

STATEMENT

of

Prof. Tihomir Dobrinov Georgiev, DMD, PhD, DSc

Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, Bulgaria

Regarding: defense of a dissertation by Assoc. Prof. Yanko Georgiev Yankov, MD, PhD on the topic "Lymph nodes in maxillofacial surgery - normal and most common diseases" for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the field of higher education "Healthcare and Sports", professional field "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Surgery".

Candidate data:

Assoc. Prof. Yanko Georgiev Yankov, MD, PhD was born on 17.04.1989 in the city of Shumen, Bulgaria. He graduated as a Master of Medicine in 2014 with full honors 6.00. Since 2015, he has been a physician at the Clinic of Maxillofacial Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna, Bulgaria. In 2016, he received a master's degree in Health management. From February to October 2019, he was a part-time assistant, specialty of Oral and maxillofacial surgery. From October 2019 to July 2023, he was a full-time assistant, specialty of Maxillofacial Surgery, Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, Bulgaria. Since July 2023, he has held the academic position of chief assistant, specialty of Maxillofacial surgery, Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, Bulgaria. In 2021, he was enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of study with the title of the dissertation "Procalcitonin and delta neutrophil index levels in the surgery of head and neck inflammatory diseases". He successfully obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Philosophy" (PhD) in 2022. In 2024, he held the position of associate professor at the same department. He speaks fluent Bulgarian and English.

Relevance and structure of the dissertation:

The dissertation submitted to me for opinion is the result of the long-term work of Assoc. Prof. Yankov in the field of maxillofacial surgery. Some of the questions raised by the dissertation candidate have been examined in modern literature, but nowhere is such a

comprehensive work found that would bring together all the necessary studies that the surgeon needs in order to be able to perform surgical interventions involving the lymphatic system in the maxillofacial region. The success of any operation directly depends on good preliminary diagnosis, prediction of possible complications and the algorithm for dealing with them. This dissertation is invaluable precisely for this, it gives us the necessary "weapons" to diagnose the pathology and predict possible complications during surgery concerning the lymphatic basin in the maxillofacial region.

The dissertation contains a total of 222 pages and is illustrated with 93 tables, 41 figures and 9 images. The bibliography includes 428 literary sources in English.

The dissertation is well structured and arranged. The scientific goal is to improve perioperative diagnostics during surgery on the lymph nodes of the head and neck. The goal is clearly and precisely formulated and corresponds to the topic of the dissertation. The tasks set fully correspond to the topic and are sufficient to achieve the scientific goal of the study.

The analysis of the literature review in the dissertation presented to me is up-to-date and a sufficient number of contemporary authors treating the problems related to the tasks of the dissertation are included. One of the advantages of this work is the attention paid to the anatomy of the relevant area on which the surgeon will work. My conclusion is that the author is well acquainted with the issues related to the dissertation.

The dissertation covers all perioperative examinations necessary for the maxillofacial surgeon before proceeding with surgical interventions involving the lymphatic basin in the maxillofacial region.

The author's studies illustrate the methods for examining patients. The results correspond exactly to the tasks set by applying the necessary research methods. The analysis of the results is accurate and critical. The publications on the topic are sufficient in number and well represent the author's experience.

Achievements:

1. a complete cytological, histological and anatomical-topographic analysis of the regional lymph nodes in the head and neck region was performed, with an emphasis on their importance in maxillofacial surgery;

2. a detailed analysis of the age and gender demographic distribution of patients with lymph node diseases in the maxillofacial region was performed;

3. for the first time in Bulgaria, a large and detailed comparison was made between surgical and conservative treatment in patients with lymphadenopathy in the maxillofacial region, which reflects the significant predominance of surgical interventions;

4. the etiological bacterial spectrum of acute purulent lymphadenitis of the head and neck and the abscesses and phlegmons arising from them was described;

5. an assessment of the antibiotic resistance of the isolated strains in purulent lymphadenitis of the head and neck was made, which allows for a more precise choice of antibiotic treatment;

6. recommendations have been prepared for clinical practice in the treatment of patients with metastatic involvement of the lymph nodes in the neck;

7. high antibiotic sensitivity of intestinal bacteria and contrasting partial to high resistance of staphylococci to a number of antibacterial agents in purulent infections of the lymph nodes in the maxillofacial region have been proven, which may assist in the selection of their empirical antibacterial treatment;

8. gender-specific antibiotic sensitivity has been proven in acute purulent lymphadenitis of the head and neck, against which the antibiotic piperacillin is three times more effective in men than in women;

9. recommendations have been formed for optimizing antibiotic therapy in acute purulent lymphadenitis in the maxillofacial region, based on established patterns in sex-specific resistance - men have higher sensitivity to most antibiotics, while women require more precise selection.

Conclusion:

The author's ten-year experience in the field of maxillofacial surgery gives him the much-needed experience, clinical and theoretical, for the preparation of a dissertation that

meets the modern requirements of science. Therefore, I believe that the topic of the dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Yanko Georgiev Yankov, MD, PhD is of significant interest to medicine and especially to maxillofacial surgery and ENT. The dissertation "Lymph nodes in maxillofacial surgery - in the norm and the most common diseases" covers all the scientometric requirements of the The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, Bulgaria for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

The scientific work, personal qualities and professional experience of the dissertation give me reason to give a positive assessment to the Scientific jury for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Assoc. Prof. Yanko Georgiev Yankov, MD, PhD.

29.10.2025

Varna, Bulgaria

Signature:

Prof. Tihomir Dobrinov Georgiev, DMD, PhD, DSc

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