

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY  
DETERMINED BY ORDER № P-109-157 of 07.05.2024  
OF THE RECTOR OF M U - VARNA**

**STATEMENT**

By Prof. Dr. Rossen Evgeniev Madjov, MD, PhD, DSc

**Subject:** Scientific protection of a dissertation by Assoc. prof. Veselin Marinov, MD, PhD  
*"Effectiveness and safety of laparoscopic colorectal resections. Comparative analysis with open surgery. Risk assessment and methods to reduce perioperative responses"*  
for acquiring the scientific degree "DOCTOR OF SCIENCE"

**1. Biographical data of the applicant**

Dr. Veselin Marinov was born in Sofia in 1973.

1997 – graduated from the Medical University – Sofia with excellent grades.

2003 – specialty in general surgery.

Since 2006 he has been working at the Clinic of Hepatic-Biliary, Pancreatic and General Surgery of ASA University Hospital "Tokuda" EAD

2012 – defended his dissertation on *"Study on the surgical treatment of chronic pancreatitis and its complications"* and was awarded the **PhD**

2018 – elected and occupied JSC **"Associate Professor"** at the Department of General and Operative Surgery, MU-Varna.

**2. Assessment of the topicality of the theme**

Despite the high modern level of development of medical science and practice, oncology, surgical interventions, diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, there are still a number of problems in the complex treatment of CRC – 30% of patients in stage I and II have a tendency to progression with distant metastases, high relapse rate, lack of clear prognostic criteria determining the overall strategy.

The success of CRC treatment is greatest in the early stages, before metastasis. In the diagnostic and treatment process and adequate staging of patients with CRC should participate specialists from different fields – gastroenterologists, surgeons, oncologists, imaging specialists, pathoanatomists, geneticists.

Adequate and timely surgical treatment is the basis of a complex therapeutic approach aimed at optimal results. Surgeons working in multidisciplinary teams and applying multimodal diagnostic and treatment approaches to patients with CRC are those who apply modern clinical standards in the treatment of patients with CRC.

Minimally invasive colorectal surgery is perhaps the fastest growing in the field of visceral surgery. Today in many surgical centers is the **"gold standard"** and method of first choice. However, there are also a number of controversial points regarding indications. It is

extremely important to evaluate the benefits but also the risk factors for the occurrence of intra- and postoperative complications and the possible need for conversion in the course of complex minimally invasive surgery.

### **3. Evaluation of the results**

The presented dissertation of Assoc. prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov Marinov, MD, PhD is in form and volume meeting the requirements of the ZRASRB, the Rules for its application and the rules of the Medical University – Varna. Printed on **205** pages, structured stylistically correctly and in good language. Illustrated with **77** figures and **34** tables.

The bibliography covers **280** authors, of which **30** in Cyrillic and **477** in Latin.

As a main goal the dissertant has set himself – *"To conduct a comparative analysis of perioperative indicators between groups of patients with planned laparoscopic colorectal resections, open colorectal resections, converted patients, assessing the effectiveness and safety of the laparoscopic approach, defining personal criteria for the surgical approach, creating a model for prognosis of the risk of complications and conversion, and defining methods for reduction of perioperative complications."*

For the optimal solution of the main goal has defined **6** tasks.

The dissertation paper is based on a retrospective study for a period of 12 years /2010-2021/. It described, operated, analyzed and tracked **285** patients with colorectal cancer operated for the period personally by the author at the Clinic of Liver-Biliary, Pancreatic and General Surgery of ASA University Hospital "Tokuda".

In the section Material and methods are discussed all modern diagnostic methods in CRC – conventional and virtual colonoscopy, MRI, 2-D and 3-D endorectal tomography, PET-CT, intraoperative ultrasonography, intraoperative pulse-oximetry, intraoperative sentinel marking.

The patients were divided into three groups – laparoscopic resections /**152** p./, open interventions /**102** p./ and group of conversions /**31** p./. An analysis was carried out on **24** indicators.

A step-by-step surgical approach in performing colo-rectal resections at different localizations of the pathological process is defined and argued.

Methods for accelerated recovery of patients were applied. Protocols for pre-, intra- and postoperative management of patients with minimally invasive colorectal surgery are presented. Significantly better results were reported in minimally invasive interventions in terms of duration, recovery, blood loss, complications, hospital stay.

Preoperative criteria for the risk of complications and/or conversion in the course of a laparoscopic colorectal intervention are formulated - there is a significantly higher risk in the presence of stage T4b and severe concomitant diseases.

Methods for reducing peri-operative complications and in particular anastomotic insufficiency after left-sided resections are defined and applied in clinical practice. The author's results are comparable to some of the best published in the literature.

10 conclusions have been defined that correspond to the overall presentation of the dissertation – Laparoscopic surgery is applicable and effective as a standard approach, associated with fewer complications and faster recovery.

#### **4. Evaluation of contributions**

The contributions from the dissertation, derived from Assoc. prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov are a total of 11, of which 4 are of original nature, the rest are scientifically applied and confirmatory.

#### **5. Publications in connection with the topic of the dissertation**

Assoc. prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov has presented a list of 10 publications related to the topic of the dissertation.

#### **6. Conclusion**

In my opinion, this is a fully completed and very well structured dissertation, in a form and volume that fully meets the requirements of the Law (ZRASRB), the Rules for its Application and the Rules of Medical University – Varna.

The subject is topical and of clinical importance in modern colorectal surgery. It reflects the results of the clinic and his personal research, surgical interventions and analyzes, containing scientific and scientific-practical results, which are contributions of a scientifically applied nature of the author.

Taking into account the professional development, the publication activity, the scientific appearances in the national and international forums of surgeons, the won authority, as well as my overall assessment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov Marinov, as a built-up, well known and experienced surgeon, I strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov, MD, PhD the scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**" in professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "**Surgery**".

20.05.2024

Sincerely:

Prof. Dr. Rossen Madjoy, MD, PhD, DSc

Заличено на основание чл. 5,  
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)  
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