

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury
according to Protocol No. 1/13.11.2023
and Order of the Rector No. R-109-453/06.11.2023
of the Medical University - Varna

STATEMENT

For a dissertation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science
in the scientific specialty "Surgery" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, PhD
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Faculty of Medicine,
Department of Surgical Diseases

On "Intra-abdominal abscesses"

By Prof. Dr. Krasimir Dimitrov Ivanov, DSc
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The submitted dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, PhD is in a form and volume complying with the requirements with the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations of MU – Varna. The dissertation was discussed, accepted and directed for defense by the Departmental Council of the Department of Surgical Diseases at MU - Varna.

Biographical data: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD was born in 1980. In 2005 he graduated from Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, specialty "Medicine". He obtained a specialty in Surgery in 2011. 2015 - PhD, and since 2016 holds the position of Associate Professor. Held numerous specializations in Bulgaria and abroad.

The dissertation topic is contemporary and addresses a problem that continues to challenge surgical practice in terms of the diagnostic and therapeutic management algorithm. Over the past century, and especially in recent years, intra-abdominal abscesses have evolved from a disease with a high mortality to a disease state with a sometimes concealed course due to the occasional overuse of antibiotic agents.

The dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD contains 372 standard pages, of which 42 pages present the literature sources used. The bibliographic reference includes 362 titles, of which 18 in Cyrillic and 344 in Latin. The material is illustrated with 113 tables and 77 figures.

The dissertation has a clearly formulated aim: To study, analyze and standardize the diagnosis, preoperative approach and treatment of patients with intra-abdominal abscesses in order to optimize treatment outcome, reduce complications and achieve a better quality of life. In order to achieve the set goal, 5 objectives were identified and clearly defined.

As the subject of the dissertation, the dissertant has performed a retrospective analysis of a total of 555 patients with intra-abdominal abscesses who were hospitalized and treated at the Second Department of Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna for a period of 10 years - 2011 to 2020. Intra-abdominal abscesses are considered according to their anatomical localization - the frequency of the source cause of the abscess is presented: 207 patients with liver abscess and perivesical abscess; 142 patients with periappendicular abscess; 65 patients with pancreatic abscess; 21 patients with abscess due to colonic diverticulitis; 51 patients with abscess due to perforation of small or large bowel, without diverticulitis; 41 patients with postoperative abscess; 13 patients with abscess of gynaecological origin; 7 patients with splenic abscess; 8 patients with abscess due to ulcer perforation.

The causes of abscesses, the main clinical symptoms, a comparison between the most commonly used imaging methods and the advantages and disadvantages of each of them are studied in detail. The most frequently isolated microbiological agents are presented and an analysis of the relationship between causative agent and anatomical localization is performed, identifying the main factors favoring the spread of infection. A comparison between different therapeutic treatments in terms of outcomes, benefits and effect is also performed. Principles of antibiotic treatment are formulated, and the growing problem of antibiotic resistance is addressed. The problem of source control and methods of eradication are discussed in detail.

For the interpretation of the obtained data, the dissertant has used statistical analysis further giving weight to the obtained results - descriptive methods, correlation analysis and hypothesis testing.

The conclusions are 8 in number and represent a rigorously differentiated synthesis of the overall study and meet the stated aims and objectives.

Contributions of the dissertation work brought out by Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD are 5 in total. They are of scientific, applied and confirmatory value and are the result of the activities of both the dissertant personally and the team of the Clinic of Surgery.

CONCLUSION:

The dissertation work of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD is of high scientific and practical value, meets all scientific criteria, which gives me grounds to confidently recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Council to vote positively and to award to Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD the degree of Doctor of Science in the scientific specialty of Surgery.

07.12.2023 г.

Varna

Sincerely:

Prof. Dr. Krasimir Ivanov, DSc

