

OPINION
by Prof. Dr. Toma Pojarliev DSc
about a dissertation on a topic
"Efficacy and safety of laparoscopic colorectal resections." Comparative analysis of
results with open surgery. Risk assessment and methods to reduce perioperative
complications'

Author Ass. Prof. Veselin Marinov, Ph.D.

The dissertation is based on an extremely important topic in the field of abdominal surgery. In the last three decades, minimally invasive surgical methods for operations in the abdominal cavity have rapidly increased. There were conflicting opinions regarding the use of this methodology. At the beginning, even with cholecystectomies, there were more contraindications than indications. Considerable experience has been accumulated in this technique, and now there is no organ in the abdominal cavity that cannot be operated with a minimally invasive technique. In our country, minimally invasive surgery did not lag behind, despite the stagnation at that time. We even performed the first laparoscopic colorectal resections back in 1994. Very young colleagues at that time felt the success of this methodology and achieved impressive results, which makes me especially happy.

One of them is Associate Professor Veselin Marinov, who presented a wonderful work with an analysis of 285 personally performed colorectal surgical interventions, 152 of which were laparoscopic and 102 conventional. 31 conversions were also made. The goal is clear from the title of the topic. For its implementation, Associate Professor Marinov set himself 6 tasks, which he fulfilled.

The dissertation is wonderfully structured. It is written on 200 standard typewritten pages. He used 200 literary sources, of which only 30 are in Bulgarian, here I think there may be many more. The literature review shows mastery of the material.

All necessary diagnostic methods were used, both for the pathological process and accompanying diseases. Based on experience, the indications for a laparoscopic or conventional approach are determined. Conversions are also presented.

Prof. Marinov presents the operative approach during laparoscopic intervention - location of camera, choice of location for the working ports depending on the localization of the process - right localization, localization of colon transversum, sigmoid and rectum. It is also a type of manual for young surgeons.

The options for extracorporeal or intracorporeal anastomosis are presented. Complications, mortality, indications for conversions or relaparatomies are reported. All these data were processed with the methods of modern statistics.

The data obtained gave grounds for making the presented 12 conclusions, with which I fully agree. 10 contributions from the author of the paper are also presented.

Assoc. Ph.D. Veselin Marinov was born in 1973. He works as a surgeon in Pirogov, at the "Lzenets" hospital, now at the "Tokuda" hospital. He specialized for one year in Essen, Germany. Since 2003, he acquired a specialty in surgery, defended his dissertation in 2012. Since 2018, he has been elected as an associate professor of surgery at the Department of General and Operative Surgery of Varna Medical University.

I have known Associate Professor Marinov for many years. I've been a reviewer for it before. He is an accomplished abdominal surgeon with extensive experience in emergency and elective surgery. He has mastered both conventional and laparoscopic surgery. Now he is also gaining experience in robotic surgery.

CONCLUSION

Associate Dr. Veselin Marinov is 51 years old with over 24 years of surgical experience. There is a dissertation work for the acquisition of a scientific and educational degree "Doctor of Medicine". He was elected as an Associate Professor. He is the author of 38 scientific publications in periodicals. A monograph on the difficult topic "Chronic Pancreatitis" has been published. Presented 82 presentations at scientific surgical forums.

The present dissertation is on a current topic. 285 operated patients with colon and rectal resections, mostly with a diagnosis of colorectal cancer with good results, are presented. A comparative analysis between conventionally and laparoscopically operated patients was successfully performed. Good statistical analysis supports the presented 12 conclusions with which I agree. I accept the value for the contributions presented.

The successful introduction of minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery for years now is a great example and contribution in Bulgarian abdominal surgery.

All this gives me reason to support Veselin Marinov, Ph.D. for his award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

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/ Member of the scientific jury /