



REVIEW

From

Assoc. Professor Viliam Victorov Dokov, MD, PhD

Head of the Section of Forensic Medicine and Deontology

Medical University of Varna

according to the paper entitled „Forensic analysis of violence against elderly people”, with author Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva, MD, during procedure for achieving „**Doctoral Degree**” in the field of 7. „**Healthcare and Sport**”, scientific direction „**Medicine**”, specialty „**Forensic medicine and Deontology**”

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with Article 10 and 11 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and includes all the necessary documents, formatted according to the requirements.

Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva was born on 02.05.1990 in the city of Plovdiv. She completed her secondary education in 2009, with honors, at the High School with a humanitarian profile - Saint Cyril and Methodius High School, Plovdiv. She graduated from the Medical University - Plovdiv in 2015. From the middle of November 2016, she was enrolled by order of the rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv as an assistant in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology of the Medical University of Plovdiv after winning from competition, being an assistant until now in the department of the same name, with a profile of English language teaching. In 2019, she successfully passed the state exam for the acquisition of a specialty in the health care system in the December session and obtained the specialty "Forensic Medicine and Deontology". She speaks English very well, as well as Russian. She is a member of the following scientific and professional societies: The Bulgarian Society of

Forensic Medicine, the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

In general, the topic of Dr. Hadzhieva's dissertation is related to the clinical forensic medicine, part of which is not yet clearly defined in Bulgaria, including morphological and clinical characteristics of child abuse, adult abuse, domestic violence, violence against detainees and others. In the American medical education system, this part of forensic medicine is a mandatory subsection of specialties such as pediatrics, gynecology, urology, emergency and general medicine.

The author of the dissertation focuses on the violence of the elderly, which in its essence represents an all-encompassing complex social and medical problem, seriously spread throughout the world as a specific and special type of violence affecting an age group, some of whose representatives are limited in their ability to protect their health and their physical and mental integrity themselves. The data in various scientific reports and works unanimously show that the timely diagnosis of these victims still continues to represent a significant problem and gap for medical professionals facing this not only forensic medical problem. The problem of its diagnosis in forensic medical practice is relevant in a medical and social aspect, which is why Dr. Hadzhieva's studies deserve a positive evaluation. So far, single studies have been published on this multidisciplinary problem in our country. For this reason, I believe that Dr. Hadzhieva's dissertation has a research-clinical orientation and a scientific-generalizing character.

The dissertation is written on 81 standard pages as follows: Introduction - 2 pages, literature review - 23 pages, aim and objectives - 1 page, material and methods - 2 pages, own results - 23 pages, discussion 12 pages, application in forensic medicine practice - 4 pages, conclusion - 1 page, contributions - 2 pages. The bibliography includes 81 sources, of which 3 titles are in Cyrillic and 78 - in Latin. Relatively new literature is used in the bibliography.

The literature review is thorough, multifaceted and written with an aspiration for comprehensiveness. It is composed of sub-points, successively referring to the morphological and clinical characteristics of all aspects involved in violence in the elderly, its epidemiological distribution, its differential diagnosis. The

individual sections of the literature review are presented concisely and completely. The morphological manifestations of violence against the elderly are clearly and critically described. The tactics and principles of the forensic medical examination of elderly victims of violence are presented in detail and in a modern light. The comprehensiveness of this section suggests the experience and good knowledge of this problem by the dissertationer. The systematicity and precision of the exposition in this part convinces us that Dr. Hadzhieva possesses and applies modern concepts in the examination or postmortem examination of victims of violence in this age group.

Overall, the literature review is balanced, informative and richly supported by relevant and quality forensic publications critically selected by the PhD student.

The purpose of the dissertation is precisely defined and corresponds to the title and possibilities of the study.

The author sets achievable tasks that are sufficiently clear and precisely formulated.

In the "Materials and Methods" chapter, the dissertation presents a forensic contingent of 442 cases of physical violence over a 5-year period. The applied methods are adequate, respectively, for each given task. The complex application of these methods has allowed Dr. Hadzhieva to make a comparative assessment of the morphological characteristics of the disabilities between the Bulgarian and foreign authors.

In the "Results" chapter, Dr. Hadzhieva presents her studies, showing a significant volume of work for collecting, registering, systematizing and analyzing the statistical and forensic data. The essential part of the development - creation of algorithms when working with adults, victims of violence are presented clearly and comprehensibly.

The "Discussion" chapter is built on the basis of the excellent awareness of the dissertation student and her ability to objectively analyze her own results.

The findings in the conclusion on physical abuse are precisely and clearly stated. The conclusions summarize and focus attention on the specific morphological characteristic of disabilities in the elderly. The contributions actually reflect Dr. Hadzhieva's results compared to literature data.

In connection with the dissertation, 3 publications were published in Bulgarian and international journals.

The scientific and practical significance of the dissertation work is emphasized in the chapter "Application in forensic medical practice" in which the doctoral student describes real forensic cases of the problem and the need for medical specialists to recognize its specific morphological characteristic.

The abstract is written as required and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

I have no critical remarks.

CONCLUSION

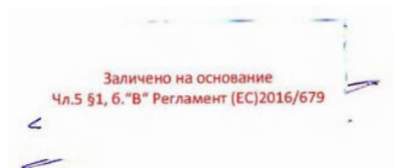
My dissertation work submitted for review is an in-depth scientific study of the problem of forensic diagnosis and differential diagnosis of adult abuse in a modern aspect and in a generalized form. Dr. Hadzhieva started CLINICAL FORENSIC MEDICINE, a discipline that is not clearly distinguishable in Bulgaria. Sufficient forensic material and academic approach of the dissertation student in her interpretation show that she possesses theoretical knowledge, demonstrates qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Based on these findings, I confidently give my positive assessment of the above-reviewed scientific work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" to Dr. Kristina Hadzhieva in the doctoral program

" FORENSIC MEDICINE AND DEONTOLOGY".

20.03.2024

Prepared the review:



/ Assoc. Prof. Viliam Dokov, MD PhD/