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*Perspectives***MCP-1 -2518 A/G gene polymorphism is associated with blood pressure in ischemic heart disease asymptomatic subjects**

Penz P, Bucova M, Lietava J, Blazicek P, Paulovicova E, Mrazek F, Bernadic M, Buckingham TA, Petrek M 420
This is the first report concerning association of MCP-1 polymorphism with blood pressure in ischemic heart disease asymptomatic subjects. Moreover, the authors found that this polymorphism is associated also with absolute cardiovascular risk and trend for elevated plasma level of hs CRP.

*Experimental Study***Piperine, active substance of black pepper, alleviates hypertension induced by NO synthase inhibition**

Hlavackova L, Urbanova A, Ulicna O, Janega P, Cerna A, Babal P 426
Oral administration of piperine, the compound of black pepper, is able to partially prevent the increase of blood pressure caused by chronic L-NAME (N(G)-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester) administration to rats. This effect is probably caused by the blockage of voltage-dependent calcium channels and supported by filamentous actin disassembly.

*Clinical Studies***Specificity and sensitivity of differentiation antigens in superficial soft tissue tumors: comparison of SMA, calponin, H-caldesmon, C-Kit, PLAP and HPL**

Haydar Durak, Nil Ustundag Comunoglu, Cem Comunoglu, Aysel Guven, Meryem Cam, Sergulen Dervisoglu, Bülent Eren 432
The authors examined the expression pattern of smooth muscle actin (SMA), h-caldesmon (HCD), calponin (CALP), placental alkaline phosphatase (PLAP) and human placental lactogen (HPL) in benign and malignant spindle cell superficial soft tissue tumors in order to determine the role of these markers in differential diagnosis. Archival tissue from 38 patients with superficial smooth muscle cell and so-called fibrohistiocytic tumors (8 benign fibrous histiocytomas (BFHs), 6 dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFPT), 9 malignant fibrous histiocytomas (MFHs), 9 leiomyomas (LMs) and 6 leiomyosarcomas (LMSs)) were immunostained with antibodies against SMA, HCD, CALP, PLAP and HPL.

Imbalance of VEGF family serum levels and receptors in patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Kemik O, Sarbay Kemik A, Purisa S, Tuzun S 439
The aim of this study was to analyze the serum levels and prognostic significance of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)-A, -C, and -D, and their receptors, VEGFR-1 and -2 in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). A correlation between VEGF and their receptors serum levels is present in IBD patients. These new findings open the question on the potential role of VEGF and their receptors in IBD, thus underlining the need for future studies which could offer new insight.

Protection of ovarian tissue from radiotherapy

Pafumi C, Iraci SM, Abbate G, Clemente CM, La Rosa I, Gulino FA, Iemmola A, Randazzo C, Caldaci L, Teodoro MC, Palumbo MA, Attard M, Ciotta L, Pagano I, Stracquadanio MG, Messina A 443
Advances researches in the diagnosis and treatment of childhood, adolescent and adult cancer have greatly increased the life expectancy of premenopausal women with cancer. However, one of the serious side effects of these treatments is the risk of damage to fertility. The ovaries are very sensitive to cytotoxic and radiotherapeutic treatment. Moreover this manuscript includes a case of a 17-year-old girl who had to undergo pelvic

irradiation for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and the laparoscopic treatment to preserve the fertility.

Physical therapy of non-neurogenic voiding dysfunction in children with occult spinal dysraphism

Cirovic D, Petronic I, Nikolic D, Golubovic Z, Pavicevic P, Brdar R 449
Children with occult spinal dysraphism as one of symptom can have disbalance in bladder emptying and filling. Presence of residual urine can lead to infections of urinary tract in children with non-neurogenic bladder. Therefore it is of great importance to establish most effective and beneficial treatment module.

*Reviews***Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) and cardiovascular diseases**

Ginter E, Simko V 452
Garlic is an important component in the complementary and alternative medicine. Large segments of population believe in and utilize herbal products even when these have not been as thoroughly researched as garlic. Experimental and clinical studies confirm that the ancient experience with beneficial effects of garlic holds validity even in prevention of cardiovascular disorders and other metabolic ills.

Sexual dysfunction in females treated with peripheral blood progenitor cell transplantation: review of literature

Slovacek L, Slanska I, Slovackova B, Priester P, Kopecky J, Jebavy L 457
Peripheral blood progenitor cell transplantation (PBPC) is a therapeutic modality used in the anti-tumorous treatment of hemato-oncological diseases and solid tumors. Apart of that, it is also used in therapy of non-malignant and hereditary diseases. Aim. As is the case with other treatments, PBPC also affects not only the disease process but also the quality of life (QoL).

*Case Reports***Sandwich Mesh Abdominal Closure**

Hutan M Jr, Hutan M Sen 461
The authors present their own modification of SMAC and a case report, where it was used. By current literary research it was the first patient in the Central European hospital managed by SMAC VAC. The authors of the article conclude that SMAC VAC and its modification is highly effective in the management of the open abdomen.

Abdominal and pelvic hydatid cyst obstructing the labor

Ebru Zulfikaroglu, Mine Islimye, Baris Zulfikaroglu, Nuri Danisman 464
Hydatid cystic disease is a parasitic disease primarily infesting the sheep and cattle. It is a rare condition in pregnancy with an incidence of 1/20000 pregnancies. An eighteen-year-old primigravida was evaluated due to obstructed labor. Multiple abdominal and pelvic hydatid cysts were diagnosed by ultrasonography and a healthy infant with birthweight of 3330 g was delivered by cesarean section.

A case with an asymptomatic malformation of cortical development diagnosed in eighth decade of life

Irsel Tezer-Filik F, Kader K Oguz, Saygi S 467
The authors report a patient newly diagnosed with cortical dysplasia upon magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in his eighth decade of life after a recent syncopal attack. The neurological examination and laboratory findings were normal. His cranial MRI revealed a lesion giving a low signal on T1-weighted images, which was evaluated as focal cortical dysplasia. No treatment was given, and he did not have any further syncopal or epileptic attacks during the subsequent two-year follow up.