

EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers

In this issue you will find an original paper, which is a result of a collaborative effort between St. Elisabeth Hospital and the Institute of Psychology at the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. A preliminary report from the ongoing research was published in our journal several years ago. In the current issue, the authors present their final results of a psychological analysis in 110 patients with benign proctological conditions. These diseases are particularly stressful due to both patient anxiety associated with treatment and potential complications (e.g. the need for a stoma), as well as the intimate nature of symptoms and their adverse effects on social functioning. The authors observed, among other things, that temperament and personality traits of patients with benign proctological diseases may be a prognostic factor for depressive symptoms. Undoubtedly, this observation has practical implications for surgeons dealing with proctological patients and encourages a more thorough insight into the personality of our patients. I also recommend another paper on endometriosis located in the anorectal region and the rectovaginal septum. This time, the article was written by a gynaecologist and, as a consequence, it presents the gynaecologist's point of view on modern diagnosis and treatment of patients with endometriosis located in this region. Although endometriosis with anal sphincter involvement is uncommon, each of us may encounter such a patient in our daily medical practice. Unfortunately, despite advances in the diagnosis of endometriosis, the disease is still incurable and our therapeutic efforts mainly focus on alleviating pain. I personally completely agree with the author's conclusions that the future treatment of endometriosis will involve correction of immune function and modulation of gene expression, which will eliminate the underlying cause of the disease and, consequently, the disease itself. The current issue also features a review paper on advances in proctology. The authors discuss the latest minimally invasive techniques, along with indications for their use in different conditions, their limitations and potential complications. Despite advances associated with the use of a variety of novel techniques and devices (lasers, collagen pastes, adhesives), there is still room for classical surgical methods, including centuries-old, historical methods, which are now significantly modified.

I wish you a pleasurable reading.

Editor-in-chief
Małgorzata Kołodziejczak

