

# STATEMENT

from

**Prof. Dr Nikola Iordanov Kolev MD, PhD, DSc**  
**Department General and operative surgery MU - Varna**

Of dissertation for the award scientific degree “**doctor of science**”

Field of higher education 7. Health and Sport

Professional field 7.1 Medicine

Scientific specialty: Surgery 03.01.37

**Author: Assoc. Prof. Dr. VASIL MARKOV BOZHKOVA, MD, PhD.**

**Тема:** „ Postcholecystectomy syndrome- an update of an "old" problem. Diagnostic and advanced therapeutic strategy..“

## **1. General presentation of the procedure на процедурата and candidate**

By order № P-109-452/06.11.2023 of the Rector of Medical University – Varna I am elected as a member of Scientific Jury for the procedure for the award of scientific degree “ doctor of science” Field of higher education 7. Health and Sport Professional field 7.1 Medicine, Scientific specialty: Surgery Department of Surgery of MU-Varna. The order was issued on the basis of Article 4 and paragraph 2 of The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 89, paragraph 2 The Regulations for Academic Staff Development at the Medical University - Varna. At the subsequent session of the scientific jury on 13.11.2023, it was decided that I would prepare a statement. For this purpose I received the following materials:

- Abstract on "Postcholecystostomy syndrome- an up-to-date look at an "old" problem. Diagnosis and modern therapeutic strategy" - Bulgarian and English version
- Flash drive, containing following files: statement to the rector, full text of the dissertation, abstract, publication reference, reference for contributions, academic reference from MU-Varna library, author deposit statements, declaration of originality, declaration of reliability, privacy notice, diploma for PhD „ Doctor“, diploma for „Magister“ in Medicine, CV.

The dissertation is presented on 250 pages, list of 10 publications and contains 45 figures, 29 images, 12 tables and 510 sources. The results are reported in national conferences in Bulgaria and abroad.

I have no comments on the documents - I would like to note the accuracy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Bozhkov MD, PhD in preparing this set of materials.

### **Short CV**

As can be seen from the presented CV in European format, he graduated from MU-Varna in 1998 - initially he joined the Second Clinic of Surgery at St. In the first year of his studies at the Medical Surgery Department of the Medical University "Marina" in Varna, and in 2007 became assistant professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases of MU-Varna. He successively acquired the scientific title "Doctor" and "Senior Assistant Professor". At present Dr. Vasil Bozhkov is an Associate Professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases and has 24 years of experience.

## **2. Relevance of the topic**

The dissertation treats a problem that is both scientifically and practically therapeutically relevant. Despite the large number of cholecystectomies performed worldwide, a completely satisfactory curative effect is not recorded. The reason for this is that in some patients, the symptoms present before the surgical intervention also appear after the surgery itself. Over the years, the indications for cholecystectomy have expanded, as evidenced by the significantly increased number of operations. At the same time, the number of hospitalizations for complications after surgery is also increasing.

This necessitates the systematic study of the problem and the search for possible answers needed for more adequate complex treatment of gallstone disease. The large number of patients described in the Materials section, a total of 1532 over a period of 11 years, and the different modalities of diagnosis and subsequent therapeutic treatment give a clear idea of the scope of the study. The different types of surgical interventions that have been applied to patients with LCD are shown. The range of methods and instrumental techniques used is wide, allowing a comprehensive deployment of the study in many aspects. This makes the present dissertation extremely useful.

The aim of this dissertation is to investigate, analyze and apply in clinical practice modern diagnostic and therapeutic strategies and treatment methods in patients with PCOS, in order to optimize outcomes and reduce complications and mortality in operated patients.

## **3. Knowledge of the problem**

The author knows the state of previous research in this field, which is evident from the long list of references included in the abstract and their thorough analysis and competent commentary.

## **4. Characteristics and score of the dissertation and the contributions.**

As a characteristic and evaluation of the work, I would like to point out that on the one hand it is very narrowly focused on the symptomatology of postcholecystectomy syndrome and its treatment, but on the other hand the study is broad in terms of the various surgical interventions

that are performed in gallstone disease and the presence of choledocholithiasis. Regarding the contributions of the dissertation, first of all I would point out the huge number of operated patients in the clinic, which proves the importance of the obtained results. Of great importance are also the different diagnostic modalities used prior to the surgical interventions, leading to a more acute choice of the upcoming surgery. The importance of the microbiological analysis performed for the different bacterial strains in the patients is extremely valuable. Given the increasing antibiotic resistance in patients, this analysis is of utmost importance and can provide valuable advice on appropriate antibiotic conservative treatment.

### **5. Autoreferat**

The layout and qualitative content of the abstract - in my opinion it is not only made according to the requirements of the relevant regulations, but also in a concise concise form gives a fairly good idea of the main results achieved in the dissertation, for specialists from other fields, having in one way or another contact with this topic.

### **6. Conclusions**

The analysis of the literature in this dissertation establishes that postcholecystectomy syndrome is a current problem. A direct link is therefore most likely the increasing number of cholecystectomies performed. The dissertation results prove the need for individualized treatment in patients. The ten-year analysis of patients with PCS shows that the choice of treatment can be both surgical and conservative, given the microbiological findings in patients with an inflammatory process. Iatrogenic bile duct lesions are serious complications that are increasing in frequency, and this is of utmost importance, both medically and socially.

The surgical techniques applied, as described in this dissertation, as well as subsequent results, prove that they provide durable adequate biliary drainage, which is characterized by low morbidity and lethality. It is also important to mention the good quality of life of patients in the postoperative period. Regardless of the type of internal drainage, it is preferred over external drainage and should always be performed if there are no contraindications therefore. Endoscopic and minimally invasive procedures may be the initial method of choice for treatment, especially for urgent icteric conditions, with subsequent surgery.

### **CONCLUSION**

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I strongly express my support for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science to the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Bozhkov MD PhD. The dissertation contains original contributions in terms of scientific and applied results and fully meets the requirements of the The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for Academic Staff Development at the Medical University – Varna ” Field of higher education 7. Health and Sport Professional field 7.1 Medicine, Scientific specialty: Surgery.

07.12.2023

Varna

**Statement made by:**

.....  
(prof. Dr Nikola Kolev, MD, PhD, DSC)