protective activity were established for the new gel.

Materials and methods. Prior to the experiment, randomized samples were applied for the animal population taken in experimental groups and fixed averaged indicators of the initial state of animals organism. A new gel was applied on the skin.

Results and discussion. Animals that received the new gel did not differ from the animals of the control groups in appearance, behavior and attitude to food. During the experiment, there were no signs of inhibition of activity and development of aggressiveness in animals of comparable groups. The results of the study of weight ratios of both sex rat organs indicate the absence of test gel toxic effects in doses of 0.5 and 5 ml. The new gel does does't reveal hepatotoxic effect. The results of lipid metabolism indices shows that there is no toxic effect in the studied doses.

Conclusions. It was established that a new gel, containing oak bark extract and aloe extract, does not exert a toxic effect on the functions of vital organs and systems of the organism of experimental animals at the conditions of prolonged application (1 month) at doses of 0.5 ml and 5 ml. Along with the previously established parodontprotective, antimicrobial and other activities, the absence of toxic effects of a new gel under the conditions of long-term use is the basis for in-depth preclinical studies to create a new drug with parodontprotective effect.

Key words: gel; oak bark extract; aloe extract; prolonged toxicity

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Токсикологічні дослідження нового гелю, що містить екстракт кори дуба та екстракт алое при тривалому використанні

Актуальність. Значна поширеність деструктивно-запальних захворювань пародонту і недосконалість існуючих лікарських препаратів визначають можливість розробки нових лікарських форм для місцевого застосування з полімодальною фармакологічною активністю і низькою токсичністю. Вчені НФаУ розробили новий гель, що містить екстракт кори дуба та екстракт алое з сильною пародонтопротекторною дією.

Мета. Вивчити токсичність нового гелю, що містить екстракт кори дуба та екстракт алое при тривалому застосуванні. Цей новий гель розроблений вченими НФаУ під керівництвом проф. Н. В. Хохленкової і призначений для лікування запальних захворювань порожнини рота. У попередніх дослідженнях для нового гелю була встановлена виражена мембранопротекторна, антимікробна, протизапальна і пародонтопротекторна активність.

Матеріали та методи. Перед початком експерименту для популяції тварин, узятих у дослідних групах, застосовувалися рандомізовані зразки і фіксовані усереднені показники вихідного стану організму тварин. Новий гель наносили на шкіру.

Результати та їх обговорення. Тварини, які отримали новий гель, не відрізнялися від тварин контрольних груп за зовнішнім виглядом, поведінкою і відношенням до їжі. В ході експерименту не було ознак пригнічення активності і розвитку агресивності у тварин порівнюваних груп. Результати дослідження вагових коефіцієнтів щурів обох статей вказують на відсутність у нового гелю токсичної дії в дозах 0,5 і 5 мл. Новий гель не проявляє гепатотоксичних ефектів. Результати показників ліпідного обміну показують, що в досліджуваних дозах немає токсичного ефекту.

Висновки. Встановлено, що новий гель, що містить екстракт кори дуба і екстракт алое, не проявляє токсичної дії на функції життєво важливих органів і систем організму експериментальних тварин в умовах тривалого застосування (1 місяць) в дозах 0,5 мл і 5 мл. Поряд з раніше встановленими пародонтопротекторною, антимікробною та іншими видами активності відсутність токсичних ефектів нового гелю в умовах тривалого застосування є основою для поглиблених доклінічних досліджень для створення нового препарату з пародонтопротекторною дією.

Ключові слова: гель; екстракт кори дуба; екстракт алое; пролонгована токсичність

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Токсикологическое исследование нового геля, содержащего экстракт коры дуба и экстракт алоэ при длительном использовании

Актуальность. Значительная распространенность деструктивно-воспалительных заболеваний пародонта и несовершенство существующих лекарственных препаратов определяют возможность разработки новых лекарственных форм для местного применения с полимодальной фармакологической активностью и низкой токсичностью. Ученые НФаУ разработали новый гель, содержащий экстракт коры дуба и экстракт алоэ с сильным пародонтопротекторным действием.

Цель. Изучить токсичность нового геля, содержащего экстракт коры дуба и экстракт алоэ при длительном применении. Этот новый гель разработан учеными НФаУ под руководством проф. Н. В. Хохленковой и предназначен для лечения воспалительных заболеваний полости рта. В предыдущих исследованиях для нового геля была установлена выраженная мембранопротекторная, антимикробная, противовоспалительная и пародонтопротекторная активность.

Материалы и методы. Перед началом эксперимента для популяции животных, взятых в опытных группах, применялись рандомизированные образцы и фиксированные усредненные показатели исходного состояния организма животных. Новый гель наносили на кожу.

Результаты и их обсуждение. Животные, получившие новый гель, не отличались от животных контрольных групп по внешнему виду, поведению и отношению к пище. В ходе эксперимента не было признаков угнетения активности и развития агрессивности у животных сопоставимых групп. Результаты исследования весовых коэффициентов крыс обоих полов указывают на отсутствие у нового геля токсического действия в дозах 0,5 и 5 мл. Новый гель не проявляет гепатотоксического эффекта. Результаты показателей липидного обмена показывают, что в исследуемых дозах нет токсического эффекта.

Выводы. Установлено, что новый гель, содержащий экстракт коры дуба и экстракт алоэ, не оказывает токсического действия на функции жизненно важных органов и систем организма экспериментальных животных в условиях длительного применения (1 месяц) в дозах 0,5 мл и 5 мл. Наряду с ранее установленными пародонтопротекторным, антимикробным и другими видами активности отсутствие токсических эффектов нового геля в условиях длительного применения является основой для углубленных доклинических исследований для создания нового препарата с пародонтопротекторным эффектом.

Ключевые слова: гель; экстракт коры дуба; экстракт алоэ; пролонгированная токсичность

INTRODUCTION

The most important characteristic of any drug, along with the experimentally proven high efficiency, is low toxicity. Features of the toxicological profile are the main obstacles to the introduction of new drugs and restricts medical use of already registered drugs in the context of long-term use [1-3]. In this regard study of the toxicity of new drug in terms of long-term use is the mandatory condition of preclinical studies [4-6]. The significant prevalence of destructive-inflammatory periodontal diseases and the imperfection of existing medicines determine the feasibility to develop new topical dosage forms with polymodal pharmacological activity and low toxicity. Scientists of NUPh developed a new gel, which contains an extract of oak bark and extract of aloe and have powerful parodontoprotective effect [7-9]. Aim of the work was to study the toxicity of a new gel which contains an extract of oak bark and extract of aloe in terms of long-term usage. Study has been conducted on rats of both sexes, by skin application. It has been established that the new gel does not exhibit any toxic effects on the function of vital organs and systems of the organism of experimental animals under long-term use.

The aim is to study the toxicity of a new gel containing an oak bark extract and aloe extract in long-term use.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Prior to the experiment, randomized samples were taken in the animal population of experimental groups

and fixed averaged indicators of the initial state of animals organism.

A new gel with oak bark extract and of aloe extract was applied on the skin. According to the guidelines, the hair at the lateral surface of the body of experimental animals was removed by a hairstyle in 24 hours before application of the test substance to the skin. This procedure had be carried out carefully so as not to damage the skin, which may increase its permeability for the test substance. The area for application was not less than 10 % of the total surface of the body and was calculated based on the weight of the animal's body [4, 5]. Gel was applied at a dose of 0.5 ml and in 10 times dose exceeding – 5 ml.

In order to detect possible toxic effects of auxiliary substances, a group of animals was applied a gel base. Animals were kept at the vivarium under standard conditions of sanitary and hygiene standards in accordance with the principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes (Strasbourg, 1986), "General Ethical Principles of Animal Experiments" (Ukraine, 2001).) and the European Animal Testing Regulations (2005).

The duration of the study is determined by the requirements of the State Pharmacological Center of Ukraine for the study of new drugs and the predicted terms of the use of the drug in the clinic [4, 5]. It is assumed that the new gel will be used for courses of 7-14 days. In this regard, the study period was 1 month.

Table 1

INDICATORS OF THE FUNCTIONAL STATE OF THE CNS OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL WHICH CONTAINS EXTRACT OF OAK BARK AND EXTRACT OF ALOE IN THE OPEN FIELD TEST (n = 6)

Indicators	Sex	Control group	Gel base	New gel	
				0,5 ml	5 ml
Number of intersections	Males	28.33 ± 0.66	28.33 ± 0.60	30.0 ± 1.31	28.16 ± 1.35
	Females	30.16 ± 1.35	29.33 ± 0.91	28.33 ± 0.74	30.16 ± 1.08
Number of vertical racks	Males	5.50 ± 0.42	5.16 ± 0.60	5.55 ± 0.55	5.16 ± 0.74
Number of vertical racks	Females	4.50 ± 0.56	4.66 ± 0.71	5.50 ± 0.67	4.83 ± 0.54
The number of openings inspections	Males	6.16 ± 0.54	6.16 ± 0.60	5.83 ± 0.31	5.66 ± 0.55
	Females	6.83 ± 0.79	5.90 ± 0.55	6.83 ± 0.60	6.66 ± 0.76
Grooming	Males	2.90 ± 0.79	3.10 ± 0.66	3.20 ± 0.16	2.90 ± 0.89
	Females	3.33 ± 0.55	3.83 ± 0.94	3.16 ± 0.40	3.83 ± 0.87
Number of defecations	Males	1.33 ± 0.49	1.33 ± 0.49	0.83 ± 0.31	0.83 ± 0.31
	Females	0.83 ± 0.31	0.66 ± 0.21	1.00 ± 0.47	0.83 ± 0.40
Number of universities of	Males	0.66 ± 0.21	0.83 ± 0.31	0.76 ± 0.21	0.56 ± 0.21
Number of urinations	Females	0.83 ± 0.30	0.70 ± 0.21	0.50 ± 0.22	0.93 ± 0.37

During the entire period of the chronic experiment animals were placed under the same conditions of vivarium with full diet in accordance with established norms [4]. Observation was made on the general condition and behavior of animals, their survival, consumption of food and the development of possible clinical symptoms of toxic effects of the test compound.

Selection of indicators for assessing the overall toxic effect of a new gel on the model of chronic experiment was carried out in accordance with the goal: to assess the possible damage to the compound during prolonged use on organs and systems of animals.

The gel was studied and evaluated by the effect on peripheral blood parameters, functional state of the liver and kidneys, coefficients of the mass of the internal organs and state of the central nervous system.

At the end of the study period, animals were decapitated, the internal organs (liver, kidneys, heart, lungs, spleen, adrenal glands, and testicles) were subjected to macroscopic examination. During the course of bioche-

mical studies, the test systems of the firm "Lachema" (manufactured by the Czech Republic) were used. All actual material is processed by methods of variation statistics using the Student's coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Animals that received the new gel did not differ from the animals of the control groups in appearance, behavior and attitude to food. During the experiment, there were no signs of inhibition of activity and development of aggressiveness in animals of comparable groups.

To assess the effect of the new gel on the functional state of the central nervous system the "open field", experimental test was used, which allows to determine the degree of exposure of the test substance to the motor, tentative-research and emotional activity of animals (Tab. 1).

It has been established that prolonged application of the new gel in doses of 0.5 ml and 5 ml does not exert toxic effect at the behavioral reactions of animals of both sexes.

Table 2

DYNAMICS OF BODY WEIGHT OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL WHICH CONTAINS EXTRACT OF OAK BARK AND EXTRACT OF ALOE (n = 6)

Group	Sex	Terms of study				
	Sex	Output data	2 week	4 week		
Control group	Males	182.50 ± 3.09	192.50 ± 2.81	203.33 ± 3.33**		
	Females	181.66 ± 4.22	194.17 ± 3.74	207.50 ± 3.82**		
Gel base	Males	180.83 ± 4.17	192.50 ± 3.82	208.33 ± 4.22**		
	Females	183.33 ± 3.07	195.83 ± 3.96	212.50 ± 3.82**		
New gel 0.5 ml	Males	179.17 ± 3.52	191.67 ± 3.33*	210.83 ± 3.96**		
	Females	180.83 ± 3.52	190.00 ± 3.42	203.33 ± 2.79**		
New gel 5.0 ml	Males	179.17 ± 2.71	192.50 ± 2.14*	206.67 ± 1.67***		
	Females	181.66 ± 3.80	194.16 ± 3.52	208.33 ± 4.22**		

Note: Deviation is possible in relation to the source data, * – p < 0.05; ** – p < 0.01; *** – p < 0.001.

Table 3

DYNAMICS OF WEIGHT COEFFICIENTS OF INTERNAL ORGANS OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL WHICH CONTAINS EXTRACT OF OAK BARK AND EXTRACT OF ALOE (n = 6)

Indicators	Sex	Control group	Gel base	New gel	
				0.5 ml	5 ml
	Males	3.51 ± 0.054	3.64 ± 0.135	3.69 ± 0.084	3.71 ± 0.065
Liver	Females	3.59 ± 0.094	3.61 ± 0.113	3.65 ± 0.100	3.57 ± 0.076
77: 1	Males	0.73 ± 0.021	0.74 ± 0.027	0.78 ± 0.023	0.72 ± 0.021
Kidney	Females	0.71 ± 0.019	0.75 ± 0.029	0.73 ± 0.018	0.79 ± 0.022
Lungo	Males	0.92 ± 0.027	0.87 ± 0.043	0.89 ± 0.028	0.88 ± 0.031
Lungs	Females	0.91 ± 0.023	0.95 ± 0.032	0.87 ± 0.034	0.86 ± 0.033
Adrenal glands	Males	0.020 ± 0	0.020 ± 0	0.020 ± 0.001	0.019 ± 0
	Females	0.021 ± 0	0.020 ± 0.001	0.020 ± 0.001	0.019 ± 0
Heart	Males	0.423 ± 0.009	0.44 ± 0.015	0.44 ± 0.008	0.43 ± 0.008
	Females	0.43 ± 0.004	0.45 ± 0.012	0.40 ± 0.007	0.42 ± 0.009
Spleen	Males	0.48 ± 0.01	0.45 ± 0.012	0.46 ± 0.017	0.44 ± 0.02
	Females	0.46 ± 0.001	0.48 ± 0.01	0.43 ± 0.014	0.47 ± 0.011
Simianes	Males	1.507 ± 0.009	1.49 ± 0.01	1.50 ± 0.027	1.49 ± 0.011

Body mass gain and relative mass of internal organs were studied in order to assess the state of the general-pathological processes in the organism of animals in dynamics. Analysis of body mass dynamics has shown the same level of oscillations and at rates of mass gain in experimental and control groups of animals.

By the end of the experiment, weight of animals of all groups has increased significantly with respect to the ini-

tial data, indicating no toxic effect of the new gel on the trophic processes (Tab. 2).

The results of the study of weight ratios of rat organs of both sexes indicate no toxic effects of the test gel in doses of 0.5 and 5 ml (Tab. 3).

To assess possible toxic effect at peripheral blood the new gel was studied complete clinical analysis of the blood, and examined dynamics of such hematologi-

Table 4

HEMATOLOGICAL INDICES OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL WHICH CONTAINS EXTRACT OF OAK BARK AND EXTRACT OF ALOE (n = 6)

Indicators	Sex	Control moun	Gel base	New gel		
mulcators	sex	Control group		0.5 ml	5 ml	
Time of blood coagulation,	Males	100.2 ± 6.98	105.9 ± 3.91	110.0 ± 10.87	103.2 ± 7.58	
sec.	Females	91.50 ± 5.72	94.50 ± 3.39	102.66 ± 7.43	97.33 ± 10.4	
H labia /l	Males	149.2 ± 10.5	145.9 ± 5.63	146.1 ± 6.78	137.6 ± 7.99	
Hemoglobin, g/l	Females	143.8 ± 9.72	144.4 ± 8.32	142.3 ± 6.64	135.9 ± 6.67	
D. J.L J II - 1012 /I	Males	4.59 ± 0.39	4.79 ± 0.26	5.02 ± 0.26	5.05 ± 0.21	
Red blood cells, 10 ¹² /l	Females	4.20 ± 0.30	4.83 ± 0.23	4.74 ± 0.24	4.86 ± 0.16	
1 - 1 4 409 /1	Males	10.17 ± 0.98	9.66 ± 1.22	9.33 ± 0.61	10.0 ± 1.06	
Leukocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	Females	9.83 ± 1.01	10.5 ± 0.92	9.17 ± 1.33	11.0 ± 0.89	
Leukocyte formula:						
Markard Blandardar	Males	8.00 ± 0.51	7.33 ± 0.84	7.83 ± 0.60	7.50 ± 0.56	
Neutrophils rod-nuclear	Females	8.17 ± 0.40	8.17 ± 0.60	8.00 ± 0.89	7.67 ± 0.55	
N . 1:1	Males	13.17 ± 1.24	13.33 ± 0.61	13.67 ± 0.71	12.83 ± 0.79	
Neutrophils segment-nuclear	Females	12.83 ± 0.94	13.00 ± 0.57	13.50 ± 0.56	12.33 ± 0.71	
Eosinophils	Males	3.00 ± 0.36	2.67 ± 0.42	2.50 ± 0.42	2.17 ± 0.30	
	Females	3.00 ± 0.25	2.50 ± 0.22	2.17 ± 0.30	2.50 ± 0.22	
	Males	0.33 ± 0.21	1.00 ± 0.44	0.50 ± 0.22	0.66 ± 0.42	
Basophils	Females	0.50 ± 0.34	0.66 ± 0.33	0.83 ± 0.31	0.50 ± 0.34	
	Males	72.7 ± 1.22	71.8 ± 1.13	72.8 ± 1.79	73.1 ± 0.70	
Lymphocytes	Females	72.3 ± 0.98	72.0 ± 1.31	70.8 ± 0.62	72.76 ± 0.95	
Monocytes	Males	3.33 ± 0.70	3.50 ± 0.42	3.67 ± 0.66	3.67 ± 0.49	
	Females	3.50 ± 0.67	3.83 ± 0.70	4.17 ± 0.47	4.00 ± 0.25	
C.1	Males	0.48 ± 0.01	0.45 ± 0.012	0.46 ± 0.017	0.44 ± 0.02	
Spleen weight coefficient	Females	0.46 ± 0.01	0.48 ± 0.01	0.43 ± 0.014	0.47 ± 0.011	

Table 5

INDICATORS OF LIPID METABOLISM AND FUNCTIONAL STATUS OF LIVER OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL WHICH CONTAINS EXTRACT OF OAK BARK AND EXTRACT OF ALOE (n=6)

Indicators	Sex	Control group	Gel base	New gel	
				0.5 ml	5.0 ml
Common amatain a /l	Males	65.0 ±4.36	66.0 ±2.15	67.0 ±4.78	63.0 ±5.45
Common protein, g/l	Females	59.0 ±5.77	62.0 ±3.02	64.0 ±4.84	63.0 ±6.24
AsAT was also	Males	0.67 ±0.04	0.65 ±0.03	0.62 ±0.03	0.65 ±0.05
AsAT, mmol/g l	Females	0.69 ±0.05	0.67 ±0.02	0.65 ±0.04	0.66 ±0.04
AlAt, mmol/g l	Males	0.63 ±0.04	0.62 ±0.03	0.60 ±0.04	0.67 ±0.05
	Females	0.59 ±0.05	0.61 ±0.03	0.62 ±0.02	0.65 ±0.03
Medicinal sleep, min	Males	81.67 ±5.61	75.08 ±2.88	68.50 ±4.79	71.50 ±3.52
	Females	77.83 ±4.80	73.58 ±3.44	69.33 ±4.33	74.33 ±4.60
Cholesterol, mmol/l	Males	1.17 ±0.10	1.56 ±0.12	1.66 ±0.11	1.69 ±0.09
	Females	1.63 ±0.12	1.54 ±0.06	1.52 ±0.13	1.58 ±0.05
Common lipids, g/l	Males	2.71 ±0.08	2.65 ±0.08	2.59 ±0.13	1.62 ±0.10
	Females	2.68 ±0.09	2.73 ±0.10	2.53 ±0.13	2.59 ±0.15

Table 6

INDICATORS OF FUNCTIONAL STATUS OF KIDNEY OF RATS UNDER THE TERMS OF LONG-TERM USAGE OF THE NEW GEL CONTAINING OAK BARK EXTRACT AND ALOE EXTRACT (n = 6)

Indicators	Sex	Control group	Gel base	New gel	
				0.5 ml	5.0 ml
Diuresis, ml/100 g of mass	Males	2.91 ±0.27	2.83 ±0.19	3.11 ±0.21	3.04 ±0.23
	Females	2.97 ±0.27	2.84 ±0.21	3.03 ±0.15	2.31 ±0.12
urine pH	Males	7.4 ±0.18	7.1 ±0.25	7.7 ±0.27	7.6 0.42
	Females	7.4 ±0.32	7.0 ±0.25	7.5 ±0.21	7.6 ±0.27
Urea urine, mmol/l	Males	37.66 ±4.08	39.00 ±4.16	38.33 ±4.31	35.83 ±4.90
	Females	33.50 ±3.56	35.16 ±3.60	36.66 ±4.87	34.00 ±4.68
Creatinine in urine, mmol/l	Males	6.35 ±0.19	6.08 ±0.21	6.62 ±0.32	6.27 ±0.24
	Females	6.16 ±0.32	5.83 ±0.18	6.20 ±0.20	6.26 ±0.17
Creatinine in serum, mmol/l	Males	0.22 ±0.03	0.19 ±0.02	0.24 ±0.04	0.18 ± 0.04
	Females	0.32 ±0.04	0.02 ±0.02	0.19 ±0.04	0.22 ±0.03

cal parameters as: coagulation time, total hemoglobin, the number of leukocytes, red blood cells, leukocytic formula. There was established absence of toxic effect of a new gel at the peripheral blood (Tab. 4).

Study of hepatotoxicity with prolonged application of a new gel was carried out by use of set of functional tests, which allows to judge primarily the state of protein-forming ability of the liver (total protein index), as well as certain aspects of the enzyme-synthetic function of the liver (AIAT, AsAT). To determine the state of the monoxygenase system of the liver medication sleep was used, change in the duration of which indicates the change in the activity of microsomal oxygenases.

It was established that prolonged use of the new gel does not reveal hepatotoxic effect, all of the studied parameters reflect the variability of the norm and are within the limits of physiological oscillations (Tab. 5). The results of lipid metabolism indices indicate that there is no toxic effect in the studied doses.

To evaluate the possible adverse effects of a new gel containing oak bark extrac and aloe extract on kidneys, were determined diuresis ml/100 g, pH of urine and indices of nitrogen-fasting renal function (urea and creatinine level in blood and urine) (Tab. 6) Obtained data indicate the absence of toxic effect of a new gel in the studied doses on the functional state of the kidneys.

CONCLUSIONS

It was established that a new gel, containing oak bark extract and aloe extract, does not exert a toxic effect on the functions of vital organs and systems of the organism of experimental animals at the conditions of prolonged application (1 month) at doses of $0.5\,\mathrm{ml}$ and $5\,\mathrm{ml}$. Along with the previously established parodontprotective, antimicrobial and other activities, the absence of toxic effects of a new gel under the conditions of long-term use is

the basis for in-depth preclinical studies to create a new drug with parodontprotective effect.

Conflicts of interests: authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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