

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Romyana Yankova, MD, PhD,
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A member of the elected with protocol №37 / 29.05.2019 by the extended departmental council of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, approved by the Ministry of Finance of MU-Plovdiv and the Rector of MU-Plovdiv according to Order № P-1684 / 30.09.2020 for approval of the Scientific Jury

On the procedure for defense of a dissertation on the topic:
«Angioneurotic edema - epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches»
for the acquisition of the National Assembly "Doctor of Science" in the scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergology" (03.01.27), field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine

Author of the dissertation: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev, MD, Head of the Section of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology, Second Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv

The dissertation is presented by the author at an extended department council of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, held on March 25, 2019, at which the dissertation is directed for defense before the Scientific Jury.

I. Professional and career development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetlan Dermendzhiev, Ph.D. graduated from the Medical Institute "Iv.P. Pavlov" in Plovdiv with honors.

In 2010 he obtained a Master's degree in Health Management, and in 2012, after successfully defending a dissertation on "Comparative analysis of allergic diseases of general and occupational nature for a 10-year period in Plovdiv region", acquires the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". After winning a competition, since January 2014 he has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Section of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology at the Second Department of Internal Medicine, Ministry of Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv. Since 2008 Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has been the Head of the Clinical Allergology Department at the Clinic for Occupational Diseases, and since 2010 he has held the position of Head of the Department of Occupational Diseases with Clinical Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev

acquired four clinical specialties: internal medicine, clinical toxicology, clinical allergology and occupational diseases.

The creation of a clinical structure in allergology at St. George University Hospital, for which Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has great merit, contributed to the development and validation of the specialty, staff training and improving the quality of patient care in Plovdiv and the region. Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is the author of the program for studying "clinical allergology" as an elective course by students majoring in "medicine" at the Ministry of Finance, as well as the program for accreditation of a doctoral program in "Immunopathology and Allergology" at MU-Plovdiv.

The career development of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev marks an upward development as his interest in the problems of immunopathology and allergology prevails. Proof of this is his dissertation on "Angioneurotic edema - epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches." Allergology at St. George Hospital, Plovdiv.

II. Presented materials on the procedure

The author presents a complete set of documents for acquiring the Scientific Degree "Doctor of Sciences" in accordance with Art. 120. (1) and Art. 122. (1) of the Regulation for acquisition of the National Assembly "Doctor of Sciences" in MU-Plovdiv, ZRASRB and the Regulations for its application. The documents are arranged and described in detail in the application submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev to the Rector of MU-Plovdiv.

III. Relevance of the topic, characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation is of significant relevance, thoroughly developed and of significant scientific and practical importance. As a disease, angioneurotic edema is an interdisciplinary problem faced by both pre-hospital doctors and specialists in various specialties - in allergists, dermatologists, toxicologists, immunologists, rheumatologists, pediatricians and others. The frequency of angioneurotic edema in clinical practice tends to increase. One of the merits of the dissertation is that Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev thoroughly studies the reasons leading to this phenomenon. The diverse etiology, pathophysiology, location and features of the clinical course of angioedema often confront clinicians with the complex and responsible task of making a quick and adequate decision to prevent a fatal outcome. Angioneurotic edema is emerging as one of the leading toxoallergic reactions that physicians face in emergency medicine. This requires the theoretical and practical training of specialists and GPs on this issue to be constantly updated, and diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms to be updated in accordance with the achievements of science.

The author presents a very well-developed dissertation, containing a literature review, material and methods, own results, scientific conclusions, contributions, bibliography and abstract. The structure and content of the dissertation correspond to the established requirements. The total volume of the dissertation is 233 pages, and the abstract is 79 pages. The dissertation contains 38 diagrams, 35 tables and 7 appendices. The bibliography includes 287 literature sources, 18 in Cyrillic and 269 in Latin. The work is properly structured and contains the following elements: introduction, abbreviations used, literature review (including introduction, historical data, etiology and genetics, epidemiology, classification, clinical picture, differential diagnosis, therapeutic approaches), purpose and tasks, material and methods, contingent characteristics, results and discussion.

The goals and tasks are formulated clearly and precisely.

The literature review presents the disease in its full scope - definition of the edema syndrome, main pathogenetic mechanisms, classifications, incl. modern clinical and pathogenetic classification of angioedema, therapeutic approaches in each type of disease.

The methodology and design of the study are described in detail. Appropriate place in the review is given to the historical data on the disease, epidemiology, etiology and genetics, the clinical picture and the peculiarities of the clinical course of the individual forms of angioedema are considered in detail. The author pays special attention to the hereditary angioedema, as a rare disease and congenital immune deficiency in the complement system. The modern diagnostic-therapeutic algorithms for the disease are presented. Both therapeutic approaches to behavior during an attack and the means for short-term and long-term prevention are considered. The author's research in the field of the etiology of angioedema and the peculiarities of the course of the disease, considered in the whole diverse spectrum of various etiological, pathogenetic and clinical forms, stand out as a valuable contribution of the dissertation work of theoretical and scientific-applied nature.

The research methodology is characterized by originality, thoroughness and comprehensiveness. Each of the patients was examined through documentary registration of indicators, which the author has divided into five parts: socio-demographic characteristics, hospital treatment, etiology of angioneurotic edema, clinical-diagnostic and laboratory-diagnostic parts.

The results of the study are illustrated with a rich set of tables and diagrams. The analysis and interpretation of the results are done competently, in accordance with the structure and criteria of each part of the study. The indicators on which the survey obtained results different from the cited sources were commented by the author correctly and thoroughly.

The attached rich photographic material from patients diagnosed and treated by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is indicative of the diversity in the etiology, localization, clinical forms and course of the disease.

IV. Evaluation of the conclusions and recommendations made by the author in the dissertation

Some of the findings after each part of the study are confirmatory, while others, such as those related to the etiology, clinical manifestation and course of angioedema, and the panel of diagnostic criteria used for the study, are original in nature. With the generalized conclusions made by the author in a synthesized form, the importance of the results of the research in the performance of each of the set tasks is highlighted.

The conclusion emphasizes the leading place of the clinician in determining the type of angioedema, as well as the importance of the individual approach in its treatment.

V. Evaluation of the author's publishing activity on the topic of the dissertation

Associate Professor Dermendzhiev has attached a list of 28 full-text publications on the topic of the dissertation, 3 monographs and 1 manual on the procedure for acquiring the Doctor of Science. The published reviews, the original articles with the results of the dissertation, as well as the original clinical cases are indicative of the author's interest in the issues of the dissertation and the scientific specialty. Four articles have been published in journals with the Impact factor, and 18 of the publications and 1 of the monographs have been published in English.

VI. Personal impressions of the dissertation

I have known Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev for many years. My personal impressions of him as a person, doctor, specialist and scientist are excellent. As head of the Department and head of the Clinic of Skin and Venereal Diseases, I was a direct witness to the efforts and diligence that Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev invested in the development and establishment of clinical allergology as a clinical specialty and discipline. He has the qualities to work in a team. We have discussed many of the ideas for the development of allergology together, guided by the desire to provide quality care to patients with allergic diseases on the territory of the university hospital and the whole region. With his inherent ambition, consistency and sense of responsibility, he managed to train and continue to train young staff - allergists for the needs of specialized pre-hospital and hospital care. Thanks to his professionalism, clinical and administrative experience, the clinical unit headed by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev managed to establish itself as one of the leaders in the diagnosis and

treatment of allergic diseases of general and occupational nature not only in Plovdiv and the region but throughout the country.

VII. Remarks and recommendations

Notes:

1. Some of the copied figures in the literature review are not very clear and legible. With proper technique, their quality would be better.
2. Conclusion № 1 and conclusion № 6 to the part for laboratory tests are in fact explanations, ie. no conclusions.
3. Some of the conclusions divided by tasks are quite voluminous and aggravate the text, and also are duplicated with the conclusions after the individual parts.
4. Contributions №3 and №5 of the section on original contributions may rather refer to the conclusions.

The cited critical remarks do not diminish the scientific significance of the presented work. I would recommend that the work of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev be promoted through the Bulgarian Society of Allergology, and diagnostic and therapeutic approaches be published in the form of a guide or manual for behavior in patients with angioedema.

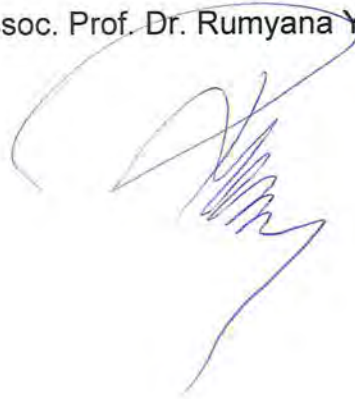
VIII. Conclusion

The dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev on "Angioneurotic edema - epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches" is developed in accordance with the requirements of regulations volume, structure and content. The work is relevant and dissertable. The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of ZRASRB and the regulation for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences". from the Regulations for the structure and activity of MU - Plovdiv. The dissertation, the abstract and the documents submitted under the procedure meet the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the Regulation of MU-Plovdiv for acquisition of NS "Doctor of Sciences". The contributions of the dissertation of scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature in the field of immunopathology and allergology are indisputable. The publications on the topic of the dissertation, the published monographs and manuals, the numerous participations in scientific forums on the problems of immunopathology and allergology, the achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev in his overall career

development, the valuable qualities and virtues he possesses as a person, scientist, lecturer and specialist, also give me a reason to give my positive assessment, and to propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of "Doctor of Science" in "Immunopathology and Allergology" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev, Ph.D.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Romyana Yankova, MD, Ph.D.:

28.10.2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Romyana Yankova', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.