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*Clinical Studies***Plasma levels of nitrite/nitrate and inflammation markers in elderly individuals**

Alusik S, Jedlickova V, Paluch Z, Zecova S 289
 Production of endothelial nitric oxide declines with advancing age. On the other hand, ageing itself is associated with a mild degree of chronic inflammation. Besides, asymptomatic infectious and non-infectious inflammation is frequent in old age. All this may lead to an increased formation of nitric oxide via inducible nitric oxide synthase. The plasma levels of nitric oxide metabolites in older age groups are not known. The levels of nitric oxide metabolites in elderly, clinically healthy individuals may be increased due to inflammation.

N-terminal-proB natriuretic peptide in patients with stable coronary artery disease evaluated for ischemia with myocardial perfusion imaging

Majstorov V, Pop Gjorcheva D, Vavlukis M, Peovska I, Maksimovik J, Vaskova O, Kuzmanovska S, Zdraveska-Kochovska M 293
 Natriuretic peptides are useful diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers in patients with stable coronary artery disease. We confirmed that NT-proBNP levels in stable CAD patients with preserved left ventricular function were increased, but could not demonstrate that myocardial ischemia per se was a factor that influenced NT-proBNP.

ACE gene polymorphism in Egyptian children with idiopathic nephrotic syndrome

Fahmy ME, Fattouh AM, Hegazy RA, Essawi ML 298
 Idiopathic nephrotic syndrome is a common renal disease in children. ACE gene insertion/deletion (I/D) polymorphism has been studied as a predictor of clinical response to steroid therapy. Our results showed that INS is associated with a higher incidence of DD genotype, especially in non-SS patients. This data suggested that DD genotype may play a role in the clinical response to steroid. Angiotensin II may be involved in part in the response to steroid treatment in children with INS.

Lipids in association with serum magnesium in diabetes mellitus patients

Hamid Nasri, Hamid-Reza Baradaran 302
 To investigate whether and how serum Magnesium (Mg) concentrations influence the serum lipids in diabetes mellitus (DM) patients. The cross-sectional study was conducted on diabetic mellitus (DM) patients with various kidney functions not yet on dialysis. It seems that in diabetic patients, kidney function is a key role in the regulation of serum Lp(a) levels instead of other factors like serum Mg level. In our study no significant correlation between serum Mg with serum HDL and Tg were found, which needs further investigation.

A new modification of the POPQ system – its effectiveness in the diagnosis of supravaginal elongation of the uterine cervix in cases with genital prolapse

Antovska SV 307
 In our study of 358 cases with genital prolaps, we found our POPQ modification, which included: Ba1 (midpoint of Aa–Va); Vas (most proximal anterior point of vagina); Va (anterior attachment of vagina to cervix); Vp (posterior attachment of vagina to cervix); Vps (most proximal posterior point of vagina); SU (lowest attachment of sacrouterine ligaments); Bp1 (midpoint of Ap–Vp); level distances: (Vas–Va), (Vp–SU), (Vps–Vp), (Aa–Ba1) effective in the diagnosis of supravaginal cervical elongation.

*Case Report***Laparoscopic cholecystectomy in elderly patients**

Yildirim Osman, Menekse Ebru, Turan Umit, Oter Volkan, Karabeyoglu Melih, Kocer Belma, Bozkurt Betul, Cengiz Omer, Soran Atilla 313
 In this study, we hypothesize that LC is a safe procedure in a non-laparoscopic specialized general surgery unit in a teaching hospital. In order to test this hypothesis we aimed to compare the results of LC in both elderly and young populations operated on at our clinic. LC is as safe in young patients as in patients at age ranging from 65 to 75 at a general surgery setting at a teaching facility. Although postoperative morbidity risk is higher in patients over the age of 75 years and diagnosed with symptomatic cholelithiasis, the main reason for increased morbidity is having an ASA score greater or equal to 3, and it is independent from age.

*Clinical Studies***Conversions in laparoscopic cholecystectomy**

Bakos E, Bakos M, Dubaj M, Prekop I, Jankovic T 317
 Authors in this article emphasize the wide use of laparoscopic cholecystectomy in gall bladder surgery. Indications for laparoscopic operations are increasing. In spite of increasing practical experience of surgeons, availability of new instruments, advances of techniques, this problem of conversion is always actual.

The risk of cancer in relationship to diet

Hijova E, Chmelarova A 320
 Colorectal cancer is the leading cause of mortality due to malignant diseases. Probiotics are live microbial food supplements or functional foods containing specific nonpathogenic organisms that beneficially affect the host by improving the intestinal microbial balance. Therefore they can be used as an innovative tools to alleviate intestinal inflammation, normalize gut mucosal dysfunction, and down-regulate hypersensitivity reactions.

Patients attitudes towards experience with use of generics in Slovakia, performance of generic substitution

Palagyi M, Lassanova M 324
 The aims of this study were to assess patients' attitudes towards generic drugs and their experience with using generics, identify factors associated with differences in attitudes and/or experience, and discern the rate of generic substitution in Slovakia. About 1/3 of patients care to know whether they are using generic or branded pharmaceuticals. If there is a lack of information about generics, this could inhibit the use of generics by patients and discern a rate of generic substitution.

*Informatics***National portal of cancer epidemiology in the Slovak Republic**

Ondrusova M, Ondrus D, Dusek L, Muzik J 329
 In the Slovak republic, every medical doctor is required to report a malignant disease. The directive of the Ministry of Health, called "The obligatory report on malignant tumors", specify the conditions of collecting and processing data about the patients with tumors. This material is presented in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Health 2000, part 10–12, Act No. 576/2004 of the Statute Book, and amended by the Amendment No. 662/2007 of the Statute Book.