

# Pharmacogenetic Biomarkers of Clozapine-Induced Sialorrhoea: A Systematic Review

Anastasia G. Kirova<sup>1</sup>, Yuri S. Bellevich<sup>1</sup>, Dmitriy N. Sosin<sup>1,2,\infty</sup>, Sergey N. Mosolov<sup>1,3</sup>, Dmitry A. Sychev<sup>1,2</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Russian Medical Academy of Continuous Professional Education, 2/1/1 Barrikadnaya St., Moscow 125993, Russian Federation
- <sup>2</sup> Russian Research Center of Surgery Named after Academician B.V. Petrovsky, 2/1 Abrikosovsky Lane, Moscow 119435, Russian Federation
- <sup>3</sup> Moscow Research Institute of Psychiatry branch of the Serbsky National Medical Research Centre for Psychiatry and Narcology,
- 3 Poteshnaya St., Moscow 107076, Russian Federation
- □ Dmitriy N. Sosin sosin.dmitriy@gmail.com

#### **ABSTRACT**

**INTRODUCTION.** Despite the proven clozapine effectiveness in patients with treatment resistant schizophrenia, its use can cause adverse drug reactions, including clozapine-induced sialorrhoea (CIS). Data on CIS pathogenesis are limited. Identifying CIS pharmacogenetic predictors will make it possible to both predict adverse drug reactions prior to therapy and specify individual pathogenetic elements.

**AIM.** This review aimed to identify CIS predictors using systematic analysis of literature data.

**DISCUSSION.** Research was conducted independently by two co-authors using PubMed, Google Scholar, Gene-Cards, and PharmGKB databases. A total of six (6) studies were selected that examined 17 candidate genes. The *ADRA2A* and *DRD4* genes were associated with CIS. The rs1800544 polymorphism of *ADRA2A* gene regulates the expression of alpha-2A adrenergic receptor (ADRA2A). Alpha-2-adrenoreceptors regulate salivation, thus clozapine antagonistic effect causes CIS. The 120-bp polymorphism of *DRD4* will reduce expression of type 4 dopamine receptor (DRD4). In turn, this may result in CIS as clozapine increases the receptor blockade. However, the results contradicted other studies, presumably due to assessment of different polymorphisms in the above studies. Moreover, the analysed studies had a number of methodological limitations.

**CONCLUSIONS.** The performed systematic review made it possible to identify CIS pharmacogenetic predictors. However, large multicenter studies using a strong prospective design and considering these limitations are required in order to verify the identified associations and develop a pharmacogenetic panel with high predictive accuracy for CIS.

**REGISTRATION.** Systematic review protocol is included in the international systematic review register (PROSPERO), Registry No. CRD420251089235.

**Keywords:** pharmacogenetics; clozapine; schizophrenia; treatment resistant schizophrenia; sialorrhea; adverse drug reaction; genetic polymorphisms; pharmacogenomic testing; systematic review

**For citation:** Kirova A.G., Bellevich Yu.S., Sosin D.N., Mosolov S.N., Sychev D.A. Pharmacogenetic biomarkers of clozapine-induced sialorrhoea: A systematic review. *Safety and Risk of Pharmacotherapy*. 2025. https://doi.org/10.30895/2312-7821-2025-517

**Funding.** This study was financially supported by the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation under state assignment "Development of pharmacogenetic test systems to improve the efficacy and safety of pharmacotherapy in cardiology and psychiatry patients" (Unified National Information System for Research, Development and Civil Engineering No. 124021200054-3).

**Disclosure.** Dmitry A. Sychev has been a member of the Editorial Board of *Safety and Risk of Pharmacotherapy* since 2019. The other authors declare no conflict of interest.

© A.G. Kirova, Yu.S. Bellevich, D.N. Sosin, S.N. Mosolov, D.A. Sychev, 2025

# Фармакогенетические биомаркеры сиалореи, вызванной приемом клозапина: систематический обзор

А.Г. Кирова $^{1}$ , Ю.С. Беллевич $^{1}$ , Д.Н. Сосин $^{1,2, \square}$ , С.Н. Мосолов $^{1,3}$ , Д.А. Сычев $^{1,2}$ 

- <sup>1</sup> Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение дополнительного профессионального образования «Российская медицинская академия непрерывного профессионального образования» Министерства здравоохранения Российской Федерации, ул. Баррикадная, д. 2/1, стр. 1, Москва, 125993, Российская Федерация
- <sup>2</sup> Государственный научный центр Российской Федерации Федеральное государственное бюджетное учреждение науки «Российский научный центр хирургии имени академика Б.В. Петровского», Абрикосовский пер., д. 2 корп. 1, Москва, 119435, Российская Федерация
- <sup>3</sup> Московский научно-исследовательский институт психиатрии филиал Национального медицинского исследовательского центра психиатрии и наркологии имени В.П. Сербского, ул. Потешная, д. 3, Москва, 107076, Российская Федерация
- □ Dmitriy N. Sosin sosin.dmitriy@qmail.com

#### **РЕЗЮМЕ**

**ВВЕДЕНИЕ.** Клозапин эффективен при лечении пациентов с терапевтической резистентностью при шизофрении, но его применение может сопровождаться развитием нежелательных реакций, в частности клозапининдуцированной сиалореей (КИС). Данные о механизме развития КИС ограничены. Выделение фармакогенетических предикторов КИС позволит оценить вероятность возникновения осложнений до назначения терапии, а также уточнить отдельные звенья патогенетического механизма данной нежелательной реакции.

**ЦЕЛЬ.** Выявление фармакогенетических предикторов клозапин-индуцированной сиалореи при помощи систематического анализа данных литературы.

**ОБСУЖДЕНИЕ.** Поиск исследований проводили независимо два соавтора по базам PubMed, Google Scholar, GeneCards, PharmGKB. В общей сложности было найдено 6 исследований, в которых рассматривалось 17 генов-кандидатов. Ассоциация с КИС была выявлена для генов *ADRA2A*, *DRD4*. Полиморфизм гs1800544 гена *ADRA2A* регулирует экспрессию адренорецептора альфа 2A типа (ADRA2A). При этом α2-адренорецепторы участвуют в регуляции секреции слюны, а антагонистическое действие клозапина на них приводит к возникновению КИС. Носительство полиморфизма 120-bp *DRD4* приводит к снижению уровня экспрессии дофаминового рецептора 4 типа (DRD4). Это, в свою очередь, может вызвать развитие КИС за счет повышения степени блокады рецептора клозапином. Однако полученные данные противоречат результатам ряда других исследований. Возможным объяснением данного несоответствия является анализ различных полиморфизмов в указанных работах. Кроме того, проанализированные исследования имели ряд методологических ограничений.

**ВЫВОДЫ.** Проведенный систематический обзор литературы позволил определить фармакогенетические предикторы КИС. Но для уточнения полученных ассоциаций и разработки фармакогенетической панели с высокой прогностической точностью в отношении КИС необходимо проведение крупных мультицентровых исследований, использующих строгий проспективный дизайн с учетом выявленных ограничений.

**РЕГИСТРАЦИЯ.** Протокол систематического обзора зарегистрирован в международном проспективном реестре систематических обзоров (PROSPERO), регистрационный номер CRD420251089235.

**Ключевые слова:** фармакогенетика; клозапин; антипсихотики; шизофрения; терапевтическая резистентность при шизофрении; сиалорея; нежелательные реакции; полиморфизмы генов; фармакогенетическое тестирование; систематический обзор

**Для цитирования:** Кирова А.Г., Беллевич Ю.С., Сосин Д.Н., Мосолов С.Н., Сычев Д.А. Фармакогенетические биомаркеры сиалореи, вызванной приемом клозапина: систематический обзор. *Безопасность и риск фармакотерапии.* 2025. <a href="https://doi.org/10.30895/2312-7821-2025-517">https://doi.org/10.30895/2312-7821-2025-517</a>

Финансирование. Данная работа выполнена при финансовой поддержке Министерства здравоохранения Российской Федерации, тематика государственного задания «Разработка фармакогенетической тест-системы для повышения эффективности и безопасности фармакотерапии пациентов кардиологического и психиатрического профилей» (ЕГИСУ НИОКТР № 124021200054-3).

**Потенциальный конфликт интересов.** Д.А. Сычев является членом редакционной коллегии журнала «Безопасность и риск фармакотерапии» с 2019 г. Остальные авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Schizophrenia affects approximately 1% of the global population [1]. Advances in modern psychopharmacotherapy have taken the treatment of this disorder to a new level: in addition to managing positive symptoms (such as delusions, hallucinations, etc.), it has become possible to improve negative symptoms (for example, emotionalvolitional deficits), while safety profile of psychopharmaceuticals has significantly improved [2]. However, approximately 30% of patients do not respond to antipsychotic treatment, meaning they have treatment-resistant schizophrenia (TRS) [3, 4]. Clozapine is the only antipsychotic effective in TRS [3, 5]. It improves positive schizophrenia symptoms, reduces suicide risk, and its long-term use is associated with improved outcomes in TRS patients [6-9]. However, clozapine is associated with a broad range of adverse drug reactions (ADRs), the most significant being agranulocytosis, myocarditis/ cardiomyopathies, seizures, metabolic disturbances, constipation, sedation, and sialorrhoea [10, 11].

Sialorrhoea is one of the most frequently reported ADRs associated with clozapine use [12, 13]; it induces excessive salivation significantly more often than other antipsychotics [14, 15]. Pharmacoepidemiological data indicate that clozapine-induced sialorrhoea (CIS) occurs to some degree in 91.8% of patients [14], more commonly in the early stages of treatment, and may persist for a long time. Sialorrhoea significantly increases the risk of aspiration pneumonia [16, 17], a leading cause of death among patients treated with clozapine [18].

The exact underlying mechanism remains unclear. The primary hypothesis is clozapine selectively stimulating muscarinic receptors in the salivary glands [19, 20]. Salivary gland cells express  $M_1$  and  $M_3$  muscarinic receptors, with the  $M_3$  receptor being primarily responsible for regulating salivation [21]. Clozapine and its metabolite, N-desmethylclozapine, are known as partial agonists of muscarinic receptors [22]. A 2020 study demonstrated that high serum

concentrations of N-desmethylclozapine are associated with the risk of developing CIS [23]. *In vitro* studies show that, unlike clozapine, N-desmethylclozapine modifies calcium flux in salivary gland cells, while atropine inhibits this effect [23].

Currently, active pharmacogenetic research is being conducted to enhance the safety and efficacy of pharmacotherapy based on patient genome analysis [24]. Significant progress has been made in general medicine and cardiology. In psychiatry, data remain limited; current guidelines recommend pharmacogenetic testing for complex patient groups, including those with treatment resistance in psychiatric disorders [25, 26]. Clozapine is a promising candidate for pharmacogenetic testing since it is effective in treatment-resistant schizophrenia; however, its use is limited by the risk of serious ADRs [27]. Identification and subsequent systematisation of research findings aimed at discovering CIS pharmacogenetic biomarkers by separate scientific groups will help clarify the mechanism of this ADR, allowing for earlier intervention and management.

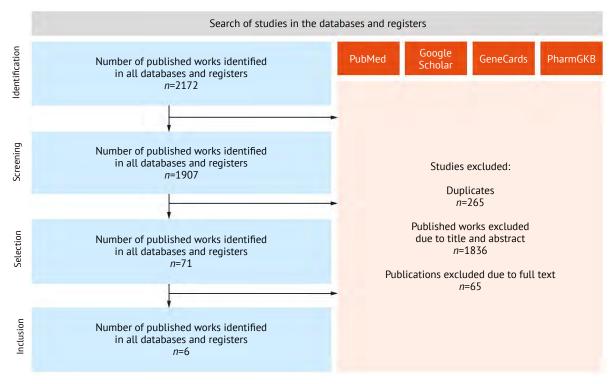
**The aim** of this study was to identify pharmacogenetic predictors of clozapine-induced sialor-rhoea by conducting a systematic analysis of the literature data.

The review was prepared according to the PRISMA guidelines<sup>1</sup> (Figure 1). The systematic review protocol was registered in the international prospective register of systematic reviews (PROSPERO<sup>2</sup>), Registry No. CRD420251089235, and is publicly available. Two authors independently performed the literature search (Yu.S. Bellevich, A.G. Kirova). When selecting publications, any controversies were resolved through discussion until a consensus was reached. If the authors could not reach an agreement, they consulted the other coauthors (D.N. Sosin, S.N. Mosolov, D.A. Sychev).

Search queries for the scientific databases included: 1) PubMed — "(clozapine OR sialorrhoea) AND (schizophrenia OR pharmacogenetics) AND (polymorphism OR gene)"; Google Scholar — "clozapine", "sialorrhoea", "schizophrenia", "pharma-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.prisma-statement.org/prisma-2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/home



The figure is prepared by the authors / Рисунок подготовлен авторами

Figure 1. Flowchart of publication search for inclusion in a literature review

cogenetics", "polymorphism", "gene". Furthermore, a search was performed in specialised pharmacogenetic and genetic databases: GeneCards³ and PharmGKB⁴. Candidate genes were selected using the keyword "clozapine". All genes identified by this query were thoroughly examined for their potential role in CIS development. No timeframe was applied to the search.

Studies meeting the following criteria were included in this literature review: 1) study population: patients receiving clozapine as their primary therapy; 2) patients aged 18 to 65 years; 3) detecting association between genes and/or their polymorphisms and CIS; 4) works published in Russian or English. Conference materials, reports, abstracts, and results of preclinical studies were excluded.

At the literature screening stage, after removing duplicates, publication abstracts were analysed to select works meeting the inclusion criteria. Subsequently, the full texts were analysed. Furthermore, the authors examined reference lists of these works to identify publications potentially eligible for inclusion in this review (snowball method).

The following data were extracted from the selected publications: study aim and design,

sample description, diagnosis, therapy, CIS specifics, studied gene polymorphisms, and statistical significance of the obtained associations (p-values). A critical assessment of the risk of systematic errors and bias, as well as a meta-analysis, was not performed due to the limited number of available studies. The analysed data were grouped under individual studies due to the small number of included works.

# **RESULTS**

This literature review included six publications (*Table 1*).

S. Tsai et al. [28] conducted a 2001 study in a Han Chinese population (*n*=97), with a prospective patient observation period of at least eight (mean 51.3±39.5) weeks. The study enrolled TRS patients switched to clozapine therapy. A certain limitation is the fact that the authors did not specify the criteria for classifying TRS patients. In addition to sialorrhoea, the authors assessed clozapine efficacy and association of the *ADRA2A* gene polymorphism rs1800544 with schizophrenia (the study included a comparison group of healthy volunteers).

https://www.genecards.org/ (authorised access)

https://www.pharmgkb.org/ (authorised access)

Table 1. Research of CIS pharmacogenetic biomarkers

Method for sialorrhoea assessment	Udvald for Kliniske Undersogelser Scale (UKU)	Clinically (patient complaints and/or reports from relatives, medical records)	Clinically (patient and/or relative complaints, medical records)	Clinically (patient and/or relative complaints)	Liverpool University Neuroleptic Side-Effect Rating Scale (LUNSERS)			
Association with sialorrhoea	Not associated U	Not associated of	Not associated a	Associated (OR 2.95, 95% CI: 1.51–5.75); CO p=0.0006)	Not associated	Not associated	Not associated (I	Associated (OR 2.13, 95% CI: 1.17–3.88; p=0.029)
Gene and its polymorphism	Biallelic polymorphism in the <i>ADRA2A</i> promoter region (C-1291G, rs1800544)	340.84±119.04 HTR3A rs1062613, rs2276302	CYP1A2 rs2069514, rs35694136, rs2069526, rs762551	<i>DRD4</i> 120-bp tandem duplication in the gene promoter region	CHRM1 rs2507821, rs542269, rs2075748	CHRM3 rs4620530, rs6429157, rs6690809	CLOCK 151801260, 153749474, 154580704, 156850524	<i>ADRA2A</i> rs1800544
Clozapine dosage, mg/day		340.84±119.04	340.84±119.04	358.8±110.28	403±152			
Monotherapy with clozapine	Yes (adjusted)   276±104	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Yes, in a subset of the sample ( <i>n</i> =155)			
Selection of treatment resistant schizophrenia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	o Z			
Nosology	Schizophrenic disorders (DSM-IV)	Schizophrenia (DSM IV-TR)	Schizophrenia (DSM IV-TR)	Schizophrenia (DSM IV-TR)	Schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and other non-organic non-affective psychoses (ICD-10)			
Study design (sample size)	Prospective case—control (n=35, control=48)	Cross- sectional, case-control ( <i>n</i> =101)	Cross- sectional, case-control (n=101)	Cross- sectional ( <i>n</i> =95)	Cross- sectional ( <i>n</i> =237)			
Country	Taiwan	India	India	India	Finland			
Source	Tsai S, et al., 2000 [28]	Rajkumar A, et al., 2012 [30]	Rajkumar A, et al., 2013 [31]	Rajagopal V, et al., 2014 [32]	Solismaa A, et al., 2014 [33]			

Neuroleptic Side-Effect Rating Scale (LUNSERS) sialorrhoea assessment Liverpool University Method for Association with sialorrhoea Not associated Gene and its polymorphism ERBB4, GRK2, GRK5, CHRM1, CHRM3, CHRM4, IP3, NK1, NTS, ADRA2A, DRD4 VIP, ERBB1, ERBB2, Clozapine dosage, mg/day 403±152 Monotherapy with clozapine Yes, in a subset of the sample (n=155)resistant schizophretreatment Selection of ni: ô Schizophrenia, schizoaffective Nosology non-affective non-organic psychoses (ICD-10) and other disorder, Study design (sample size) Cross-sectional (n=237)Country Finland Puloakka H, et al., 2024 Source [34]

Note. DSM-IV, Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders IV (1994–2000); DSM-IV-TR, Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders IV (2000); OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision. The table is prepared by the authors

Clozapine dose ranged from 50 to 700 mg/day (mean dose 276±104 mg/day). The authors did not explicitly state that clozapine was used as a monotherapy. However, the article lacks data on concomitant therapy, suggesting that patients were likely to receive only clozapine during the study. The presence of sialorrhoea was assessed using the UKU scale (Udvalg for Kliniske Undersogelser Scale) with only "hypersalivation" sub-item. As a result, CIS developed in 35 patients, while 48 did not have sialorrhoea.

The researchers investigated the association of a biallelic polymorphism in the *ADRA2A* promoter region (alpha-2A adrenergic receptor gene). Since modern nomenclatures, specifically dbSNP (database of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms), were not introduced at the time of the study, the authors designated gene regions according to S. Lario et al. (1997) [29]. Based on our analysis, we determined that the authors studied association of the *C-1291G* polymorphism (rs1800544) with CIS. This study did not confirm an association between rs1800544 and CIS.

A. Raikumar et al. conducted two studies in 2012 and 2013 [30, 31] in a population of Indian patients (*n*=101). Both publications present identical patient data, indirectly indicating that the studies were performed on the same clinical sample. The design in both cases was a cross-sectional case-control study. The subjects were patients with schizophrenia confirmed by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM IV-TR) and taking clozapine for at least 12 weeks. Clozapine was prescribed in patients meeting TRS criteria. The authors do not explicitly state that patients received clozapine as a monotherapy; however, the publications lack data on concomitant therapy, indirectly suggesting monotherapy. The mean dose was 340.84±119.04 mg/day (dose range 100 to 650 mg/day).

Safety assessment was performed clinically: the authors collected complaints from patients and their relatives, and also retrospectively evaluated medical records. Besides sialorrhoea, other safety and efficacy parameters of clozapine were assessed, which are not considered within the scope of this literature review.

The 2012 study [30] analysed two polymorphisms of the *HTR3A* gene (serotonin receptor type 3A), rs1062613, and rs2276302, while the 2013 study [31] examined four polymorphisms of the *CYP1A2* gene (cytochrome P450 1A2): rs2069514, rs35694136, rs2069526, and rs762551. No asso-

ciation was found between the studied polymorphisms and CIS.

The study by V. Rajagopal et al. (2014) [32] was also conducted in a South Indian population of patients (*n*=95). The key patient characteristics coincide with those of the two previously described studies [30, 31]. Accordingly, the design, clozapine prescribing regimen, duration of its use, and safety assessment methods are also identical to the previous studies. However, the authors focused solely on CIS, without considering other safety parameters or the efficacy of clozapine. Out of the total number of patients (101 individuals), only 95 were included in the analysis due to insufficient genetic material for 6 patients. Due to the reduced number of patients, the mean daily clozapine dose changed: it was 358.8 ±110.28 mg/day in the group of sialorrhoea patients and 334.5±124.32 mg/day in the control group (p=0.025).

This study explored the correlation of 120-bp polymorphism of the *DRD4* gene (dopamine receptor D4 gene) with CIS. This polymorphism is a tandem duplication in the promoter region of *DRD4*. It was found that one long allele in the patient's genome (DRD4 120/240bp genotype) was associated with a 2.95-fold increased risk of developing CIS (odds ratio OR=2.95; 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.51-5.75; significance level p=0.0006), and the presence of two long alleles (240/240bp genotype) increased the risk 8.7-fold.

The study by A. Solismaa et al. (2014) [33] was performed in European patients (n=237). The authors designed a cross-sectional observational study with partial retrospective analysis. Patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or other non-organic and non-affective psychoses were included (according to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)). All patients were receiving clozapine treatment for at least three months prior to inclusion in the study, with a mean dose of 403±152 mg/day. The authors did not identify TRS patients separately. Clozapine was an antipsychotic monotherapy in 155 (65.4%) patients; the remaining 82 (34.6%) patients received it in combination with other antipsychotics. Thirtytwo patients receiving only clozapine were also prescribed a tricyclic antidepressant (amitriptyline or doxepin). The authors classified these patients in the CIS group, as these drugs can be used to manage CIS. Based on the study description, it cannot be concluded that clozapine was taken as a monotherapy (without psychopharmaceuticals from other groups).

LUNSERS (Liverpool University Neuroleptic Side Effect Rating Scale) was used to assess CIS. The authors evaluated role of the following gene polymorphisms in the occurrence of CIS: *CHRM1* (cholinergic receptor muscarinic 1 gene) rs2507821, rs542269, rs2075748; *CHRM3* (cholinergic receptor muscarinic 3 gene) rs4620530, rs6429157, rs6690809; *CLOCK* (clock circadian regulator gene) rs1801260, rs3749474, rs4580704, rs6850524; *ADRA2A* (adrenergic receptor alpha 2A gene) rs1800544.

As a result, a role for the *ADRA2A* gene polymorphism rs1800544 was demonstrated: carriers of the CC genotype were twice as likely to develop CIS compared to carriers of the CG and GG genotypes (OR=2.13, 95% CI: 1.17-3.88, p=0.013). This correlation obtained in the overall sample persisted in the subset of patients taking only clozapine (n=155, p=0.044), but was not confirmed in patients taking other antipsychotics together with clozapine (n=82, p=0.11).

This team of authors published the results of another study [34] conducted in 2024 in the same patient sample (with identical clinical parameters), although analysing other pharmacogenetic endpoints. The study employed a genotyping method using microarrays, analysing 531,983 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). However, the authors selected 14 genes that could potentially be associated with CIS or dry mouth during clozapine treatment and investigated 9,039 polymorphisms of these genes (the complete list of studied polymorphisms was not presented in the work). Polymorphisms of the following genes were studied: VIP (vasoactive intestinal peptide gene), ERBB1 (epidermal growth factor receptor gene), ERBB2 (erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2 gene), ERBB4 (erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 4 gene), GRK2 (G protein-coupled receptor kinase 2 gene), GRK5 (G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5 gene), CHRM1, CHRM3, CHRM4 (cholinergic receptor muscarinic 4 gene), *IP3*<sup>5</sup>, *NK1* (NK1 homeobox transcription factor gene), NTS (neurotensin gene), ADRA2A, and DRD4. None of the studied SNPs showed an association with CIS.

## DISCUSSION

Clozapine stands out among other atypical antipsychotics due to its efficacy in TRS; however, its use in clinical practice is limited by the potential development of serious ADRs [35, 36]. Sialorrhoea is reported four times more frequently with clo-

zapine than with other antipsychotics [32]. The mechanism underlying CIS is quite complex and remains incompletely understood to date [12].

As a result of the conducted systematic literature review, we have identified a relatively small number of published studies. Of the six published works, three studies were performed for the same patient sample [30-32]; another two were also conducted on a single sample [33, 34]. It is important to note that in all studies, the authors investigated genetic panels related to the pathways of clozapine mechanism of action (either pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic). In total, 17 genes were analysed across all publications for an association with CIS. ADRA2A was the most frequently studied gene evaluated in three publications, with two of these studies conducted on the same sample. Notably, these studies yielded conflicting results (whereas the work by H. Puolakka et al., 2024 [34], does not specify the particular polymorphisms assessed by the authors).

The *DRD4* gene was included in two studies, also with the opposing results [32, 34]. This is quite plausible, as the authors evaluated the association of different single nucleotide polymorphisms with CIS.

The CHRM1 and CHRM3 genes were also studied in two works conducted in the same patient sample [33, 34]. The remaining genes were examined only once in the above studies.

Consequently, an association with CIS was demonstrated only for two genes: ADRA2A and DRD4. In the first case, the authors studied the rs1800544 polymorphism associated with an increased CIS risk. This polymorphism represents cytosine to quanine transversion at position -1291 in the promoter region of the ADRA2A gene [37]. Given its location in an intergenic region, this polymorphism does not affect the protein structure; however, it may hypothetically regulate the expression of the alpha-2A adrenergic receptor (ADRA2A) [29, 37]. The adrenergic system exerts a modulatory effect on saliva production in the human body, leading to an increased protein content therein [38]; α2-adrenoreceptors, among others, regulate saliva secretion, and the antagonistic action of clozapine on these receptors leads to CIS [39, 40].

The next gene associated with CIS is *DRD4*. An association was established between a 120-bp tandem duplication in the promoter region of this gene and the risk of developing CIS. This mutation is known to be of functional significance, influencing the *DRD4* gene expression [41]. Lower tran-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate is a signaling molecule. This system includes a large number of different genes; we could not determine exactly what genes the authors studied in their work [34], therefore we provide the description unchanged.

scriptional activity associated with the long allele of this polymorphism causes reduced expression levels of the dopamine D4 receptor (DRD4) [41]. The authors hypothesise that due to the decreased density of these receptors in carriers of the long allele, these individuals might experience a higher degree of receptor blockade by clozapine (compared to carriers of short alleles), which, in turn, could lead to CIS [32].

The studies included in this literature review have several significant limitations. Primarily, this concerns the sizes of the patient samples. The number of patients in the studies ranged from 83 to 237, a relatively small sample size for pharmacogenetic research. Furthermore, only one out of the six studies employed a prospective design; the rest were cross-sectional, which also somewhat increases the likelihood of systematic error.

Another substantial limitation is the inclusion of patients taking clozapine in combination with psychotropic drug classes. Other psychotropic medications are known either to enhance CIS manifestations (e.g., paliperidone) or reduce them (e.g., amisulpride), which undoubtedly negatively affects the experiment integrity and the risk of systematic error [42–44].

A further limitation is the inclusion of patients from nosological groups other than schizophrenia. Specifically, not all studies separately identified patients with TRS. This is an important aspect, as TRS patients may have different underlying biology, which, in turn, could influence the risk of CIS [45–47].

Moreover, the studies utilised different assessment methods of sialorrhoea severity. In three studies [28, 33, 34], researchers used specialised rating scales, while in the remaining three works

(conducted on the same patient sample) [30–32], a clinical method was used to determine ADRs. This method involved analysing clinical manifestations based on patient self-reports, reports from close relatives, and medical records. Besides the inherent lack of objectivity associated with the clinical approach to a considerable degree, the use of different assessment methodologies leads to difficulties in comparing results across studies during analysis.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The data obtained from this systematic review indicate the involvement of the *ADRA2A* and *DRD4* genes in developing CIS. In both cases, hypotheses regarding the underlying genetic mechanisms have been proposed. Despite certain limitations in the studies included in this review, the results are of significant scientific value and can serve to develop an algorithm for the personalised clozapine prescription.

Carriers of the CC genotype (rs1800544 of the ADRA2A gene) and of the long DRD4 allele are found to be at an increased risk of CIS. Identifying such patients prior to prescribing clozapine allows for planning management tactics in clinical practice. This could include, among others, increasing the frequency of CIS assessment, implementing a slower dose titration of clozapine (compared to patients without this risk factor) or dose reduction, and timely CIS management.

Large multicenter studies employing a strict prospective design considering the above limitations are required to further identify CIS pharmacogenetic predictors. The results of such studies could form the basis for developing a pharmacogenetic panel with high predictive accuracy of CIS.

# Литература / References

- Owen MJ, Sawa A, Mortensen PB. Schizophrenia. *Lancet*. 2016;388(10039):86–97. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01121-6
- 2. Orzelska-Górka J, Mikulska J, Wiszniewska A, Biała G. New atypical antipsychotics in the treatment of schizophrenia and depression. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022;23(18):10624.
  - https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms231810624
- 3. Lally J, MacCabe JH. Antipsychotic medication in schizophrenia: A review. *Br Med Bull*. 2015;114(1):169–79.
  - https://doi.org/10.1093/bmb/ldv017
- Mosolov SN, Tsukarzi EE. Psychopharmacotherapy of schizophrenia. In: Aleksandrovsky YuA, Neznanov NG,

- eds. *Psychiatry: National guidelines*. Moscow: GEOTAR-Media; 2018. P. 299–328 (In Russ.).
- Mosolov SN, Tsukarzi EE, Alfimov PV. Algorithms of biological therapy for schizophrenia. *Current Thera*py of Mental Disorders. 2014;(1):27–36 (In Russ.). EDN: OEWBKY
- Correll CU, Agid O, Crespo-Facorro B, et al. A Guideline and checklist for initiating and managing clozapine treatment in patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia. CNS Drugs. 2022;36(7):659–79. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40263-022-00932-2
- Mizuno Y, McCutcheon RA, Brugger SP, Howes OD. Heterogeneity and efficacy of antipsychotic treatment for schizophrenia with or without treatment re-

- sistance: A meta-analysis. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2020;45(4):622–31.
- https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-019-0577-3
- 8. Khasanova AK, Kovrizhnykh IV, Mosolov SN. Antisuicidal effect of clozapine (prescribing algorithm and clinical monitoring). *Current Therapy of Mental Disorders*. 2023;(4):48–63 (In Russ.).
  - https://doi.org/10.21265/PSYPH.2023.31.74.005
- Aliforenko AE, Khasanov VA, Larchenko VV, et al. Comparative efficacy and tolerability of immediate-release clozapine (AZALEPTIN®) and extended-release clozapine (Azaleptin® retard) in patients with schizophrenia resistant to antipsychotic therapy. Current Therapy of Mental Disorders. 2025;(2):2-10 (In Russ.). https://doi.org/10.48612/psyph/tf4x-dnzt-934b
- 10. Citrome L, McEvoy JP, Saklad SR. Guide to the management of clozapine-related tolerability and safety concerns. *Clin Schizophr Relat Psychoses*. 2016;10(3):163–77.
  - https://doi.org/10.3371/1935-1232.10.3.163
- 11. Sosin DN, Khasanova AK, Moshevitin SYu, Mosolov SN. Pharmacogenetics predictors of clozapine metabolic disturbances. *Current Therapy of Mental Disorders*. 2024;(4):30–40 (In Russ.). EDN: FCSIOX
- 12. Gürcan G, Atalay B, Deveci E. Clozapine-associated sialorrhea. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2024;44(6):570–5. https://doi.org/10.1097/JCP.0000000000001917
- 13. Uzun Ö, Bolu A, Çelik C. Effect of N-acetylcysteine on clozapine-induced sialorrhea in schizophrenic patients: a case series. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2020;35(4):229–31.
  - https://doi.org/10.1097/YIC.0000000000000297
- 14. Maher S, Cunningham A, O'Callaghan N, et al. Clozapine-induced hypersalivation: an estimate of prevalence, severity and impact on quality of life. *Ther Adv Psychopharmacol*. 2016;6(3):178–84. https://doi.org/10.1177/2045125316641019
- Yellepeddi VK, Race JA, McFarland MM, Constance JE, Fanaeian E, Murphy NA. Effectiveness of atropine in managing sialorrhea: A systematic review and metaanalysis. *Int J Clin Pharmacol Ther.* 2024;62(6):267–77. https://doi.org/10.5414/CP204538
- 16. Leung JG, Nelson S, Barreto JN, Schiavo DN. Necrotizing pneumonia in the setting of elevated clozapine levels. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2016;36(2):176–8. https://doi.org/10.1097/JCP.0000000000000470
- 17. Saenger RC, Finch TH, Francois D. Aspiration pneumonia due to clozapine-induced sialorrhea. *Clin Schizophr Relat Psychoses*. 2016;9(4):170–2. https://doi.org/10.3371/CSRP.SAFI.061213
- 18. de Leon J, Ruan CJ, Verdoux H, Wang C. Clozapine is strongly associated with the risk of pneumonia and inflammation. *Gen Psychiatr.* 2020;33(2):e100183. https://doi.org/10.1136/gpsych-2019-100183
- Schoretsanitis G, Kane JM, Ruan CJ, et al. A comprehensive review of the clinical utility of and a combined analysis of the clozapine/norclozapine ratio in therapeutic drug monitoring for adult patients. Expert Rev Clin Pharmacol. 2019;12(7):603–21. https://doi.org/10.1080/17512433.2019.1617695

- 20. Zorn SH, Jones SB, Ward KM, Liston DR. Clozapine is a potent and selective muscarinic M4 receptor agonist. *Eur J Pharmacol.* 1994;269(3):R1-2. https://doi.org/10.1016/0922-4106(94)90047-7
- 21. Nakamura T, Matsui M, Uchida K, et al. M3 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor plays a critical role in parasympathetic control of salivation in mice. *J Physiol*. 2004;558(2):561–75.
  - https://doi.org/10.1113/jphysiol.2004.064626
- 22. Weiner DM, Meltzer HY, Veinbergs I, et al. The role of M1 muscarinic receptor agonism of N-desmethyl-clozapine in the unique clinical effects of clozapine. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*. 2004;177(1–2):207–16. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-004-1940-5
- 23. Ishikawa S, Kobayashi M, Hashimoto N, et al. Association between N-desmethylclozapine and clozapine-induced sialorrhea: Involvement of increased nocturnal salivary secretion via muscarinic receptors by N-desmethylclozapine. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther*. 2020;375(2):376–84.
  - https://doi.org/10.1124/jpet.120.000164
- 24. Duarte JD, Cavallari LH. Pharmacogenetics to guide cardiovascular drug therapy. *Nat Rev Cardiol*. 2021;18(9):649–65.
  - https://doi.org/10.1038/s41569-021-00549-w
- 25. Müller DJ. Pharmacogenetics in psychiatry. *Pharmacopsychiatry*. 2020;53(4):153–4. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1212-1101">https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1212-1101</a>
- 26. Brown LC, Allen JD, Eyre HA, et al. Editorial: Precision psychiatry from a pharmacogenetics perspective. *Front Psychiatry*. 2023;14:1159000. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2023.1159000
- 27. Islam F, Hain D, Lewis D, et al. Pharmacogenomics of Clozapine-induced agranulocytosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pharmacogenomics J.* 2022;22(4):230–40. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41397-022-00281-9
- 28. Tsai SJ, Wang YC, Yu WY, et al. Association analysis of polymorphism in the promoter region of the α2a-adrenoceptor gene with schizophrenia and clozapine response. *Schizophr Res.* 2001;49(1–2):53–8. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0920-9964(00)00127-4
- 29. Lario S, Calls J, Cases A, et al. Mspl identifies a biallelic polymorphism in the promoter region of the alpha 2A-adrenergic receptor gene. *Clin Genet*. 1997;51(2):129–30.
  - https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9112004
- 30. Rajkumar AP, Poonkuzhali B, Kuruvilla A, et al. Outcome definitions and clinical predictors influence pharmacogenetic associations between HTR3A gene polymorphisms and response to clozapine in patients with schizophrenia. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*. 2012;224(3):441–9.
  - https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-012-2773-2
- 31. Rajkumar AP, Poonkuzhali B, Kuruvilla A, et al. Association between CYP1A2 gene single nucleotide polymorphisms and clinical responses to clozapine in patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia. *Acta Neuropsychiatr.* 2013;25(1):2–11.
  - https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1601-5215.2012.00638.x

- 32. Rajagopal V, Sundaresan L, Rajkumar AP, et al. Genetic association between the DRD4 promoter polymorphism and clozapine-induced sialorrhea. *Psychiatr Genet*. 2014;24(6):273–6.
  - https://doi.org/10.1097/YPG.0000000000000058
- 33. Solismaa A, Kampman O, Seppälä N, et al. Polymorphism in alpha 2A adrenergic receptor gene is associated with sialorrhea in schizophrenia patients on clozapine treatment. *Human Psychopharmacol*. 2014;29(4):336–41.

https://doi.org/10.1002/hup.2408

- 34. Puolakka H, Solismaa A, Lyytikäinen LP, et al. Polymorphisms in ERBB4 and TACR1 associated with dry mouth in clozapine-treated patients. *Acta Neuropsychiatr*. 2024;36(4):218–23.
  - https://doi.org/10.1017/neu.2024.9
- 35. Solmi M, Murru A, Pacchiarotti I, et al. Safety, tolerability, and risks associated with first- and second-generation antipsychotics: A state-of-the-art clinical review. *Ther Clin Risk Manag.* 2017;13:757–77. https://doi.org/10.2147/TCRM.S117321
- 36. Kirilochev OO. Complications of clozapine therapy: update of information. *Current Therapy of Mental Disorders*. 2023;(3):12–20 (In Russ.). https://doi.org/10.21265/PSYPH.2023.11.37.002
- 37. Kim BN, Kim JW, Cummins TDR, et al. Norepinephrine genes predict response time variability and methylphenidate-induced changes in neuropsychological function in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2013;33(3):356–62. https://doi.org/10.1097/JCP.0b013e31828f9fc3
- Freudenreich O. Drug-induced sialorrhea. *Drugs Today* (*Barc*). 2005;41(6):411–8. https://doi.org/10.1358/dot.2005.41.6.893628
- 39. Praharaj SK, Arora M, Gandotra S. Clozapine-induced sialorrhea: pathophysiology and management strategies. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*. 2006;185(3):265–73.

- https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-005-0248-4
- Essali A, Rihawi A, Altujjar M, et al. Anticholinergic medication for non-clozapine neuroleptic-induced hypersalivation in people with schizophrenia. *Co-chrane Database Syst Rev.* 2013;2013(12):CD009546. https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD009546.pub2
- 41. D'Souza UM, Russ C, Tahir E, et al. Functional effects of a tandem duplication polymorphism in the 5'flanking region of the DRD4 gene. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2004;56(9):691–7.
  - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsych.2004.08.008
- 42. Burk BG, Donaldson V, Jackson CW, et al. Paliperidone-associated sialorrhea. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2022;42(5):480–4.

https://doi.org/10.1097/JCP.000000000001588

- 43. Kulkarni RR. Low-dose amisulpride for debilitating clozapine-induced sialorrhea: Case series and review of literature. *Indian J Psychol Med*. 2015;37(4):446–8. https://doi.org/10.4103/0253-7176.168592
- 44. Praharaj SK, Jana AK, Sinha VK. Aripiprazole-induced sialorrhea. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry*. 2009;33(2):384–5.
  - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pnpbp.2008.12.016
- 45. Howes OD, Kapur S. A neurobiological hypothesis for the classification of schizophrenia: type A (hyperdopaminergic) and type B (normodopaminergic). *Br J Psychiatry*. 2014;205(1):1–3. https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.113.138578
- 46. Nucifora FC Jr, Woznica E, Lee BJ, et al. Treatment resistant schizophrenia: Clinical, biological, and therapeutic perspectives. *Neurobiol Dis.* 2019;131:104257. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2018.08.016
- 47. Vita A, Minelli A, Barlati S, et al. Treatment-resistant schizophrenia: Genetic and neuroimaging correlates. *Front Pharmacol*. 2019;10:402. https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2019.00402

Authors' contributions. All the authors confirm that they meet the ICMJE criteria for authorship. The most significant contributions were as follows. Anastasia G. Kirova participated in the study conceptualisation, worked with literature sources, and wrote the manuscript text. Yuri S. Bellevich worked with literature sources and wrote the manuscript text. Dmitriy N. Sosin conceptualised the study, wrote the manuscript text, and formulated the conclusions. Sergey N. Mosolov conceptualised the study and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication. Dmitry A. Sychev approved the final manuscript for publication.

Вклад авторов. Все авторы подтверждают соответствие своего авторства критериям ICMJE. Наибольший вклад распределен следующим образом: А.Г. Кирова — участие в формулировании концепции статьи, работа с источниками литературы, написание текста рукописи; Ю.С. Беллевич — работа с источниками литературы, написание текста рукописи; Д.Н. Сосин — концепция работы, написание текста рукописи, формулировка выводов; С.Н. Мосолов — концепция работы, утверждение окончательной версии рукописи для публикации; Д.А. Сычев — утверждение окончательной версии рукописи для публикации.

## **AUTHORS / OF ABTOPAX**

Anastasia G. Kirova

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4263-6640

Yuri S. Bellevich

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0000-5996-8575 **Dmitriy N. Sosin,** Cand. Sci. (Med.), Associate Professor

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2314-7174
Sergey N. Mosolov, Dr. Sci. (Med.), Professor
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5749-3964

Dmitry A. Sychev, Academician of the Russian Academy

of Sciences, Dr. Sci. (Med.), Professor

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4496-3680

Received 8 July 2025 Revised 20 August 2025 Accepted 11 September 2025 Online first 24 September 2025 Кирова Анастасия Григорьевна

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4263-6640

Беллевич Юрий Сергеевич

ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0000-5996-8575">https://orcid.org/0009-0000-5996-8575</a> **Сосин Дмитрий Николаевич,** канд. мед. наук, доцент ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2314-7174">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2314-7174</a> **Мосолов Сергей Николаевич,** д-р мед. наук,

профессор

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5749-3964 **Сычев Дмитрий Алексеевич,** академик РАН, д-р мед.

наук, профессор

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4496-3680

Поступила 08.07.2025 После доработки 20.08.2025 Принята к публикации 11.09.2025 Online first 24.09.2025