

EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers

In the current issue of the journal, I especially recommend two papers presenting patient cases.

One of them is a report on a patient presenting with a buttock mass which turned out to be the first symptom of a branching pilonidal cyst complicated by anal fistula. Pilonidal cyst is a common condition which takes various clinical forms ranging from minor lesions, characterised by limited symptoms, located at the top of the cleft of the buttocks, to extensive branching fistulas accompanied by severe inflammation. In cases involving cysts suggesting a different aetiology or contact with the anal canal and sphincter muscles, it is advisable to extend the preoperative diagnostic work-up by transrectal ultrasonography, computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging. In my own practice, I routinely perform transrectal ultrasonography in uncertain cases.

The other paper addresses the case of a patient with a foreign body in the rectum. The reported case is unusual because of the size of the object. It is not uncommon for patients presenting with a foreign body in the rectum to be treated by medical staff in a condescending manner, and serve as an object of crude jokes. However, every experienced surgeon is aware of the possible serious health complications of such events, so it is important to know the algorithm for managing such cases.

Also, I encourage the readers to dip into Dr. Maria Ciesielska's historical study devoted to Dr. Stanisław Michałek-Grodzki, Poland's first plastic surgeon. Dr. Michałek-Grodzki, an outstanding physician and a very interesting person, completed training in a number of foreign medical centres in France, Italy and Czechoslovakia. During the German occupation of Poland, he worked at the Ujazdowski Hospital in Warsaw, where he performed hundreds of reconstructive surgeries, saving injured Polish soldiers from disability. The author of the paper, Dr. Ciesielska, in her customary thorough manner and with true literary passion, acquaints the reader with Dr. Michałek-Grodzki's life and valuable contribution to Polish surgery.

The new issue of the journal also features a review article on the perineal approach for the surgical treatment of rectal prolapse. In view of the aging of the population, the number of elderly patients with rectal prolapse will increase. Consequently, surgeons will be required to develop a uniform algorithm for managing patients with this condition.

I hope you will enjoy the read.

Editor-in-chief
Małgorzata Kołodziejczak

