

Opinion

by Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Georgieva Uzunova, MD, PhD

Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, „Lozenetz“ Hospital,
for the dissertation and the abstract of Dr. Krassimira Ivanova Koleva, PhD student of
independent training at the Department of Pediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine at the
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov " - Varna

on the topic:

SOME MODERN DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS OF THE INFLAMMATORY INTESTINAL DISEASES IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

for awarding the educational-scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 7.
"Healthcare and sports", professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Pediatrics".

I am determined to present the current opinion on the basis of a decision of the Chairman of
the Scientific Jury and according to an Order of the Rector of MU-Varna № P-109-
105/17.03.2021.

This dissertation is written on 183 standard typewritten pages and is structured correctly. It
contains all the sections inherent in such work. A total of 99 tables and 12 figures are included.
The list of used literature contains 227 titles, of which 15 in Cyrillic and 212 in Latin. On the
topic of the dissertation in 2020 the doctoral student has published five articles in Bulgarian
journals.

The study of Dr. Krasimira Ivanova Koleva is dedicated to the modern early diagnosis of
inflammatory bowel diseases in children and adolescents. Traditional clinical, laboratory, and
imaging studies, combined with modern specific markers for the diagnosis and differential
diagnosis of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and nonspecific colitis in children and adults,
have been of growing interest to the global scientific community in recent years. In Bulgaria,
these studies in childhood and adolescence are still scarce.

The literature review is a systematic analysis of the available foreign literature on the problem
and is an appropriate basis for justifying the urgent need to conduct the present study.

This comprehensive review provides an appropriate basis for demonstrating the need for the
present study.

The purpose of the dissertation is clearly presented: "To analyze the individualized diagnostic
behavior in children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease with a view to its

improvement." To achieve it, the doctoral student has defined five main tasks. Of interest is the task of developing an algorithm for the diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease in children and adolescents. According to the working hypothesis of the dissertation, the developed original constellation of modern methods for diagnosis and differential diagnosis is sufficiently effective and applicable in children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease.

The dissertation is completely methodologically sound. The various clinical, laboratory and imaging studies of patients with the three diseases were performed correctly. The data are processed with appropriate modern statistical methods of analysis. The results are presented in a large number of tables and figures. Important and statistically significant correlations were found both between the individual studied indicators and between the diseases themselves. I would like to emphasize the original for our country studies of 11 microribonucleic acids in children and adolescents with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and a control group of healthy children.

The doctoral student's own results are summarized in the discussion and are compared with the data of other authors from abroad and our country on the relevant topic.

Based on this study, a total of seven specific and scientifically sound conclusions have been formulated. They correspond to the set tasks and reflect the essence of the achieved results.

Three contributions with original and four contributions with confirmatory character are presented. I accept that they are a personal work and merit of the doctoral student and can really contribute to the further development of research on the applicability of the constellation of modern methods for diagnosis and differential diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease.

The abstract is 36 pages long. The abstract is structured according to the requirements, and its content fully corresponds to the dissertation.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation of Dr. Krasimira Ivanova Koleva for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" submitted to me for an opinion fully meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. This is a topical, well-planned and realized scientific work.

Based on these findings, I give my positive assessment of the dissertation and propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics" to Dr. Krasimira Ivanova Koleva.

May 19, 2021

Signed:

Assoc.Prof. Yordanka Uzunova, MD, PhD

