

## EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### Dear Readers

In the current issue, you will find two interesting review papers on difficult-to-treat anorectal conditions. The first article discusses viral anorectal diseases, most often transmitted by sexual contact. In the previous issue, the same author, Aneta Obcowska, PhD, introduced us to bacterial proctological infections. Counseling on sexually transmitted infections is still underestimated, the topics continue to arouse embarrassment, and yet prevention in this area is crucial in limiting the spread of these diseases. The present article describes the diagnosis, symptoms and treatment options for the most common viral anorectal conditions, which are particularly common in the group of immunocompromised patients, e.g. HIV-positive individuals. As pointed out by the author, any atypical presentations of warts, which do not heal despite the treatment of ulceration, require oncological vigilance to exclude anal cancer, especially in immunodeficient patients.

The second review paper discusses radiation proctitis, which is a complication of anti-cancer treatment. Patients with radiation proctitis are therapeutically challenging and usually referred by oncologists to surgeons or gastroenterologists. The treatment with mesalazine derivatives is not reimbursed by the National Health Fund. Professor Radziśław Trzciński thoroughly describes this clinical entity and, additionally, proposes his own therapeutic algorithm adapted to Polish realities. The article also refers to the latest reports on the treatment options for radiation proctitis, including aqueous enemas, which I myself consider extremely interesting and yet controversial.

In the current issue you will also find an interesting report from the District Hospital in Ostrów Mazowiecka. Doctor Jacek Bierca presents a case of a patient with a late-diagnosed high abscess, who developed acute renal failure. This is yet another proof that a late-diagnosed and untreated anal abscess can evolve from a trivial condition into a serious life-threatening disease.



*I wish you a pleasant reading.*  
Editor-in-Chief Professor Małgorzata Kołodziejczak, MD