

EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers and Colleagues

This edition features as many as three case reports.

A particularly interesting is the case of a woman with an extensive fistula, probably resulting from abscessed rectus sheath hematoma. It is a truly unique case. Although I have been treating anal fistulas for a long time, I personally have never encountered such a case. This report demonstrates that a non-crypt-related etiology should always be considered in atypical, complex fistulas as the identification of an unusual cause tends to be the key to therapeutic success. The authors applied negative pressure wound therapy, which additionally accelerated the healing process.

I would also like to recommend two articles prepared by surgeons from the hospital in Żuromin, Poland. The first describes a fortunately very rare complication after appendectomy – a fecal fistula. In the case description, the authors try to present the order of the diagnostic and therapeutic process. When a fecal fistula is suspected, it is imperative to rapidly establish the diagnosis (fistulography, CT) and start treatment promptly. This complication can be encountered by each and every one of us and therefore every paper regarding this issue and based on the author's own, practical experience is valuable.

The other paper from the center in Żuromin describes a case of Amyand hernia, which is a rare inguinal hernia where the appendix is located within the hernial sac. The authors emphasize the role of laparoscopic techniques as an alternative to classical surgery also for emergency conditions and believe that simple appendicitis does not have to be a contraindication to simultaneous laparoscopic hernia repair using synthetic materials.

Finally, the historical section contains a fascinating article about the Pernkopf atlas of anatomy. This atlas has always been (and still is) considered a remarkable achievement in the field of science and art. It has only recently been discovered that Pernkopf and his illustrators used in their work cadavers of political prisoners executed by beheading. These facts and other unknowns are presented in a highly exciting article of Maria Ciesielska.

Enjoy the reading.

Editor-in-chief
Professor Małgorzata Kołodziejczak, MD, PhD

