

STATEMENT

By Assoc.Prof.Rumqna Qnkova, MD, PhD

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In the procedure for competition for the scientific stage "Doctor of Research" in dermatovenereology at the MHAT Tokuda Hospital Sofia, in the specialty "Dermatology and venereology" (code 03.01.21) professional direction 7.1 Medicine 7. Healthcare and sports.

The documents presented in the tender procedure show that the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Zdravka Velichkova Demerdjieva, MD, is an established specialist in the field of dermatovenereology and is currently the Head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at the ACIBADEM City CLINIC TOKUDA Hospital Sofia. Her professional career began in 1993 as a physician at UMBAL Alexandrovska, where she led a pediatric dermatology office at the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology. In 1997 he acquired a specialty in dermatology and venereology. Prof. DemerdJieva holds a Ph.D. dissertation on the problem of ocular pathology in syphilis and other systemic dermatoses (2007). She is an associate professor at the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at the Acibadem City Clinic Hospital Tokuda Hospital from 2016 to the present.

General presentation of the procedure

The presented set of materials, in electronic and hard copy, is in accordance with the rules and procedure for the acquisition of a scientific and educational degree "Doctor of Sciences" at the Hospital of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital – Sofia.

Relevance of the topic

The dissertation work presented in the documentation for the competition procedure on the topic: "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PSORIASIS PATIENTS" is of considerable relevance, thoroughly developed and of considerable scientific and practical importance. The search for inflammatory changes in various organs and systems outside the skin, as a concomitant pathology in the development of psoriasis, are considered to be current contemporary problems. Psoriasis is nowadays regarded as a multisystem pathological disease process with a characteristic of widespread inflammatory disease. The applicant has taken this approach in its development and presents results that not only confirm, but also provide new data on certain aspects of developmental mechanisms, clinical course, diagnostic issues and therapies for this disease. The scientific work developed is aimed at a little present in the world scientific publications, a special and specific side of the systemic, and in particular ocular manifestations of psoriasis. Certainly, these

extracorporeal manifestations of the disease are presented for the first time in the world medical literature, detailing the various clinical forms of psoriasis with particular emphasis on lymphatic and venous changes in the eye conjunctiva.

3. Knowledge of the problem

Prof. Demerdjieva has conducted a very in-depth analytical study of the problem under study, which makes the PhD student aware of all aspects of ocular changes in psoriasis. The dissertation review is 39 pages long and includes 202 citations, 11 of which are in Bulgarian, mostly from recent years. Both the world achievements in the pathology studied and the contribution of the Bulgarian Dermatological School are cited. The review is well structured, showing considerable erudition and awareness of the applicant, which allows for a thorough and purposeful analysis of the results obtained and a summary of the data. The purpose of the dissertation is clearly stated, the tasks set out are specified and enable the realization of this goal.

Methods

A sufficient number of patients were used in the study (148) and modern research and statistical methods were applied. The applied methods allow the use of the specific techniques of vasography in patients with different phenotypes of psoriasis, which makes the goal attainable and obtain the desired response to the tasks set. Statistical methods are used with precise mathematical calculations and they allow the obtained results to be objectified. Applicant's own studies examining changes in blood and lymphatic flow in the conjunctiva of different psoriasis phenotypes are a priority.

Characterization and evaluation of dissertation work and contributions

Associate Professor Zdravka Demerdjieva presents her dissertation on "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PSORIASIS PATIENTS", presented in 115 standard printed pages, with visualization in 41 photographs, 12 tables, 1 pie chart and 8 pillars. This work is stylishly and concisely structured, tailored to requirements, containing input, purpose and objectives, material and methods, results, discussion, conclusions, contributions, and bibliography. The results are presented accurately and clearly, they are up-to-date and impressive, related to current views on the pathogenesis of psoriasis as a systemic inflammatory disease. The results are concrete, informative and graphically visualized. Interesting is the proposed practical diagnostic scheme for the diagnosis of ocular manifestations in psoriasis. The conclusions made are 11 in number and correspond to the set goals and tasks of the dissertation. 6 original and 4 scientific-applied contributions are presented, which are carefully combined and grouped by characteristic.

Assessment of publications and personal contribution

The dissertation provides 12 publications, 5 of which are in English (4 articles in

international refereed journals and one participation in a monograph) and 7 in Bulgarian (6 in periodicals and one participation in a monograph). List of participation in scientific forums on the topic of dissertation work is not presented. The candidate has no independent articles but is the first author in 6 publications.

Abstract

The abstract contains 52 pages, presents in short the sections of the dissertation and is made as required. Its content and quality reflect the results presented extensively in the dissertation.

Critical notes:

There is some discrepancy between the number and age characteristics of patients in the psoriasis patient group and the healthy controls. The findings concerning vasographic changes could be summarized in one conclusion with several subdivisions for the different clinical phenotypes of psoriasis, which would highlight the common in vascular conjunctival pathology, which is the main line in the dissertation. The contributions are not subdivided into original and confirmatory contributions. The criticisms cited do not diminish the scientific significance of the work presented.

Conclusion

Knowing the professional and scientific development of Assoc. Prof. Demerdjieva and after the analytical and comprehensive review of the submitted documentation for my opinion, I believe that the dissertation work on the topic: "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS" contains scientific, scientific practical results with original contributions to medical science and practice. The thesis complies with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation and the Rules of the MBAL Acibadem Citi Clinic Tokuda Hospital – Sofia.

In view of the above, I unreservedly appraise the research conducted positively, in the presented dissertation with relevant results, conclusions and contributions, and propose to the venerable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Science" to Assoc. Prof. Zdravka Velichkova Demerdjieva.

15.02.2020

Assoc.Prof.Rumqna Qnkova