

**TO PROF. DR ROSSEN MADJOV, DSc.
CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDER No P-109-453/06.11.2023
TO PROF. DR. SVETOSLAV GEORGIEV, PhD
RECTOR OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
"PROF. DR. PARASKEV STOYANOV" - VARNA**

STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Bulanov, PhD

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EAD

on dissertation on:

"INTRA-ABDOMINAL ABSCESES"

For the degree of Doctor of Sciences, in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty Surgery

Author of the thesis: Assoc. Prof. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, PhD - Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

I. General characteristics of the procedure and presentation of the candidate.

This opinion is based on the Order No. P-109-453/06.11.2023 of Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Georgiev, PhD, Rector of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, by which I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury and the Protocol No. 1/13.11.2023 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury.

The dissertation is written in 372 standard pages, of which 42 pages are bibliographic references and is illustrated with 113 tables and 77 figures. The list of references used lists 362 sources, of which 18 titles in Cyrillic and 344 in Latin.

The dissertation work of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD is in the volume and structure, which meets the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulations for its application 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.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD was born in 1980. In 2005 he graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, specialty "Medicine". In 2011 he obtained a specialty in Surgery. His academic development began in 2008 when he was appointed as a visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, and in the following year - 2009 he was appointed as a full-time Assistant Professor at the same Department. In 2015 he successfully defended his dissertation on "Palliative interventions in malignant jaundice" and was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery". In 2016, he was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery at the Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Varna, where he currently works as a lecturer in surgery for students and postgraduate students, and as a surgeon at the Second Department of Surgery at St. Marina Hospital, Varna. Scientific supervisor of two PhD students. Member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Surgical Society, European Society of Endoscopic Surgery, European Digestive Surgery, International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists, and Oncologists. He has specialized in Bulgaria and abroad in various fields of abdominal surgery.

During the analysis of the materials submitted for my dissertation I found no evidence of plagiarism.

II. Relevance and importance of the topic

The topic of the dissertation is up to date both in a purely scientific and in a scientifically applied aspect. The reasons for this are many, well known and as such have been repeatedly researched and analyzed. Despite modern diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities, intra-abdominal abscesses, whether of primary organ localization or occurring as a postoperative complication, are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in surgical pathology and continue to be a major challenge for surgical teams. In a very high proportion of cases, due to the life-threatening nature of the disease and the risk of developing sepsis and its complications, complex treatment and emergency surgical intervention is required. In this sense, the analysis of such groups of patients and the creation of protocols and algorithms for diagnosis and management according to organ localization is very valuable for clinical practice.

III. Brief description of the dissertation research.

The scientific study presented by Assoc. Prof. Chernopolsky, PhD is of a complex nature. The results, conclusions and implications formulated in the developed work are derived from the analysis of the presented material and are based on the methodology used.

The literature review is comprehensive and analytically presented. It is based on a retrospective study of high-value Bulgarian and foreign scientific publications and covers all important aspects of the problem of intra-abdominal abscesses. It emphasizes their importance in abdominosurgical pathology as an important factor in morbidity and mortality, the peculiarities of complications depending on the organ localization of the abscess and the pathophysiology of polyorgan involvement, the need for a complex integrated treatment approach and the combination of intensive conservative and emergency surgical treatment against the background of growing antibiotic resistance.

The analysis of scientific publications and own experience of 555 treated patients with intra-abdominal abscesses in the Second Department of Surgery of St. Marina University Hospital EAD for a significant time period - 2011-2020, logically leads to the need to study this group in order to standardize the diagnosis, preoperative approach and treatment of patients with intra-abdominal abscesses in order to optimize the outcome of treatment, reduce complications and achieve a better quality of life.

To achieve the aim of the study, the author set five clear and well-articulated objectives that meet the stated aim and reflect the study algorithm. A retrospective analysis has been performed, on the one hand, according to the anatomical (organ) localization and origin of the abscesses, and an evaluation of the correlations between current diagnostic methods, conservative treatment, surgical strategy and tactics, and their importance for the outcome of the disease and complications, taking into account the pathogenesis of the disease. On the other hand, the features of the clinical picture, laboratory inflammatory indicators and imaging studies - abdominal ultrasonography, CT, MRI, radiography, endoscopic examinations and microbiological characterization are studied. The impact of comorbidities and complications requiring intensive care were studied. The type of surgical intervention and the reasons for the antibiotic therapy administered are presented and analyzed in detail.

The results are well illustrated with graphics and figures, and are subjected to adequate statistical analysis - descriptive methods, correlation analysis and hypothesis testing, which determines the correctness of the conclusions drawn, as $P \leq 0.05$ is used to assess the difference between two or more groups of data in the statistical testing of hypotheses. The conclusions are eight in number, are consistent with the study and are derived from the results obtained. They are correctly formulated and have scientific and practical value.

Assoc. Prof. Chernopolsky successfully defends his claims for contributions within this research - they are five in total and their most significant worthiness is their strongly scientific and applied character. The evidence for the importance of surgical control on infectious focus is compelling. The significant statistical correlations between clinical symptoms, microbiological causative agent, anaesthetic risk and comorbidities are also of a contributory nature, identifying the main microbiological causative agents in intra-

abdominal abscesses and the most effective therapeutic regimens. The comparative approach to different types of surgery and their benefits, the strategy in the preoperative selection of the most appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedure, the impact of surgical intervention on the duration of treatment and the recovery process, as well as the clinical application of the proposed algorithm for the management of intra-abdominal abscesses have a markedly methodological and applied nature.

V. Evaluation of the abstract and scientific metrics

The submitted abstract is formatted in accordance with the legal requirements and fully complies with both the LDASRB and the the rules for the application of LDASRB. The requirements of the normative documents to the quantitative and qualitative indicators of scientific production of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna are fully satisfied.

IV. Conclusion

I consider that the dissertation work "Intra-abdominal abscesses" by Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD is up-to-date and represents a complete author's scientific research with high scientific merits and significant practical orientation. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chernopolsky, PhD has provided all the necessary documents that meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of MU - Varna for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences". In addition, Assoc. Prof. Chernopolsky is an experienced, highly qualified surgeon with excellent professional skills.

On the basis of the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the dissertation and the attached abstract, and I invite the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to award to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD the degree of Doctor of Science in the scientific specialty of Surgery.

Sincerely:


Prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Bulahov, PhD

06.12.2023 г.