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*Clinical Studies***HSP60, oxidative stress parameters and cardiometabolic risk markers in hypertensive and normotensive Slovak females**

Kuka P, Bucova M, Penz P, Paulovicova E, Blazicek P, Atalay M, Lietava J 527

The aim of our study was to analyse the relationships between hypertension, HSP60, oxidative stress, lipid profile and cardiometabolic risk in 126 females with arterial hypertension (AH+) and 39 normotensive females (AH-). Results suggest the association of blood pressure and heart shock protein 60 Kda in form of the J curve.

Costs related to medical treatment for common cardiovascular risk factors

Turek P, Lietava J, Foltan V, Kosmalova V, Dukat A 535

The aim of this study was to evaluate the direct and indirect costs of selected cardiovascular diseases, namely hypertension (HT), metabolic syndrome (MS) and diabetes mellitus (DM) in the Slovak Republic. The study proved the assumption of increasing the direct pharmacotherapeutic costs in correlation with the increased severity of disease. The gender differences on the other hand, were smaller in patients with more serious conditions. The indirect costs represented the greatest financial burden, and were 13 to 17 times higher than the direct pharmacotherapeutic.

Conventional physical therapy with lumbar traction; clinical evaluation and magnetic resonance imaging for lumbar disc herniation

Kamanli A, Karaca-Acet, Kaya A, Koc M, Yildirim H ... 541

Lumbar disc herniation (LDH) is a common reason for low back pain. Non surgical treatments of LDH include: lumbar supports, bed rest, oral analgesics and muscle relaxants, spinal manipulation, physical therapy, epidural steroid injections, and behavioral therapy. This study measures and compares the outcome of conservative physical therapy with traction, by using magnetic resonance imaging and clinical parameters in patients presenting with low back pain caused by lumbar disc herniation. This study showed that conventional physical therapies with lumbar traction were effective in the treatment of patient with subacute LDH. These results suggest that clinical improvement is not correlated with the finding of MRI. Patients with LDH should be monitored clinically.

Ileus, pregnancy or leiomyoma? A case of a large intraabdominal tumor

Mytnik M, Chrobakova A, Dano J, Adam J, Kysely M, Mincik I 545

In this study, the authors describe their experience in the treatment of intraabdominal leiomyoma and present a rare case of chronic ileus caused by a giant leiomyoma weighing 24 kg. The patient was 42-year old and thought she was pregnant. The authors describe the problems with the identification of tumour's origin, peroperative complications and surgical treatment.

*Case Report***Recurrent multiple cardiac myxomas**

Yavuz S, Eris C, Sezen M, Goncu T, Ata Y, Turk T 549

The authors report the case of a 24-year-old female with recurrent multiple cardiac myxomas. She had an abortus 2 months ago. The patient had undergone a resection of left atrial and right ventricular myxoma with extension to the right pulmo-

nary artery 8 years ago. The preoperative echocardiographic examinations revealed recurrent left atrial and right and left ventricular myxomas. They think that a long-term follow-up by echocardiography in all patients after the resection of myxoma is advised for an early detection of any recurrence.

*Morphological Studies***Thymic Hassall's bodies of children with congenital heart defects**

Varga I, Pospisilova V, Jablonska V, Sisovsky V, Galfiova P, Polak S, Adamkov M 552

The development of the thymus and heart are closely related while in both, the neural crest cells play an important role. In our preliminary study, the thymic microscopic structures of the infant's thymuses with the congenital heart defects were observed. The study was conducted on 36 specimens of newborn thymuses removed due to surgery for cardiovascular malformations. The authors assume that the changes of microenvironment of the thymic medulla are associated with disrupted migration of the neural crest cells which are essential in the morphogenesis of both heart and thymus.

The anterior extraperitoneal approach to the rare presacral/retroperitoneal schwannoma

Senoglu M, Bulbuloglu E, Demirpolat G, Altun I, Ciralik H 558

Presacral/retroperitoneal schwannomas are extremely unusual and their surgical approach is challenging. Various surgical approaches have been proposed. Here we describe our experience with the anterior extraperitoneal approach for the Type 3 presacral/retroperitoneal schwannoma. The histopathological evaluation confirmed the preoperative diagnosis. The anterior extraperitoneal approach is helpful as an alternative approach in the surgical management of benign Type 3 presacral/retroperitoneal schwannomas.

Atlanto-occipital fusion: an osteological study with clinical implications

Kassim NM, Latiff AA, Das S, Ghafar NA, Suhaimi FH, Othman F, Hussan F, Sulaiman IM 562

Atlanto-occipitalization may result in the compression of vertebral artery thereby influencing the blood flow to the brain. Atlanto-occipitalization may also result in compression of the first cervical nerve. The action of the postural muscles on the extensor surface may be affected as a result of this anomaly. The present article discusses the clinical implications of atlanto-occipitalization, which may be beneficial for neurosurgeons, neurologists and radiologists in day-to-day clinical practice.

C-2 anterior plate-screw fixation: a quantitative anatomical and morphometric evaluation

Senoglu M, Ozbag D, Gumusalan Y 566

Injury to the spinal cord during drill or screw placement is the most feared complication of this procedure. Therefore, a proper screw length is the most important issue for the safety of vertebral body screw placement. Obviously, understanding of the safety distance between the entry point of screw insertion and the posterior cortex of the vertebral body is of importance. In this study, we analyze the anatomy of the C2 body relevant to C2 anterior plate-screw fixation. The authors report the measurements of the vertebral body of the C2. We think these measurements provide guidelines for operating on the anterior C2 spine, and enhance the confidence interval for the surgeon.

Surveillance

Enigmatic lipoprotein (a) and cardiovascular disease

Ginter E, Simko V 570

Lipoprotein (a), (LPA) consists of a low density lipoprotein (LDL)-like particle with a lipid core encircled by a large protein, the apo-B-100. A very large glycoprotein, the apoprotein (a) (apoA) is firmly linked to apo-B-100 by two covalent disulfide bonds. The metabolic role of LPA until very recently has been shrouded in mystery. Individuals who have no LPA or a very low level are not known to be affected with any specific disorder.

Letter to the Editor

Biased reporting on cardiovascular mortality in Europe

Ginter E, Simko V 574