



## EDITORIAL

### ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND CHALLENGING CASES

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This issue of the journal opens with an original study of a team from the Medical Faculty, Skopje, FYR Macedonia. Galina Severova et al have studied the impact of *de novo* HLA antibodies on graft function in 50 patients with kidney transplantation, 12 months after the transplant. The authors have found that *de novo* donor specific and non-donor specific antibodies produce graft injuries, so the regular follow up of HLA antibodies, together with systematic protocol graft biopsy, could be essential for further therapeutic interventions. In an article titled „Protective effect of probiotics on the healing of colon anastomosis after ischemia and reperfusion injury in rats“, Necdet Özçay et al (TRN Cyprus) investigated the effect of probiotics on the intestinal anastomosis healing process in rats. They concluded that probiotics have some beneficial effect to impaired anastomotic healing process, without any side effects on the colon, therefore they might be considered as a supportive treatment in patients with intestinal transplantation. Dan N. Paduraru et al, from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Carol Davila“, Romania, analyzed the physiological, psychological and oncological impact of surgical intervention in patients diagnosed with rectal cancer. The study took place in the University Emergency Hospital of Bucharest and included 92 patients. In these patients, the distance from the anastomosis level to the pectinate line, side-to-end anastomosis, the impossibility to identify

the nerves, and the occurrence of anastomotic fistula have been identified as predictor factors for the occurrence of major low anterior resection syndrome during post-surgery evolution.

Obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS) is a disease with increasing prevalence nowadays, being associated with multiple cardiovascular diseases, such as arterial hypertension. The study of Giorgiana Dediş et al (Romania) investigated the effect of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) on blood pressure values, in 52 patients with OSAS. The systolic blood pressure values decreased at 6 months in all OSAS patients who have used CPAP, including patients with normal values of blood pressure. The authors concluded that OSAS treatment can decrease the blood pressure values. A higher RDW may be considered a negative prognosis factor for these patients, reflecting the role of systemic inflammation in the appearance of cardiovascular disorders.

In a mini-review titled „Balance disorders and diabetes mellitus“, Daniela Cîrpaşiu and coauthors (Romania) summarized literature data regarding the relation between balance disorders and diabetes mellitus. „Because of decreased proprioception and vision, diabetic patients suffer more often from balance disorders than the rest of population and are at higher risk of falling. That seems to be the consequence of a combination between impaired proprioception, vision, and possible damage produced by long term

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hyperglycemia in the vestibular system“ said the authors. On the other hand, the presence and severity of diabetic peripheral neuropathy correlates to increased postural instability. The management of these patients may be facilitated by the knowledge of mechanisms involved in the equilibrium disorders encountered in diabetes mellitus.

The Case Reports section of the journal contains interesting, rare and challenging cases. Gelu C. Rosianu et al (Romania) present the endoscopic management of a rare case of obstructive giant duodenal Brunner's gland hamartoma. Brunner's gland hamartomas are rare duodenal tumors occurring in middle-aged patients that present either with gastrointestinal hemorrhage, obstructive symptoms, or as an incidental finding. Surgical or endoscopic excision is uncomplicated, and the long-term outcome is favorable. Bogdan Socea et al (Romania) describe a rare case of a 43-year-old woman with small bowel obstruction due to phytobezoar. The patient has been admitted following a car accident, but 5 days after admission she developed bowel obstruction symptoms. The exploratory laparotomy discovered a phytobezoar, confirmed by the histopathological exam. In their article, Mehmet İnan and coauthors (TRN Cyprus)

tried to answer to the question „Is manubrium limited mini-sternotomy an alternative for traditional full sternotomy in cases with massive mediastinal goiter?“. They presented the case of a 45-year-old male subject who was operated for a total mediastinal goiter. The nodular mass was successfully extracted from the mediastinum easily via manubrium limited mini-sternotomy, the patient being discharged from the hospital after 2 days. Bianca Hanganu et al (Romania) make considerations on umbilical cord resistance to traction. The authors present the case of a newborn found dead in a sink and discuss the circumstances when the umbilical cord may rupture. This issue is most important when there is a need to differentiate between a true accident and an intentional newborn homicide by the mother, set forth as an accident.

We hope that the readers of this issue of the *Archives of the Balkan Medical Union* will find it of interest.

I hope that the New Year 2018 will bring to all the members of the Balkan Medical Union everything that they have wished for! May this wonderful time of Christmas and New Year fill your life with happiness and wealth! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!