



STANDPOINT

from

Assoc. Professor Adrian Milenov Palov, MD, PhD

Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embriology

Medical University of Sofia

Bulgaria

according to the paper entitled „Forensic aspects of child abuse syndrome”, with author Ivan Ivanov Tsranchev, MD, during procedure for achieving „**Doctoral Degree**“ in the field of 7. „**Healthcare and Sport**”, scientific direction „**Medicine**”, specialty „**Forensic medicine and Deontology**”

Legal base for this official standpoint: I present this standpoint as a member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order № P-909/11.06.2020 of the Rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

1. Personal information

The author of this scientific paper - Dr. Ivan Ivanov Tsranchev, is an assistant professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University of Plovdiv. The project for this dissertation was accepted for elaboration with a protocol by the Department Council and Dr. Ivan Tsranchev was enrolled as a doctoral student (in independent form) by Order № P-806/30.04.2020 of the Rector of Medical University of Plovdiv. The dissertation was presented and discussed during an extended Department Council of Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Medical University of Plovdiv. With a protocol from 21.04.2020 Dr. Ivan Tsranchev achieved the right to defend his scientific work in front of a scientific jury, approved by the Faculty Council of Medical Faculty. He was expelled by order № P-775 / 26.05.2020. of the Rector of Medical University of Plovdiv with the right to officially present his scientific paper until period of time of 1 (one) year. Dr. Ivan Tsranchev has fully completed the tasks described in his individual curriculum, has completely finished his group curriculum, and in connection with his dissertation he has 5 publications, two of which are in international peer-reviewed and indexed journals, as well as three publications are published in Bulgarian peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals. In three of these articles he is the first author, and in the other two he is second in the author's team.

Brief Biography of the author

Dr. Ivan Ivanov Tsranchev was born on 23rd of September, 1988 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. He graduated with excellent diploma from language high school „Vasil Levski“ in Burgas in 2007. In 2013 he graduated from the Medical University - Plovdiv again with excellent diploma. Since November 2016 he has been an assistant

professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University of Plovdiv, and he is an assistant professor until now, with English language teaching profile. In May 2018 he successfully passed the exam and acquired the specialty "Forensic Medicine and Deontology". In January 2019 he successfully achieved his second master's degree in "Public Health and Healthcare Management" at Medical University of Plovdiv. He speaks Russian, English and German. He is a member of: the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Bulgarian Society of Forensic Medicine, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. He is a current member of the Ethics Commission of the Bulgarian Medical Union - Plovdiv, as well as an international reviewer at the indexed international scientific journal "Indian Journal of Case Reports".

2. Relevance of the problem

This completed dissertation analyzes in detail a problem, seriously widespread worldwide which is also seen in the forensic expert practice. This problem is significantly present in the routine work of other clinical and paraclinical medical specialties and affects the most important and at the same time one of the most vulnerable social groups - people under 18 years of age. It is noteworthy that the relevance of the dissertation's topic is significantly more discussed in foreign scientific literature and in specialized international forums, while in Bulgarian specialized literature there is lacks of a large number of publications related to the topic of the dissertation. The correct diagnosis of victims of child abuse is still a significant difficulty for medical professionals facing this problem. The development of universal algorithms for work in this context of the problem is important for the reduction of mortality and traumatism in this age group. The information inside this scientific paper is comprehensive and shows in-depth knowledge of the problem by the author. The analysis of the literature shows his creative approach and attitude to the dissertation. It has led to a comprehensive, complete and reasonable processing and interpretation of the results, compared with previously known scientific data. This well done and qualitative work also has led to significant and qualitative contributions.

The results and conclusions from this dissertation, give me the basis to believe that an attention should be paid when experts in different fields of the medical science work with such as patients, who are victims as a result of child abuse. This examination should be done according to officially approved algorithms. Mentioned by me above should be one of the main priorities of forensic medicine, the police and the court in order to prevent any injuries or any fatal outcomes in this specific type of violence.

The dissertation prepared by Dr. Tsranchev is written on 162 standard pages. The dissertation is illustrated in the section "Results" with 40 tables and 15 diagrams showing the data on physical violence against children, and 47 tables and 26 diagrams showing the data on sexual violence against children. The literature review

is illustrated with 11 figures, some of which are in the form of tables. The Literature Section includes 154 titles, of which 8 are written in Cyrillic and 146 in Latin. The dissertation is presented in a correspondingly good view, and all the requirements for this are fulfilled.

The literature review shows in detail the main manifestations of both physical and sexual abuse over children, which are the most common forms of violence against children seen in the routine forensic practice. A brief reference was made to the causes of death in children related to this syndrome. The literature review is comprehensive, well illustrated and contains 47 pages, covering the main aspects of the "Child abuse syndrome" relevant to the topic of the dissertation, from sources available in the world scientific databases.

All used material and methods are described in detail and are in a sufficiently large volume. The analysis of achieved results is enough deep and it is performed according to a large number of criteria. The purpose and scope are defined clearly and precisely. The methods by which the purpose and the scope will be achieved are sufficiently defined. Excluding criteria have been well defined, and detailed statistical blank templates have been created for the processing of cases, including both social criteria and criteria representing the morphological manifestation of violence against children in physical and sexual abuse. The results of this self-made research are presented in sufficient volume and are illustrated by a large number of tables and pie type diagrams. In the section "Summary and discussion of the results" the results are presented in detail and in relation to the data published in Bulgarian and international scientific literature, mentioned in the Review Section. This is done in separate subsections for each subtype of violence. A notable contribution of this scientific work is the creation of detailed algorithms for working with children, suspicious to be victims of CAS, which will be extremely useful in the routine practical work of a wide range of medical professionals. A comprehensive literature review, covering the main morphological manifestations of different types of violence against children, as well as the global trends in their manifestation and diagnosis, is also well described inside the paper. All morphological features and statistical results are compared with the results from other Bulgarian and foreign authors, working over this widespread medical and social problem. The scientific contributions are enough appropriate, they have strong scientific and applied nature and they correspond to the methods, results and conclusions written in this scientific work.

SUMMARY

This dissertation written by Dr. Ivan Ivanov Tsranchev fully meets the requirements of the current Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in its volume, required sections, consistency, logical connection and scientific style. The paper is really well illustrated by a sufficient number of figures, diagrams and tables, and demonstrates the author's skills to combine his personal expert skills with other skills that enrich the knowledge of modern forensic

science.

CONCLUSION

It is absolutely clear that Dr. Ivan Ivanov Tsrachev has rich theoretical knowledge and practical skills in relation to his fully developed scientific work entitled „Forensic aspects of Child abuse syndrome“. This scientific paper shows the author's skills for achieving complex systematic review and analysis during the development of his dissertation, the abilities for correct interpretation of obtained by him results, for comprehensive discussion, precisely formulated conclusions and scientific contributions. His high scientific activity is well seen in the field of the developed topic and also in the field of other sections of forensic science.

I assess this dissertation as a scientific work with high scientific and practical value. I give a **POSITIVE** assessment and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award the author Dr. Ivan Tsrachev with educational and scientific degree **"DOCTOR"**.

22.06.2020

Signature:
/Assoc. Professor Adrian Palov/