

EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers

In the current issue of the journal, I recommend in particular the original paper on laser haemorrhoidoplasty (LHP) using a radial laser beam. The authors compare the therapeutic efficacy of the method by comparing their results with those obtained in a group of patients after conventional hemorrhoidectomy by the Milligan-Morgan technique. Laser techniques have become “fashionable” in proctology in recent years. I believe that many of our Readers apply laser therapy for the treatment of proctological diseases, so I want to encourage you to share your experiences in our journal.

Another interesting piece included in the new issue is a review paper focusing on the most recent developments in proctology. As commonly known, research papers published in highly indexed journals are subject to rigorous evaluation criteria, which makes their findings very credible. Nevertheless, there are often conflicting reports on similar or even the same surgical therapies or novel drugs. The value of these studies is ultimately verified by time and clinical practice. Incorporating novel solutions into one's own professional practice requires a certain amount of reserve, while patients need to be closely followed-up clinically, for periods spanning several years or longer.

I also recommend reading the paper which attempts to systematise aspects related to the treatment of disorders in the area of proctogynaecology, i.e. “borderline” diseases within the field of expertise of gynaecologists and proctological surgeons. These are diseases of the anal canal, sphincter muscles, rectum, rectovaginal fascia, and the female reproductive system. They may also be related to the loosening of the pelvic floor structures and the rectovaginal septum (rectal, vaginal and uterine prolapse; enterocele; rectocele). Other conditions of this type may develop as a result of childbirth-related injuries, including sphincter damage, rectovaginal fistulas, perineal and rectovaginal endometriosis, inflammatory proctological disorders in pregnant women as well as radiation proctitis associated with the treatment of tumours of the reproductive system. The authors have made an attempt to develop a generalised algorithm to systematise the knowledge on the subject matter.

Last but not least, let me point your attention to two captivating articles in the section called “Our Masters”, which are the true “cherries on top” of the current issue of the journal. One of them, authored by Professor Krzysztof Bielecki, describes his first professional steps when working under the supervision of Dr Liszka. Since Professor Bielecki is known for his great penmanship, his early experiences in the medical field serve as a literary pretext for a fascinating essay on the surgeon's personality traits. The paper includes very apt quotes that encourage reflection on our individual career paths and attitudes towards patients from a holistic perspective. The other “cherry on top” has been provided by Associate Professor Maria Ciesielska, who is a regular contributor to our history column. This time, the author makes us familiar with an outstanding contemporary figure – Amina Viktorivna Okueva. Okueva was a Ukrainian surgeon of Chechen descent, a woman of great beauty, and an Euromaidan activist (2013) who was killed in a politically motivated ambush in 2017.

I strongly hope that you will find the content both thought-provoking and practical. I wish you all an enjoyable reading experience.



Editor-in-chief
Małgorzata Kołodziejczak