

OPINION

By Assoc. Professor Dr Radosveta Andreeva – Borisova, MDSc
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Medical University of Varna
Member of the Scientific jury in accordance with Order 1556/16.09.2020
Of the Rector of Medical University of Plovdiv

In regard with: Procedure for awarding **educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** in in professional field "Dental Medicine" **Dr. Plamena Todorova Sapunarova**, with dissertation themed "**Oral health in obese children**" with academic supervisor Prof. Dr. Maria Kukleva-Todorova, PhD, DMSc.

Information about the doctoral candidate

Plamena Spunarova obtained a master's degree in Dental Medicine at the Medical University - Plovdiv in 2013. Since 2015 she has been an Assistant professor at the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, where she participates in teaching students of Pediatric dentistry.

Significance of the problem

The dissertation addresses a very topical issue in recent years, namely oral health in obese children, a problem that is becoming socially significant worldwide.

General characteristics of the presented dissertation

The dissertation is structured according to the established standards. It contains 165 pages and is illustrated with 24 tables and 80 diagrams. The bibliographic reference includes 369 literary sources, of which 18 are in Cyrillic and the rest in Latin.

In the introduction, the doctoral candidate correctly focuses on the diet and the impact on children's oral health. The presented literature review examines in detail the prevalence, etiology, pathogenesis and complications of childhood obesity. After that, the

association between dental eruption, caries, periodontal health, dental erosions on the one hand and obesity on the other was studied.

The aim of the dissertation is clearly stated: To study the oral health of overweight and obese children and to compare it with that of healthy children. Dr. Sapunarova sets six tasks for the realization of the set goal. In carrying out the tasks the doctoral candidate uses appropriate research tools, and the results are processed and analyzed with modern statistical programs and methods of analysis.

As a constructive critique, I can say that the presented regression analyzes show which factors can be defined as predictors of the occurrence of an event. In my opinion, coefficients such as Odds ratio (OR), Relative risk (RR) and Hazard ratio (HR) should be used to assess the risk and determine the forecast for the occurrence of an event.

The results are presented according to the defined tasks, and are well illustrated with figures and tables.

Based on the results obtained, the doctoral candidate has made eleven conclusions, with the emphasis shifted to obesity and overweight, and oral health remains in the background.

The contributions are grouped into two groups, with original and confirmatory character. My only remark is that the contribution in which the doctoral student points out that for the first time in the country the incidence of dental caries in children with underweight, normal and overweight and obesity is examined, in my opinion, should be indicated as confirmatory, and not with an original, because there is already a dissertation that deals with the problem of obesity and oral health in children. The most significant contribution is the study of the eruption of permanent teeth of children of different weights.

Evaluation of dissertation publications

In connection with the dissertation, the doctoral student presented 4 publications, 3 participations in scientific forums and one participation in a project on the topic of the dissertation. The main part of the publications are in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The author's summary is prepared according to the requirements, with high quality of the illustrative material and adequately reflects the main results of the dissertation.

Conclusion

The dissertation is a completed scientific work that meets the minimum requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria , the Rules for its implementation and the Rules of MU - Plovdiv and shows that the doctoral student has the necessary knowledge and skills to develop, organize and conduct quality research.

In view of the above, I convincingly give my **positive assessment** and propose to the Scientific Jury to award Plamena Todorova Sapunarova educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatric Dentistry".

25.09.2020

Varna

Prepared by:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr Radosveta Andreeva – Borisova, DMSc.)