

REVIEW

by

Prof. Dr. Eugenia Hristakieva Hristakieva, MD

Head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of the Thracian University

Hospital, Stara Zagora

Under the procedure for competition for the degree of Doctor of Dermatology and Venereology at the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda - Sofia, specialty "Dermatology and Venereology" / code 03.01.21 / professional direction 7.1 Medicine, higher education field 7. Health and sports .

Author: Dr. Maria Kassini

PhD form: self-study at the Department of Dermal and Venereal Diseases at the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda – Sofia.

Topic: "Dermatoscopy as a Preoperative Technique for the Diagnosis of Skin Benign and Malignant Pigment Lesions"

Scientific adviser: Prof. Dr. Nikolay Konstantinov Tsankov, Ph.D.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The submitted materials in paper and electronic form are in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff and the procedure for acquiring a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" at the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda - Sofia.

2. Short biographical data for the doctoral student Dr. Maria Kassini is a Cypriot national and completed her medical degree in 2012 at Sofia Medical University. Specialized in the Dermatology and Venereology Clinic of the Military Medical Academy Hospital - Sofia from 2013 until 2015 and from 2015 until 2018 at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Tokuda Hospital. In 2018 he acquired a specialty in skin and sexually transmitted diseases and is currently working as a specialist in a hospital in Cyprus. She was enrolled with Order No. 449 of December 19, 2016 in a Doctoral Program in Dermatology and Venereology at the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda - Sofia, with a training period of 3 years until December 14, 2019. She holds a Master's Degree in Aesthetic Medicine and Therapy in 2016 -2018 at the University of Camerino, Italy. She has a master's degree in public health and health management in 2017-2018. In 2017 she participated in the Dermoscopy excellence-international master class, in Rome, Italy. Dr. Kassini is a member of BDA, BDD, Cypriot Medical Union, Greek Dermatological Society, Greek Dermatoscopic Society, Cypriot Dermatological Society. There is definitely interest in mastering dermatoscopic techniques for

the diagnosis of tumors in dermatology and their place in operative dermatology. She has presented 4 publications in the Bulgarian Dermatology Office, Dermatology and Venereology Magazine, of which 3 is the first author. There are 5 participations in international scientific forums with poster, 7 in Sofia dermatology days with presentation and a large number of practical courses conducted both in Bulgarian and international scientific forums with topical dermatoscopy, dermatosurgery, lasers and skin tumors. This contributed to the preparation and management of the problems presented in the dissertation.

3. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation on the topic: "Dermatoscopy as a preoperative technique for the diagnosis of skin benign and malignant pigment lesions" is relevant and of scientific and applied importance. The studies cover current diagnostic methods used in daily dermatological practice and their correlations with the clinical picture of pigment tumors. Dermatoscopy is an in vivo method that improves the diagnostic accuracy of the physician, aids in early differential diagnosis of benign and malignant skin lesions. The choice of surgery for skin tumors requires a correct diagnosis, based on a good knowledge of clinical diagnosis, dermatoscopy and confirmation with dermatistopathology.

The aim of the dissertation is presented quite generally, mainly in practical direction, to improve the clinical diagnosis of melanocytic lesions and in particular of melanoma malignancy, as well as confirming the role of dermatoscopy in the preoperative evaluation of tumor boundaries to limit unnecessary surgical intervention. There are 3 summarized tasks that largely replicate the text of the goal and mainly have a practical focus on correlations and evaluation of patients with a clinical diagnosis of 'melanocytic lesions'. Data were used for patients referred to dermatologists by the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda - Sofia, as well as from a surgeon and gynecologist from the Larnaca - Cyprus Hospital. An interdisciplinary approach is important in deciding the need and volume of surgical therapy. The study included 205 patients with 307 lesions, of which 97 were male and 108 were female.

4. Knowledge of the problem

The PhD student's familiarity with the problem is evident from the review of the dissertation (54 pages), which includes 170 citations, 1 of them in Bulgarian, most of them in the last 10 years. The introduction is quite detailed and has a review feature on the topic and is presented as Chapter 1. The current state of the problem, diagnostic algorithms, immunohistochemical methods and clinical and dermatoscopic characteristics of benign and malignant pigments are presented in 7 parts in a very detailed and detailed way. lesions. This indicates a good

awareness of the applicant. The literature review can serve as a very good practical guide to dermatoscopy in Bulgarian.

5. Research methodology

Chapter two presents materials and methods that include in-depth anamnestic and clinical data, dermatoscopic and histological evaluation. Modern scientific-diagnostic methods are used with the possibilities for very good visual and analytical documentation. The research methodology allows to achieve the set goal and to receive an adequate answer to the tasks solved in the dissertation. The study included 205 patients with 307 lesions, divided by demographic data, by phototype, by lesion location, by number of lesions in one patient, by the number and type of excised and non-excised lesions, with hypothetical analyzes and correlations made. The statistical methods used make the results obtained real and objective.

6. Characterization and evaluation of dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation is presented on 116 standard printed pages, illustrated with 8 figures, 27 tables, 10 diagrams, 17 clinic pictures and dermatoscopic characteristics. The submitted photographic documentation, clinical and dermatoscopic with the text "Histologically proven", is without histopathology. The work is structured according to requirements and contains an introduction, a literature review, a purpose and tasks, material and methods, results, discussion, conclusions, contributions and a bibliography.

The results obtained are analyzed and compared with the data known in the literature, and they contribute to modern dermatoscopic diagnostics and the choice of therapy. I think that learning about the frequency and specificity of SWS shiny white stripes is particularly interesting.

The conclusions drawn are divided into epidemiological -4 and clinical -11, partly correlated with the tasks. Conclusions include results, and it is appropriate to move some such as 7 and 8 to Chapter "Results", as Conclusion 5 is very general. The contributions are combined into original- 4 and confirmatory- 6. The original contribution 1 does not correlate with the purpose, task and results presented in the dissertation. I do not accept contributions 1 and 6.

7. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

Dr. Kassini has presented 4 publications in the Bulgarian Dermatology Office, Dermatology and Venereology Magazine, of which 3 are the first author. There are 5 participations in international scientific forums with a poster, 7 in Sofia dermatological days with a presentation on the topic of the dissertation.

8. Abstract

The abstract contains 43 pages and includes in short the main sections of the dissertation. The abstract is made as required. The content and quality of the abstract reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

8. Critical notes:

- Content is missing page numbers.
- There is no abbreviation for the terms used.
- The purpose and tasks should be in a separate chapter.
- The results chapter outlines the more specific tasks of the study, such as "Assessing the Diagnostic Value of SWS and Their Histological Relationship with Melanocytic Lesions." They could be presented in the Objectives and Tasks section
- Conclusions include results, and it is appropriate to move some such as 7 and 8 to Chapter "Results", as Conclusion 5 is very general.
- Original contribution 1 does not correlate with the purpose, task and results presented in the dissertation.
- I do not accept Contributions 1 and 6.
- Only one Bulgarian author was cited.

The criticisms made do not diminish the scientific and practical value of the work presented.

Conclusion

My dissertation, author's abstract, and documentation for Dr. Cassini's professional and scientific development give me reason to accept that the dissertation contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and an interdisciplinary approach to solving serious medical problems such as early non-invasive diagnosis and choice of surgical treatment for pigmented skin changes. It complies with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ASRB and the Regulations of the University Hospital Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda - Sofia.

The dissertation holder has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific field of Dermatology and Venereology, demonstrating qualities and skills for conducting scientific research.

Because of the above, I give my positive opinion and suggest to the Scientific Jury to award the Doctorate degree in Education and Science to Dr. Maria Kassini.

24/02/2020

Prepared the review:

Prof. Dr. Eugenia Hristakieva, MD