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## **Effects of 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline hydrochloride alkaloid on cardiomyocyte $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange under normoxia and hypoxia conditions**

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the role of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange in the cardioprotective properties of 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline hydrochloride (F-36) alkaloid. The alkaloid F-36 (from 5  $\mu\text{M}$  to 100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was found to have a positive inotropic effect on the contractile activity of the papillary muscle of the rat heart [1]. Positive inotropic effect of F-36 alkaloid was found to affect cardiomyocyte  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange and this was confirmed in experiments with  $\text{NiCl}_2$  and ouabain.

**Keywords:** papillary muscle,  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange,  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -ATPase, isoquinoline alkaloid.

**INTRODUCTION.** Treatment and prevention of diseases of the cardiovascular system are one of the most important tasks of today. Morphine, codeine, caffeine, strychnine, berberine, atropine, galantamine, cytosine, etc. are biologically active substances extracted from medicinal plants and are used in modern medicine and pharmacology to treat various diseases [2,3]. The most studied alkaloids are indole and isoquinoline alkaloids .

Also, drugs whose component consists mainly of isoquinoline alkaloids are effectively used today in the treatment of atherosclerosis, hypertension, myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, heart failure, and arrhythmias. Taking this into account, the [4] effect of 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (F-36) alkaloid on  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange in rat heart papillary muscle cells under normoxia/hypoxia conditions was studied.

It is known that the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange system [5] is physiologically important in cardiac muscle contraction-relaxation. During membrane depolarization, the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange system is important in the release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from the SR, as well as L-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels in the plasmalemma [6]. Modulation of the function of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is considered important in the origin of some diseases of the cardiovascular system [7].

Its non-specific inhibitor  $\text{NiCl}_2$  and ouabain were used to investigate the effect of isoquinoline alkaloid F-36 on myocardial cell  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. Ouabain is a cardiac glycoside that acts by inhibiting  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -ATPase and sodium-potassium ion channels (but it is not selective) [8]. As a result of inhibition of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -ATPase [9], ouabain causes  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange to work in reverse mode. This leads to increased cardiac contraction and increased cardiac vagal tone. Changes in ionic gradients caused by ouabain can also affect cell membrane tension and cause cardiac arrhythmias.

Rat heart papillary muscle preparations were used to study the effect of isoquinoline alkaloid F-36 on  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange in myocardial cells.

Papillary muscle preparations are a convenient object for studying the role of the intracellular signal system and various types of ion channels in maintaining the electrical and contractile activity of the heart muscle, as well as for explaining the methods of their pharmacological regulation.

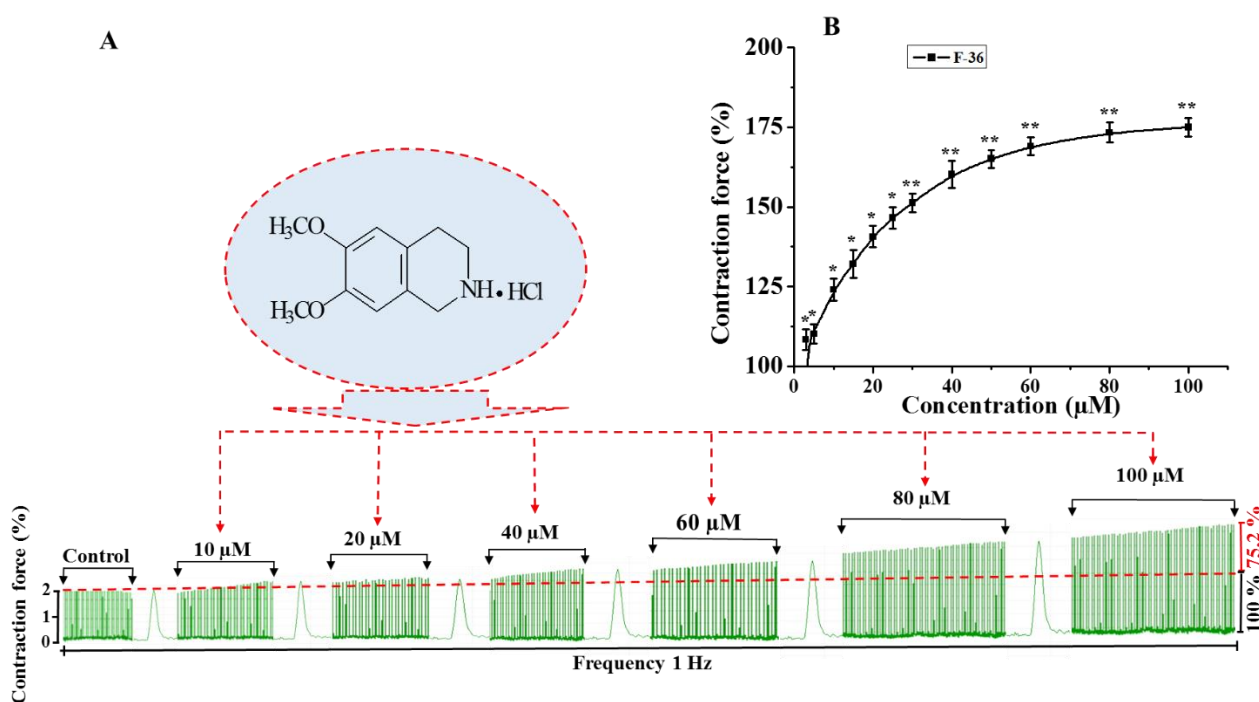
## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Purebred, white rats (200-250 gr.) were used in the experiments. The international Declaration of Helsinki and the rules developed by the Council of International Medical Scientific Societies (CIOMS) (1985) were followed in the handling of experimental animals. The experimental animals were anesthetized with diethyl ether, the chest cavity was opened surgically, the heart was removed, and a papillary muscle preparation was prepared in a petri dish with Krebs-Henseleit saline solution, and a mechanographic device (Mayflower Tissue Bath System, Hugo Sachs

Electronic,) was used to record the contraction activity of the papillary muscle preparation. Germany) and a hardware-software complex (LabScibe 2, World Precision Instruments, USA) was used. The papillary muscle isolated from the left ventricle of the rat heart was [10] placed in a 20 ml chamber, and continuously perfused with Krebs' physiological solution of oxygenated carbogen (O<sub>2</sub>-95% and CO<sub>2</sub>-5%) with the following composition: NaCl – 150; KCl – 4; CaCl<sub>2</sub> – 1.8; MgCl<sub>2</sub> – 1; NaHCO<sub>3</sub> – 14; NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> – 1.8; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub> – 11.5 mM; (pH=7.4) [11].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

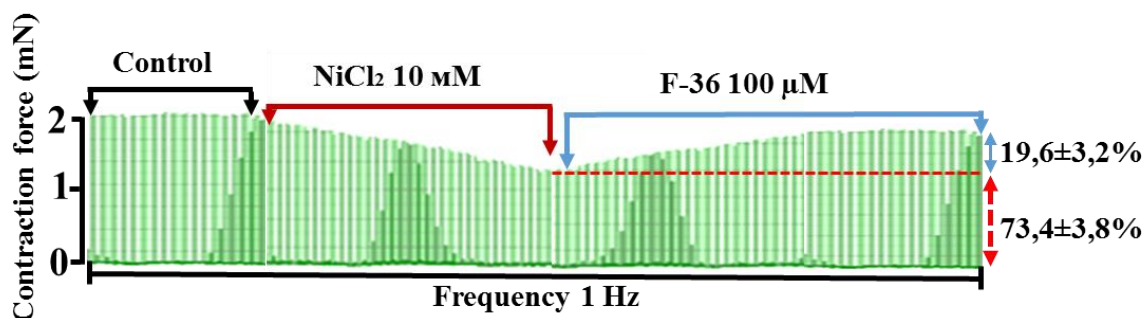
In the course of the research, it was found that F-36 isoquinoline alkaloid has a positive inotropic effect on the activity of papillary muscle contraction of the rat heart and significantly increases the force of muscle contraction [1]. When examining the dose-dependent effect of isoquinoline alkaloid F-36 on the activity of papillary muscle contraction, it was noted that it showed a positive inotropic effect starting from 5 μM, and at 100 μM, it increased the force of muscle contraction by [12] 75.7±4.7% [13] compared to the control (control was taken as 100%). was done (Fig.1 A, B).



**Fig. 1. Effect of F-36 alkaloid on the contractile activity of the papillary muscle of the rat heart.** **A.** Increasing the force of contraction of the papillary muscle of the alkaloid F-36 (original recording). **B.** Dose-dependent increase in the force of contraction of the papillary muscle of the alkaloid F-36. The y-axis shows the force of contraction of the papillary muscle, expressed as a percentage of the control, taken as 100%, and the abscissa shows the alkaloid concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ ), (\*- $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*- $p < 0.01$ ). Stimulation frequency 1 Hz ( $t = +36 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $n = 5$ ).

Alteration of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange function in heart muscle cells leads to disturbance of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -homeostasis, and restoration of  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  to initial level in heart and smooth muscle cells is ensured by SERCA2 [14,15,16]. Taking into account the above, in the next experiments, experiments were conducted on the function of cardiomyocyte  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange in the presence of its non-specific blocker  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (10 mM).

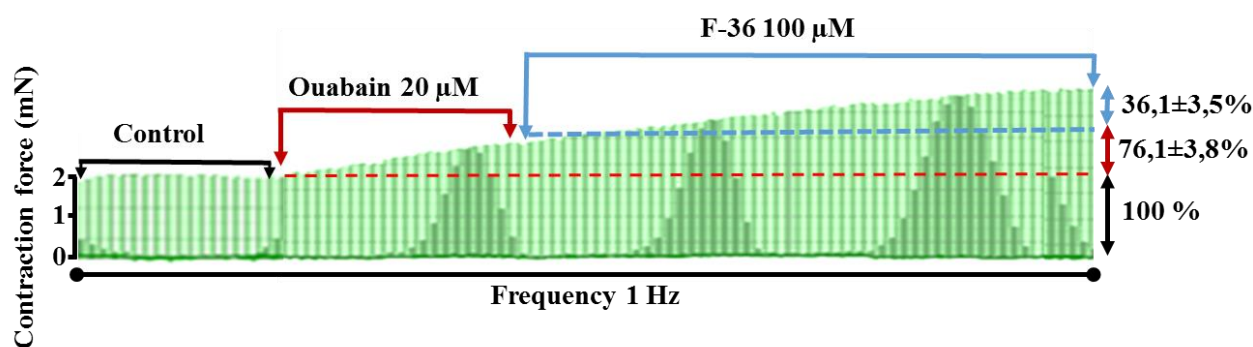
It was found that  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (10 mM) reduced papillary muscle contraction force to  $73.4 \pm 3.4\%$  compared to the control. Under these conditions, the effect of the alkaloid F-36 (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) on papillary muscle contraction [17] activity was  $93.1 \pm 3.9\%$ , respectively, compared to the control [18] (Fig.2).



**Fig. 2. Effects of F-36 on papillary muscle contraction force in the presence of  $\text{NiCl}_2$ .** On the ordinate axis - the amplitude value of the contraction force is expressed as a percentage (%) compared to the maximum.  $n = 5$ .

Based on the above experiments, it can be concluded that the positive inotropic effect of the F-36 alkaloid indicates the participation of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. To further prove the results of this study, experiments were conducted with the presence of ouabain.

By inhibiting  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -ATPase, ouabain causes an increase in  $\text{Na}^+$  [19] content in cardiomyocytes, and as a result, an increase in papillary muscle contraction force is observed due to increased entry of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions into the cell through  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange [20,21,22]. When we examined the effect of ouabain on papillary muscle contractile activity, it showed a positive inotropic effect in a dose-dependent manner, increasing the force of contraction by  $76.1 \pm 4.4\%$  compared to the control (100% obtained) at a concentration of  $20 \mu\text{M}$ . When the effect of ouabain alkaloid F-36 on papillary muscle contractile activity was examined under present conditions, it was observed that it increased muscle contraction force by  $112.2 \pm 4.5\%$  at a concentration of  $100 \mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 3).

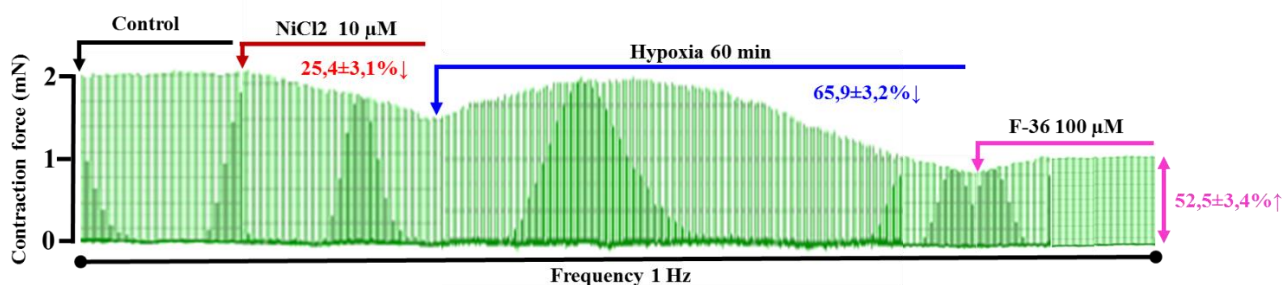


**Fig. 3. Effects of F-36 on papillary muscle contraction force in the presence of ouabain.** On the ordinate axis - the amplitude value of the contraction force is expressed as a percentage (%) compared to the maximum. \*- $p < 0.05$  in all cases;  $n = 5$ .

The analysis of the results of these experiments shows that the studies conducted with the participation of ouabain completely prove the results of the experiments conducted with  $\text{NiCl}_2$ .

It is known that the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange system in cardiomyocytes in a normal physiological state is the main system that brings  $\text{Na}^+$  ions into the cell and releases  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions out of the cell. Therefore, in the experiments, we investigated the effect of F-36 alkaloid on the cardiomyocyte  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange system under hypoxia. To evaluate the effect of F-36 alkaloid ( $100 \mu\text{M}$ ) on papillary muscle contraction activity, the role of the cardiomyocyte  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange system was used at a concentration of  $10 \text{ mM}$  of its blocker  $\text{NiCl}_2$ . In the presence of  $\text{NiCl}_2$ , the strength of

papillary muscle contraction in hypoxia was  $34.1 \pm 4.1\%$  compared to the control. Under these conditions, it was found that F-36 alkaloid ( $100 \mu\text{M}$ ) increases muscle contraction force by  $52.5 \pm 4.1\%$  (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4 Evaluation of the role of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -exchange system of F-36 alkaloid under hypoxia.** On the ordinate axis - the amplitude value of the contraction force is expressed as a percentage (%) compared to the maximum. The frequency of stimulation of the drug is 1 Hz. In all cases \* -  $p < 0.05$ ;  $n = 5$ .

The results of this study indicate that the F-36 alkaloid is involved in  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange in the effective reduction of the contraction activity of the papillary muscle of the rat heart under hypoxia conditions in vitro.

### Conclusion

$\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange has been found to be important in changes in muscle contraction caused by hypoxia-induced myocardial injury [23]. Based on the results of the above research, we can say that F-36 alkaloid has a positive inotropic effect and cardioprotective properties by modulating the function of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange. This assumption was confirmed in experiments with  $\text{NiCl}_2$  and ouabain.

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### Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

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