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*Letter to Editor***Cardiorenal syndrome and later-onset Fabry disease: is there a connection?**

Bzduch V 169

*Review***Brain natriuretic peptide – the biological marker in the diagnosis of overt congestive heart failure and myocardial ischemia**

Lisy M, Babal P 170

The elevated plasma concentrations of BNP and NT-proBNP are a prognostic marker of morbidity, mortality and later development of heart failure in patients with acute coronary syndrome. In the management of children with congenital heart disease the role of BNP as a diagnostic tool is less evident. This review summarizes recently known facts about the role of BNP in the diagnosis, management and prognosis of congestive heart failure, myocardial ischemia and congenital heart disease.

*Clinical Studies***In vitro contractile response of human myometrium to oxytocin, PGF₂α, bradykinin and ET-1**

Janicek F, Franova S, Nosaloova G, Visnovsky J 174

This experimental study evaluates the effects of uterotonic agents (oxytocin, PGF₂, ET-1, and bradykinin) on the contractions in strips of human non-pregnant leiomyomatous myometrial tissue during various phases of menstrual cycle (middle follicular phase, ovulation, middle luteal phase) in vitro. This experimental model will be used for the pharmacological influence of myometrial reactivity and could be helpful in the preventing preterm uterine contractions and also to relieve dysmenorrhea.

Lipoprotein (a) and apolipoprotein (a) phenotypes in healthy Macedonian children

Tosheska K, Labudovic D, Alabakovska S, Handziski Z, Spiroski M, Todorova B 179

This study describes apo(a) phenotypes and Lp(a) concentration, which are identified as independent risk factors of premature development of coronary artery disease (CAD) in healthy Macedonian children.

Comparison of a preincisional and postincisional small dose of ketamine for postoperative analgesia in children

Butkovic D, Kralik S, Matolic M, Jakobovic J, Zganjer M, Radesic L 184

The aim of this randomized, double blind, placebo controlled prospective study was to investigate the preventive action of N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist ketamine on postoperative analgesia by comparing its administration preincisionally, at the end of operation and placebo in the management of postoperative pain in children.

Combination of two anti-stress procedures: our original 4-corner deltoid-like vaginal suspension and suburethral duplication sec. Lazarevski in patients with genital prolapse

Antovska V, Iliev V, Stojcevski S, Kuzeska K 189

The effectiveness of the combination of two anti-stress procedures: 1) our original 4-corner deltoid-like vaginal suspension; and 2) suburethral duplication sec. Lazarevski are analysed.

Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax in children-our experience

Zganjer M, Kljenak A 200

Spontaneous pneumothorax occurs subsequently to a disruption of visceral pleura and escape of air into pleural space. A retrospective study was performed in 5 patients from December 2001 until May 2006. Four procedures for recurrent spontaneous pneumothorax and one procedure for primary spontaneous pneumothorax were performed.

Neuropsychological outcome in children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome

Bordacova L, Docolomanska D, Masura J 203

The reports of first successful staged operation of hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS) and its numerous modifications have im-

proved the early survival also in patients with complex forms. Specifically, the identification of other specific risk factors related to patient or procedure in the first stage of palliation for HLHS may play a role in cognitive deficit.

*Public Health***The prevalence of female obesity in the world and in the Slovak Gypsy women**

Dolinska S, Kudlackova M, Ginter E 207

Paper is focused (1) on the comparison of some parameters (body height, body weight, blood pressure, BMI values) in Gypsy and non-Gypsy women from eastern and western Slovakia; (2) on the comparison of biochemical parameters in the Gypsy minority and majority of western Slovakia. These findings suggest that the risk of atherogenesis in Gypsy minority has considerably increased and this is caused by unfavourable factors such as an increase in the prevalence of obesity, hypertension, smoking and the deficiency in protective substances leading to dyslipidemia, hyperinsulinemia, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

*Ethical Study***Some indicators of quality of life in senior age in two regions****International comparative study – the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic**

Zavazalova H, Nemeth F, Zikmundova K, Zaremba V, Rais V 212

Some characteristics of quality and way of life were examined in the group of persons aged over 60 years. One group was in the West region of the Czech Republic – 1028 people living in the city of Plzen. The other group was in the East region of Slovakia – 125 senior citizens from the town of Presov. The investigations were carried out in general practitioners' offices in 2005/2006.

*Therapy***Current multidisciplinary treatment of gastric cancer**

Vokurka J, Kabela M, Ciernik J 218

The aim of our study was to optimise current therapy of gastric tumours. The studied population consisted of 92 patients treated at the 1st Department of Surgery, St. Anne's Teaching Hospital, Brno, Czech Republic, and at the Department of Radiation Oncology of the same hospital during 1994–2000.

Infra red photocoagulation of early grades of hemorrhoids – 5-year follow-up study

Gupta PJ 223

Infra red photocoagulation is used as an instrumental treatment for bleeding hemorrhoids. During this procedure the tissue is coagulated by infrared radiation. For treatment, mechanical pressure and radiation energy are applied simultaneously to ablate the blood supply to the hemorrhoidal mass.

Health care in patients with primary Sjogren's syndrome

Panchovska M, Kolarov R, Firkova E 227

The aim of the present study was to define more accurately the necessary health care in patients with the primary Sjogren's syndrome and to compare it to those necessary for patients with another autoimmune disease – rheumatoid arthritis without a concomitant Sjogren's syndrome.

*Case Report***The rare benign liver tumors**

Skalicky T, Treska V, Liska V, Sutnar A, Molacek J, Mirka H, Ferda J, Ohlidalova K 229

The authors describe three cases of rather rare liver tumors with benign behavior that have the potential of becoming malignant. It concerns mucin producing biliary tumors, which correspond to the pancreatic intraductal papillary mucin tumor, hepatic cystadenoma with ovarian stroma and a liver hamartoma in an adult patient.

*Debate and Education***Seemingly or Partially Negative Prefixes in Medical English**

Dzukanova B 233

The authors try to find out if the prefixes anti-, contra-, counter-, de-, dys-, ex-, extra-, mal- can negate the words they combine with.