

STATEMENT
by
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Stefanov Yonkov, PhD

On the procedure for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree "PhD' on the dissertation work of Dr. Elmira Momchilova Daskalova on the topic: "Pancreato-jejunostomy after duodeno-hemipancreatectomy - types, results, individual approach to selection" with scientific adviser Prof. Dr. Kiril Vassilev Draganov, MD, DSc

1/ General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The procedure for the defense of the dissertation and the set of materials presented by the doctoral student in paper and electronic version are in full compliance with the requirements of the current regulatory framework in the country - Art. 74, para. 1, item 1 of the Higher Education Act, Art. 24, para. 2, para. 3, para. 6 of the Regulations for application of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Brief biographical data

Dr. Elmira Daskalova graduated as a doctor at Medical University of Sofia in January 2015. Since 2017 she is part of the team of the Clinic of Liver - Gall, Pancreatic and General Surgery at Tokuda Hospital as a full-time doctoral student and specialist.

On 06.06.2017 was enrolled for a full-time doctorate in the scientific specialty "General Surgery" (Order No. 261 / 08.06.2017 of the Executive Director of "Acibadem City Kinik Tokuda Hospital"). After successfully passing the doctoral minimum exam (24.02.2020) and internal defense (09.07.2020) she was expelled with the right to defense by Order No. 482 / 31.07.2020 of the Executive Director of Acibadem City Kinik Tokuda Hospital.

2/ The importance of the topic in the present days

Performing the pancreato-jejunal anastomosis is the most important stage of duodeno-pancreatic resection and predetermines both, the outcome of the operation and the long-term results. The analysis of this problem is extremely important for the improvement of surgical technique

3/ Analysis and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation is written on 145 standard typewritten pages and it is illustrated with 34 figures and 37 tables. The bibliographic reference includes 380 sources. Of these, 26 are by Bulgarian authors (4 of them in Latin), the remaining 354 sources are by foreign authors. It consists of the following sections:

- Abbreviations - 2 pages.
- Introduction - 2 pages.
- First chapter - Literature review - 40 pages.
- Second chapter - Methodology of the study with formulated goals and objectives, material and methods - 9 pages.
- Third chapter - Own results - 20 pages.
- Chapter Four - Analysis and discussion of own results - 22 pages.
- Chapter Five - Conclusion and Conclusions - 3 pages.
- References - 42 pages.

Structuring

The structuring of the dissertation follows the required sequence of components.

The literature review presents in detail and comprehensively the achievements and problems discussed by various leading schools. Somehow easily and naturally the dissertation systematizes and sets the main goal and tasks.

Based on the formulated tasks, methods and conclusions, the doctoral student presents the highlights of the issues related to the problem "pancreato-jejunostomy after DHPE".

After the literature review, the goals and tasks generally follow the objects of the study and the methods by which it is done, including the ways in which they are treated in diagnostic - treatment, prognostic and preventive plan. This sequence is followed in the development of the doctoral student.

Clarity of the wording of the title, the tasks and the conclusion

The goals, tasks and conclusions are predetermined in this structure already in the title of the development and the author has taken advantage of this.

Scientific value

The skills and the knowledge of Dr. Daskalova are a prerequisite for covering the requirement for scientific value, which, I am convinced, will be manifested with even greater representativeness of the analyzes in the future works of Dr. Daskalova.

Significance

The significance of the development is based on the fact that the author answers to important questions about clinical work, questions on a topic that can be accepted as attractive by young surgeons who aspire to high technology.

Relevance

The relevance of the development is revealed even more clearly by looking at this problem through the prism of today's achievements in surgery.

Immersion

I have already noted that the dissertation approached with depth in its work, which logically gives the quality and comprehensiveness of the work itself.

Applicability

The genesis of the topic lies in the need to answer the clinical question: "How to provide a reliable and technically well-maintained pancreatojejunostomy with a low risk of postoperative pancreatic fistula?". The given answer cannot be unambiguous, but the practicing surgeon will find it not only in the conclusions, but it is also between the lines of the dissertation.

Perspective

The dissertation not only reveals new horizons for searches in the field of pancreatojejunostomy after DHPE, but does also open a prospect for further development of Dr. Daskalova with the accumulation of initial experience in research.

Reliability

In this regard, the author relied on modern methodology and statistical data processing. Based on this, she argues the achieved results and the drawn conclusions.

Visibility

The results are presented accurately and comprehensibly in a clear way, which makes it easy to read the dissertation.

Style

The style of the doctoral student tends to be strictly scientific.

Summary of the evaluation of the scientific dissertation and of the contribution

I accept that the contribution of the dissertation as significant and important for the application of the dissertation and as a guide for choosing a reliable operational technique

Abstract of the dissertation

The abstract of the dissertation presented by Dr. Elmira Daskalova meets the scope and content of the requirements and gives a clear enough idea of the essence of the development.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student has qualities and skills to conduct research independently.

Based on the abovementioned, I give my positive assessment of the research

and I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Elmira Momchilova Daskalova in a doctoral program in "General Surgery", for which I will vote in favor.

18.10.2020.
PhD

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Yonkov,