New Trends
Izakovic M ................................................................. 117
Pay-for-performance programs have the potential to improve the quality of health care and save lives. In this article the au-
thor summarizes data from the Premier/CMS Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration Project conducted in the U.S. Data from
this project demonstrated significant improvement in the qual-
ity of care. The author suggests that accepting similar initia-
tives and implementing such quality improvement processes in
Slovak hospitals can have a significant impact on the reform of
health care in Slovakia.

Clinical Studies
The Association between Serum Leptin and Blood Lymphocytes in Hemodialysis Patients
Nasri H ................................................................. 122
A significant positive correlation between serum leptin and body-
mass index and between serum leptin and lymphocyte percent-
age was found, as well as a significant negative correlation be-
tween serum leptin and PMN percentage. There was a weak
negative correlation between WBC counts and the duration and
dosage of dialysis, and also a near significant negative correla-
tion between WBC counts and hemodialysis adequacy. There was
also a significant negative correlation between WBC counts and serum albumin.

Effects of Gender Difference in Early Cytokine Levels in Trauma Patients
Ertan T, Keskek M, Kilic M, Gocmen E, Oguz H, Aksaray S, Koc M ................................................................. 128
This study was designed to determine whether gender based
changes occur in cytokine responses after trauma-hemorrhage.
These results suggest that the role of sex steroids on immuno-
modulatory processes following trauma-hemorrhage should be
further investigated before studies are undertaken to evaluate the
effect of hormonal manipulation in patients with trauma.

Molecular Analysis of SMN1 and NAIP Genes in Egyptian Patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Essawi ML, Effat LK, Shanab GML, Al-Etribri GMM, El-Haromui AA, Karim AM ................................................................. 133
Twenty Egyptian SMA patients were studied for SMN1 and
NAIP genes. Eighty percent of the patients had homozygous
absence of SMN1 gene and 45% had deleted NAIP gene. This
pilot study on the molecular basis of SMA in Egyptians shows
figures comparable to those of other populations.

Serum Reg-1t is not Suitable Marker of Metabolic Syndrome
14 non-obese, healthy subjects and 15 individuals with meta-
bolic syndrome were studied. Anthropometric and laboratory
analysis in sera were performed. Reg-1t levels did not differ
between subjects with metabolic syndrome and healthy sub-
jects and positively correlated only with fasting glucose Reg-1t
correlated even after adjustment to age. Reg-1t concentrations
did not differ in men and women. This study indicates that serum
Reg-1t is not useful for the diagnosis of metabolic syndrome.

Ossified Pterygospinous Ligament and its Clinical Implications
Srijit Das, Shipra Paul ................................................................. 141
The study describes anatomical and radiological aspects of an
incomplete ossified pterygospinous ligament. The presence of
ossified pterygospinous ligament may result in the formation of a
foramen, through which the branches of mandibular nerve
may pass. Presence of such anomalies may compress upon the
branches of the mandibular nerve and chorda tympani nerves.
Increase in the width and flattening of the lateral pterygoid plate
may leave little space, causing difficulty while performing sur-
gical operations on the pterygoid region. Anomalies involving
the pterygospinous ligament may not only be of academic in-
terest but also be beneficial for maxillofacial and dental sur-
geons and anaesthetists.

Review
The Effect of Head Injury Upon the Immune System
Smrcka M, Mrlián A, Karlsson-Valik J, Klabuša M .... 144
In spite of guidelines based therapy the treatment is frequently
unsuccessful. Extra-craniain infectious complications are consid-
ered to be an important problem during the course of recovery,
and possibly immunological changes could explain their occur-
rence. Head injuries cause an imbalance within the helper cell
community, resulting in a T42 dominance. This development is
influenced by the soluble agents of the sympathetic nervous sys-
tem and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis.

Treatment
Is local excision due to rectal carcinoma a safe ope-
ration?
Mracna P, Repan M, Karlík R, Skultety J ......................... 149
The aim of this article is to draw attention to the complex topic of
local excisions for rectal neoplasms and at the same time to
analyse the review of indication criteria and evaluate the draw-
backs of this operative method in our conditions.

Case Reports
Somatosensory-Evoked Potentials and MRI in Tuberculous Spondylodiscitis
We report a 46-year-old woman suffering from non-specific in-
terscapular pains. The evoked somatosensory potentials of the
tibial nerve showed a mild slowing down of biopotential conduc-
tivity through the thoracic spine. The thoracic spine MRI showed
spondylodiscitis. The course of antibacterial treatment was
monitored by evoked potentials and MRI up to the final recovery.

Meig’s or Pseudo-meig’s Syndrome?
Iavazzo C, Vorgias G, Sampanis D, Mavromatis I, Manikis P, Katsoulis M ................................................................. 158
The triad of ascites, hydrothorax in association with a benign
ovarian tumor is defined as Meig’s syndrome. It is a rare clini-
cal entity. The pathogenesis of the pleural and ascites fluids and
the importance of CA-125 are discussed.

Health Management
Long-term Care as an Urgent Challenge
Lezovic M, Dzundova Z, Kovac R, Raucinova M.............. 161
Long-term care is a relatively closed system of health care and
social care services and assistance that has developed as a re-
sponse to the needs of those who due to disability, chronic health
conditions, trauma or disease limiting their self-care capabili-
ties and independence, are in need of assistance and support of
third persons for a prolonged period of time.

History of Medicine
Birth Control in Antiquity
Bujalkova M ................................................................. 163
Some methods of contraception defended by Greek and Roman
doctors were very effective and many pieces of information be-
came basis for modern contraceptive means, others certainly
did not achieve the desired effects.