

STATEMENT

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On a Phd thesis on "Robotic myomectomy. A comparative analysis of clinical results compared with abdominal and laparoscopic approaches." for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". Scientific specialty 03.01.45. "Obstetrics and Gynecology" .

Author: Dr. Radko Emanuilov Tocev

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ivan Kostov, MD PhD

Biographical data and career development

Dr. Radko Tocev was born on August 15, 1983. In 2008, he graduated from the Medical University in Sofia. He obtained a specialty in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2015. In 2016 he graduated with a master's degree in "Economic Management and Health Management" at Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

Since 2010 he has worked as a doctor at "Sheynovo" hospital, "Sveta Sofia" hospital, "Doverie" hospital. Since 2020 until now, he has been working at "Maichin dom" hospital. He performed different specializations in Bulgaria and abroad in the field of endoscopic gynecological surgery, robotic gynecological surgery and urogynecology.

He is fluent in English written and spoken. His main professional interests are in the field of operative gynecology.

Relevance of the PhD thesis

Dr. Radko Tocev's PhD thesis contains 157 pages, including 60 tables and 35 graphs. The bibliography covers 357 literary sources, of which 2 are in Bulgarian

and 355 are in English. There are 4 publications related to the thesis. Dr. Radko Tocev's PhD thesis begins with an overview of the topic. The author thoroughly presents the current trends in myomectomy surgical techniques.

The purpose of the thesis is clearly stated. For the fulfillment of the scientific goal, the PhD student has set 6 tasks. For the performance of the tasks, the author examined and studied 300 patients who underwent myomectomy. The criteria by which the data were analyzed were the patient's age, parity, size, location and number of fibroids, duration of the operative intervention, blood loss, BMI and intraoperative conditions. The retrospective study was conducted in Dobre Hospital Sofia, Dr. Shterev Medical Complex - Sofia and Maichin Dom hospital - Sofia, and covers a four-year period from 2016 up to 2020. The methodology section of the thesis is presented clearly. Patients' data from the three groups are presented clearly in a tabular and graphical form. According to the surgical technique, Dr. Tocev divides patients into three groups:

- 100 robot-assisted myomectomy
- 100 laparomyomectomy
- 100 laparoscopic myomectomies

Dr. Tocev's scientific work ends up with 7 conclusions presented on the subject. The conclusions are meaningful, they meet the set tasks and fully prove the fulfillment of the scientific purpose. The thesis has original contributions. Evidence was obtained to support the opinion that the robotic technique is safe and applicable in myomectomy. The relationship between high BMI and perioperative complications is analyzed and recommendations for the operative technique are given.

The derivation of criteria for recommending the operative approach is an original contribution also - regarding the size, location and number of fibroids.

In conclusion: The PhD thesis of Dr. Radko Tocev has an indisputable scientific contribution to the effects of robotic myomectomy in terms of low frequency of intra- and postoperative complications and short hospital stay. In terms of costs, this surgical approach is found to be the most expensive compared to the others,

but it is recommended for patients with high BMI, cervical fibroids, and intramural fibroids between 7 and 10 cm in size.

The scientific work fulfills the technical requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

I give a positive assessment of the PhD thesis and express an opinion to the respected scientific jury to award Dr. Radko Emanuilov Tocev the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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Varna

The review is prepared by
PD Dr. Stefan Kisyoov, MD PhD

