



# **Reproductive toxicity of cyto-static drugs and pharmacological ways to reduce it**

**Laboratory of Pharmacology of Reproductive System  
The Goldberg Research Institute of Pharmacology, Tomsk, RUSSIA**

*by Tatyana Borovskaya*

## Intensity of reproductive dysfunction in women with cancer under different treatment regimens

Disease	Scheme	Status of reproductive function
<b>Breast Cancer</b>	<b>CMF</b> <b>FAC</b>	amenorrhea in <b>88%</b> amenorrhea in <b>55%</b>
<b>Hemoblastosis</b>	<b>COPP</b> <b>EEACOPP</b> <b>CHOP</b>  <b>ABVD</b>	amenorrhea } amenorrhea } <b>in the majority of</b> amenorrhea } <b>women</b>  <b>Violations in ovarian cycle are minimal</b>
<b>Ovarian cancer (after conserving surgery)</b>	<b>POMB/ACE</b>	<b>Does not result in sterilization</b>

- \* Berthon L. (1987). Traitements anticancereux et fertilite. *J. France Medicine*, 94:247-8.
- \* Mormor D. (1993). Fertile après traitements cytostatiques. *Contracept.-fertil.-sex.*, 21(10):739-43.
- \* Evain P.L. Bazonzelly M., Dusol F., Demaille M. (1986). *Chemiotherapia anticancereuse at fertilite cher la femime. Rev. Fr. gynecolog at obsted.*, 3:451-4.
- \* Howell S.G., Shalet S.M. (2001). Testicular function following chemoterapy. *Human Reprod. Update*, 7 (4):3369-3.
- \* Taksey Y, dissada N.K., Chayndhary U.B. (2003). Fertility after chemotherapy for testicular cancer. *Arch. Androl.*, 49(5):389-95.

Group and name of the drug, chemical structure	Main mechanism of anti-tumor action
<b><i>PLATINUM COMPLEXES</i></b>	
Cisplatin, Lachema AC, Austria	Form a cross-link between DNA molecules
Carboplatin, EBEWE Pharma, Austria	
<b><i>ANTHRACYCLINE ANTIBIOTICS</i></b>	
Doxorubicin, EBEWE Pharma, Austria	Intercalation between the base pairs of DNA
Epirubicin, Karlo Arba, Italy	
<b><i>INHIBITORS TOPOIZOMERAZNOY ACTIVITY</i></b>	
Etoposide, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Israel	Inhibition of topoisomerase II
<b><i>TAXOIDS</i></b>	
Paclitaxel, Dr Reddis, India	Stimulation of assembling of anomalous microtubules



**The object of study is  
Wistar rats**

**The drugs** were administered intravenously in a single MTD, because in clinics high-dose therapy is used

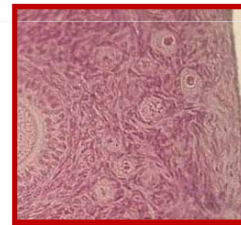
### **Methods of study**

- ***morphological***

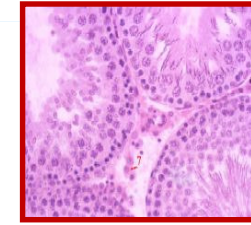
(using quantitative indicators characterizing extent of the damage)

- ***functional***

(fertility index, the index pregnancy, fetal death)



*gonads*



*testes*

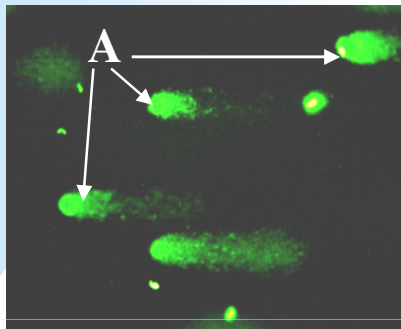
### **Research terms**

The assessment of effects was performed 3 and 6 months after administration of cyto-static drugs

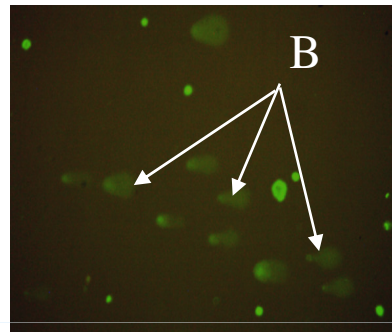
# Early antiproliferative effects of cytotoxic drugs on gonads

## On testicular tissue:

"DNA-comets" of mouse testis



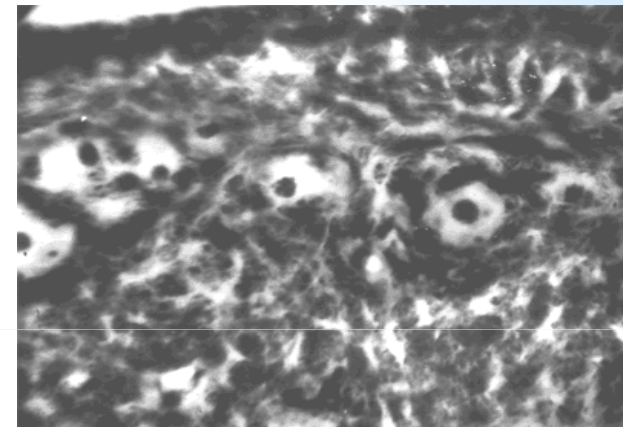
A – cells with DNA-damages



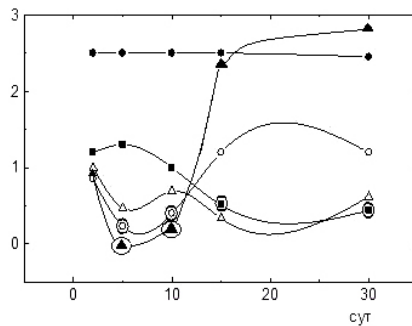
B – Apoptotic "DNA-comets"

## On ovarian tissue::

Death of follicular epithelium cells

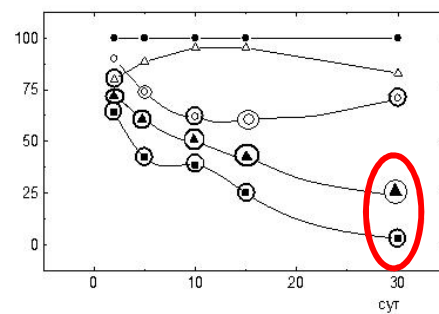


Tubules with the 12th stage of meiosis, %



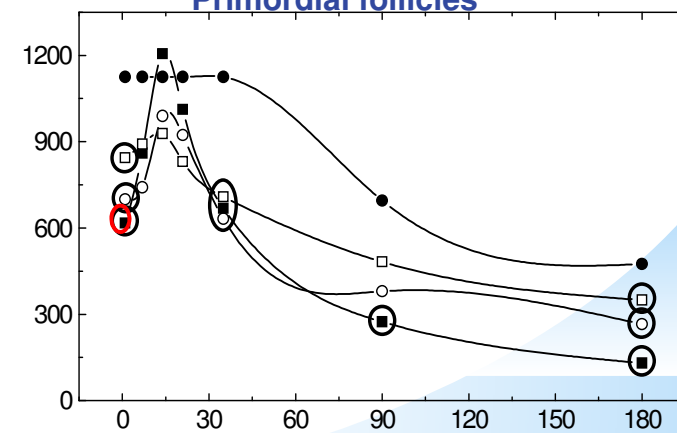
● Control    ■ Epirubicin

Number of normal spermatogonia, % of control



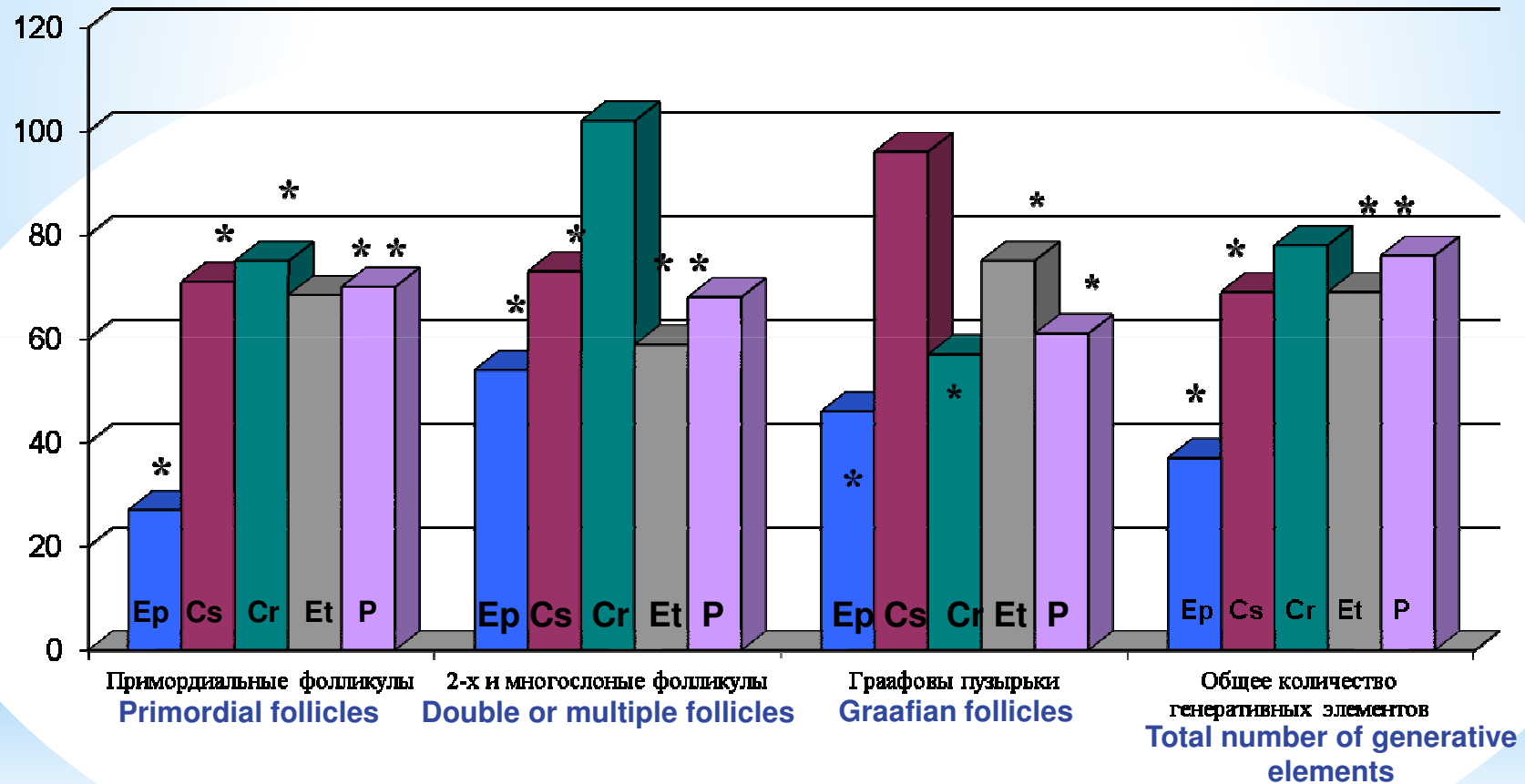
△ Etoposide    □ Doxorubicin

Primordial follicles



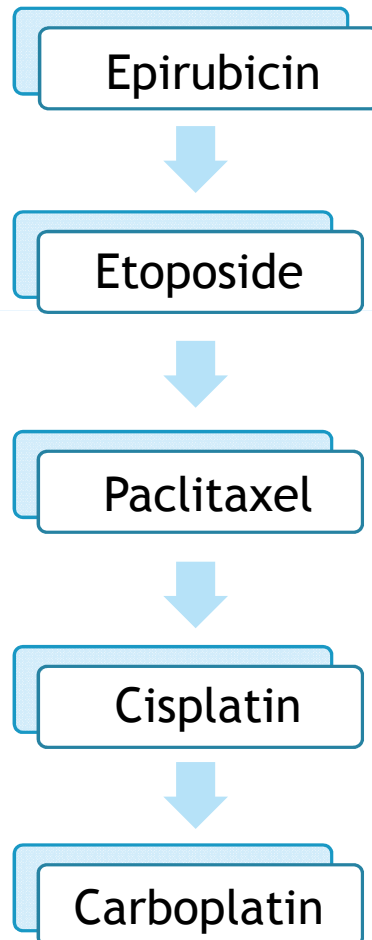
○ Cisplatin    ▲ Paclitaxel

## Content of structural-functional elements of rats ovaries, 6 months after a single injection of anticancer drugs in the MTD (% of control)



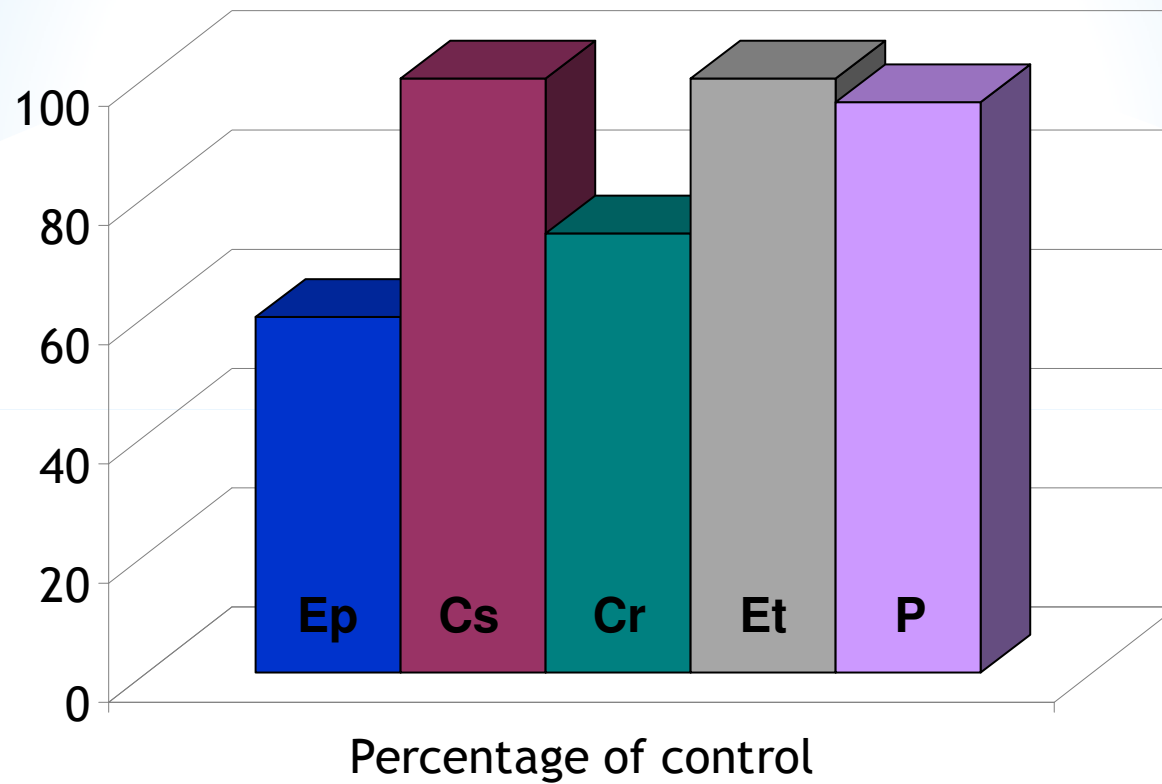
Ep – Epirubicin; Cs – Cisplatin; Cr – Carboplatin; Et – Etoposide; P – Paclitaxel

**Intensity of long-term-late effects of cyto-static drugs on structural and functional elements of the rat ovary is decreased in the following order:**



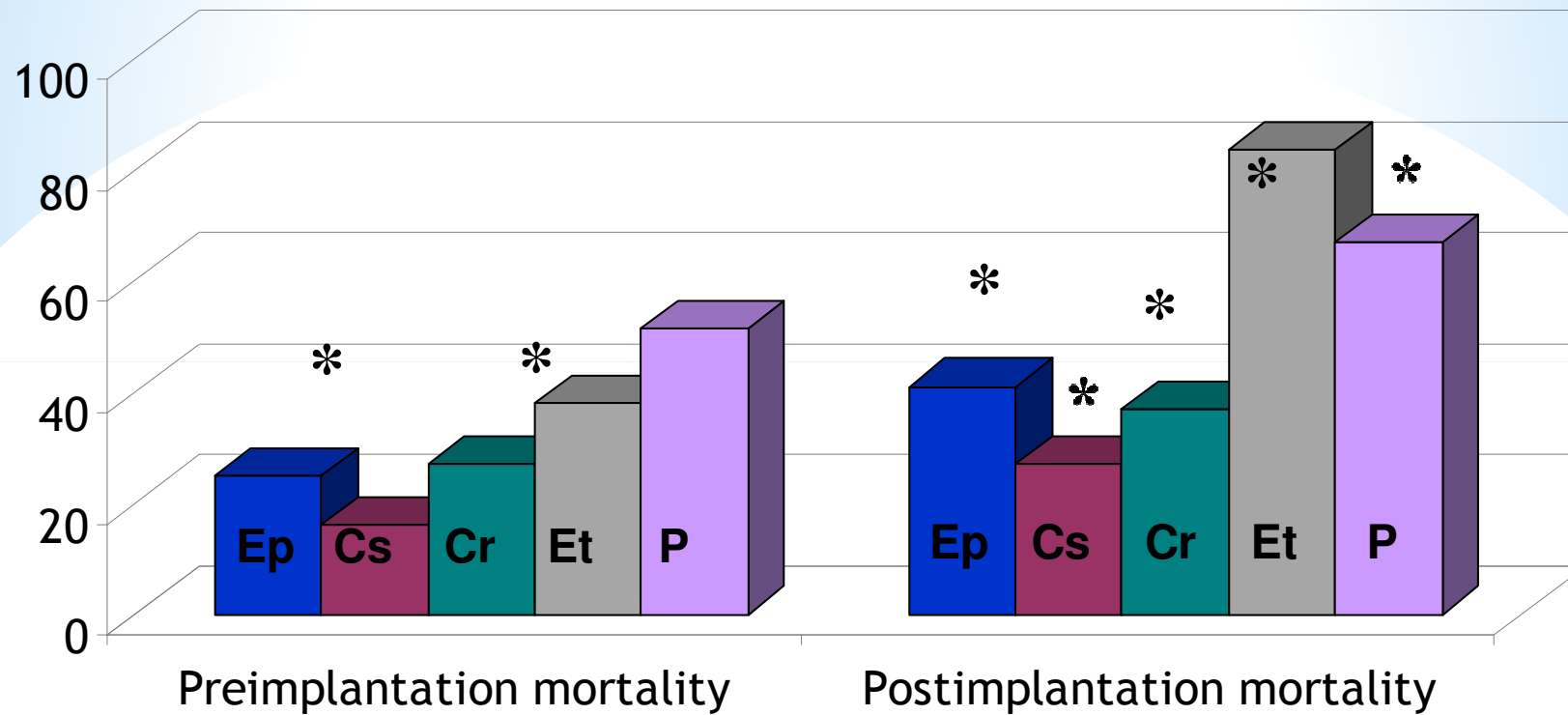


## Efficiency of mating in female-rats in the long-term period after administration of cytotoxic drugs of different groups



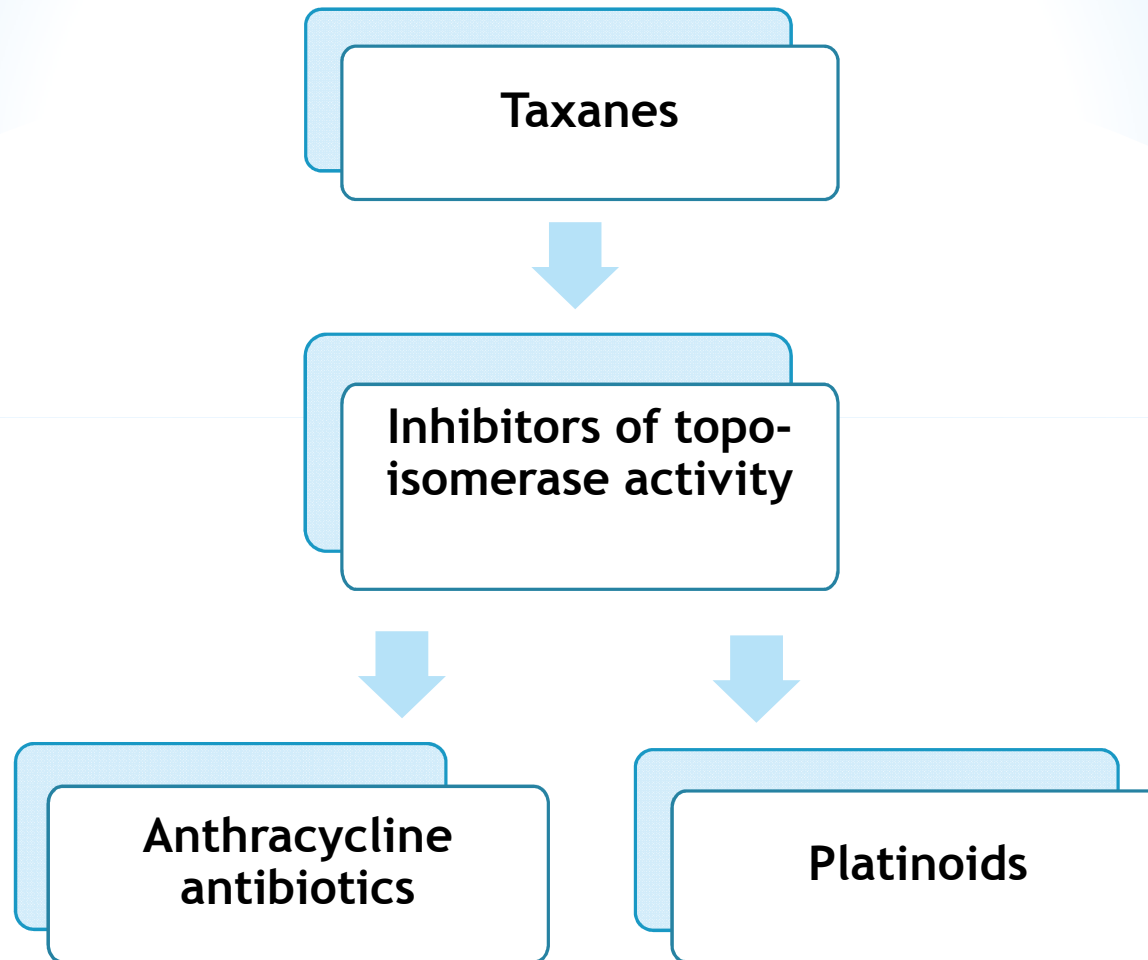
**Ep – Epirubicin; Cs – Cisplatin; Cr – Carboplatin; Et – Etoposide; P – Paclitaxel**

**Embryonic mortality in female rats while the crossbreeding long-term period after administration of cito-static drugs of different groups (% of control)**

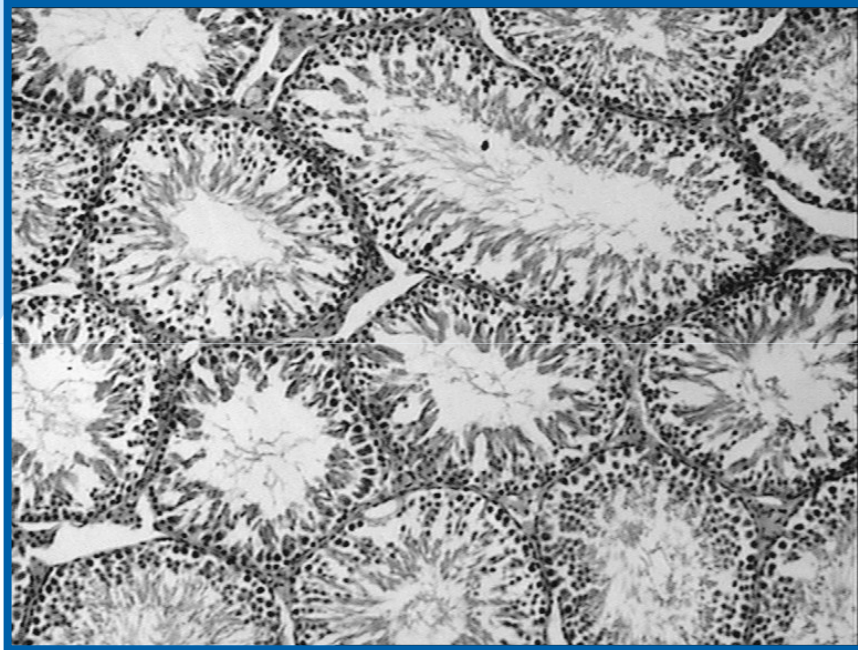


**Ep – Epirubicin; Cs – Cisplatin; Cr – Carboplatin; Et – Etoposide; P – Paclitaxel**

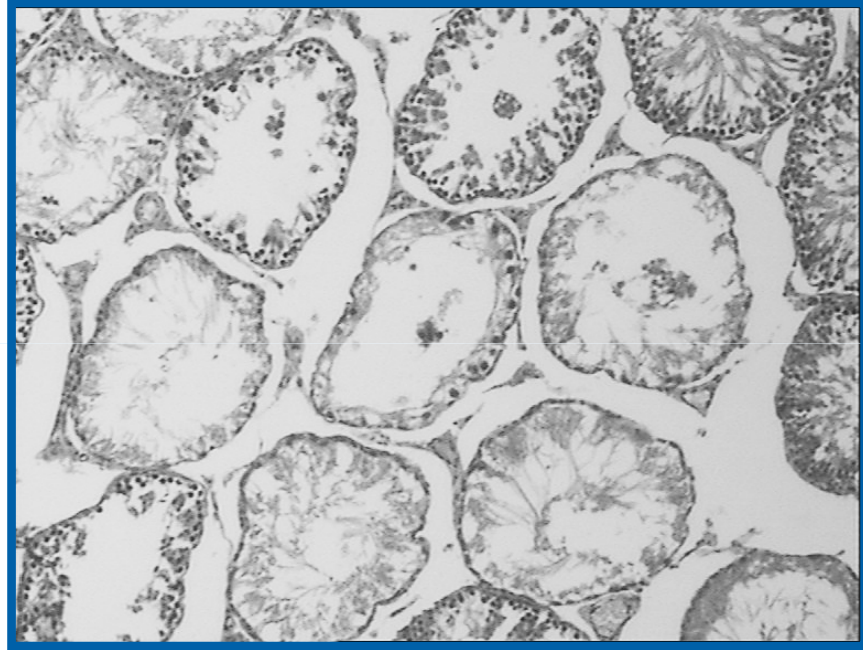
**Toxic effect of drugs on embryonic mortality is decreased in the following order:**



# Morphological status of the testes of rats at 3 months after administration of Paclitaxel and Epirubicin

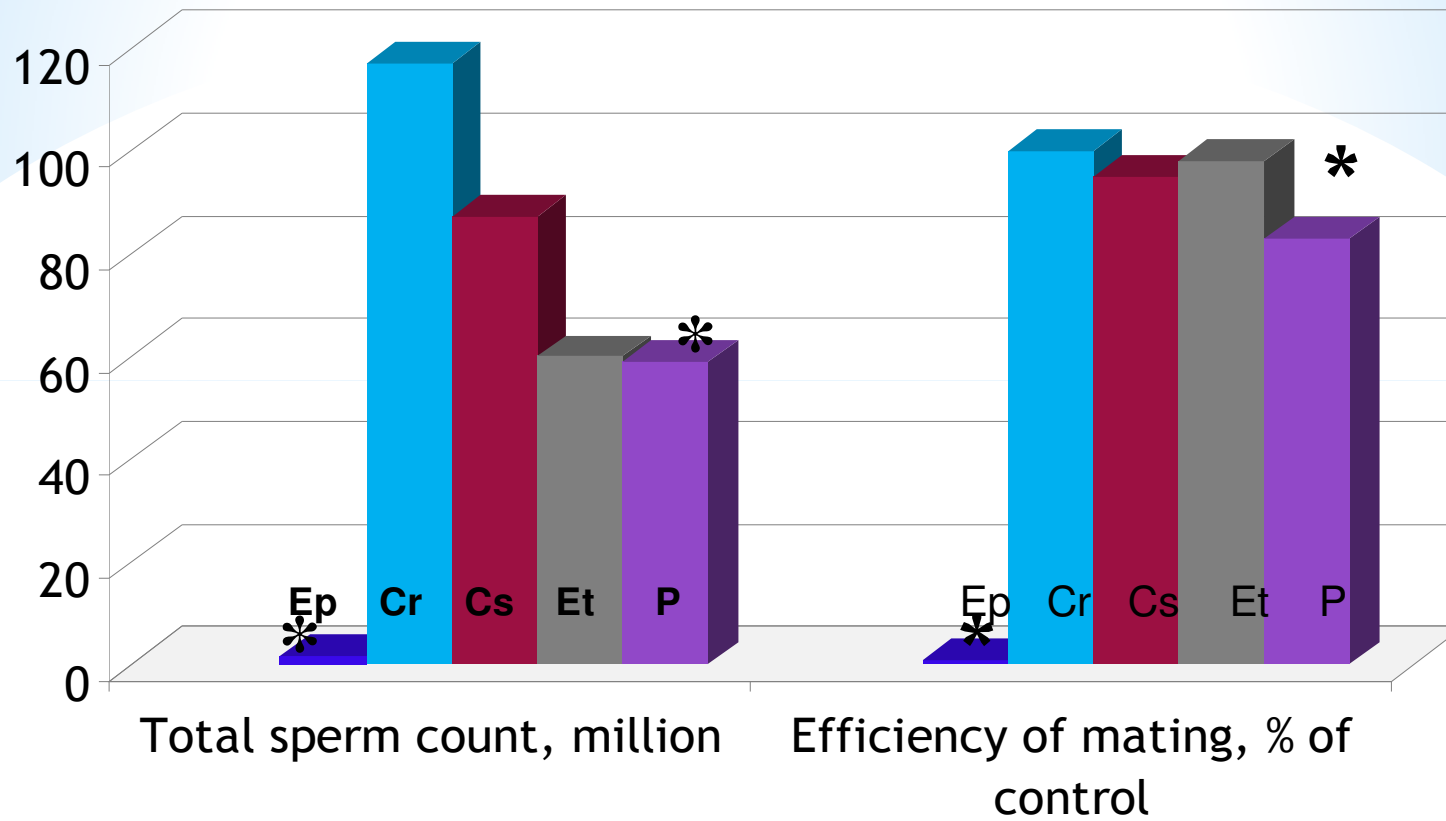


Intact rat testis, age 5.5 months, x160.  
Staining with hematoxylin and eosin.



Testis rats 3 months after administration of  
Paclitaxel and / or Epirubicin, x160.  
Thinning seminiferous epithelium. Staining  
with hematoxylin and eosin.

## Sperm count, and efficiency of mating male rats at 3 months after administration of cyto-static drugs of different groups



**Ep – Epirubicin; Cs – Cisplatin; Cr – Carboplatin; Et – Etoposide; P – Paclitaxel**

## *State of reproductive system of male rats long-term after administration of cyto-static drugs of different groups*

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Sexual instinct</b>	<b>Fertility</b>	<b>Level of (DLM) (characterizes the probability to save pregnancy)</b>
<b>Platidiam</b>	Not disturbed	Not disturbed	Not increased
<b>Carboplatin</b>	Not disturbed	Not disturbed	Not increased
<b>Pharmorubicin</b>	Not disturbed	<b>Infertility, 100 %</b>	Not increased
<b>Doxorubicin</b>	Not disturbed	Not disturbed	Not increased
<b>Etoposide</b>	Not disturbed	Not disturbed	<b>Increased</b>
<b>Paclitaxel</b>	Not disturbed	<b>Infertility, 100 %</b>	<b>Increased</b>

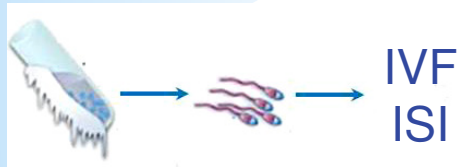
**Toxicity decreases in the following order:**



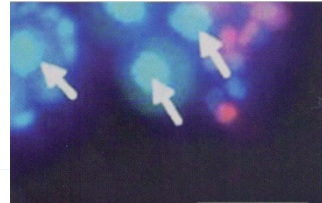
In platinum drugs toxicity was not found

# Possible ways to reduce the long-term consequences of the effect of cyto-static drugs on reproductive system by assisting reproductive technologies

## ❖ Cryopreservation of sperm



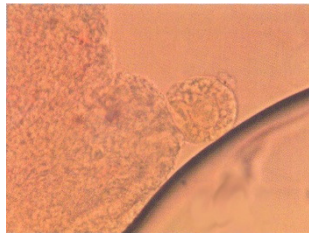
## ❖ Cryopreservation of oocytes



## ❖ Testis tissue biopsy

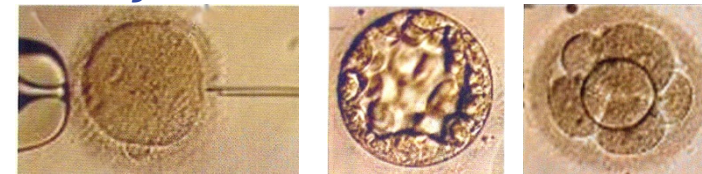


## ❖ Cryopreservation of ovarian tissue



## ❖ Differentiation of bone marrow stem cells into male germ cells

## ❖ Cryopreservation of embryos



### Negative aspects of assisted reproductive technologies:

1. High cost
2. Inability to perform due to the need to start chemotherapy
3. high sensitivity of oocytes to freezing

### Comments:

IVF - in vitro fertilization  
ISI - Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection  
чССК - human spermatogonial stem cell



# The effectiveness of drug therapy as the way to reduce the effects of cyto-static gonadotoxicity

## ❖ Gonadal-hormone products

❖ Stimulator of spermatogenesis (testosterone)

Эффективность низкая  
[Delis J. et al., 1987]

Widely used in clinic, highly effective

Negative aspects:

1. High cost
2. Inability to perform due to the need to start chemotherapy

❖ Hypothalamic regulators of pituitary function

[Bocker L. et al., 1990;  
Borovskaya T.G. et al., 2007]

Low efficiency

## ❖ Immunomodulators

[Carmely A., 2009]

Drugs limiting apoptosis in oocytes (sfignozin monophosphate)

[Tilly J.L. et al., 2004]

## ❖ Means of regenerative medicine

[Borovskaya T.G., Dygai A.M., Zhdanov V.V., 2008]

## ❖ Antioxidants

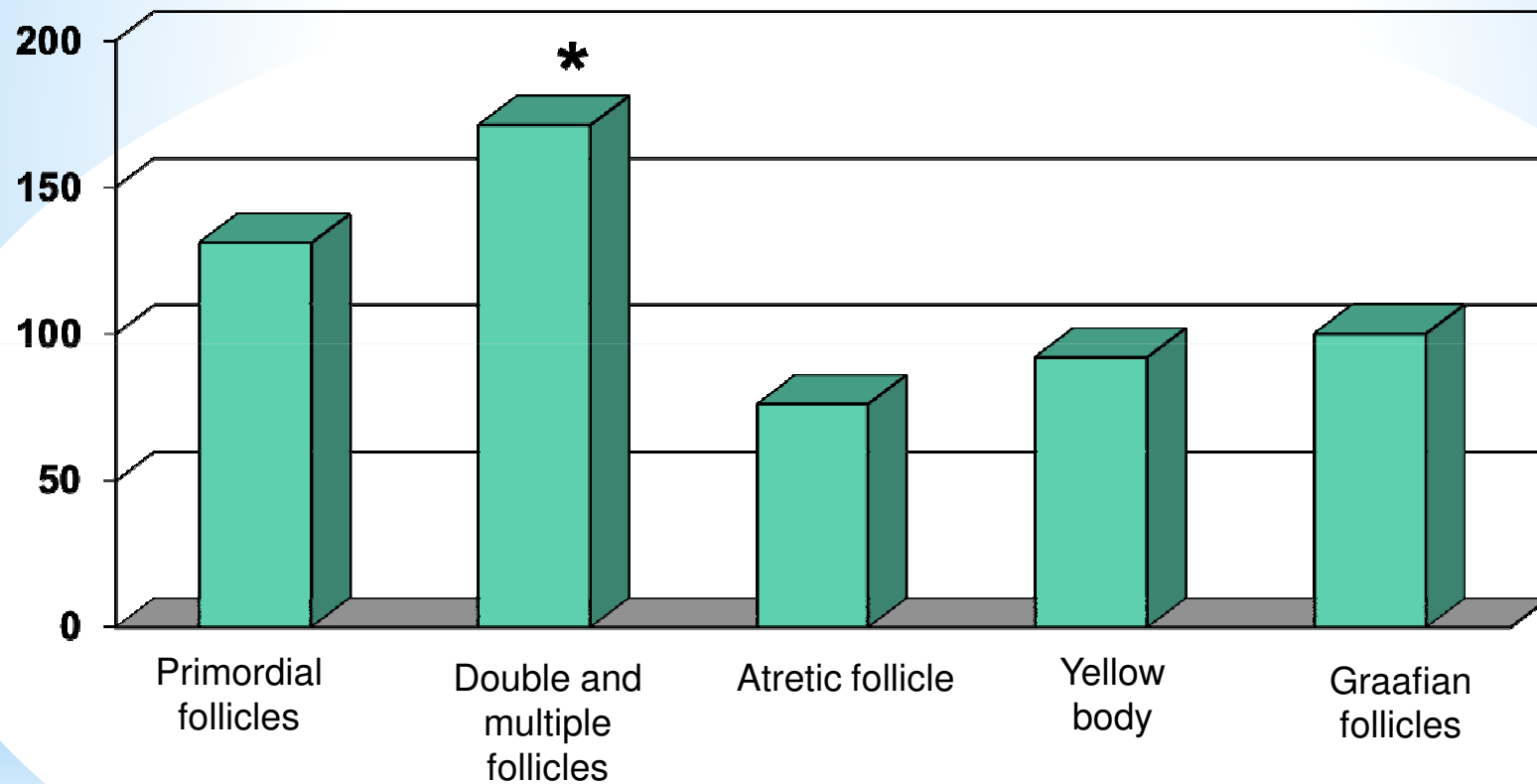
[Kolomietz O.L. et al., 2001;  
Borovskaya T.G. et al., 2003]



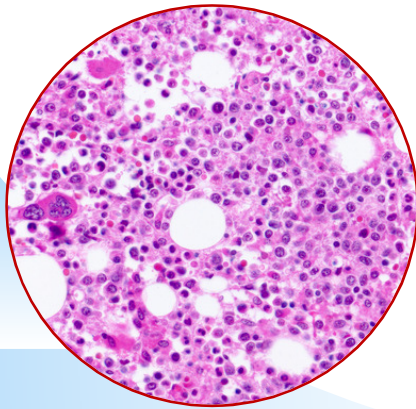


***Number of structural and functional elements of rats ovaries,  
6 months after combined administration  
of Etoposide and Buserelin***

% of control (etoposide)

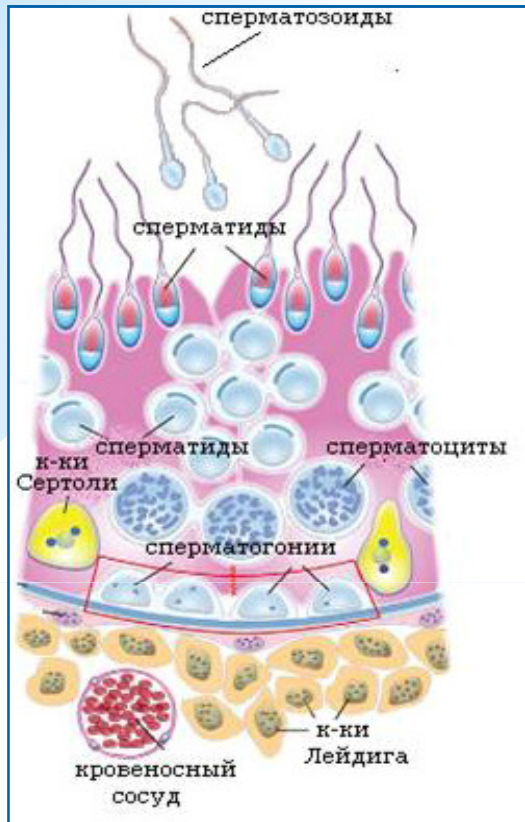


Recent years, the new information about the properties of pluripotent progenitor cells of the body was obtained. The possibility of mobilizing the internal mechanisms of "deep reserve" – bone marrow stem cells and their following homing into the damaged tissue and activation of regional stem cells by various cytokines is shown.

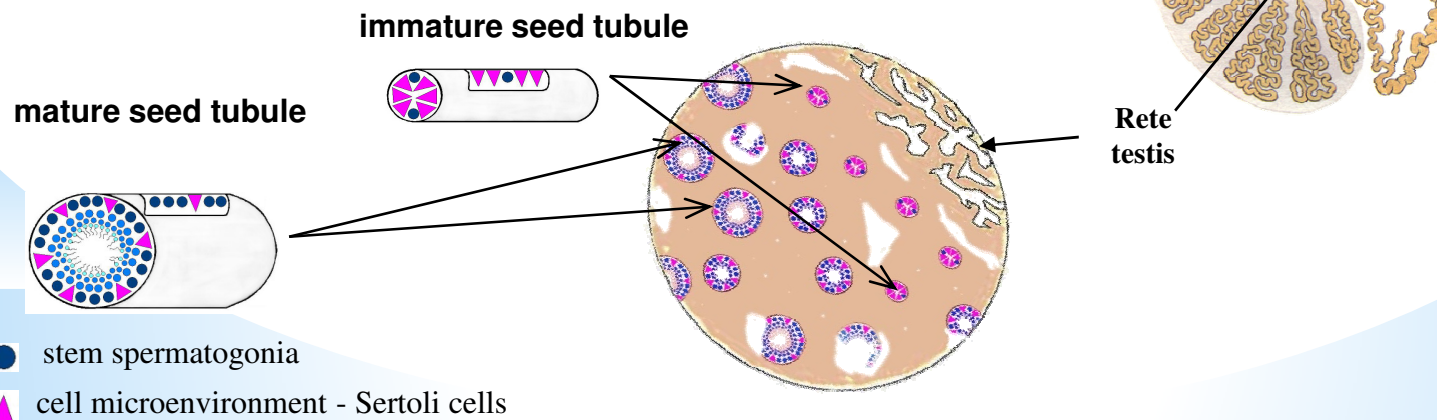


A.M. Dygai, V.V. Zhdanov et al.  
2006, 2010, 2011

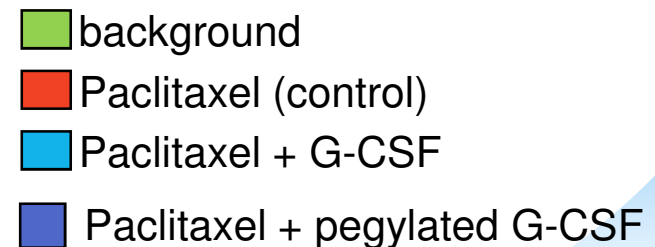
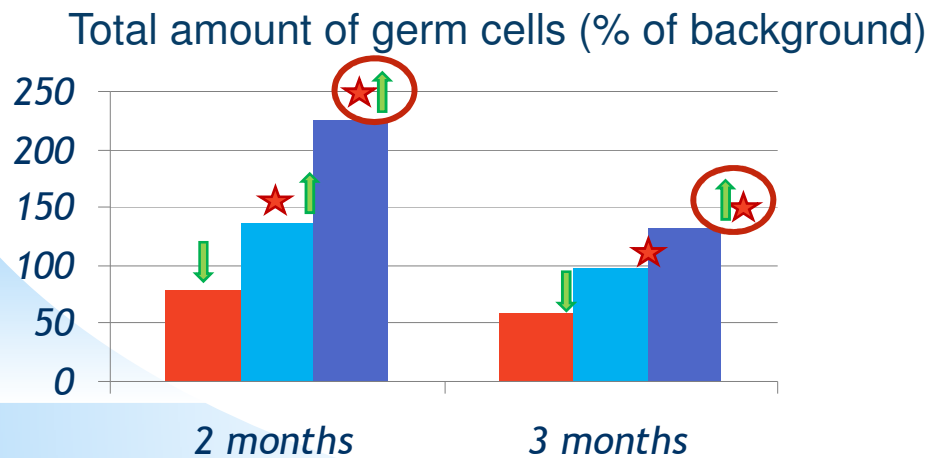
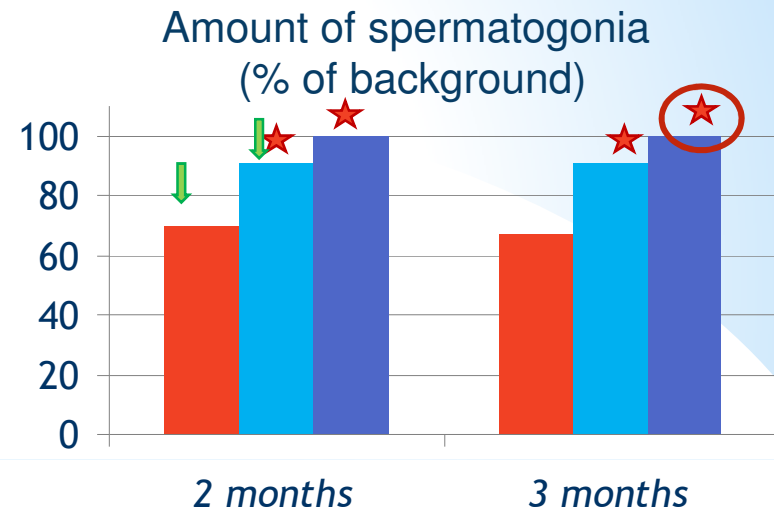
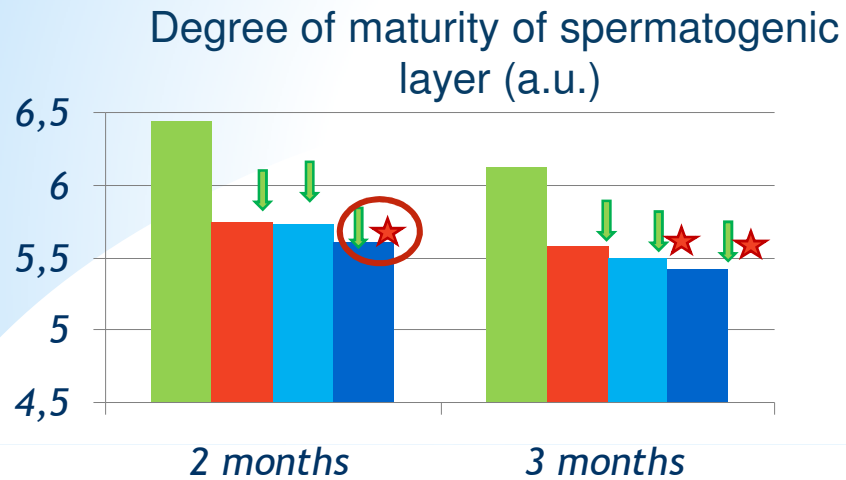
# Reparative regeneration of testicular tissue after administration of Paclitaxel



Restoring of spermatogonia goes under upgrading of spermatogenic layer

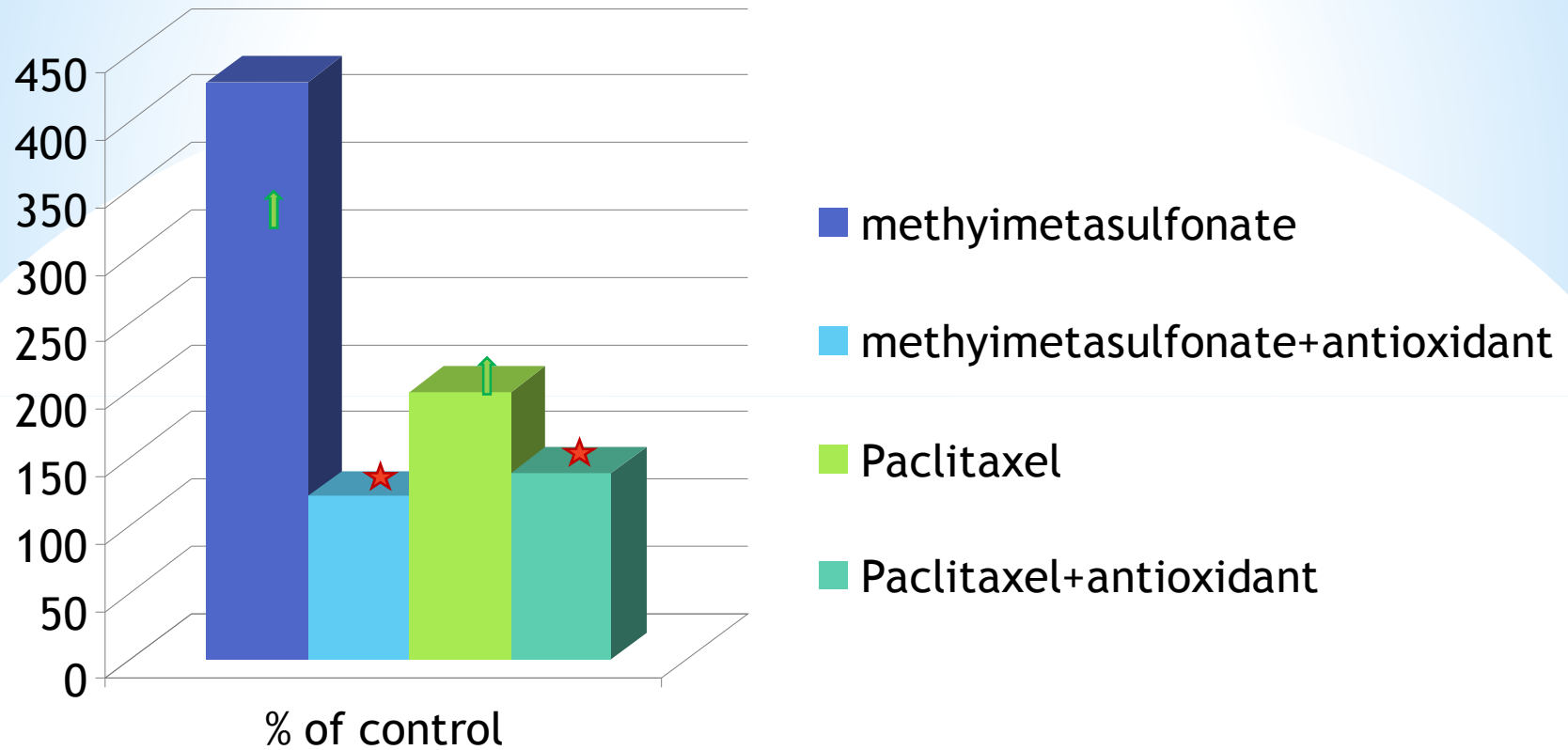


## Status of spermatogenesis in rats late after combined administration of paclitaxel with G-CSF and pegylated G-CSF



↓ – differences are significant compared to the background    ★ – differences are significant compared to the control

***Effect of antioxidant from the group of sterically hindered phenols to the level of DNA comets in the testes of mice treated with methyl-meta-sulphonate or paclitaxel***



↑ – differences are significant compared to the background

★ – differences are significant compared to corresponding control

*Thank you for  
attention!*

