

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. Rumen Nikolov Nenkov, PhD.  
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgical Diseases  
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna

The submitted dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, PhD is in a form and volume complying with 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.

**Biographical data and career development:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD was born in 1980 and graduated in 1998 from the Secondary School of Foreign Languages - Vidin. In 2005 he graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, specialty "Medicine". He obtained Surgery specialty in 2011. In 2008 he was appointed as a visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases, Board of Abdominal Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, and in 2009 he became an Assistant Professor at the same Department. Regular PhD student at the Department of Surgical Diseases, scientific specialty "Surgery 2013-2015. 2015 - PhD, and since

2016 holds the position of "Associate Professor". Held numerous specializations in Bulgaria and abroad. 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. Fluent in English and French.

**Assessment of the relevance of the topic:**The dissertation work of Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD addresses a topical and important problem related to one of the most severe and difficult to treat pathologies in abdominal surgery, requiring state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment methods and often associated with prolonged hospitalization and complications. Based on the results obtained, a diagnostic and treatment algorithm for the management of patients with intra-abdominal abscesses with real application in clinical practice has been developed.

**Volume and structure:** the dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD is written in 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.

**Methodology of the study:** The main aim of the dissertation is - "To study, analyze and 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".

For the optimal solution of the main objective, the author has defined **5** tasks, which are well formulated and the development of the dissertation follows their logical resolution.

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 Clinic of Surgery of the University Hospital "St.Marina" Varna for a period of 10 years - 2011 to 2020. Intra-abdominal abscesses were examined according to their anatomical localization and origin and the influence of diagnostic and therapeutic methods on the outcome of the disease and complications was evaluated.

**Methods:** clinical presentation of the disease, laboratory tests, imaging studies (abdominal echoscopy, CT, MRI, radiography), endoscopic studies, microbiological agent were taken into account. The presence of concomitant diseases and complications necessitating ICU admission is emphasized, as well as the type of surgical procedure and choice of antibiotic. To



interpret the data obtained, the dissertator used statistical analysis - descriptive methods, correlation analysis and hypothesis testing.

**Results obtained:** are well presented textually and graphically illustrated by tables and figures. The statistical treatment used is adequate, making the discussion thorough and well systematized. The advantages and disadvantages of each of the diagnostic and therapeutic modalities are carefully analyzed. Principles of antibiotic treatment are formulated in terms of the origin of the abscess and the microbiological agent.

**Conclusions:** the dissertation's conclusions on the topic of the scientific work are **8** in number and are based on the overall analysis of the information on the literature review, clinical material, analysis and discussion of own results. They are well formulated and reflect an essential part of the analyzed sections. They are of scientific and practical value.

**Contributions:** The contributions of the dissertation work made by Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD are **5** in total, which are of scientific, applied and confirmatory nature.

**Conclusion:** I believe that the dissertation work of Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD "Intra-abdominal abscesses" is complete, thorough, modern, well-formed and properly structured. The tasks are clearly, precisely and comprehensively formulated and executed. The conclusions, contributions, and the proposed algorithm will be helpful to hospital and pre-hospital practice. The dissertant 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 degree of Doctor of Science.

All this gives me the reason to recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Council to vote positively and to award to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, PhD the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the scientific specialty "Surgery".

01.12.2023 r.

Varna

Sincerely:

Prof. Rumen Nikolov Nenkov, MD

