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*Experimental Studies***The influence of animal species on the relationship between ATP-sensitive potassium ion channels and defense reflexes of the airways**

Sutovska M, Franova S, Sutovsky J 269

The selective agonist of K^+_{ATP} ion channel pinacidil influences airways defence reflexes. It suppresses citric acid-induced cough in guinea pig as well as mechanically induced cough in cats. Pinacidil also significantly reduces contractile response of airways smooth muscle following cumulative dose administration of contractile mediators under *in vitro* conditions, especially in guinea pigs.

The effects of melatonin on human hepatoma (Hep G2) cell line

Feyyaz Ozdemir, Ozlen Deniz, Kubra Kaynar, Mehmet Arslan, Halil Kavgaci, Bulent Yildiz, Fazil Aydin 276

High melatonin in hepatoma cells increases the cell count in S phase and shows an antiproliferative effect.

*Clinical Studies***Local changes in hemostasis in patients with gastric cancer**

Kovacova E, Kinova S, Duris I, Remkova A 280

Disorders of haemostasis and haemocoagulation are often seen in cancer patients as a part of the paraneoplastic syndrome. This study describes a novel compound that activates coagulation and also inhibits fibrinolytic system and fibrin degradation products in the gastric juice of 33 patients with gastric cancer.

Gender difference in the treatment outcome of patients served in the mixed-gender program

Ignjatova L, Raleva M 285

The gender has an influence on the response to the treatment. Women use more heroine than men, who use combinations of different drugs and legal psychoactive substances during the treatment. The question, whether the gender specific program will improve the response to treatment, remains open.

The efficacy of nutrition risk screening-2002 (NRS-2002) to decide on the nutritional support in general surgery patients

A Serhat Gur, Kemal Atahan, Isil Aladag, Evren Durak, Atilla Cokmez, Ercument Tarcan, Cengiz Tavusbay 290

Nutritional Risk Screening-2002 (NRS-2002) has been recently used to evaluate the nutritional status of patients according to the recommendation of ESPEN. In this prospective study, we aimed to find the effectiveness of NRS-2002 on preoperative patients who were candidates for elective procedure at a general surgery clinic. NRS-2002 can be easily used to evaluate the nutritional status of patients. This system is significant in deciding on nutritional support.

Devastating injury of the groin with vascular lesion

Babala J, Cingel V, Hargas M, Sefranek V, Horn F, Trnka J 293

Authors of this article conclude that it is not necessary to increase the dose of Heparin above 20 mcg/kg/hour, even though the value of aPTT is not as high as we would expect. We should expect also the possibility of severe bleeding due to menarche on the anticoagulant therapy in adolescent female patients. Authors also consider both arterial and deep venous reconstructions to be adequate methods of treatment in case of extensive devastating injury of the groin region in the adolescent period.

A rare case of malignant extragonadal germ cell tumor in the pineal region with an aggressive behaviour

Rejlekova K, Mego M, Rajec J, Sycova-Mila Z, Obertova J, Mardiak J 296

Though germ cell cancer is rare, it is the most common cancer in males between 20 and 40 years. The primary site for the development of germ cell tumor is testes, but it can be seen in extragonadal locations as well. Herein, we present a rare case of a 19-year old patient with non/seminomatous extragonadal germ cell tumor in the pineal region with an aggressive behaviour, refractory to the combined therapy (surgery, radio- and chemotherapy).

Liver schwannoma incidentally discovered in a patient with breast cancer

Murat Akin, Bahadir Bozkirli, Sezai Leventoglu, Kemal Unal, L Ozlem Kapucu, Nalan Akyurek, Mustafa Sare . 298

Benign schwannomas, also referred to as neurilemmomas, neurofibromas, and perineural fibroblastomas, are encapsulated nerve sheath tumors. Primary schwannomas of the liver are extremely rare. We present a case of liver schwannoma, incidentally found in a patient with breast cancer.

Unintentional endosulfan poisoning

Salim Satar, Ahmet Sebe, Nezihat Rana Alpay, Umut Gumusay, Ozlem Guneyysel 301

Endosulfan is an organochloride insecticide, widely used in insect control. It is responsible for many severe intoxication and several deaths. We present a case series of endosulfan poisoning, admitted to our emergency department with different clinical courses. Endosulfan is a highly toxic insecticide that produces tonic-clonic convulsions, headache, dizziness and ataxia. It can cause also life threatening metabolic disturbances. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive.

*Case Report***Absence of infrarenal inferior vena cava is not a congenital abnormality**

Banu Alicioglu, Mustafa Kaplan, Turan Ege 304

We present a rare case of absent infrarenal inferior vena cava which supports perinatal thrombosis of the inferior vena cava in etiopathogenesis.

*Review***Alcoholism: Recent advances in epidemiology, biochemistry and genetics**

Ginter E, Simko V 307

This review outlines the recent data related to ethylalcohol consumption in different parts of the world, as well as includes information on both, ethanol metabolism and interplay between genetic and environmental factors leading to alcoholism. Dependence on alcohol is multifactorial and is related to a complex interplay of metabolic, genetic, social and environmental factors.

*Topical Review***Predictive value of assessment of disc-radicular conflict of the cervical segment by somatosensory evoked potentials**

Titlic M, Kolic K, Fiorentini F, Josipovic-Jelic Z 312

Somatosensory evoked potentials (SSEP) of the n. medianus, with clinically significant neurological findings helps in diagnosing a number of different cervical spine lesions. SSEP of the n. medianus and neurological observations also aid in diagnosis of the disc-radicular conflict. A final diagnosis is set by the computerised tomography (CT).

Pharmacological Study

5 most consumed opioid analgesics in Slovakia in the year 2006 – comparison to five other countries (Finland, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Australia)

Hudec R, Bozekova L, Foltan V, Tisonova J, Kriska M .. 316
Opioid analgesics are drugs of choice in the treatment of moderate and severe malignant or noncancer pain. Consumption data helps us to evaluate the status of country's public health. Observed trends in consumption indicate a well known accent of the Nordic countries on treatment of pain. Opioid consumption in Slovakia continues to stay low.

Case-control Study

Tobacco use and the risk of lung cancer in Macedonia

Pavlovska I, Orovchanec N, Stefanovski T,
Zafirova-Ivanovska B 319

The aim of the study was to determine the existence of a causal association between cigarette smoking and the development and distribution of LC. Our study supports the statement that cigarette smoking is by far the most important risk factor for LC. Concerted control of smoking appears to be an important priority in LC prevention, including efforts to prevent adolescents from starting to smoke at an early age.