

To: The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Medical University Varna

STATEMENT

from Assoc. Prof. Dr Vasil Markov Bozhkov, PhD.

Head of the Scholar Sector Abdominal Surgery Department of Surgical Diseases MU Varna
Second Department of Surgery - University Hospital "St. Marina"

Subject:

MALIGNANT AND INTESTINAL ABSCESSSES

For obtaining the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR"

I have been elected as a member of the scientific jury on the basis of the order of the Rector of
MU-Varna

№ P-100-60/ 06.02.2023.

The dissertation submitted to me by Dr. Hristo Yuri Nikov is in a form and volume complying with the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Doctors, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations of MU-Varna. It is printed on 129 pages, is structured stylistically correct and in good language and is structured as follows.; Introduction- 2pp; Literature review- 37pp; Aim and objectives- 1pp; Material and methods- 6pp; Results- 37pp; Discussion- 21pp; Conclusion- 2pp; Diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm- 1pp; Conclusions- 2pp; Contributions- 1pp; Publications related to the thesis- 1pp; References- 8pp. It is illustrated with 18 figures and 40 tables. 143 authors are cited, 25 of them in Cyrillic and 118 in Latin.

The aim presented in the thesis is: to study, analyze, classify and standardize the diagnosis, preoperative approach and treatment of patients with small bowel and intestinal abscesses, in order to optimize the outcome of treatment, reduce complications, rehospitalizations and achieve a better quality of life.

To fulfill this goal, the dissertation sets 5 tasks, which are clearly formulated and the dissertation follows their implementation.

1. Relevance of the topic

Intra-abdominal abscesses have been known since ancient times. They have also been a major reason for surgical intervention. After the era of Renaissance, the rapid development of medicine began, which was followed by the development of surgery. Intra-abdominal abscesses, besides being a primary cause of surgery, are in some cases a consequence of surgical intervention. The introduction of aseptic and antiseptic agents and antibacterial preparations in the preoperative and especially in the postoperative period has led to a marked reduction in the incidence of intra-abdominal abscesses in surgical practice. The twenty-first century has seen extraordinary technical progress in the technological sphere, leading to the routine introduction of laparoscopic surgery into mass practice; developments in imaging methods have also allowed the application of minimally invasive procedures for the treatment of the most diverse pathology in the abdominal cavity. The approach to patients has been individualized, with a predominance of the most harmless procedures for the patients, which reflects on a significant reduction of morbidity.

Nowadays, the therapeutic process requires a multidisciplinary approach that involves specialists from different specialties - imaging specialists, gastroenterologists, surgeons, intensive care specialists, with the main goal - a successful outcome of the patient's disease.

2. Evaluation of results

In this dissertation 160 patients with intra-abdominal abscesses with malignant localization were described, analyzed and followed up for the period 2010 - 2020.

A retrospective analysis was performed including patient demographic characteristics, clinical symptoms, paraclinical findings, imaging studies, and therapeutic management.

The dissertator tracked the following indicators:

- ✓ Patient sociodemographics
- ✓ Length of hospital stay
- ✓ Diagnostic distribution of patients

- ✓ Clinical symptomatology
- ✓ Laboratory leukocyte values on admission and discharge
- ✓ Diagnostic imaging methods used
- ✓ Preoperative staging of patients according to ASA
- ✓ Therapeutic approach- source control and antimicrobial therapy
- ✓ Results of microbiological examination
- ✓ Comorbidities and past illnesses
- ✓ Need for intensive treatment
- ✓ Complications
- ✓ Lethality

In the Results chapter, Dr. Nikov ranks the patients with malignant abscesses by frequency:

Appendicitis - 58

Pelvic abscess - 32

Colon tumor - 17

Diverticulitis - 13

Postoperative small bowel abscess - 8

The results were statistically processed using the following methods; statistical grouping of data, descriptive, correlation analysis and statistical hypothesis testing.

Discussion

The dissertator analyzes the results obtained and presents two classifications for malignant and intestinal abscesses on the basis of the studied patients divided into diagnostic groups. It presents the role of clinical and laboratory, imaging and basic principles of infection source control and draws attention to the importance of timely and adequate therapeutic management of patients with malignant and intestinal abscesses.

The discussion logically concludes with Dr. Nikov's algorithm for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with malignant and intestinal abscesses.

Conclusions and contributions of the thesis

The dissertant states seven conclusions, which are the result of the analysis of the literature review, clinical material and own studies. They are well formulated, credible and logically derived. They have confirmatory and practical value.

The contributions of the thesis are five in number - three of which are confirmatory and two of which are applied.

3. Abstract

The abstract accurately and correctly reflects the main sections of the thesis.

4. Publications related to the topic

Dr. Hristo Nikov presented three publications in medical journals on the topic of the dissertation, one of which Dr. Nikov is the first author.

5. Conclusion

The dissertation is in a form and volume that meets the requirements of the Law on Disease Control and Prevention, its Regulations and the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna.

The topic of the dissertation is topical and of clinical importance for patients with malignant and intestinal abscesses.

The dissertation contains scientific-practical results and presents contributions of confirmatory and scientific-applied character of the author.

I recommend the Honorable Members of the Scientific Council to vote positively and to award to Dr. Hristo Yuri Nikov the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the scientific specialty of General Surgery.

04.05.2023r

Varna



Assoc. Prof. Dr Vasil Bozhkov, PhD