

STANDPOINT

By Prof. Dr. Eugene Hristakieva Hristakieva, MD

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Under the procedure до dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree 'DOCTOR' in Dermatovenereology at the Medical University Varna, in the specialty Dermatology and Venereology / code 03.01.21 / professional direction 7.1 Medicine, higher education field 7. Health and sports .

Author: Dr. Kristina Vasileva Semkova

Form of PhG : doctoral student in an independent form of education

Department: Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology MU - Varna

Topic: "HEMANGIOMAS IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN - EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIOR"

Scientific adviser: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhana Stoyanova Kazandjieva, MD

Prof. Dr. Sonya Stoyanova Marina, MD

By decision of the Academic Council of MU-Varna, order of the Rector № P-109-224 / 19.05.2021 and protocol № 1 / 26.05.2021 I was appointed to prepare an opinion on the procedure for acquiring the educational and scientific degree 'DOCTOR' of the candidate Dr. Kristina Vasileva Semkova

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student:

The presented set of materials on paper / electronic media is in accordance with the Rules for development of MU-Varna and contains the required documents that prove the authenticity of the dissertation, scientific publications, participation in scientific forums and confirm the legality of the procedure.

Dr. Kristina Semkova has been a specialist in skin and venereal diseases since 2013. During the period of her training in dermatology and until now, she works actively in the field of vascular malformations and tumors in infancy and childhood and has extensive experience in specific clinical parameters, assessment and treatment of children with hemangiomas. Dr. Semkova has actively participated in the development of the National Consensus on Behavior in Pediatric Hemangiomas of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society as one of its authors.

The scientific interests of Dr. Kristina Semkova are related to pediatric dermatology and in particular to hemangiomas and the introduction of an innovative method for their treatment in the early development phase.

The doctoral student has presented 4 scientific publications related to the dissertation topic. 3 of them are abroad, with an impact factor. It has a total of 8 international posters and oral presentations and 2 national presentations on the topic of the dissertation, presented at prestigious congresses and symposia. In 2018 she was invited to give a lecture at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology on the topic.

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation is relevant and of practical importance. It is of exceptional value due to its interdisciplinary nature, including the specialties of neonatology and pediatrics. In her dissertation, Dr. Semkova aims to establish the role of peri- and prenatal factors for the occurrence and development of hemangiomas in infancy and childhood, to develop a working algorithm for diagnostic and therapeutic behavior in this pathology. Studies on the application of new local forms for the treatment of hemangiomas in infancy and childhood are presented. The quality of life in the families of children with hemangiomas in the Bulgarian population.

It will contribute to clarifying at the national level the predisposing factors, the effectiveness of treatment and the quality of life in the families of children with hemangiomas in the Bulgarian population.

The goal is well formulated, for the implementation of which there are 11 tasks, presented in detail, and they can lead to its implementation in research.

I believe that problems 6,7,8,9 and 10 can be combined into two problems.

3. Knowledge of the problem

From the literature review on 168 sources, only in English, it is evident that the doctoral student knows the problem and creatively evaluates the literary material. One of the 156 literature sources is an auto-citation and could be cited as a doctoral student's publication in international scientific journals. The literary review is written in a high scientific style and shows in-depth knowledge of Dr. Semkova on the problem. It summarizes and analyzes scientific information, giving grounds to conclude that pediatric hemangiomas are common and may be associated with life-threatening problems. Their treatment is still the subject of serious research, especially with regard to the use of beta-blockers. Based on the literature review, the purpose of the research and the tasks are logically formulated.

4. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The dissertation is structured in 4 parts: Literary review, Materials and methods, Results from own research, Discussion.

It is presented on 131 pages, illustrated with 27 figures, 9 tables and 3 appendices. The color photographs are of very high quality and visualize the clinical characteristics of the studied groups.

"Materials and methods" are written in detail with a detailed description of the methods used. The description of the groups of studied patients is comprehensively presented in the results, as various research approaches are skillfully applied. The statistical methods used are modern and allow for the

reliability of the results of the dissertation. The results are presented in detail and in detail, arranged according to the formulated tasks and included methods.

I consider that the repetition of the tasks in Chapter IV "Results of own research" is unnecessary.

The conclusions are 7 and are derived from the results.

Interesting are the results of the epidemiological study on the frequency of provoking etiological factors for the development of hemangiomas in infancy and childhood, which differ from the data from the world literature, such as the lack of association of hemangiomas and the use of assisted reproduction methods, diagnostic procedures. pregnancy (amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling), tocolytic use, maternal disease, smoking, multiple pregnancy and degeneration method.

The results regarding the effect on the psycho-social functions of everyday life of patients and their parents are also important. I also consider significant the result of my own research on the effectiveness and safety of treatment with local beta-blockers, on the basis of which treatment algorithms can be improved. The contributions of the dissertation are presented as original, scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical and confirmatory.

I believe that conclusion 2.2 has a place in scientific and practical conclusions.

Conclusion

Regardless of the critical remarks and recommendations made by me, the dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements (s) of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The Regulations for application of ZRASRB and the Regulations for development of the academic staff in MU-Varna.

I positively evaluate the presented dissertation. The reason for this is the topicality of the issues, the importance of the set goal and tasks, the used modern methodological approach, the large volume of precisely performed and interpreted research work. The dissertation of Dr. Kristina Semkova as the first for Bulgaria on the topic "Pediatric hemangiomas", which makes his original contributions of exceptional scientific and practical value. Dr. Kristina Vasileva Semkova has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of Dermatology and Venereology, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

I convinced give my positive assessment of the research, presented by dissertation, abstract, results and contributions and I offer the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Dr. Kristina Semkova in a doctoral program in Dermatology and Venereology.

Date: 07.07.2021

Prof. Dr. Evgeniya Hristakieva

