

# POVEZANOST LABORATORIJSKIH PARAMETARA SA TOKOM BOLESTI KOD PACIJENATA SA FOLIKULARNIM LIMFOMOM – PETOGODIŠNJE ISKUSTVO JEDNOG CENTRA

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## LABORATORY PARAMETERS AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH DISEASE OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH NON-HODGKIN FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA – SINGLE CENTRE FIVE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

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### SAŽETAK

**Uvod/Cilj:** Ne-Hočinov folikularni limfom predstavlja drugi po učestalosti među ne-Hočinovim limfomima, odnosno najčešći indolentni limfom. Iako retko, ova bolest može pokazati agresivnost, sklonost ka komplikacijama, ali i rezistentnost na primenjenu terapiju i česte relapse.

Cilj rada je analiza laboratorijskih parametara pacijenata u trenutku postavljanja dijagnoze i njihove povezanosti sa ishodom bolesti, komplikacijama, terapijskim odgovorom i preživljavanjem.

**Materijal i metode:** U našem centru analizirano je 47 pacijenata kod kojih u periodu od 2018. do januara 2024. godine postavljena dijagnoza folikularnog limfoma. Analizirani su inicijalni laboratorijski parametri krvne slike, parametri hemostaze (PT, aPTT, fibrinogen, D-dimer) kao i biohemijski parametri, dok su u toku bolesti posmatrani terapijski odgovor na prvu terapijsku liniju, preživljavanje bez znakova bolesti, kao i sveukupno preživljavanje.

**Rezultati:** Parametri krvne slike, kao i većina biohemijskih parametara, nisu pokazali korelaciju sa tokom bolesti. Kompletnu remisiju postizali su pacijenti sa nižim vrednostima LDH ( $p = 0,029$ ), dok je sveukupno preživljavanje bilo duže kod pacijenata sa nižim vrednostima fibrinogena ( $p = 0,019$ ), višim procentom monocita ( $p = 0,007$ ), kao i nižim koncentracijama D-dimera ( $p < 0,000$ ). Na preživljavanje bez znakova bolesti uticali su niži nivo fibrinogena ( $p = 0,019$ ), niži nivo D-dimera ( $p = 0,031$ ), niži nivo LDH ( $p = 0,019$ ), kao i viši procenat monocita u perifernoj krvi ( $p = 0,005$ ). Pacijenti sa inicijalno povišenim vrednostima D-dimera imali su PFS  $24,50 \pm 4,81$  meseci, dok su oni sa D-dimerom u granicama referentnih vrednosti imali PFS  $36,48 \pm 5,99$  meseci ( $p = 0,015$ ).

**Zaključak:** U iskustvu našeg centra parametri hemostaze, fibrinogen i D-dimer pokazali su značajnu korelaciju sa tokom bolesti.

**Ključne reči:** folikularni limfom, fibrinogen, D-dimer, tok bolesti

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction/Objective:** Follicular lymphoma, a subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, is the second most common non-Hodgkin lymphoma and the most frequent indolent lymphoma. Although rare, this disease may exhibit aggressive behavior, a tendency toward complications, as well as resistance to administered therapy and frequent relapses.

This study aimed to analyze laboratory parameters at the time of diagnosis and their association with disease outcome, complications, treatment response, and survival.

**Material and methods:** A total of 47 patients diagnosed with follicular lymphoma between 2018 and January 2024 were analyzed at our center. Baseline laboratory parameters included complete blood count, hemostasis parameters (PT, aPTT, fibrinogen, D-dimer), and biochemical parameters. During the course of the disease, treatment response to first-line therapy, progression-free survival, and overall survival were evaluated.

**Results:** Complete blood count parameters, as well as most biochemical parameters, showed no correlation with disease course. Complete remission was achieved in patients with lower LDH levels ( $p = 0.029$ ), while overall survival was longer in patients with lower fibrinogen levels ( $p = 0.019$ ), a higher percentage of monocytes ( $p = 0.007$ ), and lower D-dimer levels ( $p < 0.000$ ). Progression-free survival was associated with lower fibrinogen levels ( $p = 0.019$ ), lower D-dimer levels ( $p = 0.031$ ), lower LDH levels ( $p = 0.019$ ), and a higher percentage of peripheral blood monocytes ( $p = 0.005$ ). Patients with initially elevated D-dimer levels had a PFS of  $24.50 \pm 4.81$  months, whereas those with D-dimer levels within the reference range had a PFS of  $36.48 \pm 5.99$  months ( $p = 0.015$ ).

**Conclusion:** In our center's experience, hemostasis parameters, particularly fibrinogen and D-dimer, showed a significant correlation with disease course.

**Keywords:** follicular lymphoma, fibrinogen, D-dimer, disease course

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## UVOD

Limfomi predstavljaju maligne bolesti limfocita i njihovih progenitora i u zavisnosti od porekla mogu biti porekla B limfocita, T limfocita ili NK limfocita, po histološkoj slici dele se na dve velike grupe: Hočkinovi i ne-Hočkinovi limfomi, a po toku na agresivne i indolentne limfome [1].

Indolentni limfomi su posebna grupu limfoproliferativnih bolesti koji i pored toga što po klasifikaciji pripadaju malignim bolestima uglavnom su hroničnog toka. Folikularni ne-Hočkinov limfom (NHL) predstavlja drugi po učestalosti svih B limfocitnih NHL sa učestalošću od 25%, ali i najučestaliji indolentni limfom kome pripada čak 60% pacijenata [2]. Procenjena incidenca ove bolesti iznosi 2,5 pacijenta na 100.000 stanovnika godišnje. Od ovog podtipa limfoma češće oboljevaju stariji, te se najveći broj novodijagnostikovanih slučajeva detektuje u starosnoj dobi od 55–75 godina [3]. Zahvaljujući novim terapijskim modalitetima prosečno preživljavanje pacijenata sa folikularnim limfomom iznosi 15–20 godina [4]. Iako retko, ova bolest može pokazati agresivnost, sklonost ka komplikacijama, ali i rezistentnost na primenjivanu terapiju i česte relapse. Sa ciljem prepoznavanja pacijenata koji će imati nepovoljan tok bolesti razvijeni su brojni prognostički i prediktivni skorovi (FLIPI skor, PRIMA-PI skor, POD24) [5].

Cilj rada je analizirati laboratorijske parametre pacijenata pri dijagnozi i njihovu povezanost sa ishodom bolesti, terapijskim odgovorom i preživljavanjem.

## MATERIJAL I METODE

Istraživanje je sprovedeno kao retrospektivna studija u Klinici za hematologiju UKC Kragujevac, u periodu od 2018. do januara 2024. godine gde je analizirano 47 pacijenata koji su lečeni u navedenom periodu Klinici pod dijagnozom folikularnog limfoma. Od laboratorijskih parametara analizirani su krvna slika (broj leukocita, leukocitarna formula, hemoglobin, broj trombocita), hemostaza (protrpbinsko vreme (PT), aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vreme (aPTT) , fibronogen, D-dimer) kao i biohemijski parametri (urea, kreatinin, jonogram, hepatogram, laktat dehidrogenaza (LDH), *ac. uricum*) koji su uzorkovani prilikom inicijalnog ispitivanja pacijenta pri postavljanju dijagnoze, a pre primene prve terapijske linije. Pacijenti su nakon toga praćeni i lečeni prema indikacijama, praćeni na redovnim ambulantskim kontrolama. Tokom petogodišnjeg praćenja posmatrani su: odgovor na prvu terapijsku liniju, preživljavanje bez znakova bolesti, kao i sveukupno preživljavanje pacijenata. Statistička analiza sprovedena je korišćenjem IBM SPSS 22.0 programa za statističku obradu podataka. Normalnost raspodele za kontinuirana

## INTRODUCTION

Lymphomas are malignant diseases of lymphocytes and their progenitors and, depending on their origin, may arise from B lymphocytes, T lymphocytes, or NK lymphocytes. Histologically, they are divided into two major groups: Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas, and, according to their clinical course, into aggressive and indolent lymphomas [1].

Indolent lymphomas represent a distinct group of lymphoproliferative diseases that, although classified as malignant, generally have a chronic course. Follicular non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is the second most common B-cell NHL, accounting for 25% of cases, and is also the most common indolent lymphoma, comprising up to 60% of patients [2].

The estimated incidence of this disease is 2.5 patients per 100,000 population annually. This subtype more frequently affects older individuals, with the majority of newly diagnosed cases occurring between 55 and 75 years of age [3]. Thanks to new therapeutic modalities, the average survival of patients with follicular lymphoma is 15–20 years [4]. Although rare, this disease may demonstrate aggressive behavior, a tendency toward complications, resistance to applied therapy, and frequent relapses. To identify patients at risk of an unfavorable disease course, numerous prognostic and predictive scores have been developed (FLIPI, PRIMA-PI, POD24) [5].

This study aimed to analyze laboratory parameters at diagnosis and their association with disease outcome, therapeutic response, and survival.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was a retrospective analysis of 47 patients treated at the Clinic of Hematology, University Clinical Center Kragujevac, from 2018 to January 2024, with a diagnosis of follicular lymphoma. Laboratory parameters included complete blood count (white blood cell count, leukocyte differential, hemoglobin, platelet count), hemostatic parameters (prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), fibrinogen, D-dimer), as well as biochemical parameters (urea, creatinine, electrolytes, liver function tests, lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), uric acid), all of which were sampled during the initial patient evaluation at the time of diagnosis and before the initiation of first-line therapy. Patients were subsequently followed and treated according to treatment indications and monitored through regular outpatient visits. During the five-year follow-up period, the following were observed: response to first-line therapy, progression-free survival, and overall survival. Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS 22.0 software. Normality of distribution for continuous variables was tested using the Shapiro–

ne varijable testirana je korišćenjem Shapiro-Wilk-ovog testa jer je studija analizirana na uzorku manjem od 50 ispitanika. Za podatke koji su imali normalnu raspodelu korišćeni su parametarski testovi (Independent Sample T test), u slučaju odstupanja od normalne raspodele primenjivali smo neparametarske testove (Mann Whitney U test). Za određivanje korelacije između kvantitativnih varijabli koristili smo Pearsonov koeficijent korelacije u slučaju varijabli koje prate normalnu raspodelu, a Spearmanov koeficijent kada je postojalo odstupanje od normalne raspodele. Za statistički značajne  $p$  vrednosti smatrane su  $p$  vrednosti manje od 0,05. Studija je u celini sprovedena poštujući sve odredbe Helsinške deklaracije. Odobrena je i od strane Etičkog Odbora UKC Kragujevac (broj Odluke 1/25-835).

## REZULTATI

Analizom rezultata utvrđeno je da je našu populaciju pacijenta dominantno činila populacija ženskog pola, 34 žene i 13 muškaraca, medijane starosti 60 godina (32–89). Većina pacijenata je na dijagnozi imala proširenu i uznapredovalu bolest, klinički stadijum CS III ili CS IV. Deskriptivna statistika naše ispitivane populacije prikazana je u **Tabeli 1**. Prema aktuelnim vodičima za

Wilk test due to the sample size being fewer than 50 subjects. For normally distributed data, parametric tests (Independent Samples t-test) were used; for data that deviated from normality, nonparametric tests (Mann–Whitney U test) were applied. To determine correlations between quantitative variables, Pearson's correlation coefficient was used for normally distributed variables, and Spearman's coefficient when deviation from normal distribution was present. A  $p$ -value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The study was conducted in full accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Declaration and was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University Clinical Center Kragujevac (Decision No. 1/25-835).

## RESULTS

Analysis of the results showed that our patient population was predominantly female (34 women and 13 men) and had a median age of 60 years (32–89). The majority of patients had disseminated and advanced disease at diagnosis, clinical stage III or IV. Descriptive statistics of the studied population are presented in **Table 1**. According to current guidelines for the treatment of follicular lymphoma, during the observed period,

**Tabela 1.** Deskriptivne demografske karakteristike, kao i podaci o bolesti ispitivane populacije

**Table 1.** Descriptive demographic characteristics and disease-related data of the study population

Parametar / Parameter	Kategorija / Category	n (%)
Starost / Age	60 godina / years	
Pol / Sex	Muški / Male	13 (27.6%)
	Ženski / Female	34 (72.4%)
ECOG / ECOG	0	20 (42.5%)
	1	23 (48.9%)
	≥ 2	4 (8.6%)
FLIPI / FLIPI	≤ 1	9 (19%)
	2	11 (23.4%)
	≥ 3	27 (57.6%)
Prisustvo ektranodalne bolesti / Presence of extranodal disease	da / yes	18 (38.3%)
	ne / no	29 (61.7%)
Bulky bolest / Bulky disease	da / yes	8 (17%)
	ne / no	39 (83%)
Postizanje CR / Achievement of CR	da / yes	28 (59.6%)
	ne / no	19 (40.4%)
Primena terapije održavanja / Maintenance therapy	da / yes	37 (78.7%)
	ne / no	10 (21.3%)
Klinički stadijum bolesti / Clinical stage	I	0 (0%)
	II	2 (4.3%)
	III	15 (31.9%)
	IV	30 (63.8%)

lečenje folikularnog limfoma, u navedenom periodu posmatranja pacijenti su tretirani imunohemioterapijom po protkolu R-CHOP (rituximab + ciklofosamid + doksorubicin + vinkristin + prednizolon) u 34,8%, dok je imunohemioterapiju po protkolu G-CHOP (obinutuzumab + ciklofosamid + doksorubicin + vinkristin + prednizolon) primilo 65,2% pacijenata. Prosečan broj primenjenih ciklusa terapije za obe terapijske opcije bio je 7 (3–8). Što se tiče odgovora na prvu primenjenu terapijsku liniju 25 (53%) pacijenata postiglo je kompletnu remisiju bolesti, 17 (36%) pacijenata parcijalnu remisiju bolesti i 5 (11%) pacijenata stabilnu bolest. U korelaciji parametara krvne slike i biohemijskih parametara većina ispitivanih parametara nije pokazala statistički značajnu korelaciju sa tokom bolesti. Sa druge strane parametri hemostaze, fibrinogen, D-dimer, kao i pojedinačni parametri koncentracije laktat dehidrogenaze u serumu i % monocita u perifernoj krvi (PK) pokazali su značajnu korelaciju, prikazano u **Tabeli 2**. Koncentracija LDH u serumu naše grupe pacijenata ukazuje kroz koeficijent korelacije da što je niža vrednost LDH, duže je preživljavanje bez bolesti, kao i verovatnoća postizanja kompletne remisije, dok nije uočena korelacija sa sveukupnim preživljavanjem. Procenat monocita pozitivno korelira sa vremenom do progresije kao i sveukupnim preživljavanjem, dok ne utiče na postizanje kompletne remisije. Vrednosti fibrinogena i D-dimera pokazuju negativnu korelaciju sa preživljavanjem, dok ne utiču na postizanje CR.

Posebno je analizirana vrednost D-dimera i fibrinogena kod pacijenata sa folikularnim limfomom.

patients were treated with immunochemotherapy according to the R-CHOP protocol (rituximab + cyclophosphamide + doxorubicin + vincristine + prednisolone) in 34.8%, while immunochemotherapy according to the G-CHOP protocol (obinutuzumab + cyclophosphamide + doxorubicin + vincristine + prednisolone) was administered in 65.2% of patients. The average number of administered therapy cycles for both therapeutic options was 7 (3–8). Regarding response to the first applied line of therapy, 25 (53%) patients achieved complete remission, 17 (36%) achieved partial remission, and 5 (11%) had stable disease. In the correlation analysis of hematological and biochemical parameters, most examined parameters did not show a statistically significant correlation with disease course, while, on the other hand, hemostatic parameters, fibrinogen, and D-dimer, as well as individual parameters such as serum lactate dehydrogenase concentration and the percentage of monocytes in peripheral blood, showed significant correlation, as presented in **Table 2**. Serum LDH concentration in our patient group shows, as indicated by the correlation coefficient, that lower LDH values are associated with longer progression-free survival and a higher probability of achieving complete remission, whereas no correlation with overall survival was observed. The percentage of monocytes positively correlates with time to progression and overall survival, but does not influence the achievement of complete remission. Fibrinogen and D-dimer values show a negative correlation with survival, while they do not influence the achievement of complete remission.

**Tabela 2.** Korelacija parametara krvne slike, hemostaze i diferencijalne leukocitarne formule sa parametrima toka bolesti (ukupno preživljavanje (OS), preživljavanje bez bolesti (PFS), postizanje kompletnog odgovora na prvu terapijsku liniju (CR))

**Table 2.** Correlation of hematological parameters, hemostatic parameters, and differential leukocyte count with disease outcome parameters (overall survival (OS), progression-free survival (PFS), achievement of complete response to first-line therapy (CR))

		OS	PFS	CR
LDH / LDH	Correlation coefficient	-0.153	-0.361	-0.375
	<i>p</i>	0.321	<b>0.019</b>	<b>0.029</b>
	N	44	42	47
% monocita u PK / % of monocytes in PK	Correlation coefficient	0.438	0.409	0.250
	<i>p</i>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.005</b>	0.154
	N	36	45	34
Fibrinogen / Fibrinogen	Correlation coefficient	-0.353	-0.361	-0.263
	<i>p</i>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>0.019</b>	0.133
	N	44	42	47
Koncentracija D-dimera ng/ml / D-dimer concentration ng/ml	Correlation coefficient	-0.555	-0.334	0.250
	<i>p</i>	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	<b>0.031</b>	0.154
	N	44	42	47

Pacijenti koji su pri dijagnozi imali povišene vrednosti D-dimera imali su kraće preživljavanje bez bolesti, i to pacijenti sa inicijalno povišenim vrednostima D-dimera imali su PFS  $24,50 \pm 4,81$  meseci, dok su oni sa D-dimerom u granicama referentnih vrednosti imali PFS  $36,48 \pm 5,99$  ( $p = 0,015$ ). Slične rezultate dobili smo i sa vrednostima fibrinogena, pri čemu su pacijenti sa vrednostima fibrinogena u referentnom opsegu imala PFS  $28,42 \pm 3,89$  meseci, odnosno oni sa inicijalno povišenim vrednostima fibrinogena PFS  $15,91 \pm 5,09$  ( $p = 0,044$ ).

Takođe, analizirane su i vrednosti D-dimera i njihova povezanost sa postizanjem kompletne remisije. Pacijenti koji su na prvu terapijsku liniju postignu kompletu remisiju imali su niže vrednosti D-dimera ( $521,12 \pm 150,8$  ng/ml), dok pacijenti koji nisu postigli kompletu remisiju imali su više vrednosti D-dimera ( $613,18 \pm 156,4$  ng/ml),  $p = 0,054$ .

## DISKUSIJA

Razvojem brojnih terapijskih opcija koje su doprinele boljem preživljavanju pacijenata sa limfomom kao i primena personalizovane medicine, predstavile su potrebu za što jasnijim definisanjem prognoze toka bolesti i predikcije reagovanja na određene terapijske modalitete. U tom svetlu poslednjih godina brojna istraživanja usmerena su ka pronalaženju jednostavnog, a preciznog prognostičkog modela, testirajući brojne lako dostupne parametre i njihovu korelaciju sa tokom bolesti.

Najveći broj istraživanja u ovoj oblasti posvećen je agresivnim limfomima, dok je mali broj studija obuhvatio i niskogradusne limfome. Literaturni podaci nam ukazuju da se od laboratorijskih parametara u ne-Hočkinovom limfomu tipa difuzni B krupnoćelijski limfom (NHL DLBCL) najviše možemo osloniti na vrednosti D-dimera, vrednosti LDH, kao i kliničkim karakteristikama kako pacijenata (starost, performans status), tako i bolesti (klinički stadijum, genetski i molekularni potpis bolesti).

Naša studija ukazala je da od laboratorijskih parametara na tok bolesti kod folikularnog limfoma najviše uticaja ima preterapijska vrednost LDH, udeo monocita i bazofila u leukocitarnoj formuli kao i hemostazni parametri, fibrinogen i D-dimer. Studija Rachmani i saradnika posmatrala je parametar D-dimera kod pacijenata sa NHL DLBCL i takođe potvrđuje da D-dimer pozitivno korelira sa tokom bolesti, što je on viši preterapijski, prognoza pacijenata je lošija [6]. Do sličnih rezultata došli su i Huang i saradnici, s tim što su D-dimer osim sa tokom bolesti korelirali i sa drugim lošim prognostnim parametrima (stadijumom bolesti, ECOG statusom, prisustvom B simp-

The D-dimer and fibrinogen levels in patients with follicular lymphoma were analyzed separately. Patients who had elevated D-dimer values at diagnosis had shorter progression-free survival, with patients with initially elevated D-dimer values having PFS of  $24.50 \pm 4.81$  months, while those with D-dimer within reference values had PFS of  $36.48 \pm 5.99$  months ( $p = 0.015$ ). Similar results were observed for fibrinogen levels: patients with fibrinogen within the reference range had PFS of  $28.42 \pm 3.89$  months, whereas those with initially elevated fibrinogen had PFS of  $15.91 \pm 5.09$  months ( $p = 0.044$ ). D-dimer values and their association with achieving complete remission were also analyzed, and patients who achieved complete remission after first-line therapy had lower D-dimer values ( $521.12 \pm 150.8$  ng/ml), while those who did not achieve complete remission had higher values ( $613.18 \pm 156.4$  ng/ml),  $p = 0.054$ .

## DISCUSSION

The development of numerous therapeutic options that have improved the survival of lymphoma patients, as well as the application of personalized medicine, has created a need for a clearer definition of disease prognosis and for the prediction of response to specific therapeutic modalities. In this context, numerous studies in recent years have focused on identifying simple yet precise prognostic models by testing readily available parameters and their correlation with disease course.

The majority of studies in this field have focused on aggressive lymphomas, while only a small number have included low-grade lymphomas. Available literature indicates that, among laboratory parameters in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), the most reliable are D-dimer levels, LDH levels, and clinical characteristics of both the patient (age, performance status) and the disease (clinical stage, genetic and molecular profile).

Our study showed that among laboratory parameters influencing disease course in follicular lymphoma, the most significant are pre-treatment LDH values, the proportions of monocytes and basophils in the leukocyte differential, and hemostatic parameters, fibrinogen, and D-dimer. The study by Rachmani et al. evaluated D-dimer levels in patients with DLBCL and confirmed that D-dimer levels positively correlate with disease course, with higher pre-treatment values indicating a worse prognosis [6]. Similar results were reported by Huang et al., who correlated D-dimer not only with disease course but also with other adverse prognostic parameters (disease stage, ECOG status, presence of B symptoms, IPI score), as were those of Liu et al. [7,8]. In the study by Geng

toma, IPI skorom), kao i Liu i saradnici [7,8]. U studiji Genga i saradnika laboratorijski parametri korelirani sa tokom bolesti kod pacijenata sa NHL DBCL pokazali su da starost, stadijum bolesti i vrednost LDH kao i vrednosti D-dimera predstavljaju negativan prognostični parametar u univarijantnoj analizi, dok se u multivarijantnoj samo LDH pojavljuje kao negativan prognostični parametar. Ipak autori zaključuju da vrednost D-dimera korelira sa veličinom tumorske mase i da veće prognostične vrednosti ima kod pacijenata u nižim kliničkim stadijumima [9]. U radu Bi i saradnika, D-dimer je prepoznat kao prognostični parametar kod pacijenata obolelih od NK-T ćelijskog NHL, približavajući prognozu ranih stadijuma sa visokim D-dimerom onom koju imaju uznapredovali stadijumi bez obzira na vrednosti D-dimera [10]. O analizi laboratorijskih parametara kod pacijenata sa indolentnim limfomima veoma je malo literaturnih podataka. Podaci uglavnom obuhvataju sve ne-Hoćkinove limfome, ili retko daju osvrt na pojedinačne podgrupe. U studiji Mazura i saradnika kod svih NHL upoređivani su parametri hemostaze (fibrinogen i D-dimer) sa parametrima neoangiogeneze (vaskularnog endotelnog faktora rasta (VEGF) i faktora rasta fibroblasta (FGF)), gde su potvrdili da D-dimer korelira sa stadijumom bolesti, dok su odnos fibrinogena i D-dimera u korelaciji sa odnosom VEGF/bFGF i doprinose neoangiogenezi u NHL [11]. Što se tiče radova koji su posmatrali nivo fibrinogena, jedan interesantan rad na malom broju ispitanika sugerira da je fibrinogen dobar prognostični parametar, kako na osnovu visokih preterapijskih vrednosti kao lošeg prognostičnog parametra, tako i na promenu fibrinogena nakon prvog ciklusa terapije. Pacijenti koji su normalizovali fibrinogen nakon prvog ciklusa terapije imali su bolje preživljavanje u odnosu na one kod kojih je fibrinogen ostao visok [12]. Dodatno razjašnjenje značaja nivoa fibroinogena kao i profila monocita periferne krvi kod pacijenata obolelih od NHL pruža nam studija Živković i saradnika. U ovoj studiji visoke vrednosti fibrinogena imaju negativan prognostični potencijal, kao i u našoj studiji. U njihovoj detaljnoj analizi posmatrane su i vrednosti tkivnog faktora, gde su u podgrupama limfoma (NHL DBCL, folikularni limfom, kao i Hoćkinov limfom) potvrđene i razlike među ovim podtipovima. Kod svih grupa prisutne su više vrednosti tkivnog faktora uz povećanje broja klasičnih monocita, dok kod folikularnog limfoma, kao niskogradusnog nema povećanja intermedijernih monocita, a samim tim je manja i sklonost ka hiperkoagulabilnosti. U navedenoj studiji nije kao poseban parametar analiziran procenat monocita u perifernoj krvi, već samo pojedinačne podgrupe, analizirane putem protočne citometrije

et al., laboratory parameters correlated with disease course in DLBCL patients showed that age, disease stage, LDH values, and D-dimer values represent negative prognostic factors in univariate analysis, while in multivariate analysis only LDH remained a negative prognostic factor, although the authors concluded that D-dimer correlates with tumor burden and has greater prognostic value in patients with lower clinical stages [9]. In the study by Bi et al., D-dimer was identified as a prognostic marker in patients with NK/T-cell lymphoma, bringing the prognosis of early-stage patients with high D-dimer levels closer to that of advanced-stage patients, regardless of D-dimer levels [10]. Data on laboratory parameters in patients with indolent lymphomas are scarce, as studies often include all non-Hodgkin lymphomas or provide only rare insights into specific subgroups. In the study by Mazur et al., hemostatic parameters (fibrinogen and D-dimer) were compared with neoangiogenesis parameters (vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and fibroblast growth factor (FGF)), confirming that D-dimer correlates with disease stage, while the fibrinogen/D-dimer ratio correlates with the VEGF/bFGF ratio and contributes to neoangiogenesis in NHL [11]. Regarding studies analyzing fibrinogen levels, one interesting study on a small number of subjects suggests that fibrinogen is a good prognostic parameter, both based on high pre-treatment values as a negative prognostic factor and on changes after the first cycle of therapy, where patients who normalized fibrinogen after the first cycle had better survival compared to those in whom fibrinogen remained elevated [12]. Additional clarification of the significance of fibrinogen levels and the profile of peripheral blood monocytes in NHL patients is provided by the study by Živković et al., which showed that high fibrinogen levels were associated with a negative prognosis, consistent with our findings. In their detailed analysis, tissue factor values were also examined, and differences among lymphoma subtypes (DLBCL, follicular lymphoma, and Hodgkin lymphoma) were confirmed. In all groups, higher tissue factor values were observed with increased classical monocytes, whereas in follicular lymphoma, as a low-grade lymphoma, there was no increase in intermediate monocytes and, consequently, a lower tendency toward hypercoagulability. In the aforementioned study, the percentage of monocytes in peripheral blood was not analyzed as a separate parameter; instead, individual subgroups were examined by flow cytometry and classified as classical or intermediate monocytes based on pan-monocytic marker expression [13].

i klasifikovane kao klasični i intermedijarni monociti prema ekspresiji panmonocitnih markera [13].

## ZAKLJUČAK

U iskustvu našeg centra parametri hemostaze, fibrinogen i D-dimer pokazali su značajnu korelaciju sa tokom bolesti. Ograničenja naše sprovedene studije obuhvataju mali broj ispitanika, ali i činjenicu da u analizu nisu uključeni pacijenti koji su dijagnostikovani, ali u navedenom periodu nisu lečeni.

**Sukob interesa:** Nije prijavljen.

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## CONCLUSION

In our center's experience, hemostatic parameters, fibrinogen, and D-dimer showed significant correlations with disease course. Limitations of our study include a small sample size and the exclusion of patients diagnosed but not treated during the observed period.

**Conflict of interest:** None declared.