Abstract:
Epilepsy is one of the most widespread pathologies of human brain, affecting approximately 1% of world population. Despite the development of new methods of seizure control, chronic administration of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) remains the treatment of choice. Nevertheless, pharmacotherapy is not always effective. In the case of single drug treatment, the number of non-responding patients is as high as 30%. Moreover, chronic medication with currently available AEDs may result in severe side-effects and undesired drug interactions. That is why in recent years intensive research has been carried out aiming at the development of new therapeutic strategies in epilepsy. The goal of this review is to assemble current literature data on stiripentol (STP), a novel anticonvulsant unrelated to any other AEDs. STP potentiates central \(\gamma\)-aminobutyric acid (GABA) transmission and is characterized by nonlinear pharmacokinetics and inhibition of liver microsomal enzymes. STP has proved its anticonvulsant potency in different types of animal seizures, as well as in clinical trials. The drug seems a good candidate for adjunctive therapy in intractable epilepsy.

Key words:
stiripentol, antiepileptic drugs, seizures, refractory epilepsy