

Opinion

from

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Head of First Surgery Clinic, St. George University Hospital EAD

On dissertation work

for awarding an educational and scientific degree "Doctor", professional field

7.1 Medicine, doctoral program "Thoracic Surgery"

Author: Dr. Petar Angelov Uchikov

Form of doctoral studies - independent preparation

Department - "Special Surgery"

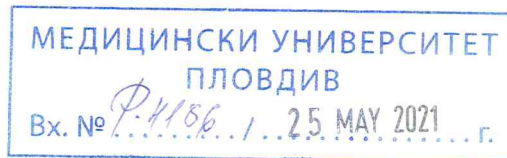
Supervisors:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Prisadov MD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Silvia Genova MD

**Topic: Assessment of the influence of hormonal, menstrual
and reproductive factors and analysis of survival in women with
non-small cell lung cancer.**

General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with Article 70 (1) of the Procedure for Acquisition of ONS "Doctor" in MU-Plovdiv and the Regulations of MU-Plovdiv. The doctoral candidate has attached all the necessary documents.



Dr. Petar Uchikov was born on January 2, 1993 in the city of Plovdiv. He graduated from EG "Plovdiv" in 2012, and in 2018 Medicine at MU - Plovdiv with excellent results. In the same year he was appointed a resident surgeon in the "Second Clinic of Surgery" of the University Hospital "St. George" EAD. In 2019, after a competition, he started working as an assistant in the Department of Special Surgery at the Medical University - Plovdiv. In 2020 he was enrolled as a free doctoral candidate at the department.

Relevance of the topic and knowledge of the problem

The topic of Dr. Uchikov's dissertation deals with a current problem in modern oncology - non-small cell lung cancer in women. In particular, studies have been performed on the role of estrogens (estradiol), menstrual and reproductive factors in the etiopathogenesis of non-small cell lung cancer. This is a relatively new problem, with little research in this area and conflicting data. Dr. Uchikov's scientific development is considered timely, relevant and significant.

Research methodology

Modern statistical and research methods have been used for processing the clinical material, which ensure high reliability of the obtained results.

Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation is written on 109 standard pages. Found dependencies are illustrated with 8 tables and 25 figures. The bibliography contains 186 titles. The scientific development is properly structured.

The literature review is detailed and in-depth, which shows good theoretical preparation of the doctoral candidate.

The aim of the dissertation is precisely and clearly formulated, and the 5 tasks are specific and relevant to the scientific topic. Modern statistical and research methods are used.

In the chapters results and discussion, Dr. Uchikov skillfully interprets and compares his results with those of leading authors on the problem, presenting in-depth reflections and conclusions. Of interest is the correlation established by the dissertation between serum estradiol concentrations and the risk of developing non-small cell lung cancer.

A significant relationship was found between the years of menopause, the number of births, the years of first birth and the risk of developing the disease. The expression of the ER α , HER2 and EGFR mutations in tumor tissue was immunohistochemically examined. The most common surgical intervention in women with NSCLC is lobectomy - 57.6%, and the probability of surviving a five-year period is found in

33.9% of operated patients with NSCLC. Based on the results obtained, Dr. Uchikov draws 8 conclusions that are correlated with the tasks.

Evaluation of the doctoral candidate's publications

Dr. Uchikov has presented 4 scientific publications (in three of them he is the first author) in connection with the dissertation, as 3 of them have been published in peer-reviewed and indexed journals.

Abstract

The abstract meets the requirements and reflects the main results of the dissertation.

Conclusion

In the dissertation, Dr. Uchikov, analyzes and interprets in depth new etiological factors for the development of NSCLC in women. The scientific development contains scientific and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of MU Plovdiv.

All this gives me enough reason to recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award Dr. Petar Uchikov an educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

26 May 2021

Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Prof. Bozhidar Hadzhiev, PhD