

EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers

In the current issue, I particularly recommend a paper from a centre in Lublin, which describes recent advances in the diagnosis of proctological diseases. It is beyond doubt that diagnostic imaging methods develop dynamically and that most of us surgeons cannot imagine treating a proctological patient without previous thorough diagnostic process. Jacek Piłat, MD presented modern diagnostic imaging methods with a particular emphasis on ultrasound as a non-invasive and inexpensive technique. The importance of operator's experience is also increasingly emphasised in the available literature.

I also recommend a case report describing a 50-year-old man who developed obstruction secondary to incarcerated rectal prolapse. The patient was qualified for an emergency surgery using the Altemeier's technique. The possibility to perform the procedure under regional anaesthesia and to resect ischaemic bowel are advantages of Altemeier's procedure. Although incarcerated rectal prolapse is rare (I have personally encountered 4 such cases), it is likely to be encountered by every surgeon in the emergency room. Therefore, it seems worthwhile reading this paper.

In this issue you will also find an article on the management in pregnant and postpartum patients with proctological symptoms. A pregnant or a postpartum patient reporting rectal symptoms becomes a multidisciplinary patient, with the overlap of two specialities, i.e. gynaecology and coloproctology. Most rectal conditions that occur in this special period of life may be managed conservatively, and surgical approach is needed in only some of the cases. The authors of the paper present therapeutic approaches for different pathological conditions and discuss situations requiring a consultation with a proctological surgeon.

Finally, we present a real historical gem – another paper by Maria Ciesielska, MD, which was included in the historical section and which describes the work of two doctors imprisoned in Auschwitz. Władysław Dering and Jan Grabczyński were forced to work in extreme conditions of the concentration camp. This moving article rich in historical details prompts us to reflect on human frailty.

I wish you a pleasurable reading.

Editor-in-chief
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