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*Review and thought***End of life**

- Nemeth F, Koval S, Zavazalova H, Banik M 239
Dying, but not the death, is an essential problem. The more we believe that death ends everything, the more we fear from death. A human spirit only hardly copes with this fact. All religions want to cut this fear. They highlight that present life continues and human spirit lives further on, in another postmortem dimension.

*Clinical Studies***Perioperative cardiovascular and noncardiovascular risk in patients with colorectal cancer**

- Pernicky M, Murin J, Labas P 246
The aim of the study was to evaluate the prognostic significance of perioperative risk in patients with colorectal cancer, a comparison of two groups of patients — surviving and non-surviving the colorectal cancer surgery was performed. Cardiovascular and noncardiovascular risk factors, diseases and complications were compared between these two groups. Risk factors (bronchopneumonia, perineal haemorrhage, hepatopathy, renal insufficiency, hypoalbuminemia) are markers of worse prognosis. The cardinal markers (history of acute stroke and history of brain stroke) play a minor role.

Developmental dysplasia of the hip

- Kokavec M, Bialik V 251
Authors during sonographic screening of 4356 hips detected 301 instances of deviation from normal, indicating a sonographic DDH incidence of 69.5 per 1000. However, only 21 hips remained abnormal and required treatment, indicating a true DDH incidence of 4.8 per 1000 hips. All the others evolved into normal hips, and no additional instances of DDH were found on follow-up throughout the 12 months. In other words, 280 of 301 (93 %) either stable or unstable hips, with or without initial sonographic indication of pathology, were spared unnecessary overtreatment.

Does the expired-air carbon monoxide level reflect the severity of inflammation in COPD?

- Hanta I, Kocabas A, Olgunus O, Satar S, Seydaoglu G 255
The aim of this study is to evaluate the expired-air carbon monoxide level which relates to the severity of inflammation in patients with COPD. The authors assumed that the level of expired-air carbon monoxide may not be useful in assessing the severity of inflammation in COPD.

Diagnostic yield of adenosine and nitroglycerine stimulated tilt test in patients with unexplained syncope

- Kirsch P, Mitro P, Mudrakova K, Valocik G 259
Diagnostic yield of the adenosine stimulated tilt testing is significantly lower than diagnostic yield of nitroglycerine HUT. On the other hand, given the short time needed for performing adenosine HUT, it may obviate need for the time consuming nitroglycerine HUT especially in young patients.

Vitamin C protective plasma value

- Krajcovicova-Kudlackova M, Babinska K, Valachovicova M, Paukova V, Dusinska M, Blazicek P 265
Concentrations of vitamin C in plasma were assessed in 368 apparently healthy adult subjects on two distinct nutritional regimens: 187 subjects of general population on traditional mixed

diet and 181 lacto-ovo-vegetarians. The protective (antioxidative) effect of plasma vitamin C in concentration being over 50 µmol/l was found in 88 % of vegetarians whereas only in 46 % of subjects being on traditional diet. This result is the consequence of the fact that in vegetarians the consumption of fruit and vegetables is 3-fold higher. The relationship of vitamin C intake and its plasma concentration shows that in order to attain its protective plasma concentration it is necessary to increase the vitamin C intake over its currently recommended dietary allowance of 80 mg per day for men and 75 mg for women. According to the data of other authors the approximate average intake is in amount of 124 mg daily.

The surgical anatomy of the nervus laryngeus recurrens

- Skalicky T, Treska V, Spidlen V, Vodicka J, Simanek V, Wirthova M, Cambal M 269
In this study, the authors remind the readers of the problem - the protection of the nervus laryngeus recurrens from iatrogenic damage. The aim of this study is to point out some anatomical details on the course of the recurrent nerve.

*Review***Aromatase inhibitors in the breast cancer therapy and their potential using in the prevention setting**

- Kubatka P, Sadlonova V, Nosalova G, Sadlonova J 271
Long term exposure to estradiol is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. Aromatase inhibitors, suppressing tumor and plasma estrogen levels by blocking conversion of testosterone to estrogen, have been proven to provide the most effective endocrine therapy in metastatic and adjuvant setting in postmenopausal women. Questions remain about the long term side effects and safety profile of aromatase inhibitors.

*Case Report***Clinical importance of somatosensory evoked potentials in early diagnosis of syringomyelia**

- Titlic M, Isgum V, Rados M, Tonkic A, Jukic I 276
The authors report a rare case of syringomyelia, the development of which was monitored by somatosensory evoked potentials. The evoked potentials recorded over an eight months' period of time were correlated with the incidence of syringomyelia. Changes of the evoked response latency and amplitude were detected. The evoked potential change and the sensation deficit indicated a pathological process. High-resolution MRI revealed syringomyelia in the cervical and the thoracic segments of the spinal cord.

*Short Communication***Prothrombotic state in metabolic syndrome**

- Durina J, Remkova A 279
Metabolic syndrome (MS), also known as insulin resistance syndrome, is defined as a cluster of several cardiovascular risk factors in an individual patient, including impaired glucose tolerance or diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidaemia, and visceral obesity. Several studies have demonstrated that this syndrome strongly predicts cardiovascular disease. Recently, a close association of MS with haemostatic abnormalities has been reported.