

OPINION

by **Assoc.Prof.Dr. Nikolay Yanev, PhD, DSc**

UMBAL "Medica", Russe

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(academic degree, first name, last name, last name, n.s. - scientific organization)

of a dissertation under granting the educational and scientific degree 'doctor', professional direction "Medicine", doctoral program "Plastic and aesthetic surgery"

Author: Dr. Kostadin Gigov

Form of doctoral research studies: Independent preparation

Department: "Propaedeutics of surgical diseases", MU-Plovdiv

Topic: "Evaluation of results after uranoplasty of two surgical techniques"

Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Yuri Konstantinov Anastasov, DSc, Medical University - Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, Section of Plastic-Reconstructive, Aesthetic Surgery and Thermal Trauma

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with Art. 70 (1) of Section I: Acquisition of educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" and scientific degree "DOCTOR OF SCIENCES" at MU-Plovdiv; Regulations of MU-Plovdiv from 28.01.2021.

Dr. Kostadin Gigov adopted a master degree in Medicine at the MU – Plovdiv in 2005. In 2015, he acquired the specialty certificate in "Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery", and in 2021 - "Health Management". From 2009 until now, Dr. Gigov is a plastic surgeon at the Department for Paediatric Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery at the UMBAL "St.Georgi", Plovdiv. From 2015 until now, he is also a plastic surgeon at the MBAL "Karidad", Plovdiv.

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation topic is relevant, being dedicated to the analysis of the early and late results of operative palatal corrections by two surgical methods - uranoplasty according to Anastasov and modification of Veau-Wardill-Kilner uranoplasty, in patients with congenital clefts of the lip and palate or the palate only, to determine the advantages and disadvantages of both techniques, speech outcomes and dento-alveolar development. The tasks are formulated correctly and provide an opportunity to draw conclusions of a scientific and applied nature, as well as original contributions. For the first time in Bulgaria, an analysis of a large number of consecutive cases with congenital

clefts of the lip and palate or the palate only, over a period of 7 years, was performed by evaluating surgical, speech and language and dental arch results.

3. Problem knowledge

The dissertation examines the problem thoroughly. The author is familiar with the current development, which gives him the opportunity to correctly interpret the obtained results.

4. Research methodology

The methodology is contemporary, it allows for achieving of the set goal and obtaining an adequate answer to the formulated tasks in the dissertation work.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation is structured properly in terms of volume and content. It consists of 208 pages and includes a bibliography of 372 sources. It is illustrated by 110 figures and 33 tables. The purpose of the dissertation thesis is formulated correctly, as well as the 3 tasks set for its implementation. It is dedicated to a current, worldwide medical problem, namely congenital clefts of the lip and palate (CCLP), which represent a significant social burden, affecting almost 1 million people in Europe and around 20,000 people in Bulgaria. The direct goal of the scientific work is the comparison of two modern treatment methods - the modified Veau-Wardill-Kilner technique (V-Y pushback) and the closed uranoplasty according to Atanasov, yet in a broad plan - the validation of an optimal treatment protocol, part of a complex model for proactive clinical observation of patients with congenital clefts of the lip and palate in terms of surgical technique, operation history, multidisciplinary approach and ensuring positive results, with a reduced number of operative interventions and general care. The data from the in-depth study signifies the improved results of Anastasov's less invasive technique in relation to the treatment of patients with an average preoperative deformity (4-10 points) and the reduced number of reoperations and pharyngoplasties following it. Alongside that, it describes identical results of this approach to the renowned but more traumatic modified Veau-Wardill-Kilner surgical technique, regarding patients with severe and very severe preoperative deformities. The established examination methodology through the introduction of clinical and standardized speech and orthodontic diagnostics corresponds to modern international standards, which the Department for Pediatric Plastic and Craniofacial Surgery in Plovdiv develops and maintains, including through its participation in prestigious international projects such as Eurocran and the creation of an Electronic Medical Record for Facial Anomalies (EMRFA) in Bulgaria. The analysis also elaborates over the results of the two techniques according to the number of fistulas, reoperations, speech disorders, dental-alveolar development, and others, in the overall group of 382 patients operated on in the last 15 years at the Department. The electronic system of follow-up and distant monitoring in EMRFA, in its turn, makes it possible to further secure and analyse a large part of the late results in these patients.

The design of each of the chapters in the dissertation is set up well.

The literature review is informative and provides a modern analysis of the issues under consideration.

I accept the self-assessment of the contributions.

For the first time in Bulgaria, an analysis of a large number of consecutive cases with congenital clefts of the lip and palate or only on the palate (for the period between 2010 - 2017) was evaluated by surgical, speech and language and dental-alveolar outcomes

Also in such an initial large volume analysis in Bulgaria, data on speech and maxillofacial growth are obtained when the same treatment protocol is applied by two surgeons in two surgical methods, and the results show that the less traumatic method of Atanasov can be applied with success in 70% of all cases with cleft palate.

6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

The publications and the participation in various scientific forums are sufficient and informative about the results obtained in the development of the dissertation work. In connection with the dissertation, the candidate has published a total of 7 full-text articles, in 3 of which he is the first author. He has presented his results at 12 international and 1 national scientific forums. The dissertation work, the results obtained and the formulated contributions are a personal work of Dr. K.Gigov.

7. Abstract

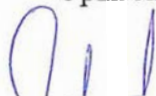
In terms of content and structure, the abstract meets the requirements, reflecting in a summary what is thoroughly presented in the dissertation, as well as the results obtained.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains 7 contributions of an original nature and the same amount of a confirmatory nature and meets the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the Ministry of Education. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond to the specific requirements of the MU - Plovdiv. The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dr. Kostadin Gigov possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery" by demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research. Due to the above, I give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I suggest to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Dr. Kostadin Gigov in doctoral program in "Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery".

22.08.2023

Opinion provider:



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Yanev, PhD, DSc

Заличено на основание
чл.5 §1, 6, "в" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

