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*Hypothesis***Chronic polysystemic candidiasis as a possible contributor to onset of idiopathic Parkinson's disease**

Epp LM, Mravec B 227

The underlying cause of Parkinson's disease is still an enigma. Several mechanisms have been implicated in the etiopathogenesis of PD. Chronically elevated levels of acetaldehyde in patients with chronic polysystemic candidiasis might participate in the formation of salsolinol and its metabolites in the brain contributing to the destruction of dopaminergic cells in substantia nigra. We speculate that the combination of an increased production of acetaldehyde possibly combined with the presence of other exogenous neurotoxins represents the set of factors sufficient for an onset of idiopathic Parkinson's disease symptoms.

*Experimental Study***Laser-tissue interaction in endovenous laser treatment**

Veverkova L, Kalac J, Capov I, Wechsler J, Pac L, Svizenska I, Pitr V 231

Initial reports have shown this technique to have excellent short-term efficacy in the treatment of incompetent GSV, with 96 % or greater occlusion at 9 months in human medicine. Rabbits' veins were occluded after 8 weeks with no major complication and compressing therapy was not used. These results are very auspicious for using ELVT in human medicine.

*Clinical Studies***Changes in collagen and elastic fiber contents of the skin, rectus sheath, transversalis fascia and peritoneum in primary inguinal hernia patients**

Ozdogan M, Yildiz F, Gurer A, Orhun S, Kulacoglu H, Aydin R 235

This comparative study searched the changes in collagen and elastic fiber contents of the skin, rectus sheath, transversalis fascia and peritoneum in inguinal hernia patients. The rectus sheath samples of control group (cholecystectomy cases) had higher scores for both collagen and elastin fibers in comparison with hernia patients. There were no statistically significant differences between the patients with direct and indirect inguinal hernias. These findings support the theory that inguinal hernia may be generalized, at least a regional connective tissue disorder.

Initial experiences with novel therapy for pulmonary hypertension in Slovakia

Simkova I, Pacak J, Riečanský I, Vulev I, Jansa P, Aschermann M, Lang I, Klepetko W 239

Current specific therapy of pulmonary hypertension is based on an understanding of its pathogenesis and is acting through pathogenic pathways and therefore changes therapeutic strategy, effectively improves clinical course and prolongs life. The authors discuss the actual classification, pathogenesis in short and particularly actual treatment modalities and the impact on the natural history of this disorder.

Role of the peripheral serotonergic system in the pathogenesis of vasovagal syncope

Mitro P, Hijova E, Mudrakova K 248

Plasma serotonin levels were determined during head-up tilt test (HUT). In patients with positive HUT lower plasma serotonin was observed during early HUT when compared to con-

trols with negative HUT. No differences in serotonin activity were observed at the time of syncope.

*Case Reports***Ovarian dysgerminoma and acute abdomen**

Zganjer M, Cizmic A, Stepan J, Butkovic D, Zupancic B, Bartolek F 253

Ovarian dysgerminoma cases are very rarely presented together with acute abdomen. The purpose of this study is to present dysgerminoma ovarii with abdominal pain in lower right abdominal part after abdominal trauma as an abdominal emergency. Ovarian dysgerminoma should be part of the differential diagnosis in female children with acute surgical abdomen when a solid mass is detected by ultrasonographic scan.

A successful therapy of renovascular hypertension

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Authors describe a rare cause, diagnostic difficulties and successful therapy of renovascular hypertension in a 12 year-old girl caused by anular stenosis of the intrarenal arterial branch.

*Sports Medicine***The changes of ACTH, cortisol, testosterone and testosterone/cortisol ratio in professional soccer players during a competition half-season**

Handziski Z, Maleska V, Petrovska S, Nikolik S, Mickoska E, Dalip M, Kostova E 259

The authors evaluated some hormonal changes in professional soccer players during a competition half-season. Although without any performance tests, these hormonal changes, together with body composition, could help in evaluating the effects of the training process.

*Topical Review***Ischaemic-reperfusion damage of tissue and critical limb ischaemia**

Volanska M, Zavacky P, Bober J 264

Recently, the quality of the critical limb ischaemia therapy (CLI) has evidently increased due to the development of the surgical techniques, material and endovascular methods. Most vascular surgeons, in their effort to help patients, advocate an active approach to re-vascularisation also in those patients who in the past had to undergo primary amputation.

*Short communications***Prenatal cytogenetic analysis in the Presov region (Slovakia) in 1999–2004**

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