



## **Fund “Nauka” Project № 24031 Resume – Autumn Competition-based Session 2024:**

**“Evaluation of potential prognostic immunological markers for development of ischemic stroke”**

**Project leader:** Assoc. prof. doctor Mihael Emilov Tsalta-Mladenov, PhD

Strokes are a group of socially significant diseases, being the second most common cause of mortality and disability worldwide. As a result of modern specific methods for the treatment of ischemic stroke (ISIS) in the acute phase – intravenous thrombolysis and endovascular treatment, the number of survivors of the acute stage of stroke is increasing. The consequences for these patients vary widely in terms of their degree of disability, social and financial damage, which necessitates the study of various factors and markers for early assessment of the outcome of ISIS.

During the course of a stroke, numerous time-dependent changes are observed, with particular importance in recent years being given to the neuroinflammatory reaction. It is associated with the release of numerous cytokines such as interleukins, tumor necrosis factor, matrix metalloproteinases, and others, which influence the volume of the ischemic zone, the risk of hemorrhagic transformation, and the functional outcome of the stroke.

The aim of this project is to investigate classical and specific immunological markers associated with the neuroinflammatory response in acute ischemic brain stroke, and to assess their predictive value for the functional outcome of the disease up to the sixth month.

100 patients with acute ischemic brain stroke, hospitalized in the Second Clinic for Nervous Diseases of the University Hospital “Sveta Marina” – Varna are included, divided into two groups – functionally dependent and independent. Clinical, laboratory and imaging studies will be performed. Classical and specific biomarkers (IL-1-beta, IL-6, TNF-alpha, MMP-9) will be examined to assess the outcome of the stroke.

Изследователски задачи:

(1) Да се селектират пациенти с остър исхемичен мозъчен инсулт, които са подходящи за изследването;

- (2) Да се проведат задълбочени клинични, лабораторни, изобразяващи изследвания за оценка на изследваната популация по отношение на характеристиките на инсулта.
- (3) Да се извърши имунологичен анализ за оценка на невроинфламаторния отговор при пациентите с остър исхемичен мозъчен инсулт;
- (4) Да се проследят селектираните пациенти до шестия месец след острия исхемичен мозъчен инсулт по отношение на функционалния изход от заболяването.
- (5) Да се потърси корелация между нивата на изследваните имунологични маркери в изследваната популация, като участниците се разделят в две групи – функционално независими пациенти и функционално зависими според модифицираната скала на Ранкин;
- (6) Да се разширят и разпространят чрез публикации и участия в научни форуми познанията в областта невровъзпалението при остър исхемичен мозъчен инсулт
- (7) Да се обобщят и анализират резултатите от проведеното изследване като част от дисертационния труд на д-р Нора Ивелинова Иванова.
- (8) Да се потърсят бъдещи насоки за научни изследвания в областта на невроимунологията.

Кратко описание на очакваните резултати от проекта:

- (1) Study of some specific immunological biomarkers related to neuroinflammation will be studied and their predictive value for the outcome of ischemic stroke will be assessed for the first time in Bulgaria;
- (2) Comparison between classical and specific immunological biomarkers to determine the markers with the highest sensitivity for the outcome of ischemic stroke;
- (3) Establishment of correlations between classical and specific immunological biomarkers for the outcome of ischemic stroke. This will allow the relevant biomarkers to be used with predictive value in patients with ischemic stroke;
- (4) The dissemination of the results to improve the visibility of the team and the basic organization among the scientific community in Bulgaria and abroad which will contribute to the multidisciplinary care of patients with ischemic stroke. The results of the project will be published in scientific journals, including those with an impact factor, which will enrich the existing data in this field and raise the authority of Medical University-Varna.
- (5) The project will support the defense of one doctoral dissertation, which will improve the provision of the scientific units.