

STATEMENT

By Assoc.Prof.Dr.Maria Dencheva, PhD
MU Sofia, FDM, Department of imaging and oral diagnostic
About the dissertation for awarding the scientific degree „ Doctor of science“
Higher education area: 7. Health and Sport
Professional Field 7.1 Medicine
Scientific specialty Immunopathology and allergy (03.01.27)
Author: Assoc. Prof. Dr Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev, PhD

Topic: ANGIONEUROTIC EDEMA - EPIDEMIOLOGY, ETIOLOGY, PATHOGENESIS, FORMS, CLINICAL COURSE, DIAGNOSTIC AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA, THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

1. General presentation of the procedure and the dissertation author

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev's autobiography proves the exceptional motivation for academic growth from his graduation as a doctor in 1988 to the present day.

Associate Professor Dr. Svetlan Dermendzhiev, MD is Head of the Department of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology at the Second Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, MU - Plovdiv, Head of the Department of Occupational Diseases, incl. activity in clinical allergology at the University Hospital "St. George" EAD-Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev has acquired specialties in Internal Medicine, Clinical Toxicology, Clinical Allergology, Occupational Diseases. He is the author of the doctoral program in "Immunopathology and Allergology" accredited by NEAA, he is also the author and a leading lecturer in the elective course "Clinical Allergology" for students majoring in "Medicine" at the Medical faculty in Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev is a member of commissions for taking the state exam in the following medical specialties: 1. Clinical allergology, 2. Clinical toxicology, 3. Occupational diseases. He is chairman of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Occupational Diseases.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev, PhD speaks French and Russian.

The statement that I present as a member of a scientific jury is based on an order of the Rector of MU Plovdiv R-1684 / 30.09.2020.

2. Subject actuality

Angioneurotic edema is a condition with multiple clinical manifestations and treatment regimens that are constantly updated. Although the condition was described in 1876 by

John Milton, it still arouses unceasing interest among medical professionals, dictated by the unusual lives of these patients. The dissertation presents in detail the epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis and diagnostic criteria of angioneurotic edema and since there is no such large-scale scientific set of theses on the problem, I can confirm its originality and relevance to date.

3. Knowledge on the topic

As a long-term head and practicing physician in the Department of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology at the Second Department of Internal Medicine of the Medical Faculty, MU - Plovdiv, Head of the Department of Occupational Diseases, incl. activity in clinical allergology in UMHAT "St. George" EAD-Plovdiv Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has a direct observation on the nature of work with patients with allergic diseases and with angioneurotic edema. The application of the diagnostic and treatment algorithms by the dissertation for these patients is consistent with the latest research, based on his in-depth knowledge of the problem. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev is a leading researcher of two intra-university research projects on "Angioneurotic edema in occupationally exposed persons" and "Allergic diseases in occupationally exposed to irritants and sensitizing factors from paraclinical diagnostic units and laboratories of Medical University" Plovdiv.

4. Methods of the study

In the dissertation 5 tasks are set, the implementation of which is based on two methods of medical sociology - survey method and documentary method. The necessary information through these two methods was collected from 2211 patients in the period from 2010 to 2017, which allows us to assume that the sample is representative. Statistical analysis of the information was performed using SPSS (SPSS Inc., IBM SPSS Statistica) version 20.0 and Microsoft Office 2010.

5. Characteristics of the dissertation and contributions

The presented dissertation includes all the necessary components for such scientific work. The literature review is comprehensive and is based on 287 literature sources, 18 in Cyrillic and 269 in Latin. 38 diagrams, 35 tables and 7 appendices are included. To achieve the goal, the dissertation has set five tasks on a clinical contingent of 2211 patients. The conclusions are made after the analysis of the results and are summarized by tasks, after which the contributions of the dissertation are logically derived.

The contributions to the dissertation are grouped as follows:

Contributions of scientific-theoretical nature 7 issues, of which I identify two of exceptional importance, namely the study of the examined persons by criteria related to hospital treatment, which is the only one of its kind on a regional and national scale and the first comprehensive analysis made in our country of the etiology of the disease by examining and analyzing a wide range of factors that trigger and provoke the manifestation of angioedema - drugs, food, insects, trauma, invasive manipulations, factors related to the work environment.

From the scientifically applied and confirmatory contributions I could distinguish the established leading role of medications and injuries as triggers of angioedema, as the frequency of occurrence is highest in MFA. This is extremely useful information for daily dental practice and should always be thinks about the possible occurrence of angioedema in forthcoming invasive dental manipulations such as tooth extraction, placement of orthodontic appliances with an uneven surface and constant contact with the oral mucosa, periodontal curettage, etc.

The other contribution I would like to emphasize is the fact that the attached panels of clinical and laboratory diagnostic criteria can be used to update the existing algorithms for diagnosis and treatment of angioneurotic edema and hereditary angioneurotic edema in hospital clinical pathway. as well as the possibility of blood eosinophils and levels of total Ig.E to be used as biomarkers in the differentiation of allergic from non-allergic forms of angioedema.

The dissertation also identifies two major groups of contributions targeted specifically at patients with angioneurotic edema and those with hereditary angioneurotic edema. I believe that such a subdivision clarifies the amount of work done, but on the other hand some of the contributions already are repeated.

I consider extremely practical the recommendations made at the end of the dissertation, in the implementation of which I am sure that Dr. Dermendzhiev will take an active part. The applications in the dissertation are seven and include the used questionnaires, photo material of clinical cases, orders concerning the professional engagement of the dissertation, lists of the scientific-publishing activity.

6. Assessment of the publications and the personal contribution of the author

From the reference in NACID and appendix № 7 in the dissertation it is evident that the publishing activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev on the topic by 2019 includes a total 31 publications, 2 monographs and 13 participations in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad. Of the 10 cited articles on the topic, 2 are in journals with an impact factor.

7. Author's abstract

The author's abstract is structured according requirements in Bulgarian and English. He contains 75 pages and includes the most important results of the research.


CONCLUSION

The current dissertation „Angioneurotic edema- epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches“ presents significant practical and theoretical contributions of original and scientifically applied nature on a topic and meets all the requirements of Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the same act and respective the Regulations of MU Plovdiv.

The dissertation proves that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dermendzhiev has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergy" and is one of the leading experts in the field of angioneurotic edema in Bulgaria.

Based on the abovementioned, I give my **positive assessment** of the research, the results and contributions and I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the award of the degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetlan Dermendzhiev, PhD specialty "Immunopathology and Allergy (03.01.27), professional field 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and sports.

19.10.2020


Assoc.Prof.Dr. Maria Dencheva, PhD