

### ZAGREB 2018.

#### 9. kongres Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu

9th congress of the Croatian society  
of medical biochemistry and  
laboratory medicine

### U OVOM BROJU

**9. kongres Hrvatskog društva za  
medicinsku biokemiju i  
laboratorijsku medicinu  
s međunarodnim sudjelovanjem**

**9. – 12. svibnja 2018.  
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**9th Congress of the Croatian  
Society of Medical Biochemistry  
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with international participation**

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**ABSTRACT BOOK**



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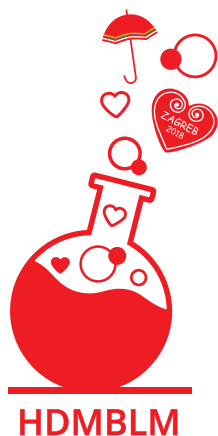
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## PKS-1

**Nacionalne preporuke za uzorkovanje venske krvi**

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Uzorkovanje venske krvi jedan je od najkompleksnijih postupaka u skrbi o bolesniku unutar zdravstvenog sustava. Kako bi se smanjila mogućnost pogrešaka, postupak treba biti standardiziran, a detaljne upute trebaju biti dostupne na svakom radnom mjestu za uzorkovanje krvi. Većina Europskih zemalja koristi jedan od dva dokumenta: *CLSI H3-A6 Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimens by Venipuncture*; 6. izdanje (sada *CLSI GP41 Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens*, 7. izdanje, 2017) i *WHO guidelines on drawing blood: best practices in phlebotomy* (2010), dok je samo mali broj zemalja izdao vlastite preporuke. Iako su u Hrvatskoj dostupni Standardi dobre laboratorijske prakse (Hrvatska komora medicinskih biokemičara), ovaj je dokument potrebno nadopuniti i modificirati temeljeno na dokazima.

U 2012. godini, Hrvatsko društvo za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu (HDMBLM) ustanovilo je Radnu grupu za predanalitiku čiji je prvi zadatak bio izrada nacionalnih preporuka za uzorkovanje venske krvi. Dokument je načinjen kao prilagodba dokumenta CLSI H3-A6, uz modifikacije temeljene na znanstvenim radovima objavljenim u posljednjih desetak godina. Preporuka je primarno namijenjena za laboratorijsko osoblje prilikom uzorkovanja venske krvi u medicinsko biokemijskim laboratorijima, podržava vađenje krvi korištenjem isključivo vakuumskih epruveta, dok se vađenje putem šprica ne preporučuje.

Postupak venskog uzorkovanja krvi opisan je kroz 18 koraka: 1) Dezinfekcija ruku; 2) Ocjena uputnice; 3) Identifikacija bolesnika; 4) Provjera pripreme bolesnika za uzorkovanje krvi; 5) Priprema pribora za uzorkovanje krvi; 6) Označavanje spremnika; 7) Položaj bolesnika; 8) Stavljanje rukavica; 9) Stavljanje podveze; 10) Odabir mjesta uboda; 11) Dezinfekcija

## PCS-1

**National recommendations for venous blood sampling**

Nora Nikolac Gabaj

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Phlebotomy is one of the most complex medical procedures in healthcare. In order to minimize the possibility of errors, procedures should be standardized and written instructions should be available at every workstation. Most European countries use one of two documents: *CLSI H3-A6 Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimens by Venipuncture*; 6th Edition, 2007 (now *CLSI GP41 Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens*, 7th Edition, 2017) and *WHO guidelines on drawing blood: best practices in phlebotomy* (2010), while only a small number of countries have their own recommendations. Even though Croatia has the Standard of good laboratory practice issued by Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists, the document is outdated and in need of expansion and evidence based revision.

In 2012, Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) formed the Working group for preanalytics, with the first task of issuing national recommendations for phlebotomy. Document was drafted after review of relevant literature published in the last decade with the biggest focus on adaptation of H3-A6 guideline. Recommendation is primarily intended for laboratory staff when performing venous blood sampling within medical biochemistry laboratories. Only evacuated tubes are recommended, use of syringes is discouraged.

Procedure of venous blood sampling is described in 18 steps: 1) Sanitizing hands; 2) Inspecting test request form; 3) Identifying the patient; 4) Verifying patient preparation for venipuncture; 5) Preparing the supplies for blood sampling; 6) Labelling the tubes; 7) Positioning the patient; 8) Putting on gloves; 9) Applying tourniquet; 10) Selecting venipuncture site; 11) Cleaning venipuncture site; 12) Performing venipuncture; 13) Order of draw; 14) Needle dispos-

mjesta uboda; 12) Uzorkovanje; 13) Redosljed uzorkovanja; 14) Odlaganje igala; 15) Miješanje spremnika; 16) Obrada mjesta uboda nakon uzorkovanja; 17) Uklanjanje rukavica; i 18) Bilježenje dodatnih informacija. Dokument uključuje i preporuke za specifične uvjete obrade termolabilnih i fotoosjetljivih uzoraka.

Nakon procjene i revizije od strane međunarodnih stručnjaka, preporuka je 2013. godine na engleskom jeziku objavljena u časopisu *Biochemia Medica*, čime je dokument postao dostupan široj znanstvenoj zajednici. Naknadno je dokument preveden na hrvatski jezik i distribuiran svim članovima društva.

Sukladnost postupaka uzorkovanja krvi s objavljenom preporukom u hrvatskim laboratorijima ispitana je tijekom 4 ciklusa predanalitičkog modula hrvatskog dobavljača vanjske kontrole kvalitete CROQALM tijekom 2015. i 2016. Rezultati ispitivanja objavljeni su u časopisu *Biochemia Medica* 2017. Gotovo potpuna sukladnost zabilježena je za pojedine postupke: ponavljanje neuspješnog vađenja na drugom mjestu uzorkovanja, pridržavanje uputa proizvođača za uvjete pohrane uzoraka, mjerenje koagulacijskih pretraga unutar 4 sata od uzorkovanja, pridržavanje dozvoljenog vremena od uzorkovanja do analize za kompletni pregled mokraće i označavanje epruvete jedinstvenim laboratorijskim brojem. Pojedini su postupci pokazali neočekivano nisku sukladnost s preporukom: dostupnost sterilnih podveza i igala sa sigurnosnim zatvaračem, korištenje adrese bolesnika kao identifikacijskog podataka, korištenje epruveta s inhibitorom glikolize za mjerenje koncentracije glukoze, provjera deklariranih uvjeta pohrane uzoraka. Sveukupno, visoka sukladnost je zabilježena za većinu koraka opisanih u nacionalnoj preporuci za uzorkovanje venske krvi, a identificirani su postupci gdje je potrebno raditi na poboljšanju. Radna grupa za predanalitičku fazu nastavlja raditi na podizanju kvalitete predanalitičke faze u hrvatskim laboratorijima.

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ing; 15) Tube mixing; 16) Bandaging the skin after venipuncture; 17) Removing gloves; and 18) Recording additional information. Document also includes recommendations for specific conditions of handling for thermolabile and photosensitive analytes. After an evaluation and review by international experts, recommendation was published in *Biochemia Medica* journal in 2013 in English language making this document available to the scientific community. Afterwards the document was translated to Croatian language and distributed to each member of the CSMBLM.

Compliance with the published recommendation was evaluated during 4 cycles of preanalytical module of Croatian external quality assessment (EQA) CROQALM during 2015-2016. The results are published in *Biochemia Medica* journal in 2017. Almost complete compliance was recorded for repeating unsuccessful phlebotomy at different puncture site, following manufacturer's declarations on temperature and time of storage of samples, measuring coagulation tests within 4 hours from sampling, monitoring allowed time from sampling to measurement for urinalysis and marking tubes with laboratory ID number. However, there were some procedures with unexpectedly low compliance: availability of sterile disposable tourniquets and safe-sharp needles, obtaining patients address as an identifier, using glycolysis inhibitor tubes for glucose measurement and verification of manufacturers declarations on temperature and time of storage. Overall, even though high compliance was recorded for most of the procedures described in the National recommendations, results identified steps where additional effort is required. Working group continues to work on improving awareness of the importance of preanalytical phase in Croatian laboratories.

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## PKS-2

### Nacionalne preporuke za kapilarno uzorkovanje krvi

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Standardizacija postupka kapilarnog uzorkovanja krvi opisana je u dva osnovna dokumenta: *Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute dokument GP42-A6* i *World Health Organization Guidelines on Drawing Blood*. Ova dva dokumenta su osnova za izradu i publiciranje nacionalnih preporuka Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i Radne grupe za kapilarno uzorkovanje krvi. Preporuke su prihvaćene od strane Hrvatske komore medicinskih biokemičara 2016. godine.

U svakodnevnoj, modernoj medicini kapilarni uzorak je sve učestaliji iz razloga što zahtjeva mali volumen uzorka, postupak uzorkovanja je jednostavniji, manje invazivan i zbog sve veće prisutnosti dijagnostike uz bolesnika.

Kapilarni uzorak od posebnog je značaja za pedijatrijsku populaciju, ali je preporučan i kod odraslih bolesnika s opsežnim opeklinama, prekomjernom tjelesnom težinom, sklonošću trombozi, osjetljivim ili nedostupnim venama, bolesnika čije se vene trebaju poštediti za intravenoznu terapiju i onih koji sami vade krv za praćenje.

Način uzorkovanja kapilarne krvi može utjecati na kvalitetu uzorka a time i na pouzdanost rezultata što naglašava potrebu za standardizacijom postupka.

Ograničenja kapilarnog uzorkovanja koja mogu utjecati na rezultate su: 1) nepoznati udio krvi iz venule, arteriola i kapilara; 2) kapilarni uzorak može biti zagađen s nepoznatom količinom međustanične i stanične tekućine; 3) hemoliza i lipemija, koje mogu značajno promijeniti rezultate, se najčešće ne mogu uočiti u uzorku pune krvi i 4) postoje utvrđene klinički značajne razlike između koncentracija nekih analiza u venskoj i kapilarnoj krvi, ali za njih u kapilarnom uzorku nisu definirani referentni intervali.

Prije samog postupka kapilarnog uzorkovanja svako radno mjesto mora biti u potpunosti opremljeno po-

## PCS-2

### National recommendations for capillary blood sampling

Jasna Lenicek Krleza

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The standardization of the capillary blood sampling procedure is described in two fundamental documents: *Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute document GP42-A6* and *World Health Organization Guidelines on Drawing Blood*. These two documents were the basis for Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine and Working Group of capillary blood sampling to issue and publish recommendations about capillary blood sampling procedure. These recommendations were accepted by Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists and are considered as national recommendations (2016).

Capillary blood sample is increasingly frequent sample in modern medicine due to its simpler and less invasive sampling procedure, low blood volume required for large number of tests and shorter time needed for test results (e.g. point-of-care testing).

Capillary blood sampling is important in paediatric patients, but it is also recommended for adult patients with severe burns, obese, older and anxious patients, patients with a tendency toward thrombosis and whose surface veins need to be spared for intravenous therapy, patients with fragile or inaccessible veins and for blood self-test.

The quality of capillary blood sample is a key prerequisite for reliable test results. It depends on the performance and quality of each step in capillary blood sampling procedure and several disadvantages are associated with greater risk of false test results: 1) exact proportions of blood from venules, arterioles and capillaries are unknown; 2) capillary blood samples can be contaminated to unknown extents by interstitial and intracellular fluid; 3) haemolysis and lipemia, which can significantly alter blood analysis results, cannot be detected in whole-blood capillary samples; 4) clinically important differences between

trebnim priborom koji osigurava rad na siguran način i valjanog je roka za upotrebu.

Prvi koraci vezani su uz identifikaciju pacijenta, zahtjev za uzorkovanje i standarde rada na siguran način (dezinfekcija ruku, pristup pacijentu, provjera zahtjeva za uzorkovanje) nakon čega slijedi izbor i obilježavanje spremnika ovisno o traženim testovima i vrsti potrebnog antikoagulansa. Pacijentu u izabranom položaju za uzorkovanje (ovisno o dobi i eventualno potrebnoj imobilizaciji) se definira mjesto uzorkovanja, a prema tome i lanceta ispravne dužine/dubine uboda. Toplo, dobro vaskularizirano mjesto uboda koje osigurava potreban volumen krvi za tražene testove, ne zahtjeva arterializaciju (izuzev uzorkovanja kapilarne krvi za pH i plinove u krvi). Automatska lanceta se postavi na očišćenu i dezinficiranu površinu kože odabranog mjesta i pritiskom učini ubod. Nakon uboda i odlaganja lancete u za to predviđen spremnik, potrebno je ukloniti prvu kapljicu krvi, a uzorkovanje započinje formiranjem druge kapljice laganim pritiskom na okolno tkivo i njenim doticajem s spremnikom za kapilarno uzorkovanje. Snažno pritiskanje tkiva oko mjesta uboda nije dozvoljeno.

Redoslijed uzimanja uzoraka je izuzetno važan kad se mora uzeti više od jednog uzorka kapilarne krvi: 1) uzorci za analizu plinova u krvi; 2) uzorci s etilendiaminotetraacetatom (EDTA) kao antikoagulansom; 3) uzorci s drugim aditivima; 4) uzorci bez aditiva.

Kapilare i spremnike je potrebno napuniti kapilarnom krvi prema uputi proizvođača.

Nakon što je spremnik napunjen potrebnim volumenom kapilarne krvi, potrebno ga je odmah zatvoriti i promiješati prema uputama proizvođača spremnika za kapilarnu krv. Snažno miješanje nije dozvoljeno.

Postupak kapilarnog uzorkovanja je završen kada se zbrine mjesto uboda, skinu rukavice i zabilježe podaci vezani za tijek kapilarnog uzorkovanja ukoliko ih je bilo.

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venous and capillary blood analyte concentrations for several analytes are reported, but the reference ranges for the capillary sample are not defined.

Before performing capillary blood sampling, every workstation needs to be fully equipped and all supplies should be within the stated product shelf life.

After several steps about patient identification, request form and standard safety precautions (hand disinfection, approaching the patient, inspecting the test request form, identifying patient and verifying patient preparation for skin puncture) further steps include selection and labelling of a micro-collection device according to requesting tests and additives. The following is the position of the patient, selecting the skin puncture site and selecting lancet length. A warm, well-vascularised puncture area does not require arterialisation since adequate sample volume can be reached without the need to apply pressure to the surrounding tissue (except when pH and blood gases need to be analysed). Performing skin puncture follows cleansing the skin puncture site. The retractable incision device is recommended and incision should be made quickly and appropriately according to the manufacturer's instructions. After performing skin puncture and disposal of incision device, the first drop of blood has to be eliminated and collection begins when a second drop of blood is formed. When the collection device touches the drop, blood flows and fills collection devices applying gentle pressure to the tissue near the puncture site. Excessive massaging or squeezing of the puncture site is not allowed.

Multiple capillary blood samples should be collected in the following order: 1) samples for blood gas analysis; 2) ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) samples; 3) samples with other additives; 4) samples without additives.

Capillaries and containers for capillary blood collection should be filled with blood according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

After sample collection, collection devices should be capped and immediately mixed to prevent clotting. The mixing procedure should follow the recommendations prescribed from collection device manufacturers. Vigorous shaking is not allowed.

Capillary blood sampling procedure is finished when puncture site is bandaged, gloves removed and relevant information during sampling recorded.

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### PKS-3

## Nacionalne preporuke za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže

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Radna grupa za acidobazičnu ravnotežu Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu (HDMBLM) osnovana je 2012. s ciljem pripreme preporuka namijenjenih laboratorijskom i ne-laboratorijskom osoblju za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže. Kratkoročni cilj je bio usmjeren na uvid u trenutno stanje u laboratorijima na području Hrvatske. Provedena je anketa koja je obuhvatila laboratorije u sekundarnoj i tercijarnoj zdravstvenoj zaštiti. Utvrđeno je da postoji velika heterogenost u načinu provođenja analize acidobazične ravnoteže, zbog čega je nužna priprema dokumenta koji će omogućiti standardizaciju svih faza obrade uzoraka za acidobazičnu ravnotežu.

Pregledana je recentna literatura iz tog područja laboratorijske dijagnostike i smjernice Instituta za standarde u kliničkom laboratoriju (engl. *Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, CLSI*). Pripremljeni dokument je podijeljen na 4 osnovna dijela: pregled vrsta uzoraka, područje odgovornosti djelatnika, opis postupka uzorkovanja i postupka analize. Rezultati ankete su pokazali da se za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže većinom koristi uzorak kapilarne krvi. Jedini uzorak pomoću kojeg je moguće sa sigurnošću odrediti parcijalne pritiske plinova u krvi je arterijska krv. Zbog tradicionalnih i ekonomskih razloga u većini hrvatskih bolnica se još uvijek prakticira uzorkovanje kapilarne, a ne arterijske krvi. Upravo iz tog razloga je prva sekcija dokumenta posvećena opisu arterijske i „arterijalizirane“ kapilarne krvi. U dijelu koji se odnosi na odgovornosti opisano je pod čijom su ingerencijom pojedini postupci koji se provode u okviru analize acidobazične ravnoteže.

Dio dokumenta koji se odnosi na sam postupak uzorkovanja obuhvaća preporuke za pravilnu identifikaciju pacijenta i navodi sve one informacije koje treba sadržavati uputnica za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže. Posebna pažnja je posvećena pripremi

### PCS-3

## National recommendations for blood gas testing and related measurements

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Working group for blood gas testing of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) was founded in 2012. Aim of the Working group was to prepare recommendations for laboratory and non-laboratory personnel for blood gas testing. Short-term aim was to assess current practices related to blood gas testing in Croatian laboratories. Survey was performed in secondary and tertiary healthcare institutions. Survey results showed that there is great heterogeneity in procedures of blood gas analysis, which prompted need for preparing of document for standardization of all phases of blood gas testing.

Recent publications related to this field of laboratory diagnostics and current guidelines published by Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute were reviewed. Recommendations are divided to 4 major sections: sample types, responsibilities in blood gas testing, procedure for blood gas sampling and blood gas sample analysis. Survey results showed that majority of institutions use capillary sample for blood gas analysis. Arterial blood is the sample type for reliable assessment of blood gas partial pressure. Most of Croatian hospitals still orders capillary blood gas sampling due to traditional and economical reasons. Just for that reason first part of the document is dedicated to description of arterial and „arterialized“ capillary blood. Part related to responsibilities in blood gas testing describes healthcare workers responsible for specific procedures of blood gas testing process.

Part called Procedure for blood gas sampling comprises recommendations for patient identification and lists content of patient request form. Special set of instructions is dedicated to patient assessment and sample labelling, as well as to selection of proper anticoagulant. Description of sample handling after the arterial puncture or arterial catheter

pacijenta i označavanju spremnika za uzorkovanje, kao i odabiru odgovarajućeg antikoagulansa. Za ne-laboratorijsko osoblje od izuzetnog je značaja opis rukovanja uzorkom neposredno nakon arterijske punkcije, kao i uzorkovanje iz arterijskog katetera. Definirani su i optimalni uvjeti transporta i pohrane za uzorke. Nacionalne preporuke za kapilarno uzorkovanje su bile okosnica za pripremu poglavlja koje se odnosi na uzorkovanje te vrste uzorka. Prema pristiglim zahtjevima i komentarima s javne rasprave, dodatno je pripremljen opis postupka arterijalizacije ubodne površine kod uboda u kožu. Bez obzira na usavršenu analitičku fazu obrade uzorka arterijske ili kapilarne krvi, posljednji dio dokumenta odnosi se na niz detalja na koje se treba obratiti posebna pažnja poput edukacije osoblja, potvrde identifikacije pacijenta, pripreme uzorka neposredno prije analize i moguće interferencije kod određivanja. Izgled nalaza, kalibracija, unutarnja i vanjska kontrola kvalitete su obuhvaćeni u posljednjim poglavljima dokumenta. Nakon pripreme i distribucije dokumenta slijedi proces implementacije u svakodnevnu laboratorijsku praksu. Osim toga, izuzetno je važno osvijestiti ne-laboratorijsko osoblje o važnosti provođenja svih postupaka u skladu s preporukama.

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sampling is important for non-laboratory personnel. Optimal transport and storage conditions for blood gas samples have been defined, too. Chapter dedicated to capillary blood gas sampling was prepared according to national recommendations for capillary sampling. Description of arterialisation procedure when skin puncture is performed was added, as requested by reviewers from public discussion. Last part of the recommendations is related to details like personnel education, confirmation of patient identification, sample preparation and possible interferences in analytical phase of blood gas sample processing. Result report form, calibration, internal quality control and proficiency testing are contained in last chapters.

After preparation and distribution of the document, process of implementation of recommendations in routine practice is expected. Furthermore, it is important to raise awareness of non-laboratory health-care workers on sample processing according to recommendations.

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#### PKS-4

### Standardizacija laboratorijske dijagnostike kronične bubrežne bolesti u Republici Hrvatskoj

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Zajednička radna grupa (RG) Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu (HDMBLM) i Hrvatske komore medicinskih biokemičara (HKMB) za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku kronične bubrežne bolesti (KBB) osnovana je u veljači 2014. godine. Zajedničku RG čine 3 člana iz HDMBLM i 2 člana iz HKMB. Jedan od primarnih ciljeva novo osnovane zajedničke RG je uključivao izdavanje prvih hrvatskih preporuka za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBB. Takve preporuke bi bile lako primjenjive u svim medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima (MBL) diljem Republike Hrvatske (RH). Na prvom sastanku zajedničke RG utvrđen je detaljno razrađen plan za ostvarivanje zadanog cilja. Da bi se utvrdilo trenutno stanje laboratorijske dijagnostike KBB u hrvatskim MBL-ovima provedeno je anketno istraživanje koje je bilo usmjereno na dvije ključne pretrage u postavljanju dijagnoze te stupnjevanju KBB: automatsko izvještavanje procjene glomerularne filtracije (engl. *estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate*, eGFR) te procjena albuminurije i/ili proteinurije. Anketno istraživanje je provedeno u periodu od ožujka do svibnja 2014. godine. Rezultati ankete su pokazali da laboratorijska dijagnostika KBB u hrvatskim MBL-ovima nije standardizirana. Postoji velika raznolikost među laboratorijima u metodama za određivanje kreatinina, korištenim referentnim intervalima te vrstama uzoraka za određivanje albumina (ili proteina) u mokraći. Ove činjenice su podupirale potrebu za jednostavnim i primjenjivim nacionalnim preporukama koje predstavljaju temelj postupka standardizacije i harmonizacije u ovom području laboratorijske medicine.

Prva verzija rukopisa preporuka za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBB završena je u siječnju 2015. godine. lako se nacionalne preporuke uglavnom teme-

#### PCS-4

### Standardization of laboratory diagnostics of chronic kidney disease in Croatia

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In February 2014 a new Joint Working Group (JWG) of Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) and Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists (CCMB) for laboratory diagnostics of chronic kidney disease (CKD) was established. The JWG comprised 3 members from CSMBLM and 2 members from CCMB. The aim of the new established JWG was to provide easily applicable first Croatian recommendations for laboratory diagnostics of CKD. At the initial meeting of the JWG a detailed workflow was developed which comprised various steps. To assess the current state of laboratory diagnostics of CKD in Croatian medical biochemistry laboratories, the initial assignment included performing a survey among laboratories. The survey was mainly focused on the two key prerequisites for CKD screening: automatic reporting of eGFR and albuminuria and/or proteinuria assessment. An on-line survey was conducted from March till May 2014. The survey results showed large heterogeneity in this area of laboratory medicine among Croatian laboratories regarding measuring methods, reporting units and reference intervals (cut-off values), both for creatinine and urine albumin or protein, thus supporting the need for national recommendations.

The initial draft of the first national recommendations for laboratory diagnostics of CKD in Croatia was finished in January 2015. The national recommendations are mainly based on the KDIGO 2012 recommendations; however, novel literature findings are also incorporated. Considering the results obtained via conducted survey, our main goal was to provide recommendations that can be easily applied in every medical biochemistry laboratory in

lje na važećim međunarodnim smjernicama KDIGO (engl. *Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes*) iz 2012. godine, one sadrže i novije literaturne podatke. Naš glavni cilj je bio donijeti preporuke koje se mogu lako primijeniti u svakom MBL-u u Hrvatskoj. Nacrt preporuka poslan je na mišljenje brojnim domaćim i međunarodnim stručnjacima, a sam je tekst također bio dostupan za javnu raspravu svim članovima HDMBLM. Svi komentari su pažljivo razmotreni i ugrađeni u konačnu verziju preporuka. Objavom konačne verzije preporuka u veljači 2017. godine u nacionalnom časopisu *Biochemia Medica*, ostvaren je prvi korak u postupku standardizacije i harmonizacije u ovom području laboratorijske medicine.

Objavom preporuka svi članovi zajedničke RG su aktivno sudjelovali u procesu implementacije. Da bi se olakšao proces implementacije, odnosno da svi MBL-ovi u RH dobiju adekvatnu informaciju o preporukama, održan je niz predavanja naslova „Uloga laboratorijske dijagnostike u otkrivanju i klasifikaciji kronične bubrežne bolesti: nacionalne preporuke“. Da bi se ostvarilo objektivno praćenje uspješnosti tijekom implementacije nacionalnih preporuka, zajednička RG pokrenula je ponovnu provedbu anketnog istraživanja koje je provedeno 2014. godine. Anketa je djelomično izmijenjena i istraživanje je provedeno od studenog do kraja prosinca 2017. godine. Cilj predavanja je prikazati sve provedene aktivnosti zajedničke RG za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBB u procesu standardizacije i harmonizacije ovog područja laboratorijske medicine u RH, uključujući i prezentaciju preliminarnih rezultata provedenog ponovoljenog anketnog istraživanja.

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Croatia. The text of the national recommendations is organized to identify critical points in four major laboratory tests used in basic laboratory diagnostics of CKD. The draft of the recommendations was sent to numerous national and international experts for their comments. The manuscript was also made available for public consultation. All comments were carefully considered and incorporated into the final version of the recommendations. In 2017 the recommendations were published in the peer-reviewed scientific Journal in English language, and translated to Croatian. These national recommendations, based on the relevant 2012 KDIGO Guideline, represent the first step in accomplishing the goal of standardization and harmonization in this area of laboratory medicine.

The subsequent actions of the JWG were to provide extensive support to implementation process of the national recommendations. Every member of the JWG actively participated in the implementation process. We intended to provide relevant information to every medical biochemist in our geographically diverse country. To facilitate implementation of national recommendations the members of a national JWG gave a series of lectures entitled: „The role of laboratory testing in detection and classification of chronic kidney disease: national recommendations“.

Finally, to ensure the objective measurement of the success rate of the implementation process, our subsequent actions included repeating a slightly modified survey that was initially conducted in 2014. The second survey was conducted from November till December 2017. The aim of this lecture is to present all activities of our JWG related to the standardization of laboratory diagnostics of CKD in Croatia, including the preliminary results of the second survey.

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## PKS-5

### **Minimalni zahtjevi za procjenu mjerne nesigurnosti: Preporuke Radne grupe za mjernu nesigurnost HDMBLM-a i HKMB-a**

Ines Vukasović

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Svrha je ovog dokumenta usklađivanje postupaka procjene, ocjene i izvještavanja o mjernoj nesigurnosti između laboratorija u Republici Hrvatskoj (RH) putem propisivanja minimalnih zahtjeva za procjenu mjerne nesigurnosti. U izradi preporuke sudjelovali su članovi Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu i Hrvatske komore medicinskih biokemičara okupljeni u zajedničkoj Radnoj grupi za procjenu mjerne nesigurnosti. Poznavanje veličine mjerne nesigurnosti omogućuje ocjenu usporedivosti rezultata laboratorijskih pretraga i procjenu razlike između rezultata mjerenja te kontinuirano praćenje kvalitete izvedbe postupka ispitivanja. Mjerna nesigurnost posljedica je promjenjivosti uvjeta tijekom svih faza laboratorijskoga rada. Svojevremeno je rezultata mjerenja, ali ga dogovorno u laboratorijskoj medicini ne izražavamo rutinski uz rezultat mjerenja. Naša se preporuka većim dijelom temelji na preporukama radne grupe za mjernu nesigurnost Australazijskog udruženja kliničkih biokemičara (Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists, AACB) i namijenjena je za upotrebu svim medicinsko biokemijskim laboratorijima u Republici Hrvatskoj. Zbog nemogućnosti kvantifikacije prijeanalitičkih i poslijeanalitičkih izvora varijabilnosti za procjenu mjerne nesigurnosti služimo se podacima koji se odnose na analitičku fazu. Stav je ove radne grupe da je mjernu nesigurnost moguće pouzdano procijeniti iz podataka unutarnje kontrole kvalitete prikupljenih u određenom vremenskom periodu ukoliko je moguće osigurati komutabilni kontrolni uzorka koji osigurava da mjerena veličina ima ista svojstva kao u uzorku bolesnika. Ukoliko postoji sumnja u komutabilnost kontrolnog uzorka, dozvoljeno je koristiti

## PCS-5

### **Minimum requirements for the estimation of measurement uncertainty: Recommendations of the Joint Working group for measuring uncertainty of the CSMBLM and CCMB**

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The purpose of this document is the harmonization of procedures of estimation, evaluation and reporting on measurement uncertainty between laboratories in Croatia by prescribing the minimum requirements for measurement uncertainty estimation. Members of Croatian society for medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine (CSMBLM) and Croatian chamber of medical biochemistry (CCMB) gathered in a joint Work group for the estimation of measurement uncertainty participated in making the recommendation. Knowledge of the of measurement uncertainty value allows comparability evaluation of laboratory test results, evaluation of difference between two measuring results and continual tracking of quality of the measurement procedures. Measurement uncertainty is the consequence of the variability of conditions during all phases of laboratory work. It is a property of measurement results, but it is not routinely reported. Our recommendation is mainly based on the recommendation of the work group for measurement uncertainty of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB) and is intended for use in all medical biochemistry laboratories in Croatia.

The data which refers to the analytical phase is used because of the inability of quantification of preanalytical and postanalytical sources of variability for measurement uncertainty estimation.

The opinion of this work group is that measurement uncertainty is possible to reliably assess from the internal quality control (IQC) data gathered in a certain time frame if it is possible to supply a commutable control material which assures that the

uzorak bolesnika uz uvjet da se vrijednost mjerene veličine nalazi oko neke točke od interesa (granična vrijednost ili vrijednost oko granica kliničke odluke) i da je prethodno ispitana stabilnost analita od interesa. Ovakav pristup osigurava da svaki laboratorij može procijeniti mjernu nesigurnost koristeći svoje podatke uz minimalno opterećenje zaposlenika i bez povećanja troškova. Uključivanje biasa u izračun mjerne nesigurnosti pridonosi njenoj točnijoj procjeni. Zbog ograničenja korištenja certificiranih referentnih materijala (CRM) u većini laboratorija u RH i nemogućnosti izračuna biasa temeljem odstupanja u ogleđnoj grupi vanjske procjene kvalitete, predložena je procjena mjerne nesigurnosti na temelju jedinih dostupnih, objektivnih, podataka, a to su dugoročni podaci unutarnje kontrole kvalitete. Za laboratorije koji ipak koriste CRM ostavljena je mogućnost da u procjenu mjerne nesigurnosti uključe i bias.

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measurand has the same attributes as the patient's sample. If there is doubt about the commutability of the control sample, a patient sample can be regarded as a convenient replacement with the condition that the measured value is near some point of interest (cut-off value or clinical decision limit values) and that the stability of it is previously examined. This approach assures that every laboratory is able to assess measurement uncertainty using its own data with minimal employee effort and without burdening financial budget. Introducing bias in the measurement uncertainty equation contributes to a more precise estimation. However, because the lack of use of the certified reference materials (CRM) in most laboratories in Croatia and the inability to calculate bias based on peer group deviation of external quality estimation data represent the main limitations on bias usage, recommended estimation of measurement uncertainty is based on the only available objective data that is long term IQC data. For laboratories that do use CRMs there is a possibility to include bias in the estimation of measurement uncertainty.

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PL-1

## Harmonizacija edukacije i stručnog usavršavanja u Europskoj uniji

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Harmonizacija programa edukacije i stručnog usavršavanja u Europskoj uniji (EU) pruža mogućnost postavljanja očekivanja i standarda za potrebna znanja, vještine i kompetencije povezane sa specijalističkom praksom u laboratorijskoj medicini. Postavljanjem visokog standarda može se postignuti kvalitetnija zdravstvena zaštita. Osiguranjem ekvivalentnosti standarda otvaraju se vrata uzajamnom priznavanju kvalifikacija i ostvaruje mogućnost slobodne profesionalne migracije preko granica EU, bez potrebe da zemlje međusobno nametnu kompenzacijske mjere. Integracijom EU Direktive 2013/55/EC o priznavanju stručnih kvalifikacija u nacionalno zakonodavstvo 28 zemalja članica EU ostvaruju se mogućnosti za postavljanje Zajedničkog okvira usavršavanja (engl. *Common Training Framework*) koji definira znanja, vještine i kompetencije specijalista laboratorijske medicine. Temelji okvira usavršavanja kojeg Europska federacija za kliničku kemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu (engl. *European Federation for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, EFLM*) predlaže Europskom povjerenstvu uključuju:

- dokazi o potrebi za stručnjacima specijalistima – poseban naglasak na njihovom doprinosu poboljšanom ishodu pacijenata
- usklađeni nastavni plan i program za obrazovanje i usavršavanje
- EFLM predlaže Ekvivalent standarda edukacije
- registar specijalista koji zadovoljavaju Ekvivalent
- kodeks ponašanja specijalista.

Rezultati ankete EFLM-a naznačuju da mnoga nacionalna društva vide nastavni plan i program kao prototip iz kojeg zemlje oblikuju vlastite programe obrazovanja i osposobljavanja. Verzija 5 iz 2018. godine temelji se na verziji 4 iz 2012. godine u prikazivanju očekivane uloge specijalista, poznavanja medicine izvan laboratorijskog okruženja i kompetencija povrh same tehničke stručnosti. Realizacija nastavnog plana zajedno s dokazima o trajnom stručnom usavršavanju djeluje kao ulaznica u EFLM-ov Registar

PL-1

## Harmonisation of education and training across the European Union

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Harmonising education and training programmes across the European Union (EU) provides opportunities to set expectations and standards for the knowledge, skills and competence associated with specialist practice in laboratory medicine. In setting high standards, higher quality healthcare can be delivered. In setting an Equivalence of Standards the door opens to mutual recognition of qualifications and, in turn, the opportunity for free professional migration across EU borders without the need for countries to impose compensation measures on each other.

With the transposition of EU Directive 2013/55/EC (the Recognition of Professional Qualifications) into the national laws of the 28 EU member states opportunities are emerging to submit a Common Training Framework that recognises the knowledge, skills, competencies and qualifications of the Specialist in Laboratory Medicine. In presenting the case for recognition to the EU Commission the underpinning foundations for European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine's (EFLM) proposed framework include:

- evidence of the need for specialist practitioners – specifically their contribution to enhanced patient outcomes
- a harmonised syllabus for education and training
- EFLM's proposed Equivalence of Standards
- a register of specialists able to meet Equivalence
- a code of conduct expected of specialist practitioners.

EFLM survey feedback suggests that many national societies see the syllabus as the prototype from which countries shape their education and training programmes. 2018's version 5 builds on 2012's version 4 in outlining the leadership roles expected from specialists, their knowledge of healthcare delivery beyond the laboratory, and their competencies beyond technical expertise. Achieving the syllabus's expectations, together with evidence of continued professional development, acts as a pass-

specijalista laboratorijske medicine. Iako Registar nije priznat kao dio regulatornog okvira u bilo kojoj europskoj zemlji, za neke je ključan za prepoznavanje njihova profesionalnog statusa. Slično tome, iako Registar nije nužna stavka u Zajedničkom okviru obrazovanja, svojim rastom podržava pojedinca i omogućuje prepoznatljivost. S tim u vezi, hrvatsko postignuće automatske registracije stručnjaka specijalista 2018. godine izvrstan je primjer drugima.

Predavanje dr. Wieringa bit će usredotočeno na pokretačku snagu i mogućnosti koje predstavlja Zajednički okvir usavršavanja za laboratorijsku medicinu te na načine kako infrastruktura oko harmonizacije nastavnog plana i programa usavršavanja podupire laboratorijsku medicinu kao vodeću osnovu kod prijavljivanja okvira Europskoj komisiji.

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## PL-2

### Kontrola biomolekularne kvalitete i molekularnog testiranja

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Kvaliteta biomarkera ima znatan utjecaj na većinu rezultata laboratorijskih pretraga u medicinskoj dijagnostici, znanstvenom istraživanju i primjeni u biobankama. Glavni čimbenici utjecaja djeluju na različitim razinama i uključuju starost uzorka, vrijeme i način dostave, predobradu uzorka i uvjete pohrane, a to su sve aspekti na koje laboratorij obično ima malen utjecaj prije analize. Razlike u supstratu i inherentne stabilnosti biomarkera također na različite načine utječu na izmjerene koncentracije.

Uzimajući u obzir poznatu paradigmu "Smeće unutra – smeće van", važno je poznavati biomolekularnu kvalitetu uzorka za omogućavanje točne interpretacije rezultata analize.

Posljednjih nekoliko godina predloženo je nekoliko sustava koji omogućuju približno određivanje biomolekularnog raspada pohranjenih uzoraka korištenjem endogenih i egzogenih biljega propadanja u ljudskom serumu i plazmi, kao i u krutim tkivima. Ko-

port to acceptance on EFLM's Register of specialists. Whilst the Register is not recognised as part of a regulatory framework in any European country, it is for some the key charter mark of their professional status. Similarly, whilst a Register is not an essential item in a Common Training Framework, growing it supports the individual and the case for recognition. In this regard, the Croatian achievement of auto-registration in 2018 of its specialist practitioners acts as a welcome exemplar to others.

Dr. Wieringa's talk will focus on the drivers and opportunities that a Common Training Framework represents for laboratory medicine, and how the infrastructure round a harmonising education and training syllabus supports laboratory medicine as a front-runner in the submission of a framework to the EU Commission.

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## PL-2

### Control of biomolecular quality and molecular testing

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Biomarker quality has a major impact on most laboratory assay results in medical diagnostics, scientific research and biobanking applications. Major influential factors operate on various levels including sample age, transportation time and modalities, specimen pretreatment and archiving conditions - all aspects the laboratory usually has little knowledge about prior to analysis. In addition, substrate-specific differences and inherent biomarker stabilities affect measured concentrations in different ways. Considering the common paradigm "Garbage in – garbage out" (GIGO), it is therefore important to know the biomolecular quality of a sample in order to facilitate the subsequent correct interpretation of analytical test results.

In recent years, several systems have been propagated allowing approximating the biomolecular decay in aging samples using endogenous and exogenous decay markers in human serum and plasma as well

rištenjem biljega propadanja proteina bilo je moguće procijeniti biološko doba uzoraka prije arhiviranja uz odgovarajuću preciznost, čime se dobivaju važne informacije o kvaliteti proteina bioptata koštane srži. Očekivano, endogeni biljezi pokazali su veću varijabilnost među pojedincima od egzogenih biljega propadanja. Međutim, uzorci dobi od 1, 2, 4 i 8 mogli su se razlikovati.

Nadalje, opisane su metode za određivanje fragmentacije i mogućnosti umnožavanja deoksiribonukleinske kiseline (DNK) primjenom *duplex/multiplex* lančane reakcije polimeraze (PCR) umnožavanjem i sekvencioniranjem DNK-a različitih veličina. Dok nukleinske kiseline predstavljaju klasu biomolekula čiju je kvalitetu relativno jednostavno procijeniti, karakterizacija razgradnje proteina složenija je zbog različitih utjecaja.

Konačno, programi vanjske procjene kvalitete omogućuju usporedbu izvedbe laboratorija u predanalitičkim i analitičkim koracima. Na primjer, utvrdili smo da se kvaliteta pripravaka DNK-a uvelike razlikuje u različitim laboratorijima (npr. laboratoriji biobanaka), što može utjecati na podatke koji se dobivaju iz takvih uzoraka.

Predavanje će biti usredotočeno na trenutačno dostupne tehnologije za kontrolu kvalitete biomarkera te će se raspraviti utjecaj novih analitičkih metoda i postupaka ocjenjivanja.

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### PL-3

## Laboratorijska medicina budućnosti - jesmo li spremni?

Ana-Maria Šimundić

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Specijalisti laboratorijske medicine su još donedavno uglavnom bili usredotočeni na unaprjeđenje kvalitete rada laboratorija i usluge koju laboratorij pruža. Značajni su naponi učinjeni kako bi se postigao napredak u standardizaciji analitičkih te pred- i poslije-analitičkih faza laboratorijske dijagnostike. No, danas unutar zajednice stručnjaka iz laboratorijske medicine postoji čvrsto suglasje o tome da je naš ključan

as in solid tissues. Using protein decay markers it was possible to assess the biological age of samples prior to archiving with adequate precision, thus providing important information as to the protein quality of bone marrow biopsy specimens. Expectedly, endogenous markers showed higher inter-individual variability than exogenous decay markers. However, sample ages of 1, 2, 4 and 8 could be distinguished.

Similarly, methods for the determination of DNA fragmentation and amplifiability using duplex/multiplex PCR amplification of different-size DNA targets and sequencing have been reported. While nucleic acids represent a relatively easy-to-assess class of biomolecules, characterization of protein degradation is more complex due to various influences.

Finally, External Quality Assessment programs have been devised to compare performances of laboratories in preanalytical and analytical steps. For example, we found that the quality of DNA preparations varied widely between e.g. biobanking laboratories potentially influencing downstream data generation from these specimens.

The presentation will concentrate on current techniques to control biomolecular quality and discuss the impact of new analytical methods and procedures of assessment.

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### PL-3

## Laboratory medicine in the future – are we ready?

Ana-Maria Šimundić

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Specialists in laboratory medicine in the past have predominantly been focused on improving the quality of the service within the laboratory. Substantial efforts have been made to achieve a noticeable progress in standardization and harmonization of analytical as well as pre- and post-analytical phase of laboratory testing. Nowadays, there is a broad consensus among specialists in laboratory medicine

zadatak postaviti pitanja kliničke korisnosti laboratorijskih testova u samo žarište interesa te utvrditi kako oni doprinose boljem ishodu bolesnika.

Svjedoci smo trajne promjene i razvoja zdravstvenog sustava te njegovog usmjeravanja prema kvaliteti i pacijentu. Naši ključni ciljevi trebali bi biti povećanje vrijednosti koju pacijent dobija u zdravstvenom sustavu, kroz osiguranje najboljeg mogućeg ishoda uz minimalne troškove i gubitke. Dok su neke discipline u zdravstvenom sustavu već znatno poodmakle u tom nastojanju, drugi se još uvijek bore na samom početku. Mi moramo zauzeti aktivni pristup u tom procesu i pri tome razmotriti sve ključne strateške elemente, a ne biti samo promatrači i stajati sa strane.

Brojni su izazovi na tom putu i ti će izazovi zasigurno oblikovati način na koji ćemo prakticirati našu profesiju u bliskoj budućnosti. Svakako ćemo morati dobro promisliti o načinima i alatima s pomoću kojih možemo pristupiti učinkovitom rješavanju problema sve većeg broja zahtjeva za laboratorijskim pretragama i radnog opterećenja laboratorija. Nadalje, morat ćemo se nositi s nedostatkom kadrova i sve manjim budžetima te iznaći načine kako bismo davali više rezultata s manje uloženi sredstava. Usporedo s ekonomskim problemima, čekaju nas tehnološki napredak i brojna tehnološka postignuća i izazovi s kojima ćemo se morati znati nositi, kao što su: minijaturizacija (mikro- i nano-medicina), automatizacija, integracija, konsolidacija, informatička rješenja, biobanking, potreba za analizom velike količine podataka, nove metode molekularne dijagnostike, pretrage uz bolesnika itd. Morat ćemo naučiti kako prigrliti sve te inovacije i raditi proaktivno u suradnji s kolegama u zdravstvenom sustavu kako bismo iskoristili sve te nove tehnologije i discipline do njihovih krajnjih mogućnosti, a sve pod okriljem laboratorijske medicine. Svakako ćemo morati utvrditi i spoznati područja u kojima moramo unaprijediti naše znanje i tragati za učinkovitim mehanizmima kako bismo obogatili naša znanja i kompetencije kroz osuvremenjivanje sveučilišnih kurikuluma, podupirući sustave ciljanog trajnog cjeloživotnog učenja, osmišljanjem i uvođenjem sustavnih programa razvijanja karijere i poticanjem interdisciplinarnе edukacije.

Očigledno, naš položaj unutar zdravstvenog sustava u budućnosti će snažno ovisiti o našem znanju i kompetencijama kao i o našoj sposobnosti da učimo i prilagođavamo se novim okolnostima i okruženju.

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ne about the need for a paradigm shift and much stronger focus on addressing the question of clinical effectiveness of laboratory testing and if/how laboratory testing may improve patient outcome. Demonstrating the value of laboratory medicine is one of the greatest challenges in the near future.

There is an ongoing transformation of the healthcare towards more value-based and patient-centered system. Maximizing the value for patients, through ensuring best possible patient outcome while minimizing cost, damage and waste, should be on the top of our agenda. Whereas some healthcare disciplines are already well advanced on this path, others are still in their embryonic phase. We need to take an active approach in this process by addressing key strategic issues and not just be bystanders and observers.

Numerous challenges are in our way, which will certainly shape the way we practice our profession in the near future. We will need to think of the ways to deal with the ever-increasing workload and develop effective demand management strategies. Furthermore, we will need to manage staff shortage and budget constraints, and find ways to deliver more with less. Side by side with economic drives, there are also numerous technological developments, advances and breakthroughs which will need to be taken into consideration, such as miniaturization (micro- and nano-medicine), automation, integration, consolidation, IT solutions, biobanking, generation of big (biological) data, new molecular diagnostic techniques, near-patient testing, etc.

We will need to find a way to embrace all these innovations and work proactively with our peers in the healthcare system to utilize emerging technologies and disciplines to their full potential under the broad umbrella of laboratory medicine.

We certainly need to understand and identify our knowledge gaps and seek for effective mechanisms to address these through updating and developing advanced professional curricula, enforcing targeted continuous education, establishing career advancement programmes and encouraging interdisciplinary education.

Obviously, our position in the healthcare in the future will strongly depend on our knowledge and competencies as well as on our ability to learn and adapt to new environment.

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**S1 Laboratorijska dijagnostika hemostaze**

S1-1

**Harmonizacija u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici sustava hemostaze**

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Harmonizacija je postupak ujednačavanja rezultata laboratorijskih pretraga neovisno o primijenjenoj metodologiji i o tome gdje je mjerenje napravljeno. U fokusu harmonizacije sigurnost je pacijenta, a osim standardizacije analitičke faze, harmonizacija zahtjeva standardizaciju postupaka u izvananalitičkoj fazi laboratorijskog rada.

Laboratorijska dijagnostika sustava hemostaze vrlo je kompleksna. Zahtijeva specifičnu tehničku i kliničku stručnost, ne samo u smislu poznavanja mjernog postupka, već i tumačenja rezultata. Struktura i funkcija koagulacijskih faktora su složene, a niska koncentracija i stabilnost u plazmi čini njihovo određivanje zahtjevnim. Analiza većine komponenti sustava hemostaze se izvodi na tzv. usporednoj bazi, prema standardu poznate biološke aktivnosti, laboratoriji u radu koriste široki spektar metoda različitog principa izvedbe a rezultati se izražavaju u različitim jedinicama (koncentracija, aktivnost, vrijeme, omjer i postotak). Reagensi nisu u potpunosti standardizirani i imaju različitu osjetljivost na promjene pojedinih faktora dok rezultati pretraga uvelike ovise već o malim promjenama u predanalitičkoj fazi. Osim toga, istraživanja provedena do danas su pokazala da je praksa u pojedinoj fazi laboratorijskog rada među koagulacijskim laboratorijima vrlo neujednačena. Iako je standardizacija pojedinih postupaka nedostatna, postojeći standardizirani postupci se ponekad ne primjenjuju što dodatno otežava harmonizaciju. Primjerice, unutar predanalitičke faze neophodnim se pokazalo unaprijediti korištenje standardiziranih postupaka za prikupljanje uzoraka i postupanje s uzorcima, dok je zahtjeve za izvođenjem koagulacijskih analiza potrebno standardizirati. Kako bi se osigurala istovjetnost rezultata mjerenja jedan od ključnih koraka je i metrološka standardizacija metoda. Dakako, kod parametara za koje nije moguće postići metrološku standardizaciju, potrebno je po-

**S1 Laboratory diagnostics of haemostasis**

S1-1

**Harmonization of laboratory testing in haemostasis**

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Harmonization is a process of equalizing laboratory test results independently of applied methodology and where measurement was made. Focus of the harmonization is patient's safety, and apart from standardization of analytical phase, it requires standardization of procedures in the extra-analytical phase of laboratory work. Laboratory diagnostics of the haemostatic system is very complex and requires specific technical and clinical expertise, not only in terms of knowledge of the measurement procedure, but interpretation of results as well. The structure and function of coagulation factors is complex and due to stability and low concentration in the plasma, their determination is demanding. The analysis of most haemostasis components is performed on a comparative basis, according to established standards of known biological activity; laboratories use a wide spectrum of methods with different performance principles whereas results are expressed in different units (concentration, activity, time, ratio and percentage). Reagents are not completely standardized and have different sensitivity to changes of individual factors while results are largely dependent on small changes in the pre-analytical phase. Besides, studies to date have shown inconsistent practice among coagulation laboratories at a particular phase of laboratory work. Although standardization of certain procedures is insufficient, standardized procedures were not always implemented, thus making harmonization much more difficult. For example, adherence to the standardized sample collection and handling procedures should be improved whereas appropriate requesting of coagulation tests demands standardization. In order to ensure the test result equivalence, one of the key steps is metrological standardization. If it is not possible to achieve metrological standardization of measurand, harmonization should be pro-

kušati uspostaviti harmonizaciju. U tom smislu jedan od najuspješnijih primjera iz područja koagulacije smatra se izražavanje protrombinskog vremena kao Internacionalnog normaliziranog omjera (engl. *International Normalised ratio*). Izražavanje rezultata na ovaj način znatno je unaprijedilo usporedivost rezultata među različitim laboratorijima kod pacijenata koji su na terapiji antagonistima vitamina K. Primjer pokazuje da je usporedivost rezultata moguća ukoliko su dostupni međunarodni referentni pripravci. Pa ipak, za većinu parametara sustava hemostaze takav službeni normizacijski sustav ne postoji. Zbog mogućih brojnih utjecaja na hemostatske parametre, u koagulaciji se zahtjevnom pokazala i harmonizacija referentnih intervala (RI). Referentni intervali koji se primjenjuju izrazito su ovisni o kombinaciji primijenjenog analizatora i reagensa, a promjene pojedinih faktora zgrušavanja u nekim fiziološkim stanjima ne mijenjaju samo rezultat tih specifičnih faktora nego i rezultate globalnih pretraga. Stoga je pri odabiru i/ili određivanju RI, osim populacije koja će se primarno procjenjivati važno voditi brigu i o uvjetima određivanja RI. U postanalitičkoj fazi rada nedostatnim se pokazalo i upravljanje kritičnim vrijednostima. Uz elektrolite, kritične vrijednosti najčešće se izvješćuju za koagulacijske pretrage, međutim, izvještavanje među laboratorijima vrlo je neujednačeno i zahtjeva usaglašavanje u smislu odabira odgovarajućeg testa, mjerne jedinice te praga koji će se izvjestiti.

Za postizanje harmonizacije u koagulaciji potrebno je unaprijediti primjenu postojećih standardiziranih postupaka te raditi na prepoznavanju i standardizaciji postupaka kod kojih je ona nedostatna. Pojedini postupci cjelokupnog laboratorijskog procesa mogu se harmonizirati internacionalno, međutim neke je bolje harmonizirati na lokalnoj ili nacionalnoj razini. Neovisno o razini na kojoj se provodi, harmonizacija nije nimalo jednostavan proces, zahtjeva sistematski pristup i suradnju brojnih sudionika unutar i izvan samog laboratorija.

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moted. The most successful example in coagulation is the expression of prothrombin time as International Normalized Ratio (INR) thus improving comparability of results among different laboratories for patients receiving vitamin K antagonists. Therefore, comparability is possible if international reference materials are available. However, for most parameters in haemostasis, an official normalization system as such does not exist. Harmonization of reference intervals (RI) as well is extremely difficult due to numerous impacts on haemostasis parameters. Reference intervals are highly dependent on the analyzer/reagent combination whereas changes of individual clotting factors in certain physiological conditions do not change only their result, but also the results of global tests. So far, when selecting and/or determining RI, except population that will be primarily evaluated, determination conditions of the RI should be considered. In the postanalytical phase, management of critical values also should be improved. In addition to electrolytes, most commonly reported critical values are those for coagulation tests. However, reporting among laboratories is not consistent and agreement in terms of the test and measurement unit selections, as well as critical value thresholds is needed.

To achieve harmonization in coagulation, basic prerequisite is improvement of adherence to the existing standardized procedures while recognising and working on standardization of the procedures that are still not standardized. Certain steps of the total laboratory process could be harmonized internationally while for some is better to be harmonized at the local or national level. Regardless of the level, harmonization is demanding process, requiring a systematic approach and cooperation of numerous stakeholders.

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S1-2

## Biološka varijacija sustava hemostaze i posljedice na analitičke specifikacije izvedbe analiza

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Koagulacija je složen sustav ovisan o ravnoteži prokoagulacijskih i antikoagulacijskih čimbenika (hemostatska ravnoteža). Neravnoteža spomenutih čimbenika može voditi u trombotičke poremećaje ili poremećaje krvarenja. Laboratorijska dijagnostika hemostatskih poremećaja počinje globalnim testovima probira kao što su protrombinsko vrijeme (PV) ili aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV). Dodatno se provodi testiranje specifičnih hemostatskih čimbenika kao što su fibrinogen, čimbenici zgrušavanja, von-Willebrandov faktor itd.

Osiguranje odgovarajuće kvalitete nužno je zbog važnog utjecaja rezultata laboratorijskih ispitivanja na kliničku odluku. Za procjenu kvalitete mogu se koristiti analitičke specifikacije izvedbe. Danas je široko prihvaćena definicija analitičkih specifikacija izvedbe temeljena na biološkoj varijabilnosti. Raspraviti će se koncept biološke varijacije i dati pregled novih spoznaja o biološkoj varijaciji parametara hemostaze. Demonstrirat će se iznimna važnost uporabe prikladnih podataka o biološkoj varijaciji. Postojeći dostupni literaturni podaci ponekad pokazuju veliku varijaciju, što može znatno utjecati na uspostavljanje specifikacija izvedbe i u konačnici imati bitne posljedice na upravljanje kvalitetom.

Prezentirat će se koncept prema kojem se temeljem rezultata vanjske procjene kvalitete mogu utvrditi dugoročna analitička nepreciznost i netočnost, te prikazati njihova usporedba s analitičkim specifikacijama izvedbe. Prezentirani koncept predstavlja važan alat medicinskim laboratorijima za upravljanje kontrolom kvalitete. Primjenom opisanoga evaluacijskog modela može se dobiti uvid u dugoročnu kontrolu kvalitete izvedbe. Na praktičnim primjerima demonstrirat će se važnost takve procjene.

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S1-2

## Biological variation in haemostasis and consequences for analytical performance specifications

Piet Meijer

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Blood coagulation is a very complex system and depends on a dedicated balance between pro- and anticoagulant factors (haemostatic balance). Any disbalance between pro- and anticoagulant factors may lead to either thrombotic or bleeding disorders. Any laboratory investigation for haemostatic disorders usually starts with some common screening test, like the prothrombin time (PT) or activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT). In addition, laboratory tests for specific haemostatic factors can be performed, like fibrinogen, clotting factors, von Willebrand factor, etc.

Because of the importance of laboratory investigations in clinical decision-making, proper quality is indispensable. To assess whether the quality is appropriate, so-called analytical performance specifications can be used. Today it is widely accepted to define analytical performance specifications on the basis of the biological variation. The concept of biological variation will be discussed and an overview will be given on the current knowledge about biological variation for haemostatic parameters. It will be demonstrated that the use of appropriate data for biological variation is crucial. Current data in the literature sometimes show wide variation. This may have significant impact on the establishment of performance specifications. The consequences for quality management will be discussed.

In addition, a concept will be demonstrated how, on the basis of results from external quality assessment, the long-term analytical imprecision and bias can be established as well as how these can be compared to analytical performance specifications. This concept is an important tool for medical laboratories in their quality management. With this evaluation model, insight can be obtained in the long-term quality of performance. The relevance of such evaluation will be demonstrated with some practical examples.

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## S1-3

**Lupus antikoagulans: s laboratorijske točke gledišta**

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Lupus antikoagulans (LA) predstavlja podskupinu antifosfolipidnih autoantitijela usmjerenih na fosfolipid-vezujuće proteine zbog čega interferiraju s koagulacijskim testovima ovisnim o fosfolipidima u *in vitro* uvjetima. Prisutnost LA u plazmi povezana je s kliničkim sindromom, poznatim kao antifosfolipidni sindrom (APS), koji uzrokuje nastanak venske i/ili arterijske tromboze i ponavljanih spontanih pobačaja. Posljednjih godina, objavljivanje smjernica od strane međunarodnih stručnjaka i društava rezultiralo je poboljšanjima u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici LA, a sve s ciljem osiguranja najprikladnijih dijagnostičkih postupaka u dokazivanju LA. Međutim, unatoč ovim pokušajima dogovornih smjernica sa svrhom poboljšanja, laboratorijska dijagnostika LA i dalje ostaje izazov. Tako su i dalje prisutne značajne razlike među laboratorijima koje se odnose na primjenu pojedinih testova, postupaka i rezultata ispitivanja u dijagnostici LA. Nadalje, udio lažno pozitivnih i lažno negativnih rezultata i dalje je relativno visok, a oboje mogu imati velik utjecaj na sigurnost i ishod liječenja bolesnika. Varijabilnost rezultata testiranja na LA pripisuje se svim fazama u sklopu cjelokupnog dijagnostičkog postupka, uključujući ključne predanalitičke (priprema plazme, akutna faza bolesti, testiranje bolesnika na antikoagulantnoj terapiji), analitičke (izbor testova/metoda i reagensa) kao i postanalitičke čimbenike (izražavanje i interpretacija rezultata). Utjecaj predanalitičkih čimbenika, kao što su pravilna priprema uzorka plazme i interferencija antikoagulantnih lijekova u dijagnostici LA, pokazao se kritičnima za pouzdanost rezultata ispitivanja. Nadalje, zbog heterogenosti LA protutijela, niti jedna zasebno učinjena pretraga nije dostatna za dokazivanje ovih protutijela. Stoga je u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici LA neophodna primjena stupnjevite algoritma upotrebom kombinacije (panela) koagulacijskih pretraga. Ovaj postupak uključuje primjenu najmanje dva probirna testa s različitim mjernim načelom i najmanje jedan potvrdni test kako bi se zadovoljili kriteriji koji doka-

## S1-3

**Lupus anticoagulant: from the laboratory point of view**

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Lupus anticoagulant (LA) represents a subset of antiphospholipid autoantibodies directed against phospholipid-binding proteins thus interfering with *in vitro* phospholipid-dependent coagulation tests. Presence of LA in plasma is associated with a clinical syndrome, known as antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), that predisposes for venous and/or arterial thrombosis and recurrent pregnancy loss. In recent years, the laboratory diagnosis of LA has been refined with the publication of guidelines by international experts and societies in order to provide best LA testing practices. However, despite these attempts to produce consensus guidelines for improving performance, laboratory diagnostics of LA still remains a challenge. Thus, significant differences still exist among laboratories with respect to LA assays, practices and test results. Further, rates of false positive and false-negative test results remain relatively high and both can have a huge impact on patient safety and outcome. The variability in LA test results is attributable to all phases in the overall diagnostic process including key preanalytical (plasma preparation, acute phase of illness, testing patients on anticoagulant therapy), analytical (selection of tests/methods and reagents) as well as postanalytical (result expression and interpretation) variables. The impact of preanalytical variables, such as proper plasma preparation and interference of anticoagulant drugs, has been proved to be critical to the reliability of results. Further, due to heterogeneity of LA antibodies, no single test is sufficient for their detection. Therefore, the use of a step-wise algorithm with a panel of coagulation-based assays is mandatory in the laboratory detection of LA. This approach includes at least two screening tests with different measurement principles and at least one confirmatory test in order to fulfil criteria which prove the presence of LA: 1) prolongation of at least one phospholipid-dependent clotting-based test, 2) evidence of inhibitor activity by mixing test of patient plasma



zuju prisutnost LA: 1) produžen barem jedan koagulometrijski test ovisan o fosfolipidima, 2) dokaziva- nje inhibicijske aktivnosti antitijela testom miješanja plazme ispitanika i normalne plazme, i 3) potvrda inhibitornog učinka LA dodatkom fosfolipida u su- višku. Navedene kriterije koji dokazuju prisutnost LA osiguravaju mjerni postupci koji uključuju probirne testove, test miješanja i potvrdni test. Preporučeni te ujedno i najčešće korišteni testovi probira u dijagno- stici LA su aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV) uz reagens osjetljiv na LA, APTV test miješanja i dRVVT (engl. *dilute Russell's viper venom time*) test koji se izvodi i kao probirni (uz nizak sadr- žaj fosfolipida) i kao potvrdni (fosfolipidi u suvišku) test. Međutim, različita obilježja pojedinih komerci- jalnih reagensa doprinose i značajnim varijabilno- stima rezultata među laboratorijima. Stoga je u po- stupku dijagnostike LA neophodno obratiti pažnju na optimalan izbor testova i reagensa kako bi se osi- gurala najveća osjetljivost kao i pouzdana interpre- tacija rezultata ispitivanja. Iako pridržavanje ispitiva- nja u skladu s objavljenim smjericama nedvojbeno poboljšava laboratorijsku dijagnostiku LA, očita je potreba za daljnjim dogovorom između laborato- rijskih stručnjaka, liječnika i proizvođača reagensa o najučinkovitijoj kombinaciji testova/metoda kao i iz- boru reagensa u svrhu postizanja optimalne osjetlji- vosti i specifičnosti u dijagnostici LA. U predavanju će biti govora o temeljnom pristupu laboratorijskoj dijagnostici LA uzimajući u obzir trenutno važeće međunarodne preporuke, ali i najvažnije problema- tične točke u postupku ispitivanja, kao što su preda- nalitički čimbenici, izbor odgovarajućih pretraga i re- agensa kao i interpretaciju rezultata, od kojih svaka može imati značajan utjecaj na kliničku korisnost la- boratorijske dijagnostike LA.

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with normal plasma, and 3) confirmation that in- hibitory activity is dependent on phospholipid by addition of excess phospholipids. These criteria are provided by screening, mixing, and confirmatory testing procedures, respectively. The recommended and most commonly used screening assays include the activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) with a LA-sensitive reagent, the APTT mixing test and the dilute Russell's viper venom time (dRVVT) test performed both as screening (low content of phospholipids) and confirmation (phospholipids in excess) assay. However, different characteristics of individual commercial reagents contribute to the significant result variability among laboratories. Therefore, it is essential to pay attention to the op- timal choice of tests/reagents for maximal sensitiv- ity and reliable interpretation of results. Although adherence to published guidelines undoubtedly improve performance of LA testing, there is a need for consensus among laboratory experts, clinicians and manufacturers of laboratory reagents on the most effective combination of tests/methods and choice of reagents for optimal sensitivity and speci- ficity of LA testing. The lecture will discuss the basic approach for laboratory detection of LA taking into account current international recommendations and the most important issues, such as preanalytical variables, the choice of appropriate tests/reagents as well as the interpretation of results, that all can af- fect the clinical utility of LA testing.

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## S1-4

**Direktni oralni antikoagulansi: nadogradnje u laboratorijskim istraživanjima**

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Nakon približno 10 godina od početka primjene u kliničkoj praksi, u cijelom se svijetu bilježi neprekidni porast uporabe direktnih oralnih antikoagulansa (DOAK-a), koji su postupno zamijenili antagoniste vitamina K za većinu kliničkih indikacija. Iako zbog predvidljivih farmakokinetičkih osobina i primjene fiksne doze rutinsko praćenje DOAK-a nije potrebno, određivanje koncentracije DOAK-a poželjno je u nekim kliničkim situacijama, posebice u slučaju po život opasnih krvarenja, akutnom moždanom udaru ili neplaniranom operativnom zahvatu. Stoga se laboratorijsko određivanje antikoagulacijskog djelovanja DOAK-a nametnulo kao novo područje djelatnosti koagulacijskih laboratorija. Unatoč dostupnosti različitih komercijalnih testova, određivanje koncentracije DOAK-a još uvijek nije moguće u većini laboratorija, jer se prije svega smatra kako su testovi zahtjevni za izvođenje.

Načelno bi izbor pogodnog kvalitativnog ili kvantitativnog laboratorijskog testa za određivanje DOAK-a trebao ovisiti o hitnosti donošenja medicinskih odluka. Brzi kvalitativni testovi, koji su ujedno i jednostavni za izvođenje i dostupni na većini koagulacijskih analizatora, pogodni su u hitnim situacijama jer omogućuju dobivanje informacija o tome je li DOAK prisutan ili nije u ispitivanom uzorku. Osnovni je problem što do danas ne postoji jedinstveni test probiranja s optimalnom osjetljivošću na sve DOAK-ove. Dosadašnja su istraživanja pokazala kako jedino rezultat trombinskog vremena unutar referentnog intervala u potpunosti isključuje prisutnost dabigatranu u ispitivanom uzorku citratne plazme. Za razliku od toga, brojna su istraživanja pokazala kako zbog značajno različite osjetljivosti reagensa za protrombinsko vrijeme (PV) i aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV) prema svakom pojednom DOAK-u, rezultati PV-a i APTV-a ne mogu pouzdano ukazati na koncentraciju DOAK-a u plazmi. Rezultati PV-a i APTV-a unutar referentnih intervala ne isključuju prisutnost DOAK-a u uzorku, a pone-

## S1-4

**Direct oral anticoagulants: update on status of laboratory testing**

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After approximately 10 years of their introduction in clinical practice, direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) are increasingly used worldwide, and are replacing vitamin K antagonists for the majority of clinical indications. Although routine monitoring of DOACs is not required due to their predictable pharmacokinetic properties, knowledge of the drug level is desirable in certain clinical circumstances, especially in case of life-threatening bleeding, acute stroke or unplanned surgery. Therefore, laboratory assessment of DOACs anticoagulant activities has emerged as a new area in laboratory diagnostics. Despite the availability of different qualitative and quantitative commercial tests for DOACs, they are still not widely applied, mainly as they are perceived to be difficult to perform. In general, the choice of a suitable laboratory test for DOACs, either qualitative or quantitative, should rely on the need for rapid assessment of the drug in urgent medical decisions. Rapid and easy to perform qualitative assays, that are available on most coagulation platforms, may be feasible in emergency situations to provide information regarding the presence or absence of DOACs. The problem arises as no unique screening assay with optimal sensitivity for all DOACs is available.

Based on the available evidence, a thrombin time within the reference interval excludes the presence of dabigatran in investigated plasma sample. On contrary, numerous studies have demonstrated that due to the widely variable sensitivity and responsiveness of different prothrombin time (PT) and activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) reagents to each DOAC, PT and aPTT results do not reliably reflect plasma DOAC concentration. Results within the reference intervals do not exclude the presence of DOAC and depending on a DOAC and reagent used, normal PT and aPTT results can be observed even at therapeutic plasma concentrations. An alternative and promising qualitative point of care test for the

kad su, ovisno o kombinaciji primijenjenog DOAK-a i reagensa, rezultati PV-a i APTV-a unutar referentnih intervala mogući čak kod terapijskih koncentracija DOAK-a u plazmi. Za kvalitativno utvrđivanje prisutnosti ili odsutnosti DOAK-a predložen je i alternativni i obećavajući test uz krevet bolesnika namijenjen za izvođenje u uzorcima mokraće.

Razrijeđeno trombinsko vrijeme i ekarinsko vrijeme zgrušavanja pokazuju linearnu ovisnost vremena zgrušavanja i doze dabigatrana, te su stoga pogodni za kvantitativno određivanje lijeka u plazmi ako su kalibrirani uporabom kalibratora za dabigatran. Za kvantitativno određivanje koncentracije dabigatrana pogodne su i metode koje koriste kromogene supstrate specifične za trombin ili ekarinski kromogeni test.

Prema objavljenim preporukama i smjernicama najpouzdaniji test za kvantitativno određivanje direktnih inhibitora FXa je određivanje anti-Xa aktivnosti fotometrijskom metodom s uporabom kromogenog supstrata koji je kalibriran pomoću specifičnih, komercijalno dostupnih kalibratora za rivaroksaban, apixaban i edoksaban. U svakodnevnoj praksi to znači kako bi laboratoriji za svaki pojedini DOAK trebali koristiti reagente, te pripadajuće kalibratore i kontrolne uzorke specifične za DOAK koji se određuje, što znači da bi laboratorij trebao uspostaviti najmanje tri zasebna testa za određivanje dosad odobrenih direktnih inhibitora FXa.

U zaključku, važno je naglasiti kako je pojedinačni rezultat izmjerene koncentracije DOAK-a moguće interpretirati samo uz poznavanje doze primijenjenog DOAK-a i vremena uzimanja posljednje doze lijeka. Dodatna otežavajuća okolnost je to što niti za jedan DOAK još uvijek nisu utvrđeni terapijski intervali, kao ni granične vrijednosti pojedinih koagulacijskih testova koje sa sigurnošću omogućuju izvođenje operativnih ili invazivnih zahvata, bez povećanog rizika od krvarenja.

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identification of the presence or absence of DOACs in urine samples has also been proposed.

Currently available quantitative assays for the determination of dabigatran in plasma samples are diluted thrombin time and ecarin clotting time assays that provide linearly dose-dependent prolongation of clotting times and enable quantification of the drug when calibrated with dabigatran calibrators. Methods using thrombin specific chromogenic substrate or ecarin chromogenic assay are also applicable for the quantitative measurement of dabigatran concentrations. According to available recommendations and guidelines, the most reliable assay for estimating direct activated factor X (FXa) inhibitors is the chromogenic anti-Xa assay calibrated with specific, commercially available DOAC calibrators for rivaroxaban, apixaban and edoxaban. In the real world setting, this means that the laboratory would require using DOAC specific reagents, calibrators and controls for each tested drug, implying that the laboratory would require implementing and performing at least three different tests for currently approved direct FXa inhibitors.

Finally, it has to be emphasized that single measured DOAC concentration is valuable only when the dose and timing of the last DOAC administration is known. Moreover, it has to be kept in mind that there are no established therapeutic ranges for any DOAC or thresholds for any coagulation tests, ensuring that surgery or invasive procedures can be safely performed without elevated bleeding risk.

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## S2 Laboratorijska dijagnostika kroničnih bolesti

### S2-1

#### Laboratorijska dijagnostika šećerne bolesti u vremenu personalizirane medicine

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Šećerna bolest obuhvaća skupinu etiološki izrazito heterogenih metaboličkih poremećaja sa zajedničkom biokemijskom značajkom povećane koncentracije glukoze u krvi. Šećerna bolest je kronična bolest čije napredovanje prati razvoj niza teških komplikacija koje uzrokuju veliki pobol i smrtnost, kao i psiho-socijalni teret. Zbrinjavanje oboljelih od šećerne bolesti predstavlja ogroman trošak za zdravstvene sustave čak i najrazvijenijih zemalja.

Epidemiološki podaci svjedoče o dramatičnom povećanju pojavnosti šećerne bolesti u svim krajevima svijeta, što se dijelom povezuje s široko rasprostranjenim usvajanjem nezdravih životnih navika, prije svega nedostatne tjelesne aktivnosti i pretjeranog unosa visoko-kalorične hrane. Međutim, još uvijek nedovoljno rasvijetljeno međudjelovanje čimbenika nasljeđa i okoliša ključ je za razumijevanje etiologije, a time i provedbu odgovarajućih strategija prevencije i liječenja šećerne bolesti s ciljem postizanja optimalne kontrole glikemije i sprečavanja razvoja komplikacija kod svakog pojedinačnog bolesnika.

Uvriježena klasifikacija šećerne bolesti, s podjelom na tip 1 i tip 2, omogućava razlikovanje osnovnih patofizioloških mehanizama i donošenje kliničkih odluka o vrsti liječenja. Preporučeni dijagnostički postupci temelje se na kombinaciji kliničkih simptoma i rezultata jednostavnih, standardiziranih i široko dostupnih laboratorijskih pretraga, prije svega glukoze u plazmi, a u novije vrijeme i glikiranog hemoglobina (HbA<sub>1c</sub>), uz klasifikaciju sukladno dogovorno utvrđenim dijagnostičkim granicama. Međutim, velik broj raznovrsnih kliničkih entiteta s različitom veličinom rizika za razvoj komplikacija, kao i okolnost da je pojava hiperglikemije tek dijagnostički signal na kraju višegodišnjeg patofiziološkog procesa koji odražava kontinuum kardiometaboličkog rizika, upućuje na snažnu potrebu ne samo za novom klasifikacijom

## S2 Laboratory diagnostics of chronic disorders

### S2-1

#### Laboratory diagnostics of diabetes in age of personalized medicine

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Diabetes mellitus covers a group of aetiologically heterogeneous metabolic disorders sharing a common biochemical feature of increased blood glucose concentration. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic progressive illness followed by the development of severe complications inflicting significant morbidity and mortality, as well as psychosocial burden. Diabetes care represents a vast expense for health-care systems even in the most developed countries.

Epidemiological data reveal a dramatic increase in the incidence of diabetes around the world, which is partly related to a widespread adoption of unhealthy lifestyle habits, primarily the lack of physical activity and the excessive intake of high-calorie foods. However, the still scarcely elucidated interplay between the genetic and environmental factors is a key for understanding aetiology and hence the implementation of appropriate preventive and treatment strategies, aiming to achieve optimal glycaemic control and prevent the development of diabetic complications in an individual patient.

Traditional classification of type 1 and type 2 diabetes allows differentiation between the basic pathophysiological mechanisms and decision-making on the type of treatment. Recommended diagnostic procedures are based on a combination of clinical symptoms and results of simple, standardized and widely available laboratory tests, primarily plasma glucose, and more recently glycated haemoglobin A<sub>1c</sub> (HbA<sub>1c</sub>), classified according to the consensus cut-off values. However, considering a large number of diverse clinical entities and variable magnitude of risk for the development of complications, as well as the fact that hyperglycaemia represents only a diagnostic signal occurring at the final stage of a long-lasting pathophysiological process reflected across cardio metabolic risk continuum, there is a strong

šećerne bolesti, već i novim dijagnostičkim sredstvima koja mogu osigurati precizan uvid u molekularnu podlogu nastanka hiperglikemije i njenih štetnih posljedica, kao i individualizirani pristup liječenju.

Alati personalizirane medicine uključuju suvremene analitičke i računalne tehnologije koje omogućavaju uvid u složene biološke procese zdravlja i bolesti kroz identifikaciju višestrukih genskih i metaboličkih markera u velikim populacijama ispitanika. U području istraživanja šećerne bolesti u tijeku su intenzivne znanstvene aktivnosti usmjerene prema otkrivanju specifičnih biomarkera prikladnih za identifikaciju rizičnih populacija u pretkliničkoj fazi, kada odgovarajuće intervencije mogu spriječiti pojavu bolesti i/ili komplikacija. S druge strane, farmakogenomička istraživanja usmjerena su prema utvrđivanju individualnog farmako-metaboličkog profila koji bi omogućio preciznu primjenu najučinkovitijeg liječenja. U sveobuhvatnom modelu personalizirane medicine, kroz suradnju temeljnih, kliničkih i epidemioloških istraživanja, osigurava se prijenos znanstvenih spoznaja u kliničku praksu, pri čemu je kliničkom laboratoriju, kao temeljnoj dijagnostičkoj jedinici, namijenjena značajna uloga. U neposrednoj budućnosti razumno je očekivati pojavu niza novih biomarkera i računalnih algoritama namijenjenih ranoj dijagnostici, procjeni rizika te optimiranju terapije šećerne bolesti i njenih komplikacija. Temeljita kliničko-laboratorijska validacija nužan je preduvjet njihove rutinske primjene. U ovom procesu prepunom izazova laboratorijskoj medicini pripada istaknuto mjesto i posebna odgovornost.

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need not only for the new classification system for diabetes, but also novel diagnostic tools that could provide accurate insight into the molecular basis of hyperglycaemia and its adverse effects, as well as individualized approach to treatment.

Personalized medicine tools, including novel analytical and computing technologies, are able to identify multiple gene and metabolic markers in large cohorts of subjects, enabling thereby the insight into complex biological processes related to health and disease. The area of diabetes research is going through intense scientific activities aimed towards detection of specific biomarkers suitable for the identification of high-risk populations in the pre-clinical phase when appropriate interventions can prevent the onset of diabetes and/or complications. On the other hand, pharmacogenomic research aims to determine the individual pharmacometabolic profile that would allow the precise use of the most effective treatment. The collaboration of fundamental, clinical and epidemiological research within a comprehensive model of personalized medicine enables the transfer of scientific knowledge into clinical practice, whereby a significant role for clinical laboratory, as a core diagnostic service can be envisaged. It is reasonable to anticipate in the near future the appearance of an array of new biomarkers and computer algorithms intended for early diagnosis, risk assessment and treatment optimization for diabetes and its complications. A thorough clinical-laboratory validation would be a prerequisite for their implementation in routine practice. Laboratory medicine is holding both a prominent place and special responsibility to participate in this challenging process.

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## S2-2

**Laboratorijska dijagnostika bolesti štitnjače**

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Štitnjača je endokrina žlijezda smještena u donjem dijelu vrata ispred dušnika koja stvara i luči hormone štitnjače tiroksin (T4) i trijodtironin (T3). Lučenje hormona štitnjače je kontrolirano mehanizmom negativne povratne sprege posredstvom tireotropina (TSH), hormona prednjeg režnja hipofize, te tireotropin oslobađajućeg hormona (TRH) iz hipotalamusa. Hormoni štitnjače su od iznimne važnosti za cjelokupan organizam jer utječu na brojne fiziološke i biokemijske procese u stanicama, od regulacije rasta i diferencijacije do regulacije metabolizma. Aktivnost hormona je bitna za normalnu funkciju brojnih organa i tkiva, osobito srca, jetre i bubrega. U krvotoku nalazimo tri različita oblika hormona štitnjače: vezani, slobodni i reverzni oblik.

Poremećaji funkcije štitnjače su česti u općoj populaciji, te se laboratorijski postupci za utvrđivanje bolesti štitnjače svrstavaju među najčešće izvođene pretrage. Danas su dostupni brojni laboratorijski testovi za utvrđivanje bolesti štitnjače, a Hrvatsko društvo za štitnjaču izradilo je smjernice i algoritme za njihovu racionalnu primjenu. Određivanje TSH se preporuča kao prvi test za ispitivanje funkcije štitnjače budući da se umjerene koncentracije hormona štitnjače povezuju sa znatnijom i ujedno ranijom promjenom TSH. U većini slučajeva normalna vrijednost TSH dovoljan je pokazatelj eutireoidnog stanja, te uglavnom nije potrebno daljnje testiranje. Povišena ili snižena vrijednost TSH upućuje na poremećaj funkcije štitnjače te je potrebno napraviti dodatna testiranja koja se prema preporukama temelje na mjerenju slobodne ili ukupne frakcije T4 (FT4 ili TT4) i T3 hormona (FT3 ili TT3). Budući da je uzrok hipotireoze i hipertireoze često autoimunog podrijetla (Hashimotov tiroiditis ili Gravesova bolest) nerijetko postoji potreba za mjerenjem koncentracije antitijela: antitijela na tireoidnu peroksidazu (TPO), antitijela na TSH receptor (TRAt), tiroidne stimulirajuće imunoglobuline (TSI), te antitijela na tireoglobulin (TGAt). Tumori štit-

## S2-2

**Laboratory diagnostics of thyroid disorders**

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The thyroid is an endocrine gland positioned in the lower anterior neck in front of the trachea, which secretes thyroid hormones thyroxin (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). Thyroid hormones secretion is controlled by negative feedback regulation mediated by thyrotropin (TSH) which is released by the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland and dependent of thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) produced in the hypothalamus. Thyroid hormones are of great importance for the entire organism because they influence numerous physiological and biochemical events in the cells, ranging from regulation of growth and differentiation to the regulation of the metabolism. The activity of these hormones is important for the regulation of numerous organs and tissues, especially the heart, liver and kidney. In the bloodstream thyroid hormones occur in three different forms: free, protein-bound and reverse form.

Thyroid dysfunction is common in the population, and diagnostic tests for thyroid are among the most frequently ordered laboratory procedures. Today, numerous laboratory tests for thyroid disorders evaluation are available and the Croatian Thyroid Society developed guidelines and algorithms for their rational application. According to the guidelines, TSH is recommended as a first test for the thyroid function evaluation because small concentration changes of thyroid hormones result in pronounced and earlier TSH secretion changes. In most cases, TSH is a sufficient indicator of euthyroid status, and further testing is not required. However, abnormal TSH value indicates the possibility of thyroid dysfunction and additional testing is suggested: free or protein-bound T4 (FT4 or TT4) and T3 hormone (TT3 or FT3) measurements. Since hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism are often of autoimmune origin (Hashimoto's thyroiditis and Graves' disease), autoantibody tests have significant clinical utility: thyroid peroxidase autoantibodies (TPOAb), TSH receptor

njače su relativno rijetki a mogućnost učinkovitog liječenja stavlja imperativ na njihovo rano otkrivanje. Laboratorijski biljezi otkrivanja i praćenja malignih tumora štitnjače su kalcitonin, tireoglobulin i karcinoembrionalni antigen (CEA). Konačno, sveobuhvatna informacija koja će osigurati pravovremeno i točno postavljanje dijagnoze moguća je samo adekvatnim izborom odgovarajućih testova.

Prilikom određivanja hormona štitnjače važno je voditi računa o predanalitičkim i analitičkim čimbenicima koji mogu utjecati na rezultat mjerenja te tako rezultirati krivom dijagnozom i terapijom. Današnja primjena osjetljivijih metoda omogućava mjerenje slobodnih, biološki aktivnih frakcija hormona štitnjače koje u pravilu imaju bolju diskriminirajuću moć osobito u graničnom području referentnih intervala u odnosu na ukupnu frakciju. Međutim, neki lijekovi i neesterificirane masne kiseline (NEFA) kompetiraju za vezna mjesta prijenosnih proteina s T3 i T4 hormonima pa posljedično mogu promijeniti hormonsku raspoloživost što ima utjecaj na koncentraciju FT3 i FT4. S druge strane određeni nasljedni poremećaji, te utjecaji hormona ili lijekova mogu mijenjati koncentracije vezujućih proteina, prvenstveno tiroksin veznog proteina (engl. *thyroxine-binding globulin*, TBG) i pritom utjecati na koncentraciju TT3 i TT4. Konačno, budući da se laboratorijski testovi ispitivanja funkcije štitnjače temelje na imunokemijskim metodama, u slučaju nesukladnog nalaza treba provjeriti, odnosno isključiti potencijalnu analitičku interferenciju.

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autoantibodies (TRAb), thyroid-stimulating autoantibodies (TSAb), and thyroglobulin autoantibodies (TGAb). Thyroid cancers are of small occurrence and the possibility of effective treatments puts an imperative to early cancer detection. Laboratory markers for thyroid cancers detection and monitoring are calcitonin, thyroglobulin and carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA). Finally, comprehensive information that will establish a well-timed and accurate diagnosis is only possible with adequate selection of appropriate tests.

Preanalytical and analytical factors are of great importance in thyroid hormones testing since numerous factors can influence test results and cause wrong diagnosis and therapy. Sensitive techniques ensure measurement of free, biologically active fractions of thyroid hormones that generally have a better discriminatory power especially in the reference intervals border area compared to the total fraction. However, some drugs and non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) compete with T3 and T4 hormones for binding sites of transport proteins and consequently can alter the hormonal availability by affecting FT3 and FT4 concentrations. On the other hand, some hereditary disorders, hormones and drugs may alter the concentration of binding proteins, particularly thyroxine-binding globulin (TBG) and thus affect the concentration of TT3 i TT4. Finally, laboratory tests for thyroid disorders evaluation are based on immunoassay principles, so every suspicion of inappropriate findings should be checked for potential interferences.

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S2-3

## Polimorfizmi *pon1* gena u kroničnoj opstruktivskoj plućnoj bolesti

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*Pon1* gen kodira enzim paraoksonazu 1 (PON1) koji se sintetizira u jetri te se nakon sinteze izlučuje u krv gdje se većim dijelom nalazi vezan na HDL. Enzim PON1 djeluje na različite supstrate te posjeduje organofosfataznu, arilesteraznu i laktoneznu aktivnost. Mnoga istraživanja su pokazala da ovaj enzim u organizmu djeluje antiaterogeno i antioksidacijski. Enzimska koncentracija i aktivnost pokazuju velike intraindividualne varijacije. Na koncentraciju i aktivnost djeluje cijeli niz negenskih čimbenika (primjerice dob, spol, pušenje, razna fiziološka i patološka stanja) kao i genski čimbenici (polimorfizmi u promotorskim, intronskim i kodirajućim regijama gena). Do danas je otkriveno preko 160 polimorfizama u *pon1* genu od kojih su najviše istraživana dva u kodirajućoj regiji Q192R i L55M. Polimorfizam Q192R rezultira različitom kinetikom hidrolize supstrata dok L55M polimorfizam utječe na razinu mRNA, koncentraciju i aktivnost enzima. U promotorskoj regiji gena najviše istraživani je polimorfizam -108C>T koji utječe na razinu genske ekspresije i posljedično na koncentraciju i aktivnost PON1.

Kronična opstruktivska plućna bolest (KOPB) je kompleksna bolest koja je rezultat djelovanja genskih i okolišnih čimbenika. Glavni etiološki čimbenik razvoja KOPB-a je pušenje no budući da svi pušači ne razvijaju KOPB čini se da genski čimbenici imaju važnu ulogu u razvoju i napredovanju ove bolesti. Enzim PON1 je u organizmu između ostalog lokaliziran i u Clara stanicama, endotelnim stanicama i stanicama alveolarnog epitela tipa 1 te se smatra da u tim stanicama ima antioksidacijsku ulogu.

Cilj provedenog istraživanja bio je utvrditi distribuciju polimorfizama Q192R, L55M i -108C>T te njihovu povezanost s paraoksonaznom i arilesteraznom aktivnošću u bolesnika s KOPB-om. U pacijenata s KOPB-om utvrdili smo sniženu enzimsku aktivnost PON1 te je različita distribucija spomenutih polimorfizama jedan od mogućih razloga uočene promjene enzimске aktivnosti.

S2-3

## Polymorphism of *pon1* gene in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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*Pon1* gene codes for enzyme paraoxonase 1 (PON1), an enzyme synthesized in the liver, mainly associated with the HDL. Enzyme PON1 hydrolyses different substrates with its organophosphatase, arylesterase and lactonase activity. Previous research showed that this enzyme has antiatherogenic and antioxidative function. Enzyme concentration and activity have large interindividual variability. Different non-genetic (age, gender, smoking, different physiological and pathological condition) and genetic factors, (polymorphisms in promotor, intron and coding region of gene), affect enzyme concentration and activity. More than 160 polymorphisms were identified in *pon1* gene, and the most studied polymorphisms in coding region are Q192R and L55M. Q192R polymorphism results in different catalytic activity towards numerous substrates while L55M polymorphism affects mRNA levels and enzyme concentration and activity. The thoroughly studied polymorphism in promotor region of *pon1* gene is -108C>T which affects gene expression, concentration and activity of PON1.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a complex disease resulting from the action of genetic and environmental factors. The main etiologic factor of COPD is smoking, but since not all smokers develop COPD, it seems that genetic factors play an important role in the development and progression of this disease. Paraoxonase 1 is, among other, localized in the Clara cells, endothelial cells and type 1 cells of the alveolar epithelium and it might have protective role against oxidative stress.

Aim of study was to determine the frequency of Q192R, L55M and -108C>T polymorphisms and explore the association of *pon1* gene polymorphisms with PON1 paraoxonase and arylesterase activities in COPD patients. We found decreased PON1 activity in patients with COPD and different genotype distribution of aforementioned polymorphisms that



Polimorfizmi *pon1* gena određeni su PCR-RFLP metodom, a enzimaska aktivnost spektrofotometrijskom metodom korištenjem dva različita supstrata, paraoksona i fenilacetata.

Distribucija genotipova i alela Q192R i L55M polimorfizama nije se razlikovala između kontrolne skupine ispitanika i ispitanika s KOPB-om. Za polimorfizam -108C>T, skupina bolesnika je imala značajno veću frekvenciju genotipa TT (43% vs 14%;  $P = 0,001$ ) kao i alela T (64% vs 37%;  $P < 0,001$ ) te značajno nižu frekvenciju genotipa CC (14% vs 38%;  $P = 0,002$ ). Nadalje, T alel [OR 3,00 (95% CI 1,79 – 5,02);  $P < 0,001$ ] kao i TT [OR 8,50 (95% CI 2,83 – 25,51);  $P < 0,001$ ] i CT genotip [OR 2,43 (95% CI 1,02 – 5,78);  $P = 0,045$ ] povezani su s KOPB-om. U multivariantnom regresijskom modelu (prilagođenom na dob i spol) od tri ispitivana polimorfizma te pušačkog statusa, jedino se polimorfizam -108C>T pokazao kao mogući dijagnostički prediktor bolesti [OR 4,12 (95% CI 1,75 – 9,70),  $P = 0,001$ ] s 85,23% ispravno klasificiranih slučajeva.

Na temelju provedenog istraživanja možemo zaključiti da su genotip TT i CT kao i alel T povezani s KOPB-om te da je polimorfizam -108C>T jedan od mogućih prediktora ove kronične bolesti. Viša frekvencija TT genotipa i T alela koji se povezuju s nižom enzimskom koncentracijom i aktivnošću mogu djelomice rezultirati i doprinijeti sniženoj aktivnosti ovog antioksidacijskog enzima u bolesnika s KOPB-om.

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can be associated with observed change in PON1 activity.

Polymorphisms of *pon1* genotype were determined by PCR-RFLP method. PON1 activity was determined by spectrophotometric method using substrates paraoxon and phenylacetate.

Distribution of genotypes and alleles did not differ between controls and COPD patients for Q192R and L55M. For -108C>T, COPD patients showed significantly higher frequency of TT genotype (43% vs 14%;  $P = 0.001$ ) as well as frequency of T allele (64% vs 37%;  $P < 0.001$ ) and significantly lower frequency of CC genotype (14% vs 38%;  $P = 0.002$ ). T allele [OR 3.00 (95% CI 1.79 – 5.02),  $P < 0.001$ ], and TT [OR 8.50 (95% CI 2.83 – 25.51),  $P < 0.001$ ] and CT genotypes [OR 2.43 (95% CI 1.02 – 5.78),  $P = 0.045$ ] are associated with COPD.

In the multivariate logistic regression model (adjusted to age and sex) from three studied polymorphisms and smoking status, only -108C>T *pon1* gene polymorphism was shown to be a potential diagnostic predictor for the disease [OR 4.12 (95% CI 1.75 – 9.70),  $P = 0.001$ ] with 85.23% correctly classified cases.

In conclusion, TT and CT genotypes as well as the allele T are associated with COPD and -108C>T polymorphism is one of the possible predictors for this chronic disease. Higher frequency of TT genotype and T allele, which are associated with lower enzyme concentration and activity, may in part result and contribute to the reduction of this antioxidative enzyme in COPD patients.

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### S3 Novi trendovi u molekularnoj dijagnostici

#### S3-1

#### MikroRNA u dijagnostici različitih kliničkih entiteta

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MikroRNA (*miRNA*) su jednolančane molekule RNA koje se sastoje od najviše 20-24 nukleotida. U nukleotidnim sljedovima molekula DNA nalaze se područja prijepisa za *miRNA* molekule, koje nemaju uobičajenu ulogu troslovnog zapisa za sintezu proteina već negativno reguliraju ekspresiju ciljnih gena. MikroRNA se veže za 3'-netranslatirano područje mRNA. Poznato je da se *miRNA* komplementarno veže za ciljne stanične nukleotidne zapise na mRNA, ali mehanizam tog vezivanja još uvijek nije u potpunosti objašnjen. Bez obzira na to, molekule *miRNA* mogu igrati ključne regulatorne uloge u mnogim biološkim i patološkim procesima.

MikroRNA baza podataka - <http://www.mirbase.org/cgi-bin/browse.pl?org=hsa> (datum pristupa 20. veljače 2018.) daje podatke o 1881 preteča i 2588 različitih zrelih *miRNA* kod ljudi.

Cirkulirajuće *miRNA* predstavljaju relativno novije biljege koji se mogu povezati s različitim metaboličkim, autoimunim, hormonskim i degenerativnim bolestima. Međutim, najveći intenzitet istraživanja *miRNA* pripada malignim bolestima. Pretpostavlja se da specifična *miRNA* u cirkulaciji može biti koristan dijagnostički čimbenik u otkrivanju određene bolesti, dijagnozi, predviđanju komplikacija i praćenju liječenja.

Prekomjerna ili smanjena ekspresija onkogenih *miRNA* koje reguliraju specifične gene, imaju veliki utjecaj na patogenezu tumorigeneze. To uključuje rak gušterače, kolonektalni karcinom, kroničnu limfatičnu leukemiju, limfom, rak pluća, rak dojke, rak želuca i drugo.

Na primjer, zabilježeno je da testiranje 8 različitih *miRNA* (*mi-LUNG*) može poslužiti za diferencijaciju različitih podtipova raka pluća. Detekcija *miRNA* u plazmi mogla bi biti rani prediktor nastanka raka pluća, čak i mjesecima prije postavljanja dijagnoze

### S3 New trends in molecular diagnostics

#### S3-1

#### MicroRNA in the diagnostics of various clinical entities

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*MicroRNAs* (*miRNAs*) are single-stranded RNAs of just 20–24 nucleotides in length. Specific DNA regions serve as a sequence for transcription onto different *miRNAs* that are not translated into proteins, but negatively regulate expression of target genes. *miRNA* binds the 3'-untranslated region of mRNA. It is well known that *miRNA* binds a target cell sequence complementarily, but the binding mechanism is not still fully explained. Regardless, *miRNA* molecules can play critical regulatory roles in many biological and pathological processes.

The *miRNA* database available at <http://www.mirbase.org/cgi-bin/browse.pl?org=hsa> (accessed February 20th 2018) provides data about 1881 precursors and 2588 mature *miRNAs* in human.

Circulating *miRNAs* represent relatively recent biomarkers that could be associated with different metabolic, autoimmune, hormonal and degenerative diseases. Indeed, the highest intensity of *miRNA* investigation belongs to malignant diseases. It was presumed that specific *miRNA* in circulation could be useful markers in identification, diagnosis, predicting the complication and treatment monitoring. Over-expression of oncogenic RNAs or under-expression of tumour suppressor *miRNA* regulating specific genes are found to have a great impact in cancerogenesis. That includes pancreatic cancer, colorectal carcinoma, chronic lymphatic leukaemia, lymphoma, lung cancer, breast cancer, gastric cancer, etc.

For example it was evidenced that testing of 8 different *miRNA* (*mi-LUNG*) can differentiate between subtypes of lung cancer. Specific *miRNA* detection in plasma could be an early predictor of lung cancer occurrence, months before the diagnosis by computed tomography. *miRNA* profiling also could be useful biomarker in therapy and monitoring.

uz pomoć kompjuterske tomografije, ali i koristan biomarker pri praćenju uspješnosti terapije.

Osim karcinoma, ekspresija *miRNA* je istraživana i kod kardiovaskularnih bolesti: koronarne arterijske bolesti, infarkta miokarda i srčanog zastoja. Rezultati nekih istraživanja su pokazali mogućnost upotrebe čak i u terapiji kardiovaskularnih bolesti. Dijagnostičke i prognostičke osobine *miRNA* još uvijek su predmetom brojnih istraživanja.

Budući da lipoproteinske čestice LDL, IDL i HDL služe kao prijenosnici *miRNA* u cirkulaciji, neka su istraživanja dokazala učinkovitost odgovarajućih *miRNA* u regulaciji metabolizma lipoproteina. Time je uočeno da bi *miRNA* mogla biti uključena u patogenezu različitih dislipidemija.

Interakcije između gena i okoliša posebno su zanimljive tijekom intrauterinog razdoblja. Budući da posteljica regulira okoliš fetusa u maternici, ona kao barijera u tom okolišu predstavlja kritičnu točku koja bi mogla utjecati na fetalni razvoj i posljedice po zdravlje kasnijoj životnoj dobi. Tako je uočeno da različite tvari iz okoliša mogu utjecati na izražaj *miRNoma* i time promijeniti odgovarajuće ishode. Neki teški metali poput kadmija, žive i olova nakupljaju se u tkivu posteljice i stoga mogu promijeniti ekspresiju specifičnih *miRNA* i utjecati na regulaciju specifične biosinteze proteina. *miRNA* predstavljaju jedan od epigenetičkih čimbenika koji bi mogli biti podložni izloženosti okolini, stresu, prehrani, prenatalnoj prehrani, itd.

Zaključno, široko područje primjenjivosti analize *miRNoma* pokazuje povezanost s različitim vrstama bolesti, kliničkim ishodima, dijagnozom, prognozom i praćenjem terapije. Stoga profiliranje *miRNA* predstavljaju buduće izazove i alat u praćenju različitih poligenetskih poremećaja. Izlaganje je u sklopu projekta HrZZ-a IP-2016-06-1998.

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Besides cancers, *miRNAs* expression was highly investigated in cardiovascular disorders (CVD): coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction and heart failure. Some promising results showed how *miRNA* could be useful therapeutic agents in CVD. *miRNA* as diagnostic and prognostic tools still present a high impact in investigation.

It was evidenced that *miRNAs* serve also as regulators of lipid metabolism and therefore could be involved in pathogenesis of different dyslipidaemias. LDL, IDL and HDL transport *miRNA* in circulation. Therefore, *miRNA* profile of those lipoproteins therefore could play a critical role in pathogenesis.

Gene-environmental interactions express particular attention during intrauterine period. Intrauterine environment is particularly regulated by placenta as a critical point that could affect foetal development and health outcome latter in life. Different environmental pollutants could also alter the expression of *miRNome* and therefore change those outcomes. Some heavy metals, like cadmium, mercury and lead accumulate in placental tissue and therefore could change the expression of specific *miRNAs* and affect the regulation of specific protein biosynthesis. *miRNAs* represent one of the epigenetic factors that might be affected due environmental exposure, stress, diet, prenatal nutrition, etc.

In conclusion, wide spectra of *miRNome* applicability show the association with different types of the disease, clinical outcomes, diagnosis prognosis and therapy monitoring. Therefore, *miRNA* profiling represents future challenges and tool in monitoring of different polygenetic disorders. This presentation is part of the Croatian Science Foundation project IP-2016-06-1998.

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## S3-2

**MikroRNA u mijelodisplastičnom sindromu**

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Mijelodisplastični sindrom (MDS) predstavlja skupinu heterogenih klonalnih hematoloških poremećaja hematopoetskih matičnih stanica (HSC) koji se očituju neučinkovitom hematopoezom jedne ili više staničnih linija, citopenijama (anemijom, leukopenijom, trombocitopenijom) i povećanim rizikom od progresije u akutnu mijeloidnu leukemiju (AML). Dijagnoza MDS-a se temelji na citomorfološkoj analizi stanica periferne krvi (PK) i koštane srži (KS) određivanjem postotka blasta u PK i KS, tipa i stupnja displazije i prisustva prstenastih sideroblasta, te citogenetskoj analizi stanica KS. Za razliku od prethodne klasifikacije koja se temeljila isključivo na morfološkim kriterijima, nova klasifikacija MDS-a Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije (SZO) uz morfološke kriterije u obzir uzima i kliničke, citogenetske, imunofenotipske i biološke kriterije. Budući su citogenetske abnormalnosti prisutne tek u 50% oboljelih od MDS-a, neophodno je pronaći nove biljege rane dijagnoze i klasifikacije MDS-a.

Nedavna istraživanja su pokazala da kratke ne-kodirajuće molekule mikroRNA (miRNA) duljine 18 do 25 nukleotida doprinose patogenezi hematoloških maligniteta modulacijom tumorskih onkogeni, tumor supresor gena ili u slučaju patogeneze MDS-a, regulacijom epigenetskih mehanizama. Posljednjih godina su otkrivene i istraživane različite miRNA kako u oboljelih od MDS-a sa dokazanim kromosomskim promjenama, tako i u oboljelih od MDS-a normalnog kariotipa. Pronađeno je preko 18 različitih miRNA s većim izražajem u oboljelih od MDS-a u usporedbi sa zdravim osobama, te dokazan i veći izražaj let-7a isključivo u oboljelih od MDS-a niskog rizika (IPSS LR) u odnosu na oboljele od MDS-a visokog rizika (IPSS HR). Iako su miR-125a i miR-125b dvije najčešće istraživane miRNA, uloga miR-125a u patogenezi MDS-a još uvijek je tek djelomično poznata. Istraživanja su potvrdila kliničku značajnost miR-125a u oboljelih od MDS-a, budući da je pronađen znatno veći izražaj miR-125a u oboljelih od MDS-a u usporedbi sa zdravim osobama (više od 2 puta u 71% oboljelih od

## S3-2

**MicroRNAs in myelodysplastic syndromes**

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Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) is a group of heterogeneous clonal haematological disorders of haematopoietic stem cell (HSC) defined by incomplete haematopoiesis in one or more cell lines. It causes peripheral blood cytopenia, morphological dysplasia, bone marrow failure and an elevated risk of progression to acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Diagnosis of MDS is commonly based on the cytomorphology of peripheral blood (PB) and bone marrow (BM) smears examination as well as cytogenetics of bone marrow cells. While cytogenetic abnormalities can be seen in only 50% of MDS patients, new markers for the early and accurate diagnosis and classification of MDS are needed.

Recent studies have shown that short non-coding microRNAs (miRNAs), 18 - 25 nucleotide in length, are able to regulate over 1/3 of human genes and could contribute to the pathogenesis of haematological malignancies through the modulation of cancer-associated oncogenes, tumour suppressor genes or in the case of MDS, through the regulation of epigenetic mechanisms. In recent years different miRNAs in MDS patients with chromosomal alterations and in MDS patients with a normal karyotype were demonstrated and 18 of them were overexpressed in PB and BM samples of MDS patients when compared to healthy controls. let-7a was found overexpressed in low risk MDS patients (IPSS LR) but downexpressed in high-risk MDS patients (IPSS HR). Although miR-125a and miR-125b were two of the most-studied miRNAs in MDS, little is known about the participation of miR-125a in the pathogenesis of MDS. Expression of miR-125a was significantly higher in MDS patients when compared with healthy controls, with expression higher than 2-fold in 71% of the MDS patients and correlates with MDS prognosis (patients with higher miRNA expression had poorer prognosis). This finding confirmed the clinical relevance of miR-125a in MDS. miR-125a was also encoded in a conserved DNA cluster comprising the sequence of two more miRNAs - miR-99b

MDS-a). Izražaj miR-125a korelirao je i s prognozom MDS-a (oboljeli s većim izražajem miR-125a imali su slabiju prognozu). Kako je miR-125a kodirana klasterom DNA, on sadrži i slijed nukleotida za miR-99b i za let-7e. Veći izražaj miR-99b (više od 2 puta u odnosu na zdrave osobe) prisutan je u približno 30% oboljelih od MDS- a uz istovremen veći izražaj i miR-125a, mogao bi ukazivati na njihov suizražaj kao članova kodiranih istim klasterom DNA. let-7e je treći član klastera DNA s niskim izražajem u zdravih osoba i slabim izražajem u većine oboljelih od MDS-a. Svi podaci ukazuju da je izražaj klastera miR-99b/let-7e/miR-125a reguliran istim mehanizmom i da su i miR-99b i miR-125a klinički značajni u oboljelih od MDS-a. Znatno veći izražaj miR-125a najvjerojatnije upućuje na postojanje alternativnog mehanizma regulacije za miR-125a kao najvažnijeg člana klastera DNA u patogenezi MDS-a. U MDS-u i AML je primijećen i veći izražaj miR-125b (veći od 2 puta u 49% oboljelih od MDS- a).

Zaključno, u svim se istraživanjima propituju različite miRNA što može odražavati heterogenost MDS-a kao klonalnog hematološkog poremećaja ili biti direktna posljedica različitih protokola istraživanja. miR-125a udružen s miR-99b i let-7e zasigurno je budući potencijalan prognostički biljeg rane dijagnoze i klasifikacije MDS-a, a daljnja istraživanja trebalo bi usmjeriti ka prepoznavanju onih miRNA koje bi omogućile razlikovanje oboljelih od MDS-a niskog rizika i oboljelih od MDS-a visokog rizika.

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and let-7e. Overexpression of miR-99b (over 2- fold of healthy controls) was present in 30% of MDS patients in strongly correlation to miR-125a expression indicating co- expression of both cluster members. The least abundant miRNA of the cluster was let-7e, with low expression in healthy controls and barely detectable expression in most MDS patients. Data indicated that the expression of the members of the miR-99b/let-7e/miR-125a cluster is regulated by a common mechanism and that both miR-99b and miR-125a are clinically relevant in MDS. However, the considerably higher expression of miR-125a suggested that miR-125a undergoes alternative mechanisms of regulation and that this miRNA could be the most important cluster component in the pathogenesis of MDS. Overexpression of miR-125b in MDS and AML was also observed, with expression higher than 2- fold in 49% of the MDS patients.

In conclusion, there are very few overlapping miRNAs among all studies, which may reflect the heterogeneity of the MDS as a clonal haematological disorder but also may possibly be due to variations between miRNA detection protocols. In MDS, miR-125a is a target of interest that should be further explored as potential prognostic marker of great utility in the clinical practice together with miR-99b and let-7e. Moreover, the identification of miRNAs that distinguish IPSS LR from IPSS HR MDS might, in the future, provide insight into appropriate therapeutic selection.

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S3-3

### Metilacija DNA u dijagnostici invazivnosti trofoblasta i tumora

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Da bi posteljica mogla adekvatno odigrati svoju funkciju zadovoljavanja potreba rastućeg zametka i ploda, stanice trofoblasta moraju invadirati u sluznicu maternice te remodelirati spiralne arterije majke u svrhu stvaranja utero-placentalne cirkulacije. Proces koji se pri tome zbivaju nalik su procesima u karcinogenezi. Stoga nije čudno da placentacija i karcinogeneza dijele mnoge zajedničke fiziološke osobine koje se mogu pratiti na genetskoj i epigenetskoj razini, a uključuju: ekspresiju zajedničkih faktora rasta, staničnih adhezijskih molekula, enzima za razgradnju izvanstaničnih proteina te produkte protoonkogeni i tumor supresor gena. Najvažnija razlika je ta što je invazivni potencijal trofoblasta precizno reguliran te prostorno i vremenski kontroliran kako ne bi došlo do preplitke invazije kao u slučaju preeklampsije i intrauterinog zastoja u rastu ploda (IUGR), ili pak pre-duboke kao kod prirasle i prorasle posteljice.

Ovakva sličnost na genetskoj i epigenetskoj razini, ne može se naći niti u jednom drugom tkivu sisavaca, pa zašto to onda ne iskoristiti i povući paralele, tj. naučiti od trofoblasta? Tumorske stanice ne otkrivaju nužno ništa novo, već samo koriste postojeće stanične mehanizme da bi se dijelile i preživjele u domaćinu. Danas se smatra da bi za facilitiranje ovih proliferacijskih, invazivnih i migratornih svojstava kako trofoblasta tako i tumora, mogli biti odgovorni Wnt i Hedgehog signalni put.

Radi se o evolucijski konzerviranim putevima koji su neophodni za normalan embrionalni razvoj i placentaciju, a čija je aberantna aktivacija povezana s razvojem mnogih karcinoma.

Naša dosadašnja istraživanja potkrjepljuju navedene tvrdnje, pa je tako jedan od inhibitora signalnog puta Wnt, protein SFRP1 (engl. *frizzled-related protein*), jače izražen u IUGR posteljicama što se povezuje sa slabijom invazijom trofoblasta. Istovremeno je manje izražen u koriokarcinomima i seroznim karcinomima jajnika. Ekspresija SFRP1 proteina u obrnutoj je korelaciji sa stupnjem njegove DNA metilacije

S3-3

### DNA methylation as a diagnostic target of the trophoblast and tumor invasiveness

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In order for the placenta to adequately play its function of meeting the needs of growing embryo and foetus, the trophoblast cells must invade the uterine epithelium and remodel the mother's spiral arteries to create utero-placental circulation. The processes taking place during these events are similar to those during carcinogenesis. Therefore, it is not surprising that placentation and carcinogenesis share many common physiological attributes that can be observed at the genetic and epigenetic levels, and include expression of common growth factors, cell adhesion molecules, enzymes for extracellular proteins degradation and products of proto-oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes. The most important difference is that the invasive potential of the trophoblast is precisely regulated and spatially and temporally controlled, in order to avoid a shallow invasion, as it occurs during preeclampsia and intrauterine growth failure (IUGR), or invasion that is too deep, as in placenta *accreta* and *percreta*.

Such similarity on the genetic and epigenetic level cannot be found in any other mammalian tissue, so why not use it and draw parallels, *i.e.* learn from trophoblasts? Tumour cells do not necessarily reveal new mechanisms compared to those that are operative during embryonal development, they mostly use existing cellular mechanisms to divide and survive in the host. It is currently thought that for facilitation of these proliferative, invasive and migratory properties of both trophoblasts and tumours, the signalling pathways Wnt and Hedgehog are responsible.

They are evolutionary conserved pathways that are indispensable for normal embryonal development and placentation and their aberrant activation is associated with the development of many cancers. Our research supports these claims. For example, we found that one of the Wnt signalling inhibitors, the frizzled-related protein 1 (SFRP1) is more strongly expressed in IUGR placentas, which is associated with shallow trophoblast invasion. At the same time,

što bi se potencijalno moglo koristiti kao dijagnostički i prognostički marker u navedenim entitetima.

Od aktera Hedgehog signalnog puta, do sada smo proučili proteine Patch1, SHH, IHH, GLI1 i GLI3 u karcinomima jajnika. Rezultati analize DNA metilacije *PTCH1*, *SHH* i *IHH* gena ukazuju da metilacija nije glavni mehanizam kontrole njihove ekspresije. Promotori gena *SHH* i *IHH* nisu metilirani u normalnim jajnicima iako nema proteinske ekspresije u njihovim epitelnim stanicama, dok je metilacija *PTCH1* gena zabilježena kod 14% seroznih karcinoma jajnika visokog stupnja malignosti (engl. *high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma*, HGSC).

U predavanju ćemo predstaviti aktere signalnih puteva Wnt i Hedgehog, istražene u našem laboratoriju, čija je ekspresija regulirana DNA metilacijom njihovih gena, a koji bi potencijalno mogli biti korisni u ranoj dijagnostici patologija trudnoće i karcinoma jajnika. Cilj nam je otkriti nove epigenetske biomarkere u cirkulirajućoj serumskoj DNA koji bi omogućili raniju detekciju i bolje praćenje kako patoloških trudnoća tako i seroznih karcinoma jajnika.

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it is less pronounced in choriocarcinomas and serous ovarian carcinomas. Expression of SFRP1 is in reverse correlation with the degree of DNA methylation, which could potentially be used as a diagnostic and prognostic marker in those pathological entities.

From among the components of the Hedgehog signalling pathway, we have so far studied the proteins Patch1, SHH, IHH, GLI1 and GLI3. Our analysis of DNA methylation suggests that methylation is not the main mechanism of control of their expression. *SHH* and *IHH* promoters are not methylated in normal ovarian tissue, although there is no protein expression in ovarian epithelial cells. DNA methylation of *PTCH1* was observed in 14% of high-grade serous ovarian carcinomas (HGSC).

In this presentation, we will introduce the Wnt and Hedgehog signalling pathway components, which were investigated in our laboratory, whose expression is regulated by DNA methylation of their genes, and which could potentially be useful in early diagnostics of pathological pregnancies and ovarian cancer. Our aim is to discover new epigenetic biomarkers in circulating serum DNA that would allow for early detection and better monitoring of both pathological pregnancies and serous ovarian carcinomas.

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## S4 Novi dijagnostički pristupi u laboratorijskoj medicini

### S4-1

#### Modeliranje psihijatrijskih poremećaja: od genomskih otkrića do staničnih fenotipova

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Psihijatrijski poremećaji predstavljaju znatno ekonomsko, socijalno i osobno opterećenje. Skupno, globalno čine 13% svih bolesti i vodeći su uzrok invalidnosti. Jedinstveni pomaci u prethodnom desetljeću pokazuju da su psihijatrijski poremećaji genetički složene bolesti na koje utječu kombinacije stotina čestih genskih varijanti – svaka relativno malog utjecaja na rizik od bolesti – a povremeno i rijetke varijante s jačim učincima. Velike međunarodne studije u psihijatrijskoj genetici identificirale su > 150 rizičnih lokusa za psihijatrijske bolesti. Unatoč tim genetičkim napretcima vrlo malo sadašnjih spoznaja nedvosmisleno dovode u vezu specifične gene koji su jednostavno primjenjivi u biološkim, kliničkim ili terapijskim studijama. Kako bi bile vrijedne, takve studije moraju pokazati jaku povezanost između genske varijacije i diskriminativnoga fenotipa koji je relevantan za pojedini poremećaj. Glavno ograničenje u proučavanju složene genetičke etiologije psihijatrijskih poremećaja jest nepristupačnost moždanog tkiva i nedostatak adekvatnih životinjskih modela jer su fenotipovi specifični za ljude.

Nedavni napredak u genetici i biologiji matičnih stanica nudi nove mogućnosti za stanično modeliranje psihijatrijskih poremećaja. Pojava staničnog reprogramiranja i induciranih pluripotentnih matičnih stanica (iPMS) predstavlja priliku za prenošenje genetičkih otkrića u *in vitro* modele specifične za bolesnika. Tehnologija iPMS prisutna je manje od desetljeća, ali mnogo obećava u smislu povezivanja pacijenata, genetike i biologije.

Dokaz o provodivosti koncepta koji se pojavio u mnogim nedavnim studijama koje su pokušavale oponašati aspekte psihijatrijskih poremećaja *in*

## S4 New diagnostic approaches in laboratory medicine

### S4-1

#### Modelling psychiatric disorders: from genomic findings to cellular phenotypes

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Psychiatric disorders are associated with major economic, societal and personal burdens. As a group, they constitute 13% of the global burden of disease, and are the leading cause of disability worldwide. Unprecedented advances in the past decade have shown that psychiatric disorders are genetically complex diseases and influenced by the combination of hundreds of common genetic variants, each of relatively small impact on disease risk, and occasionally by rare variants with larger effects. Major international studies in psychiatric genetics have identified > 150 risk loci for psychiatric disorders. Despite these advances in genetics, very few of the current findings unequivocally implicate specific individual genes that are easily “actionable” for biological, clinical, or therapeutic studies. To be of value, such studies need to show strong linkage between the genetic variation and a discriminative phenotype that is relevant for the disorder. A major limitation in the study of the complex genetic aetiologies of psychiatric disorders is the inaccessibility of the brain tissue and the lack of adequate animal models, as the phenotypes are specific to humans.

Recent advances in genetics and stem cell biology offer new prospects for cell-based modelling of psychiatric disorders. The advent of cell reprogramming and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) provides an opportunity to translate genetic findings into patient-specific *in vitro* models. iPSC technology is less than a decade old but holds great promise for bridging the gaps between patients, genetics, and biology.

The proof-of-concept emerging from many recent studies that have attempted to mimic aspects of



*in vitro* primjenom bolesnikovih vlastitih stanica vrlo je ohrabrujuć. Međutim, i dalje postoji niz priličnih izazova. Iza problema varijabilnosti i kapaciteta leži ključno pitanje koji je relevantni stanični fenotip ili fenotipovi. Ova istraživanja tek su na početku i iziskivat će višestruke nizove poklapajućih dokaza, a trebat će ih provesti u brojnim centrima uz validaciju na kliničkim i životinjskim modelima prije nego što će se moći donijeti opća suglasnost o staničnim fenotipovima.

Primarni cilj našeg projekta stjecanje je više znanja o mehanizmima teških mentalnih poremećaja identificiranjem staničnih i molekularnih fenotipova u iPMS koji su povezani s teškom duševnom bolesti, a s pomoću dobro karakteriziranog TOP (*Tematisk Område Psykose*) uzorka s kliničkim, neurokognitivnim procjenama, genotipovima na razini genoma i naprednim slikovnim tehnikama (MRI). Koristeći se stanično zasnovanim studijama nastojimo identificirati fenotipove koji služe kao neuronske sklonosti za bolest i mogu pomoći objasniti preklapanje u fenotipovima s drugim psihijatrijskim i somatskim poremećajima. Ovaj se projekt usredotočuje na poboljšanje razumijevanja uzroka i mehanizama teških mentalnih poremećaja, s mogućnošću poboljšanja ranog otkrivanja i razvoja lijekova, što je od znatne kliničke važnosti. Istinsko bi postignuće bilo kada bi analiza iPMS-izvedenih neuronskih mreža bila sastavni dio dijagnostičke i precizne medicine za neuropsihijatrijske poremećaje.

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psychiatric disorders *in vitro* using patient-derived cells is very encouraging. However, there remains a number of considerable challenges ahead. Beyond the issues of variability and capacity lies the key question of what the relevant cellular phenotype or phenotypes is/are. These investigations have only just begun, and are likely to require multiple lines of converging evidence, they should be carried out in numerous centres and validated against clinical and animal model studies, before consensus cellular phenotypes can be established and accepted.

The primary objective of our project is to gain more knowledge about mechanisms of severe mental disorders by identifying cellular and molecular phenotypes in iPSC that are associated with severe mental illness, using the well characterized TOP (*Tematisk Område Psykose*) sample with clinical, neurocognitive assessments and genome-wide genotypes and advanced brain imaging (MRI) scans. By using cell-based studies, we aim to identify phenotypes that serve as neuronal predispositions to disease, and can help explain overlap in phenotypes with other psychiatric and somatic disorders. This project focuses on improving the understanding of the causes and disease mechanisms of severe mental disorders, with the potential to improve early detection and drug development, which is of large clinical relevance.

*Bona fide* eminence would be achieved if analysis of iPSC-derived neuronal networks will form an integral component of diagnostic and precision medicine for neuropsychiatric disorders.

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## S4-2

**Uloga laboratorija u optimizaciji biološke terapije**

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Biološki lijekovi su proizvod živih organizama ili sadrže sastojke živih organizama. Biološka terapija obuhvaća i imunoterapiju (cjepiva, citokini i antitijela), gensku terapiju i neke ciljane terapije. Njihovi ciljevi mogu uključivati molekule koje sudjeluju u upalnim procesima ili molekule na površini stanica uključenih u upalu. U većini slučajeva efekt biološke terapije je temeljen na inhibiciji djelovanja proinflammatornih citokina. Većina bioloških lijekova koji se koriste u praksi su monoklonska antitijela. Biološki lijekovi usmjereni na čimbenik nekroze tumora (engl. *tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$* , TNF- $\alpha$ ), integrine, interleukine, interferone i njihove receptore su postali ključni čimbenici u liječenju upalnih bolesti u gastroenterologiji, reumatologiji, dermatologiji i neurologiji.

Uvođenje biološke terapije u kliničku praksu predstavlja značajan napredak u liječenju kroničnih upalnih bolesti crijeva (engl. *inflammatory bowel disease*, IBD), prvenstveno zbog njihove dokazane učinkovitosti i činjenice da su to prvi lijekovi koji mogu promijeniti prirodni tijek tih bolesti. Antitijela na TNF- $\alpha$  kao biološki lijekovi (kao infliksimab, adalimumab i golimumab) pokazali su učinkovitost u IBD-u.

Brzo i učinkovito suzbijanje upale primarni je cilj u liječenju reumatskih bolesti. Biološka terapija unaprijedila je liječenje upalnih reumatskih bolesti kao što su reumatoidni artritis, ankilozantni spondilitis, juvenilni kronični artritis i psorijatični artritis. Većina trenutno dostupnih bioloških lijekova u liječenju reumatskih bolesti su usmjereni na čimbenike upalne reakcije kao što su TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, CTLA-4 i limfociti B.

Unatoč dokazanoj učinkovitosti i uspjehu bioloških lijekova, dio bolesnika ne reagira pozitivno na ovaj tip terapije. Kod jednog dijela bolesnika dolazi do izostanka primarnog odgovora na TNF- $\alpha$  antagoniste, doke se kod većine ostalih postiže početni odgovor, ali kasnije dolazi do relapsa (sekundarnog gubitka odgovora). Odsutnost terapijskog odgovora često je povezana s koncentracijom lijeka ispod terapijske

## S4-2

**The role of laboratories in optimizing biological therapy**

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Biological drugs are products made from living organisms or contain components of living organisms. The types of biological therapy include immunotherapy (vaccines, cytokines, and antibodies), gene therapy, and some targeted therapies. Their targets may include molecules involved in the inflammatory processes or molecules on the surface of cells involved in inflammation. In most cases, the effect of biological therapy is based on inhibition of proinflammatory cytokine action. The biological drugs commonly used in practice are monoclonal antibodies. The biopharmaceuticals used against tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ), integrins, interleukins, interferons and their receptors have become the key agents for the management of inflammatory diseases in the field of gastroenterology, rheumatology, dermatology and neurology.

An introduction of biologic therapy into clinical practice represents a significant advance in the treatment of chronic inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), primarily due to their efficiency and the fact that they are the first medicines that can change the natural course of these illnesses. The anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha (anti-TNF- $\alpha$ ) biologic drugs (*i.e.* infliximab, adalimumab and golimumab) proved their efficiency in IBD.

A rapid and effective suppression of inflammation is a primary goal in the treatment of rheumatic diseases. Biological therapy has revolutionized the management of common inflammatory rheumatic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis. The majority of currently available biologic drugs target key intermediaries in the cascade of inflammation like TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, CTLA-4 and B-cells.

Despite the proven efficiency and success of biological therapy, a subset of patients does not respond well to this treatment. There is a population of primary nonresponsive patients to TNF- $\alpha$  antagonist, while most of the patients do experience an initial

koncentracije što može biti posljedica stvaranja anti-tijela na lijek (engl. *anti-drug antibody*, ADA).

Terapijsko praćenje koncentracije lijeka (engl. *therapeutic drug monitoring*, TDM) najčešće korištenih anti-TNF- $\alpha$  bioloških lijekova, infliksimaba i adalimumaba se pokazalo kao dobar pristup optimizaciji uporabe i učinkovitosti ovih lijekova. Na ovaj način se mogu identificirati bolesnici kod kojih je moguće smanjiti ili čak ukinuti terapiju bez štetnih posljedica. TDM bioloških lijekova uključuje mjerenje serumske koncentracije lijeka i antitijela na lijek. Klinički laboratoriji imaju važnu ulogu u odabiru i izvođenju testova koji se koriste za procjenu bolesnika koji su podvrgnuti biološkim terapijama. Za TDM je važno imati pouzdanu metodu za kvantifikaciju lijeka i ADA. Razvijene su različite metode za TDM: radioimunotest (RIA), ELISA, metoda s genom dojavljivačem te kombinacija tekućinske kromatografije visoke učinkovitosti i dvojne spektrometrije masa.

Rana primjena TDM i optimizacija terapije za vrijeme indukcijske faze i praćenje terapijske koncentracije lijeka u fazi održavanja može spriječiti primarni i sekundarni gubitak odgovora na terapiju. Optimalno vrijeme mjerenja koncentracije biološkog lijeka je praćenje „trough“ koncentracije prije uzimanja nove doze lijeka.

Prema dosadašnjim spoznajama kod bolesnika s IBD i upalnim reumatološkim bolestima postoji pozitivna korelacija između TDM lijekova i ADA s poboljšanim kliničkim ishodom. TDM može olakšati terapijsku odluku kod bolesnika koji ne reaguju na biološku terapiju.

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response, but have later relapses (secondary loss of response). The absence of a therapeutic response is often correlated with drug subtherapeutic serum concentrations, which may be due to antidrug antibody (ADA) formation.

Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of the most commonly used anti-TNF- $\alpha$  biologic medicines, infliximab and adalimumab, emerged as a helpful tool for optimizing the use and effectiveness of these drugs. It can identify selected patients to enable reducing or even withdrawing of anti-TNF biologic treatment without adversely affecting clinical outcomes. The biological TDM includes the measurement of serum drug and anti-drug antibody concentrations.

Clinical laboratories play an important role in the selection and performance of monitoring tests used to evaluate patients who are undergoing biological therapies.

For the TDM, it is important to have reliable methods to quantify the drug and ADA. Different methods have been developed for TDM: radioimmunoassay, ELISA, reporter gene assay and liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry.

Early utilization of the TDM and dose optimization during the induction phase and continuing to dose to a therapeutic window in the maintenance phase may prevent some primary nonresponse and, more important, a secondary loss of response. Optimal time to measure drug concentration in patients is checking a “trough” concentration immediately before the next dose of the drug.

Available evidence from IBD and rheumatology patients suggest that there is a positive correlation between TDM of both drug concentrations and the ADA that yield improved clinical outcomes. The TDM can result in a more accurate diagnosis, providing better information to guide therapeutic decision making for patients who are not responding to the therapy.

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## S4-3

**Upotreba visoko-osjetljivog testa za srčani troponin u procjeni kardiovaskularnog rizika**

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Dijagnoza akutnog infarkta miokarda se, prema trećoj univerzalnoj definiciji, temelji na porastu i/ili padu koncentracije srčanog troponina I ili T (engl. *cardiac troponin*, cTn) u kombinaciji s kliničkim znakovima ishemije miokarda. Barem jedna izmjerena koncentracija cTn mora biti iznad gornje granice referentnog raspona (99.-te percentile). Od 2008. godine su dostupni za korištenje visoko-osjetljivi (engl. *high-sensitivity*, hs) testovi za srčani troponin. Dvije su osnovne karakteristike hs cTn testova: nepreciznost (koeficijent varijacije)  $\leq 10\%$  kod 99.-te percentile koncentracije cTn u zdravih osoba i mogućnost mjerenja cTn kod  $\geq 50\%$  zdrave referentne populacije. Uvođenje hs cTn testa povećalo je osjetljivost dijagnostike akutnog infarkta miokarda, ali je smanjilo specifičnost. Pacijenti s kroničnim oštećenjem srčanih mišićnih stanica imaju povišenu koncentraciju hs cTn, zbog čega je jedino porast i/ili pad koncentracije siguran pokazatelj akutnog infarkta miokarda.

Implementacijom hs cTn u laboratorijsku praksu otvoren je prostor za upotrebu tog testa u svrhu procjene rizika od negativnog ishoda u populaciji pacijenata sa stabilnom srčanom arterijskom bolesti. Randomizirani kontrolirani pokusi koriste hs cTn za kvantificiranje ozljede srčanih mišićnih stanica. Mjerenjem koncentracije hs cTn procjenjuje se učinak terapijske intervencije tj. smanjenje kardiovaskularnog rizika kod ispitivane populacije. Ispitivanja na populaciji normotenzivnih pacijenata s plućnom embolijom pokazala su korisnost određivanja hs cTn u svrhu prognoze komplikacija i mortaliteta. Otpuštanje cTn u cirkulaciju je povezano s biljezima upale i dilatacije ventrikula kod pacijenata na intenzivnoj skrbi koji nemaju srčano-arterijsku bolest. Kod ispitivanja optimalnog krvnog pritiska potrebnog da bi se spriječili nepoželjni kardiovaskularni ishodi u populaciji pacijenata sa šećernom bolesti tipa 2 korišteni su hs cTn i N-terminalni-pro-B-tip natriuretski peptid (NT-proBNP) kao biljezi ozljede srčanog mišića, odnosno hemodinamskog stresa.

## S4-3

**Use of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin assay in cardiovascular risk assessment**

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According to the Third universal definition of myocardial infarction (MI), diagnosis of MI is based on rise and/or fall of concentration of cardiac troponin (cTn) I or T combined with clinical features of myocardial ischemia. At least one measured cTn concentration should be increased (above upper reference limit, or 99th percentile of normal reference population). Since 2008, there are available high-sensitivity (hs) assays for determination of cTn. High-sensitivity assays have following features: imprecision (coefficient of variation)  $\leq 10\%$  at the 99th percentile of healthy population and the ability to measure cTn in  $\geq 50\%$  healthy reference population. Introduction of hs cTn assay increased diagnostic sensitivity in detection of acute MI, with concomitant decrease in specificity. Patients with chronic cardiomyocyte injury have high concentrations of hs cTn, which makes the rise and/or fall of hs cTn concentration the only safe indicator of acute MI.

Implementation of hs cTn in laboratory practice enabled usage of that assay for risk stratification and assessment of adverse outcome in patients with stable cardiac artery disease. High-sensitivity cTn has been used in randomized control trials for quantification of cardiomyocyte injury. Measurement of hs cTn concentration provides estimation of the effect of therapeutic intervention *i.e.* decrease of cardiovascular risk in participant population. High-sensitivity cTn showed prognostic potential for complications and mortality in normotensive patients with pulmonary embolism. Release of cTn into circulation is associated with inflammation markers and ventricular dilatation in intensive care patients without coronary arterial disease. In studied population of type 2 diabetes mellitus patients intended to assess optimal blood pressure needed for prevention of adverse cardiovascular outcomes hs cTn and N-terminal-pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) were used as biomarkers of cardiomyocyte injury and hemodynamic stress, respectively.

Šira primjena hs cTn kao biljega kardiovaskularnog rizika ovisi o postizanju konsenzusa oko niza ključnih pitanja, a to su standardizacija testova, definiranje postupka za utvrđivanje referentnog intervala, definiranje granica (engl. *limit of blank*, *limit of detection*, *limit of quantification*), standardizacija postupaka za otklanjanje interferencija, itd. Minimalni broj ispitanika potreban za određivanje referentnog intervala je 300, a postoje različiti kriteriji za odabir zdrave populacije. Referentni intervali za hs cTn se razlikuju obzirom na spol i dob. Uvođenjem određivanja koncentracije hs cTn povećala se frekvencija lažno povišenih rezultata uslijed prisutnost makrotroponina (kompleks cTn i imunoglobulina).

Za implementaciju hs cTn u svakodnevnu kliničku praksu u svrhu procjene rizika od negativnog ishoda nužno je definiranje protokola pomoću kojih će se heterogenost dostupnih testova svesti na minimum.

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Use of hs cTn as cardiovascular risk biomarkers depends on consensus related to important topics like assay standardization, establishment of reference interval, determination of assay limits (limit of blank, limit of detection, limit of quantification), guidelines for detection and removal of interferences, etc. Recommended minimal participant number for reference interval study is 300, and selection of reference population is based on different criteria, depending on manufacturer. Moreover, hs cTn reference intervals are gender and age dependent. Introduction of hs cTn assays caused higher incidence of falsely increased results due to presence of circulating macrotroponin (complex containing cTn and immunoglobulin).

Definition of protocols intended to minimize assay heterogeneity is essential for implementation of hs cTn in routine clinical practice as tool for risk stratification and assessment of adverse outcome.

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## S5 Upravljanje laboratorijem

### S5-1

#### Modeliranje medicinsko-biokemijskog laboratorija kao ekonomske cjeline

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Medicinsko biokemijski laboratorij je zdravstvena, ali i ekonomska cjelina.

Sve je veći imperativ promatrati laboratorij kao ekonomsku cjelinu u kojem se uz ograničena materijalna sredstva želi dobiti maksimum potrebnih analiza te zadržati kvalitetu i obujam usluga.

Kako bi se taj cilj postigao potrebne su nam ekonomske metode koje dijagnosticiraju trenutno stanje laboratorija, njegovu poziciju u okruženju, kao i mogućnosti poboljšanja.

SWOT (engl. *strengths*, *weaknesses*, *opportunities*, *threats*) analiza je preporučena metoda za procjenu strateške pozicije laboratorija. Radi se o kvalitativnoj

## S5 Laboratory management

### S5-1

#### Shaping of a clinical biochemical laboratory as an economic unit

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Clinical biochemical laboratory is a healthcare unit, as well as an economic one.

The imperative to contemplate a laboratory as an economic unit, in which it would be able to perform a maximum of all necessary laboratory tests with limited material resources, thus maintaining the level of quality and the scope of services at the same time, is every day getting bigger and bigger.

In order to achieve such a goal, economic methods for diagnosing the current state of a laboratory, its position in the surrounding environment, and possibilities for improvement are required.

metodi koja govori o unutarnjim osobinama laboratorija koje čine njegovu snagu i slabosti, te o prilikama i prijetnjama koje su vanjske osobine laboratorija. Za razumijevanje poslovanja laboratorija koristi se još jedna kvalitativna metoda „lanac stvaranja vrijednosti“. Metoda se zasniva na promatranju laboratorija kao skupa odvojenih, ali međusobno povezanih aktivnosti kako bi se pronašla poboljšanja.

Za kvantitativni prikaz rada laboratorija potrebno je izračunati operativnu dobit. Za to nam služi metoda računa dobiti i gubitka gdje se od ukupnih troškova oduzimaju ukupni prihodi. Razlika pokazuje poslovanje laboratorija u vremenskom razdoblju od jedne godine. Da bi se laboratorij smatrao profitabilnim, rezultat mora biti pozitivan.

Analiza ekonomske osjetljivosti koristi se za simuliranje različitih modela laboratorija u određenom vremenskom razdoblju. Ovom metodom mijenjaju se ulazni parametri u metodi računa dobiti i gubitka, bilo troškovi, prihodi ili oboje i promatra se promjena operativne dobiti. Tako se mogu unaprijed predvidjeti promjene u poslovanju laboratorija i odlučiti o njihovom uvođenju temeljem dobivenih rezultata operativne dobiti. Ako se pri tome procijeni i kompleksnost pojedine aktivnosti, što je naša procjena, može se dobiti omjer potrebnih aktivnosti i realno poboljšanje poslovanja te tako odlučiti o promjenama u slijedećem razdoblju.

Analiza laboratorija u Općoj županijskoj bolnici Našice ovim metodama pokazala je snagu laboratorija u dostupnosti bolesnicima (bez listi čekanja), brzoj izradi nalaza s prilikom uvođenja nadstandarda putem razgovora i analiziranja dobivenih rezultata s bolesnicima. Slabost je nedostatak prostora, prijetnja je jačanje konkurencije u okruženju. Količina reagensa je optimalna, postoji mogućnost optimizacije kapaciteta analizatora. Laboratorij je sve analizirane godine poslovao profitabilno (operativna dobit je bila pozitivna). Nagli porast operativne dobiti uočen je treće promatrane godine jer je tada na temelju kvantitativnih analiza uvedena promjena rada i organizacije u istim zadanim materijalnim uvjetima uz zadržanu kvalitetu rada. Analizom ekonomske osjetljivosti vidljivo je kako pad cijena pretraga najviše utječe na operativnu dobit odnosno poslovanje laboratorija.

Svim ovim metodama moguće je lakše, točnije i informiranije donositi odluke u radu laboratorija. U slučaju kada nije moguće utjecati na negativan rezultat,

SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis is a recommended method for the evaluation of the position of a laboratory. It is a qualitative method that provides us with an insight into internal aspects of a laboratory, which constitute its strengths and weaknesses, as well as into opportunities and threats which represent external aspects of a laboratory. With a view to understanding business operations of a laboratory, another qualitative method is used – “creating a value chain”. The method is based on the perspective of the laboratory as a group of separated, yet interrelated activities, with a purpose to identifying improvements.

In order to represent business operations of a laboratory from the quantitative point of view, operating profit should be calculated. To that end, profit and loss account method is used, where total revenues are deducted from total expenditures. The difference shows the balance of business operations of a laboratory over a period of one year. The result must be positive if a laboratory is to be considered profitable. Economic sensitivity analysis is used to simulate various laboratory models over a specific period of time. This method allows for the input parameters in the profit and loss account method to be changed – expenditures, revenues or both – which enables us to observe the change in operating profit. Using this method, changes in business operations of a laboratory can be forecasted and a decision on their application can be made based on the obtained results in operating profit. If, in doing so, the complexity of an individual activity is evaluated, which is precisely the scope of our evaluation, a ratio between required activities and a realistic improvement of business operations can be obtained, which then can be used in a decision-making process in the subsequent period. The analysis of the laboratory in the General County Hospital Našice, performed using the above mentioned methods, showed that the laboratory's strengths are its accessibility to the patients (no waiting lists), very short time for generating lab test results, and its opportunity is identified in the potential introduction of a hyper standard which would provide the patients with the possibility to have their results discussed and analyzed. Its lack of space is recognized as its weakness, and its threat is a growing competition in the vicinity. The quantity of reagents is optimal; however there is a possibility to optimize the capacity of analyzers. Over all the analyzed years, business operations of

moguće je pokazati razloge takvog poslovanja i argumentirano obrazložiti. Bolji je način to predvidjeti i izbjeći u interesu djelatnika, a posebice korisnika usluga. Tako se približavamo težnji u kojoj bi s ograničenim materijalnim sredstvima svatko kome je to potrebno, dobio zadovoljavajuću uslugu u najkraćem roku, a naš zdravstveni sustav poslovao pozitivno.

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the laboratory were profitable (operating profit was positive). A sudden increase in the operating profit was observed in the third year of the analysis when, based on the quantitative analysis, a modification in the work and organization of the laboratory was introduced, maintaining the same level of predefined material circumstances and quality. Economic sensitivity analysis showed that the decrease in the prices of laboratory tests mostly affects operating profit, *i.e.* business operations of the laboratory.

All the aforementioned methods facilitate an easier, more accurate and informed manner of decision-making regarding laboratory operations. In case where a negative result cannot be remedied, it is possible to explain the reasons and arguments for such results. However, it would better to be able to predict and avoid such results, not only in the interest of the employees but the laboratory users as well. It would lead us closer to the aspiration to provide a satisfactory service in the shortest possible period of time to everyone who needs such a service, using limited material resources, and to having a healthcare system that generates profit.

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## S5-2

### **Integracija laboratorija: Jesmo li odabrali pravi put?**

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Klinički bolnički centar Split nastao je udruživanjem dvije bolnice 1991.g. i od tada je organiziran kao jedna bolnica s dva lokaliteta. Nakon udruživanja, svaki lokalitet je zadržao odjel laboratorijske dijagnostike s odvojenim analizatorima i osobljem. Oba laboratorija imala su gotovo isti dijapazon analiza iz područja medicinske biokemije, hematologije, koagulacije i imunologije.

Posljednjih godina broj analiza rastao je za 10 - 12% godišnje. Uz to, pojavila se i potreba za uvođenjem novih, skupljih dijagnostičkih testova. Istovremeno,

## S5-2

### **Laboratory integration: Did we choose the right way?**

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The University Hospital Center Split was formed by merging two hospitals in 1991. Since then it has been organized as one hospital dislocated on two locations. After merging, each location kept a laboratory unit with dedicated analyzers and staff, processing mostly the same tests in both laboratories in areas of clinical chemistry, haematology, coagulation and immunology.

During the last years the number of analysis increased by 10 - 12% *per year*. There was also a need for introduction of new, more expensive diagnostic

suočili smo se sa zahtjevom uprave bolnice za smanjivanjem troškova, te je nastao raskorak između povećanog broja zahtjeva kliničara s jedne i dostupnosti financijskih sredstava s druge strane.

Suočeni s ovim problemom odlučili smo promijeniti organizaciju rada. Analiza tijeka rada i podataka dostupnih iz laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava pokazala je da su glavni nedostaci organizacije višak kapaciteta i redundancija. Stoga smo odlučili slijediti globalni trend integracije u nadi da će to rezultirati učinkovitijom i kvalitetnijom laboratorijskom organizacijom, uz istovremeno smanjenje troškova.

Prvi preduvjet nove organizacije bila je integracija laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava koja omogućava uspješnu komunikaciju između dva laboratorija. Nakon toga je bilo moguće specijalne analize (specijalna koagulacija, autoimune bolesti i dr.) izvoditi u jednom laboratoriju. Sama reorganizacija dovela je do smanjenja troškova, skratilo se vrijeme do izdavanja rezultata što je posljedično omogućilo brže postavljanje dijagnoze i veću razinu stručnosti.

U drugom koraku planiramo smanjiti cijenu pojedinačnih analiza i to: organizacijom hitnog laboratorija na svakom lokalitetu u kojem će izvoditi osnovne biokemijske i hematološke analize i jednog centralnog laboratorija; integracijom hitnog i rutinskog laboratorija i smanjenjem broja analitičkih platformi. Nakon nabave nove opreme korištenje istog tipa analizatora u oba laboratorija trebalo bi omogućiti veću mobilnost osoblja ako to bude potrebno. Naš je cilj povećati automatizaciju predanalitičkog i analitičkog procesa rada kako bi se povećala produktivnost, smanjila potreba za manualnim radom i u isto vrijeme održala najviša kvaliteta testiranja.

Kako bi od kliničara tražili racionalno korištenje laboratorijskih analiza prvo smo morali povećati učinkovitost rada laboratorija. Očekujemo da će nova organizacija omogućiti specijalistima laboratorijske medicine da budu aktivno uključeni u sve faze laboratorijskog testiranja i promjene fokusa iz analitičkog i tehničkog prema kliničkom aspektu laboratorijske medicine, te da se više angažiraju u samom odabiru pretraga i interpretaciji rezultata pružajući liječnicima ne brojeve već klinički značajne informacije što se od moderne laboratorijske medicine i očekuje.

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tests. In the same time we were faced with pressures to reduce costs, so there was a gap between increased test utilization from clinicians on one hand and the available financial resources on the other.

Based on these facts we decided to face this challenge by changing laboratory organization and setup. Analysis of workflow and data available from laboratory information system showed that our organization suffered from excess of capacity and redundancies. We decided to follow the global trend of integration with aim that this would result with more effective and more quality laboratory service, but also service level to its internal customers.

First prerequisite of new organization was integration of laboratory information system allowing for efficient communication between two laboratories. After that we were able to move specialized testing (special coagulation testing, autoimmunity testing, etc.) to one laboratory, so specific tests are now done at a lower cost, higher level of expertise and with shorter turnaround time allowing faster diagnosis.

In second step we plan to lower the cost pay *per* assay by: establishing 24/7 laboratory on each location with basic biochemistry, haematology and urine analysis, and one core laboratory; merging emergency and routine departments and reducing the number of analytical platforms. Acquisition of new equipment using the same type of analyzers on both locations should, in future, allow greater mobility of staff if and when needed. Our intention is to increase automation of pre-analytical and analytical processes to reduce hands on time, improve productivity and at the same time maintain the highest possible quality of test results.

In order to impose on physician's rational usage of laboratory tests, we first had to increase laboratory efficiency. We expect that new organization will allow laboratory specialists to manage all steps in laboratory testing cycle and finally change a focus from analytical and technical to clinical aspect of laboratory medicine, to be more engaged in test selection, interpretation of results providing not just numbers but clinically relevant information as modern laboratory medicine should.

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## S5-3

**Upravljanje kvalitetom u medicinsko-biochemijskom laboratoriju**

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Upravljanje kvalitetom u medicinsko-biochemijskom laboratoriju (MBL) podrazumijeva informiranost uprave laboratorija sa zakonskom regulativom i standardima kvalitete. Za medicinsko-biochemijsku djelatnost Hrvatska komora medicinskih biokemičara (HKMB) temeljem javnih ovlasti propisuje standarde kvalitete koji moraju biti u primjeni. Ministarstvo zdravstva (MZ) ovlastilo je HKMB za provođenje nadzora uz obavezu informiranja o rezultatima. Opsegom i provedbom nadzora upravlja Povjerenstvo za stručni nadzor i unapređenje kvalitete HKMB. Kako bi rad MBL-ova u RH bio usklađen s međunarodno prihvaćenim minimalnim zahtjevima kvalitete sadržanim u dokumentu HRN EN ISO 15189 Medicinski laboratoriji - Zahtjevi za kvalitetu i osposobljenost, kreiran je Upitnik za samoprocjenu koji slijedi zahtjeve ove norme. Upitnik služi za potrebe uspostave sustava kvalitete i provođenje nadzora, a s ciljem povećanja povjerenja u rad laboratorija i sigurnosti pacijenta. Radi usklađivanja uspostave upravljanja kvalitetom u svim MBL-ovima u RH, HKMB je organizirala mnoge tečajeve trajne izobrazbe i radionice s pisanim materijalima, a dodatno se putem mrežnim stranicama HKMB-a mogu preuzeti prevedeni predlozi Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije za upravljanje kvalitetom u medicinskim laboratorijima. Tijekom nadzora na licu mjesta provjerava se posluje li laboratorij sukladno zakonima i propisima RH, poštuje li se kadrovski normativ, posjeduje li osoblje valjane licence, odvijaju li se sve faze laboratorijskog rada sukladno propisanim standardima kvalitete, ocjenjuju li se i koji pokazatelji kvalitete, izrađuju li se planovi za poboljšanje te informiraju li se korisnici o kvaliteti rada laboratorija i promjenama. Provoditelji nadzora potiču se da na licu mjesta upute upravu za uklanjanje nesukladnosti. Nakon nadzora laboratorijima se dostavlja Rješenje o mjerama za otklanjanje nesukladnosti sa stručnim standardima. Medicinsko-biochemijski laboratoriji su po isteku u Rješenju propisanih rokova obavezni Povjerenstvu dostaviti objek-

## S5-3

**Medical biochemistry laboratory management quality system**

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Medical biochemistry laboratory (MBL) quality management system (QMS) means the laboratory's management awareness of legal regulations and quality standards. Based on public authority, the Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists (CCMB) prescribes which quality standards have to be in use for medical biochemistry activities. Ministry of Health (MH) authorized the CCMB for supervision with the obligation of result informing. Supervision and its scope are controlled by CCMB Committee for assessment and quality improvement. A Questionnaire for self-assessment was created in compliance with HRN EN ISO 15189 Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence, to stimulate MBLs in Croatia to work according to internationally accepted minimal requirements. The Questionnaire is used in establishing QMS and its supervision, with a goal of increasing confidence in laboratory and patient's safety. The Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists organized many permanent education courses and workshops with handbooks to harmonize QMS establishment in all MBLs in Croatia. Additionally, translated World Health Organization templates of QMS documents have been provided and can be downloaded *via* CCMB website. During on site assessment, assessor checks: the compliance with the laws and regulations, the fulfilment of minimum requirement for personnel, the personnel license, whether all phases of laboratory work are in accordance with the required quality standards; which quality indicators and how often are subject of evaluation, if plans for improvement are being made and if the users are informed about the quality and implemented changes. Supervisors are encouraged to suggest the best way for nonconformities resolution. After the supervision, a report with measures to eliminate non-conformance with professional standards is delivered to the laboratory. Medical biochemistry laboratories are obliged to deliver objective proof of nonconformities removal upon dead-

tivne dokaze o uklanjanju nesukladnosti. Ukoliko je Povjerenstvo nezadovoljno kvalitetom dostavljenih dokaza, MBL se obavještava o tome s uputama za ispravak jer je krajnji cilj nadzora poboljšanje kvalitete rada. Ukoliko se u propisanom roku ne uklone nesukladnosti iz domene poštivanja zakonskih propisa, MZ ima ovlasti za daljnje postupanje i poduzimanje sankcija.

Brze promjene u radu laboratorija u današnje su vrijeme neizostavne zbog napretka tehnologije i novih pretraga, a sustav upravljanja kvalitetom predstavlja izvrstan okvir upravljanja promjenama. Prelasku na nove tehnologije rada ili uvođenju promjena radnih procesa mora prethoditi promišljanje u kojoj mjeri to može pozitivno ili negativno utjecati na sigurnost pacijenta, ali i na poslovanje laboratorija te zadovoljenje standarda kvalitete. Upravo zbog toga sve češće govorimo o upravljanju promjenama temeljem analize rizika. Ona se zasniva na prikupljanju podataka iz literature, kritičkoj ocjeni istih, postavljanju željenih specifikacija kvalitete pojedinih pretraga ovsno o svrsi, provjeri mogu li se ti ciljevi dostići na opremi i s osobljem laboratorija. Redovito unutarnje i vanjsko procjenjivanje kvalitete postupaka ispitivanja uz pomoć statističkih alata je nužnost i doprinosi neprekidnom optimiranju radnih procesa. Zadaća je nositelja timova informirati osoblje i korisnike usluga o kvaliteti rada i svim posljedicama uvedenih promjena. Suradnja s dobavljačima i agencijom za medicinske proizvode neophodna je kako bi iskomunicirali zadovoljstvo kvalitetom medicinskih proizvoda koje koristimo u radu.

Upravljanje kvalitetom predstavlja kontinuirano pro-pitivanje temeljem prikupljenih objektivnih pokazatelja. Cilj je pravovremeno reagiranje i informiranje svih dionika u medicinskoj skrbi.

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line. If the Committee is not satisfied with the proof delivered, the MBL is informed about it with instruction to rectify because the goal is quality improvement. If the legal regulations' nonconformities are not removed in the prescribed time frame, MH has the authority for further treatment and sanctions.

Rapid changes are indispensable in the laboratory workflow because of technology improvement and new assays; thus, QMS presents an excellent frame for change management. A move to new technology or introducing work processes changes has to be preceded by estimating how (positively or negatively) this will affect patient's safety and laboratory QMS standards fulfilment. As a consequence, managing change by using risk analysis is often discussed. It is based on gathering data from literature, its critical evaluation, setting tests' quality specifications depending on their purpose, verification if goals can be achieved with the equipment and personnel. Regular statistical data processing of internal and external quality assessment is a necessity and contributes to the continuous optimization of the work processes. The task of the team leader is to inform the personnel and all users about the quality and consequences of changes. Satisfaction with quality of medical products has to be communicated with suppliers and agency for medical products. Quality management is a constant review of gathered objective indicators. Timely reaction and informing all stakeholders in medical care is the goal.

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## S6 Analiza urina i drugih vrsta uzoraka

### S6-1

#### Automatizacija dijagnostike mokraćé

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Dijagnostika mokraćé jedan je od posljednjih područja u rutinskoj laboratorijskoj dijagnostici koje je sve donedavno ostalo neautomatizirano. Iako je jedna od najčešćih pretraga, zahtjeva manualni rad, subjektivnu procjenu što gotovo onemogućuje standardizaciju i primjerenu kontrolu kvalitete. Međutim, u posljednjih 15-tak godina intenzivno se automatizira i to područje u oba svoja segmenta: rutinski pregled mokraćé test trakom i pregled mokraćnog sedimenta. Uporaba automatiziranih sustava za ispitivanje mokraćé test trakom omogućuje standardizaciju u svim postupcima izvođenja analize: umakanje test trake u uzorak ili aplikacija uzorka na polja test trake, vrijeme potrebno za inkubaciju tj. reakciju u polju test trake te standardizirano očitavanje promjene boje na principu refraktometrije, fotometrije, digitalizacijom slike testnog polja ili skeniranjem s pomoću senzora za boje. Senzore je moguće kalibrirati te podesiti njihovu osjetljivost. Takav princip značajno izbjegava interferencije posebice obojenosti urina koje ljudskom oku često onemogućava raspoznavanje i očitavanje primjerene promjene boje za pojedina testna polja. Instrumenti za očitavanje reakcije na test trakama dostupni su u poluautomatskoj i automatskoj izvedbi. Što je sustav više automatiziran kontrola kvalitete i standardizacija su bolje. Uslijed standardizacije, semikvantitativni rezultat očitavanja testnog polja s osjetljivim sensorima, daje podatke prisposodobive kvantitativnim mjerenjima. Automatizacija drugog dijela rutinske pretrage mokraćé, pregleda mokraćnog sedimenta, zamjenjuje naporan manualni rad i izrazitu subjektivnost prilikom pregleda preparata. Princip digitalne mikrokamere, protočne citometrije, fluorescentnog bojanja omogućili su razvoj automatiziranih sustava koji su integrirani ili se mogu spojiti na kemijske analizatore mokraćé te analizu mokraćnog sedimenta provoditi na principu refleksnog testiranja prema postavljenim kriteriji-

## S6 Analysis of urine and other specimens

### S6-1

#### Automatization of urine analysis

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Routine urinalysis is one of the last fields in routine laboratory diagnostics that has been still manual until relatively recent. It is one of the most often performed laboratory tests which is labour intensive, time consuming and highly subjective; thus poorly standardized and without proper quality control. In the last 15 years there has been substantial improvement in this field including both segments of urinalysis: test-strip and urine sediment analysis. Automated chemistry analysers enable standardization in all procedures during analysis: dipping the test-strip or applying specimen to the test field, incubation time, and standardized principle of reading colour change based on refractometry, photometry, digital picture of test field analysis or scanning colour change using specific sensors. All those methods allow calibration and sensitivity adjustments and can distinguish abnormal colours between for example haemoglobin or bilirubin that can be challenging to human eye. Analysers are available in semi-automated and fully automated version. The higher the automatization, the better is standardization and quality control of processes. Highly standardized systems provide results that can be observed as quantitative, not only semi-quantitative. The automatization of urine sediment analysis replaces labour intense and subjective procedure and is based on principle of digital micro camera, flow cytometry, fluorescent dying. Analysers of urine sediment can be separate or integrated or connected to chemistry analysers resulting in fully automated system for urinalysis. Software solutions give options for reflex testing of urine sediment based on laboratory-defined rules based on results of test strip, sample origin, etc. Visualization of the elements is also possible, thus confirming and reviewing the finding if necessary, allowing the machine-learning development of elements data base. Important advantage of automatized urinalysis is

ma (rezultata analize test trakom, podrijetlo uzorka i sl.). Takvi sustavi dopuštaju i vizualizaciju elemenata operateru, a ovisno o sofisticiranosti računalnog programa za obradu slika mogu uz početnu i nadograđivati bazu podataka elemenata tijekom rada. Prednost automatiziranih sustava je i u manjem volumenu mokraće potrebnom za analizu što je od osobite važnosti za pedijatrijsku populaciju. Uz brojne prednosti takvih sustava pojavljuju se i specifični problemi na koje je važno obratiti pozornost, kao što je primjerice „carryover“. Iako objavljeni rezultati brojnih ispitivanja pokazuju dobru podudarnost s klasičnim pregledom sedimenta, još uvijek razlikovanje dimorfnih stanica, bakterija, gljivica, kristala i podvrsta cilindara ima prostora za poboljšanje. Prilikom izbora instrumenta za pojedini laboratorij, treba se voditi kriterijima broja uzoraka, očekivanog udjela uzoraka koji trebaju pregled mokraćnog sedimenta te očekivane patologije.

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## S6-2

### Salivaomika u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici

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Neinvazivna procjena fiziološkog statusa, rano otkrivanje i postavljanje dijagnoze bolesti te praćenje uspješnosti terapije jedan je od najvažnijih ciljeva zdravstvenog sustava. Upravo stoga postoji potreba za razvojem brzih i neinvazivnih biokemijskih biljega koji bi se koristili za pretraživanje, rano otkrivanje, dijagnozu, stupnjevanje te procjenu prognoze bolesti. Novija istraživanja uzoraka sline dokazala su da se slina može koristiti kao uzorak izbora u laboratorijskim postupcima s ciljem postavljanja dijagnoze i oralnih i sistemskih bolesti, budući da se većina sastojaka krvi nalazi i u uzorku sline. Naime, slina je tjelesna tekućina usne šupljine, a sastoji se od organskih i anorganskih spojeva podrijetlom iz krvi ili sintetiziranih u žlijezdama usne šupljine. Tijekom protekla dva desetljeća razvijeni su dijagnostički postupci analiza sline u svrhu praćenja oralnih

smaller volume of specimen need that can be especially important for paediatric population. Among numerous advantages one should pay attention to possible shortcomings such as possible carryover. Although published studies on comparison between manual and automatized urine sediment analysis reveal good correlation there is still place for improvement in distinguishing of dysmorphic cells, bacteria, yeasts, casts and crystals. Criteria for automatization of urinalysis in the laboratory should be based on number of samples and expected pathology.

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## S6-2

### Salivaomics in laboratory diagnostics

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Assessing physiological states, detecting morbidity initiation and progression, and monitoring post-treatment therapeutic outcomes through a non-invasive approach is one of the most desirable goals in healthcare. Therefore, there is an urgent demand for developing rapid and non-invasive biomarkers for screening, early detection, diagnostics, staging and prognostics. This has led to the extensive research of saliva for clinical applications. Saliva, as a multi-constituent oral fluid, with pooled constituents from blood and the constituents that are locally produced in the mouth, has a high potential to serve as an effective indicator of both local and systemic general health and disease. For the past two decades, salivary diagnostic approaches have been developed to monitor oral diseases such as periodontal diseases and to assess car-

i parodontnih bolesti te za procjenu rizika nastanka karijesa. Razvoj novih tehnoloških rješenja u salivarnoj dijagnostici omogućava korištenje sline ne samo za bolesti usne šupljine već i za procjenu fiziološkog stanja cijelog organizma. Budući se većina sastojaka prisutnih u krvi mogu naći i u slini, može se pretpostaviti da je slina u dijagnostici različitih sistemskih bolesti ekvivalent uzorku krvi. Dakle, analizom uzorka sline moguće je procijeniti fiziološko stanje organizma uključujući emocionalne, endokrinološke, nutritivne i metaboličke promjene.

Krv i urin najčešće su korišteni uzorci za laboratorijske analize. Uzorci sline imaju niz prednosti. Uzorkovanje je jednostavno i jeftino, ne izaziva nikakvu nelagodnost bolesniku, ne zahtjeva obučeno medicinsko osoblje, smanjuje rizik prijenosa zaraznih bolesti. Prikupljanje uzoraka sline vrši se u bolesnikovu domu, a ujedno je olakšano i višestruko uzorkovanje, kao i preciznost prikupljanja uzoraka.

Unatoč navedenim prednostima ne postoje preporuke za standardizirano uzorkovanje sline. Kod provođenja uzorkovanja potrebno je imati na umu sve predanalitičke i analitičke varijable koje mogu utjecati na rezultate analiza. Uzorci sline mogu biti prikupljani kao stimulirani ili nestimulirani, kao ukupan uzorak sline ili žljezdano specifičan, što će zasigurno mijenjati sastav uzorka. Bitno je standardizirati vrijeme uzimanja uzoraka zbog cirkadijalnog i godišnjeg ritma lučenja pojedinih analita. Postupak uzorkovanja trebao bi uzeti u obzir i stanje hidracije bolesnika, krvni tlak, pušenje, primjenu terapije, prisustvo svjetlosti tijekom uzorkovanja, stimulaciju lučenja (hranom ili vizualnu), veličinu i stanje žlijezda slinovnica, tjelesnu težinu bolesnika, brzinu lučenja sline, vježbanje, konzumaciju alkohola, dijagnozu sistemskih bolesti, nutritivni status, dob, spol te postojanje ozljeda parodontnog tkiva i kontaminaciju uzorka krvlju.

Brojna su područja primjene analiza uzoraka sline, uključujući medicinu, stomatologiju, farmaciju i farmakoterapiju te epidemiologiju. Koncept salivomike obuhvaća pet glavnih područja dijagnostičkog djelovanja: genomiku i epigenomiku, transkriptomiku, metabolomiku, proteomiku i mikrobiologiju. Iako su proteomika i transkriptomika, područja u kojima su pronađene najvažnije poveznice sastojaka sline i bolesti, istraživanja oralnih mikroorganizama i imunoloških čimbenika ostaju jedan od zanimljivijih aspekata u potrazi za biokemijskim biljezima iz sline.

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ies risk. Recently, the combination of emerging biotechnologies and salivary diagnostics has extended the range of saliva-based diagnostics from the oral cavity to the entire physiological system as most compounds found in blood are also present in saliva; therefore saliva is functionally equivalent to serum. Thus, saliva is reflecting the physiological state of the body, including emotional, endocrinal, nutritional and metabolic variations and can be exploited for the monitoring of both oral and systemic health.

Saliva has some advantages compared to blood and urine, two of the most used diagnostic fluids in the laboratory setting. The sample collection of saliva is simple, cost-effective, does not cause patient discomfort, negates the need for trained medical staff and minimizes the risk of virus spread. Saliva testing potentially allows patients to sample saliva at home, which may have beneficial effects on healthcare costs by enabling convenient and multiple sampling and increasing patient compliance.

In spite of the attractive nature of saliva, there is no universally accepted technique for sample collection. Saliva utilization should be carefully evaluated, in relation to standardization of pre-analytical and analytical variables, such as accurate choice of collection methods (stimulated or un-stimulated), glandular specific vs. whole saliva, sample contamination with blood and food debris. It is also important to verify circadian and circannual variation of various salivary analytes. Precise and standardized saliva collection should also consider individual hydration state, body posture, intensity of ambient light during sampling, smoking status, use of medications, food and visual stimulation, size of salivary glands, body weight, salivary flow index, physical exercise, alcohol intake, systemic diseases, nutrition, nausea, age, gender, and prevention of sample contamination with blood from oral mucosa and periodontal lesions.

There are many areas where saliva can be applied, including the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacotherapy and epidemiology. The concept of salivomics stresses five major salivary diagnostic components: genome and epigenome, transcriptomics, metabolomics, proteomics and microbiota. Although proteomic and transcriptomic indicators have yielded the most promising results to date, information obtained from oral microbes and immunologic factors remains one of the more intriguing aspects in the pursuit of salivary biomarkers.

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## S6-3

**Fekalni kalprotektin – koristan dijagnostički biljeg upalnih bolesti crijeva**

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Suvremena gastroenterološka dijagnostika crijevnih upalnih bolesti danas, nezaobilazna je bez određivanja kalprotektina u svakodnevnoj laboratorijskoj rutinskoj praksi. Upalne bolesti crijeva zajednički je naziv za idiopatske kronične upalne bolesti gastrointestinalnoga sustava: ulcerozni kolitis, Crohnova bolest i nediferencirani kolitis. Posljednjih dvadesetak godina incidencija kroničnih upalnih crijevnih bolesti (KUCB) u stalnom je porastu u svim dobnim skupinama, posebno u djece i adolescenata. Dijagnoza se potvrđuje kliničkom evaluacijom i kombinacijom biokemijskih, radioloških, endoskopskih i histoloških nalaza, a kolonoskopija sa patohistološkom analizom biopata još uvijek je zlatni standard. Od biokemijskih upalnih biljega najčešće se prate C-reaktivni protein (CRP) i sedimentacija eritrocita, međutim nedovoljno su specifični za otkrivanje crijevne upale. Stoga brojne studije procjenjuju ulogu fekalnog kalprotektina kao biljega KUCB-i.

Kalprotektin je antimikrobni protein prisutan u citoplazmi neutrofilnih granulocita, čini 60% svih proteina citosola, a nalazimo ga i na membrani monocita, aktiviranih makrofaga, endotelnih i epitelnih stanica. Otkriven je i izoliran iz granulocita 1980. godine pod nazivom L1 protein. U literaturi se mogu naći brojni sinonimi za kalprotektin – proteinski kompleks S100A8/S100A9, 27E10 antigen, MRP8/14 (makrofagni protein), kalgranulin A/B. Kalprotektin je humani neglikozilirani protein, pripada porodici S-100 proteina koji vežu kalcij, što je neophodno za njegovo antibakterijsko i fungicidno djelovanje, a definira i njegov naziv. Brojne prednosti korištenja fekalnog kalprotektina na dijagnostičkom putu otkrivanja crijevne upale proizlaze upravo iz njegovog prisustva u uzorku stolice gdje se izlučuje u koncentraciji koja je direktno proporcionalna količini migriranih neutrofila iz kojih potječe, ali i stupnju upalne aktivnosti u probavnoj cijevi. Nadalje, otporan je na bakterijsku razgradnju unutar crijeva, a na sobnoj temperaturi je

## S6-3

**Faecal calprotectin – useful diagnostic marker of inflammatory bowel disease**

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Faecal calprotectin (FC) detection in everyday laboratory practice plays an unavoidable role in recent gastrointestinal diagnostics of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Inflammatory bowel disease is defined as chronic, idiopathic inflammatory disorder of gastrointestinal (GI) tract, known in its various forms as ulcerative colitis (UC), Crohn's disease and indeterminate colitis. During the last twenty years, the incidence of IBD increased continuously in all age groups, especially in children and adolescents. An IBD diagnosis is made by clinical evaluation followed by combination of biochemical, radiological and endoscopic findings, however, colonoscopy and histopathological investigation following biopsy form the current 'gold standard' for IBD diagnose confirmation. C-reactive protein (CRP) as well as erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) are the most commonly used biochemical markers although not specific enough for determining inflammatory pathology of the GI tract. Numerous studies have assessed the role of FC as a representative of bowel mucosa inflammation in IBD patients.

Calprotectin is an antimicrobial protein which constitutes 60% of neutrophil cytosolic proteins. It is normally present in the cytoplasm of neutrophil granulocytes and also expressed on the membrane surface of monocytes, acute phase macrophages, as well as endothelial and epithelial cells. It was first isolated from granulocytes in 1980 and named L1 protein. There are several synonyms for calprotectin in literature: complex of S100A8 and S100A9 proteins, 27E10 antigen, macrophage related protein MRP8/14, calgranulin A/B. Calprotectin is a nonglycosylated human protein, member of S-100 family of calcium binding proteins (defined with its name), and has bacteriostatic and fungistatic properties. Its presence in stool, as well as the fact that it derives from neutrophils represents few of many clinical advantages of FC use in the diagnostic pathway of

stabilan do tjedan dana. Određivanje kalprotektina koristi se u različite svrhe praćenja KUCB-i: pomoć pri dijagnozi i diferencijalnoj dijagnozi, praćenje aktivnosti bolesti, rizika komplikacija, odgovora na terapiju, ali i ranu procjenu povrata bolesti. Zbog svega navedenog, od otkrića kalprotektina do danas, konstantno se povećavaju zahtjevi za njegovim određivanjem i primjenom od strane kliničara, što govori u prilog visoke korisnosti samog biljega. Jednostavan za određivanje u laboratorijskoj rutini, s naglaskom na preanalitičku fazu pravilnog uzimanja uzorka stolice i izbora metode ekstrakcije prije same analize. Fekalni kalprotektin je koristan biljeg probira kod sumnje na upalnu bolest crijeva i potrebe za daljnjim upućivanjem pacijenata na invazivne pretrage, kao što je kolonoskopija; određivanje fekalnog kalprotektina smanjuje broj nepotrebnih kolonoskopija, što je od iznimne važnosti, osobito u dječjoj populaciji. U tom smislu kliničarima je od iznimne važnosti poželjna dostupnost kalprotektina kao neinvazivnog biljega, posebno zbog dugotrajnog praćenja navedene skupine pacijenata. U laboratorijskom smislu, uvođenje i određivanje kalprotektina obećavajuće je razvojno područje, ali i za postojeću metodologiju traži se potvrda opravdane primjenjivosti u kliničkoj praksi.

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IBD. Also, its concentration is directly proportional to neutrophil migration toward the intestinal mucosa and is used as a determinant of the activity degree of inflammatory process in digestive tube. Furthermore, it is resistant to bacterial degradation in the gut and stable in stool sample at room temperature for up to one week. Calprotectin has been used for various purposes in IBD: diagnosis, differential diagnosis, monitoring of disease activity, risk of complications, response to therapy and prediction of relapse. Since it has been discovered that calprotectin can be extracted and quantified from faecal samples, there has been a constant increase in requests for this test which led to high clinical usefulness of calprotectin determination. It can easily be measured in stool sample but a key element for achieving valid quantitative result is preanalytical phase of accurate sample collection and extraction. Faecal calprotectin is a useful screening tool for differentiating patients who are most likely to need endoscopy due suspected IBD which can eventually lead to reduced number of unnecessary endoscopies, especially in children. In this regard, it is highly desirable for clinicians to use this widely available and non-invasive biomarker for long-term follow-up with this important group of patients. Faecal calprotectin testing is an evolving field with a lot of promise, but still need more validation.

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## A – Autoimune bolesti

## A-1

## Antifosfolipidni sindrom – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Antifosfolipidni sindrom (APS) definira se trajno prisutnim antifosfolipidnim antitijelima (aPLS) s različitim kliničkim fenotipovima, uključujući vensku ili arterijsku trombozu, učestale prekide trudnoće i trombocitopeniju. Antifosfolipidni sindrom može biti primarna ili sekundarna bolest, kada je udružena s drugim autoimunim bolestima. Laboratorijska dijagnoza aPLS-a temelji se na otkrivanju lupus antikoagulansa (aLA) i/ili antikardiolipin (aCL) i anti-β2-glikoprotein-1 (aβ2G-1) antitijela. Patofiziološki mehanizmi uključuju antifosfolipidnim antitijelima induciranu staničnu aktivaciju (u najvećoj mjeri aβ2G-1), inhibiranje prirodnih antikoagulacijskih i fibrinolitičkih sustava, te aktivaciju komplementa.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Cilj rada je bio ispitati kliničke manifestacije APS i titar aPLS kod 45-godišnje žene kojoj je dijagnosticiran primarni APS u dobi od 30 godina, prema kriterijima klasifikacije Međunarodnog konsenzusa za dijagnozu i terapijske strategije u bolesnika s APS. Pacijentici je dijagnosticiran sekundarni APS samo 8 godina nakon pojave bolesti.

**Rezultati:** U ovom prikazu slučaja opisali smo razvoj kompleksne patologije tijekom 15-godišnjeg razdoblja: opstetrične komplikacije - spontani pobačaj, psorijaza, psorijatični artritis, cerebralna demijelinizacija, APL nefropatija - trombotska mikroangiopatija, hipertenzija, nasljedna trombofilija, miješana bolest vezivnog tkiva, anemija, trombocitopenija, hemipareza. Imali smo trojno pozitivna antitijela: aLA je uvijek bila pozitivna, aCL i naročito aβ2G-1 antitijela su višestruko povišena. Koncentracije C3 i C4 komponenti komplementa bile su permanentno snižene, a titar antinuklearnih antitijela (ANA) negativan.

**Zaključak:** Visoke vrijednosti aPLS-a u APL-u, naročito anti-β2-glikoprotein-1 antitijela, mogu uzrokovati

## A – Autoimmune diseases

## A-1

## Antiphospholipid syndrome – case report

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**Introduction:** The antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is defined by the persistent presence of antiphospholipid antibodies (aPLS) with a variety of clinical phenotypes, including venous or arterial thrombosis, recurrent pregnancy loss and thrombocytopenia. It can be a primary disease or secondary when associated with other autoimmune diseases. Laboratory diagnosis of aPLS is based on the detection of lupus anticoagulant (aLA), and/or anticardiolipin (aCL) and anti-β2-glycoprotein-1 (aβ2G-1) antibodies. Pathophysiologic mechanisms in APS include aPLS induced cellular activation (predominantly with aβ2G-1), inhibition of natural anticoagulant and fibrinolytic systems, and complement activation.

**Subjects and methods:** The aim of the study was to review the clinical manifestations of the APS and the antibody titers of aPLS in a 45-year-old women with diagnosed primary APS at the age of 30, according to classification criteria of International Consensus for diagnosis and therapeutic strategies in patients affected by APS. The patient was diagnosed with secondary APS only 8 years after the onset of the disease.

**Results:** Through this case report, we describe the evolution of its complex pathology over a 15-year period of follow-up: obstetric complications - spontaneous abortion, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, cerebral demyelination, APL nephropathy - thrombotic microangiopathy, hypertension, hereditary thrombophilia, collagenosis mixta, anaemia, thrombocytopenia, hemiparesis. We had triple positive antibodies: aLA was always positive, aCL and especially aβ2G-1 antibodies concentrations were highly elevated. Concentrations of C3 and C4 component of complement were permanently reduced, titers of antinuclear antibodies (ANA) were negative.



brojne patološke kliničke manifestacije. Dugotrajno praćenje je važno za identifikaciju laboratorijskih parametara koji mogu pridonijeti razvoju daljnjih autoimunih simptoma povezanih sa antifosfolipidnim sindromom.

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## A-2

### Antinuklearna antitijela u reumatoidnom artritisu

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**Uvod:** Reumatoidni artritis (RA) je sistemska autoimuna bolest nepoznate etiologije s autoimunom patofiziologijom, učestalosti od 0,5 - 1%. Reumatoidni faktor (RF) i osobito antitijela na cikličke citrulinirane peptide (anti-CCP) predstavljaju osjetljiv i specifičan dijagnostički biljeg RA. Cilj istraživanja je ispitati učestalost antinuklearnih antitijela (ANA), ciljane ANA autoantigene i uzorak ANA fluorescencije kod bolesnika s RA.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno u skupini od 174 bolesnika pozitivnih na RF i CCP antitijela. Kontrolna skupina je 159 uzastopnih pacijenata upućenih u Odjel za laboratorijsku imunologiju Kliničkog zavoda za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku. Reumatoidni faktor je određen metodom imunoturbidimetrije, a CCP elektrokemiluminiscijom (Roche, Švicarska). ANA antitijela su određena metodom indirektno imunofluorescencije (IIF) na HEp-2 stanicama (Euroimmun, Njemačka), a autoantigeni: ds-DNA, histone, SS-A, SS-B, Sm, RNP, DNA topo I, Jo-1 i CENP B određeni su AtheNA-ANA multiplex Luminex metodom (Zeus Scientific Inc., SAD).

**Rezultati:** Ukupno 110 od 174 uzoraka ispitivane RA skupine je bilo ANA pozitivno, a u kontrolnoj skupini 75 od 159. Određivanjem ciljnih autoantigena Luminex metodom kod ANA pozitivnih uzoraka dobiveno je 37 pozitivnih u RA skupini i 45 u kontrolnoj skupini.

**Conclusion:** We conclude that high values of aPLS in APS, in particular anti- $\beta$ 2-glycoprotein-1 antibodies, can be the cause of numerous pathological clinical manifestations. Long-term monitoring is important for identifying laboratory parameters that may portend the development of further autoimmune symptoms associated with APS.

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## A-2

### Antinuclear antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis

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**Introduction:** Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune disease of unknown aetiology with frequency of 0.5 - 1%. Rheumatoid factor (RF) and especially antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptides (anti-CCP) represent a sensitive and specific RA diagnostic marker. The scope of this study was to determine prevalence of antinuclear antibodies (ANA), their target antigens and fluorescence pattern in RA patients.

**Materials and methods:** The study was conducted in a group of 174 patients with positive RF and anti-CCP. A control group consisted of 159 consecutive patient samples sent to our laboratory. Rheumatoid factor was determined by immunoturbidimetry and CCP by electrochemiluminescence (Roche, Switzerland). Antinuclear antibodies were determined by the indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) on HEp-2 cells (Euroimmun, Germany) and autoantigens ds-DNA, histone, SS-A, SS-B, Sm, RNP, DNA topo I, CENP B were determined by AtheNA-ANA Luminex method (Zeus Scientific Inc., USA).

**Results:** Hundred and ten out of 174 samples of the examined RA group were ANA positive while in the control group 75 of 159. Homogenous pattern had 48 (43%) samples in RA group, of which 4 were positive to typical antibodies that give homogenous fluorescence ds-DNA and histone, whereas all 8 sam-

ni. Homogeni uzorak fluorescencije je imalo 48 (43%) uzoraka RA skupine, od toga ih je 4 bilo pozitivno na tipična antitijela homogene fluorescencije ds-DNA i histone, dok je na navedene antigene bilo pozitivno svih 8 uzoraka homogene fluorescencije kontrolne skupine.

**Zaključak:** Metodom IIF broj ANA pozitivnih uzoraka je bio značajno veći u ispitivanoj RA skupini u odnosu na kontrolnu skupinu ( $P = 0,004$ ), dok je broj pozitivnih poznatih ciljnih autoantigena u kontrolnoj skupini bio značajno veći ( $P < 0,001$ ). Najčešći uzorak fluorescencije metodom IIF u RA skupini bio je homogeni, a pri tom nisu pronađena specifična antitijela, anti-ds-DNA i histoni. Rezultati su pokazali da u RA skupini nije poznat najčešći ciljni autoantigen homogene fluorescencije, te su potrebna daljnja istraživanja kojima bi se odredio mogući karakteristični ciljni autoantigen za RA.

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### A-3 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Dijagnostička točnost ELISA testa za dokazivanje antitijela na acetilkolinske receptore u pedijatrijskoj populaciji

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**Uvod:** Mijastenija gravis (MG) je autoimuna bolest uzrokovana autoantitijelima usmjerenim na proteine postsinaptičke membrane neuromuskularne spojnice. Klinički se bolest očituje oscilirajućom mišićnom slabosti i zamorom. U većini slučajeva MG je uzrokovana antitijelima na acetilkolinske receptore (AChR At). Za određivanje AChR At u rutini se koriste enzimimunokemijske (ELISA) i radioimunokemijske (RIA) metode. Cilj rada je bio ispitati dijagnostičku točnost ELISA testa za dokazivanje AChR At u pedijatrijskoj populaciji.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Provedena je retrospektivna studija dijagnostičke točnosti ELISA testa za određivanje AChR At (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Njemačka) kod 203 pedijatrijskih pacijenata analiziranih od 2014. do

ples of the homogenous fluorescence of the control group were positive to these antigens. Determination of target autoantigen for IIF positive samples gave 37 positive results in the RA group and 45 in the control.

**Conclusion:** Number of IIF-ANA positive samples was significantly higher in the RA group ( $P = 0.004$ ), while the number of positive known target autoantigens in the control group was significantly greater ( $P < 0.001$ ). The most common pattern of fluorescence in the RA group was homogeneous, in most cases negative for anti-ds-DNA and histone. The results showed that the most common IIF homogenous target autoantigen is not known in the RA group, and further investigation is needed to determine the possible novel autoantigen for RA.

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### A-3 (Oral presentation)

#### Diagnostic accuracy of ELISA test for antibodies against acetylcholine receptors in the paediatric population

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**Introduction:** Myasthenia gravis (MG) is an autoimmune disease caused by autoantibodies to proteins in the postsynaptic membrane of the neuromuscular junction. Disease manifestations include fluctuating muscle weakness and fatigue. In most cases, MG is caused by antibodies against acetylcholine receptors (AChR At). Enzyme-(ELISA) and radioimmunoassays (RIA) are commonly used for AChR At determination. This study aimed to test the diagnostic accuracy of ELISA AChR At test in the paediatric population.

**Subjects and methods:** A retrospective study of diagnostic accuracy of ELISA AChR At test (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany) was performed on 203 paediatric patients analyzed from 2014 to 2017. The dis-

2017. godine. Prisutnost bolesti definirana je kliničkom dijagnozom (pozitivan prostigminski test, klinička slika) i/ili pozitivnim autoantitijelima RIA metodom (AChR At ili anti-MuSK antitijela). Analiza AChR At napravljena je i u kontrolnoj skupini koju je činilo 27 ispitanika pedijatrijske dobi bez kliničke sumnje na neuromuskularnu bolest. Korišteni su uzorci seruma preostali nakon rutinske laboratorijske obrade. Dijagnostička točnost testa analizirana je pomoću ROC krivulje.

**Rezultati:** Zbog nedostatka kliničkih podataka 69 pacijenata je isključeno iz analize. Od 134 ukupno analiziranih pacijenata (50 dječaka; 11 (0-18) godina) dijagnoza MG je potvrđena kod njih 14. Enzimimunokemijskom metodom je u serumu 8/14 pacijenata dokazana prisutnost AChR At. Pozitivan nalaz AChR At je istom metodom dobiven kod 30/120 preostalih pacijenata bez potvrđene dijagnoze MG. U kontrolnoj skupini je kod 8/27 ispitanika dobiven pozitivan rezultat AChR At. Korištenjem granične vrijednosti preporučene od proizvođača (0,50 nmol/L) dijagnostičke značajke testa su: osjetljivost = 57% (95%CI: 29 - 82%), specifičnost = 75% (95%CI: 67 - 84%), pozitivna prediktivna vrijednost = 21% (95%CI: 14 - 29%), negativna prediktivna vrijednost = 94% (95%CI: 90 - 96%).

**Zaključak:** Zbog visokog postotka lažno pozitivnih rezultata test se ne može koristiti za postavljanje dijagnoze MG u pedijatrijskoj populaciji. Pozitivan rezultat je potrebno potvrditi specifičnijom metodom.

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#### A-4

### Verifikacija nove imunokemiluminescentne metode za određivanje IgA antitijela na tkivnu transglutaminazu

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**Uvod:** Antitijela na tkivnu transglutaminazu (anti-tTG) koristan su biljeg u dijagnostici celijakije. Cilj ovog rada bio je verifikacija kemiluminescentne imunokemijske metode (CIA) za određivanje anti-huma-

ease was defined with a clinical diagnosis (positive prostigmine test, clinical symptoms) and/or positive antibody test using RIA (AChR At or anti-MuSK antibodies). AChR At test was also performed on a paediatric control group consisting of 27 participants without clinical suspicion of neuromuscular disease. Residual serum samples from routine laboratory investigations were used. Diagnostic test accuracy was assessed with ROC curve.

**Results:** Sixty nine patients were excluded from further analysis because of the missing clinical data. Of total 134 patients (50 males; median age 11 (0-18) years) MG diagnosis was confirmed in 14 patients. In 8/14 patients ELISA AChR At were positive. Positive AChR At were found in 30 of 120 remaining patients without MG diagnosis. In the control group, 8/27 patients had positive AChR At. Using the manufacturer recommended cut-off value (0.50 nmol/L) measures of diagnostic accuracy were: sensitivity = 57% (95%CI: 29 - 82%), specificity = 75% (95%CI: 67 - 84%), positive predictive value = 21% (95%CI: 14 - 29%), negative predictive value = 94% (95%CI: 90 - 96%).

**Conclusion:** Because of the high percentage of false positive results the test cannot be used for diagnosing MG in the paediatric population. A positive result should be confirmed by a more specific method.

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#### A-4

### Verification of the new chemiluminescent immunoassay for tissue transglutaminase IgA antibodies

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**Introduction:** Antibodies to tissue transglutaminase (anti-tTG) are very useful in the diagnosis of celiac disease. The aim of this study was the verification of the chemiluminescent immunoassay (CIA)

nih IgA antitijela na tkivnu transglutaminazu (QUANTA Flash® h-tTG) na analizatoru BIO-FLASH® Instrument (InovaDiagnostics Inc, San Diego, USA), koja je obuhvatila određivanje preciznosti i usporedbu s fluoroenzimskom imunometodom (ELiA) koja se trenutno koristi u našem laboratoriju (Celikey® IgA) na analizatoru Phadia 100 instrument (Phadia GmbH, Freiburg, Germany).

**Materijali i metode:** Za izračun preciznosti, negativna i pozitivna komercijalna kontrola puštene su pet dana zaredom u triplicatu. Prema navodima proizvođača kriteriji za preciznost iznose 4,2% za normalnu i 4,4% za patološku koncentraciju. Usporedba metoda napravljena je na 40 uzoraka. Zbog različitosti metoda (granične vrijednosti: < 20 za CIA metodu i < 7 za ELiA metodu) rezultati su kategorizirani kao pozitivan/negativan, a podudarnost metoda ispitana je Cohen-ovim kappa koeficijentom (kriterij > 0,60).

**Rezultati:** Dobivene vrijednosti koeficijenta varijacije s negativnom i pozitivnom kontrolom iznosile su za ponovljivost 4,39% i 5,17%, i za preciznost 5,55% i 7,67%. Kappa koeficijent iznosio je 0,95 (95%CI 0,85 - 1,00), a podudarnost dviju metoda 94%. Rezultati su bili sukladni za 39/40 uzoraka, a jedan rezultat je bio kategoriziran drugačije.

**Zaključak:** Dobivena preciznost nije zadovoljila postavljene kriterije proizvođača, ali razmjerno mali koeficijenti varijacije prihvatljivi su nam u rutinskom radu. Rezultati usporedbe metoda pokazuju dobru podudarnost, no unatoč tome, rezultat anti-tTG potrebno je longitudinalno pratiti istom metodom u istom laboratoriju. Ukoliko se nova metoda implementira u rutinski rad, na laboratorijskom nalazu potrebno je jasno naznačiti informaciju o promjeni metode.

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for IgA anti-human tissue transglutaminase (anti-tTG IgA) antibodies (QUANTA Flash® h-tTG) on BIO-FLASH® Instrument (Inova Diagnostics Inc, San Diego, USA), including precision and comparison with the method currently implemented in our laboratory, fluoroenzymeimmunoassay (ELiA) for anti-tTG IgA (Celikey® IgA) on Phadia 100 instrument (Phadia GmbH, Freiburg, Germany).

**Materials and methods:** For precision evaluation, negative and positive commercial controls were run for five days in triplicate. Precision declared by the manufacturer was 4.2% and 4.4% for normal and pathological concentrations, respectively. We used 40 serum samples for comparison of CIA and ELiA method. Due to assay differences (cut-off: < 20 and < 7 for CIA and ELiA, respectively) results were categorized as positive/negative and Cohen's kappa test was used for agreement testing (criterion: kappa > 0.60).

**Results:** Repeatability coefficient of variations (CV) were 4.39% and 5.17%, while for within-laboratory precision they were 5.55% and 7.67% were obtained for negative and positive controls, respectively. Kappa coefficient was 0.95 (95%CI 0.85 - 1.00) with agreement of 98% between CIA and ELiA. Methods were congruent for 39/40 samples and one results was categorized differently.

**Conclusion:** Precision results did not meet those declared by the manufacturer but our calculated CVs indicate rather small relative variability which we find suitable for routine use. Method comparison results confirmed good agreement between methods. Regardless of that, it is very important to monitor anti-tTG IgA concentrations longitudinally using the same method in the same laboratory. In case of implementation of the new method in routine laboratory work crucial information about the differences must be clearly stated on laboratory report.

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A-5

## Učestalost ANA/ENA u pacijenata s optičkim neuromijelitisom seropozitivnih na AQP4 autoantitijela

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**Uvod:** Optički neuromijelitis (NMO) je autoimuna bolest kod koje su u serumu bolesnika prisutna autoantitijela na vodene kanale (AQP4). Antinuklearna antitijela (ANA) i antitijela na ekstraktibilne nuklearne antigene (ENA) su karakteristična za sistemske autoimune reumatske bolesti (SARD). Cilj istraživanja je ispitati učestalost ANA/ENA autoantitijela u bolesnika s NMO kako bi se ispitalo moguće preklapanje SARD s NMO.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno u skupini od 24 bolesnika s pozitivnim nalazom autoantitijela na AQP4 u serumu kojima su istovremeno određena i autoantitijela ANA i ENA. Antitijela na AQP4 su određena ELISA metodom (Iason, Austrija). ANA antitijela su određena metodom indirektno imunofluorescencije (IIF) na HEp-2 stanicama (Euroimmun, Njemačka), a antitijela na autoantigene: ds-DNA, histone, SS-A, SS-B, Sm, RNP, DNA topo I, Jo-1 i CENP B određena su AtheNA-ANA multiplexLuminex metodom s mikrokuglicama (Zeus Scientific Inc., SAD).

**Rezultati:** Od ukupno 24 pacijenata seropozitivnih na AQP4 autoantitijela, 17 (71%) su bile žene. Kod 12 (50%) pacijenata pozitivnih na AQP4 autoantitijela dokazana su pozitivna ANA IIF. Svih 12 ispitanika bile su žene. Od ANA pozitivnih uzoraka, 7 (58%) je bilo anti-SSA pozitivno i 3 (25%) anti-SSB pozitivno dok je 3 (25%) bilo pozitivno na dsDNA antitijela i histone. Ostala ispitivana antitijela su bila negativna.

**Zaključak:** Pozitivna ANA/ENA antitijela su dokazana kod polovice ispitanika s pozitivnim nalazom antitijela na AQP4 i to isključivo kod žena. Pozitivna ANA antitijela su se odnosila u većine bolesnika na SS-A i SS-B antitijela koja su karakteristična za Sjögrenov sindrom. Dobiveni rezultati ukazuju na moguću veliku učestalost preklapanja NMO i Sjögrenovog sindroma. Buduća studija na većem broju pacijenata mogla bi doprinijeti boljem razumijevanju povezanosti ovih autoimunih bolesti.

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A-5

## The frequency of ANA/ENA in patients with neuromyelitis optica positive for AQP4 autoantibodies

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**Introduction:** Neuromyelitis optica (NMO) is an autoimmune disease characterized with the presence of antibodies to aquaporin-4 (AQP4) that are sensitive and highly specific serum markers. Antinuclear antibodies (ANA) and antibodies to extractable nuclear antigens (ENA) are characteristic for systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases (SARD). The aim of this study was to investigate the incidence of ANA/ENA autoantibodies in patients with NMO in order to investigate possible overlap of SARD with NMO.

**Materials and methods:** The study was conducted in a group of 24 patients positive for AQP4 autoantibodies, which were simultaneously analyzed for ANA and ENA autoantibodies. Antibodies to AQP4 were determined by ELISA method (Iason, Austria). Antinuclear antibodies were determined on HEp-2 cells with indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) method (Euroimmun, Germany). Autoantibodies to: ds-DNA, histone, SS-A, SS-B, Sm, RNP, DNA topo I, Jo-1 and CENP B were determined by the AtheNA ANA-II Plus Multiplex Luminex microbead immunoassay (Zeus Scientific Inc., USA).

**Results:** Out of 24 patients positive for AQP4 antibodies, 17(71%) were women. Positive ANA IIF were found in 12 (50%) positive AQP4 patients. All 12 patients were women. Seven of ANA positive samples (58%) were anti-SS-A positive and 3 (25%) were anti-SS-B positive while 3 (25%) were positive for dsDNA antibody and histone. Other tested antibodies were negative.

**Conclusion:** Positive ANA/ENA antibodies were found in half of the patients with positive results of antibodies to AQP4, exclusively in women. Positive ANA antibodies were mostly related to SS-A and SS-B antibodies which are characteristic for Sjögren's syndrome. The obtained results indicate the possible high frequency of overlap between NMO and Sjögren's syndrome. Future studies on a larger number of patients could contribute to a better understanding of the association between these autoimmune diseases.

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## H – Hematologija

### H-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Procjena usporedivosti dviju automatiziranih metoda mjerenja sedimentacije eritrocita s Westergren metodom

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**Uvod:** Ručna Westergren metoda koja koristi citratnu krv je referentna metoda za mjerenje sedimentacije eritrocita (SE). Odnedavno su postale komercijalno dostupne automatizirane metode mjerenja SE koje koriste krv uzetu na EDTA. Time se smanjuju troškovi i neugodnosti za pacijente. Naš cilj je bio usporedba: 1) mjerenja SE na automatskim analizatorima Roller 20PN (Alifax, Italija) i iSED (Alcor Scientific, USA) i 2) oba analizatora s Westergren metodom.

**Materijali i metode:** Prikupili smo 780 uzoraka krvi izvađene u K<sub>2</sub>EDTA (Kima, Italija) epruvete za automatizirane analizatore i u 3,8% Na-citrat (Kima, Italija) za Westergren metodu. Analiza podataka je podijeljena u dvije skupine temeljem vrijednosti SE mjerenja Westergren metodom, kako slijedi: populacija sa SE < 20 mm/h i patološka populacija (SE > 20 mm/h). Usporedivost je procijenjena Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom. CLSI H02-A5 kriteriji su korišteni kao kriteriji za dozvoljeno odstupanje.

**Rezultati:** Passing-Bablok analiza, u pacijenata s SE < 20 mm/h je pokazala prisutnost konstantnog (odsječak = - 1,67; 95% CI = - 2,67 do - 1,00) i proporcionalnog odstupanja (nagib = 2,17; 95% CI = 2,00 do 2,33) između Roller 20PN i Westergren metode. Prisutno je proporcionalno odstupanje (odsječak = -1,23; 95% CI = - 2,80 do 0,20; nagib = 1,61; 95% CI = 1,40 do 1,90) između iSED i Westergren metode. U pacijenata s patološkom vrijednosti SE je prisutno konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje između Roller 20PN i Westergren metode (odsječak = -6,20; 95% CI = - 13,14 do - 1,00; nagib = 1,40; 95% CI = 1,23 do 1,60). Između iSED i Westergren metode nema konstantnog i proporcionalnog odstupanja (odsječak = -9,50; 95% CI = - 17,35 do 0,59; nagib = 1,06; 95% CI = 0,86 do 1,31). Usporedbom dvaju analizatora utvrđeno je konstantno (odsječak = - 0,43; 95% CI = - 0,92 do - 0,07)

## H – Haematology

### H-1 (Oral presentation)

#### Assessment of comparability of two automated methods for erythrocyte sedimentation rate with the Westergren method

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**Introduction:** Manual Westergren method in citrate blood is a reference method for erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). Recently, automated analyzers for ESR became commercially available. They use EDTA blood, reduce cost and patient inconvenience. Our aim was to assess comparability of 1) ESR measurement on automated analyzers Roller 20PN (Alifax, Italy) and iSED (Alcor Scientific, USA) and 2) both analyzers with Westergren method.

**Materials and methods:** Blood was sampled from in-patients (N = 780) into the K<sub>2</sub>EDTA (Kima, Italy) tubes for automated and in 3.8% Na-citrate (Kima, Italy) for Westergren method. Data analysis and presentation was done separately for Westergren ESR values within the reference range (ESR < 20 mm/h) and for pathological values (ESR > 20 mm/h). Method agreement was assessed by Passing-Bablok regression analysis. CLSI H02-A5 criteria were used as analytical quality specifications.

**Results:** Passing-Bablok analysis, in patients with ESR within the reference range indicated both constant (intercept = - 1.67; 95% CI = - 2.67 to - 1.00) and proportional bias (slope = 2.17; 95% CI = 2.00 to 2.33) between Roller 20PN and Westergren method. Between iSED and Westergren method there was proportional bias (intercept = - 1.23; 95% CI = - 2.80 to 0.20; slope = 1.61; 95% CI = 1.40 to 1.90). In patients with pathological ESR there was a constant and proportional bias between Roller 20PN and Westergren method (intercept = - 6.20; 95% CI = - 13.14 to - 1.00; slope = 1.40; 95% CI = 1.23 to 1.60). Constant and proportional bias were not observed (intercept = - 9.50; 95% CI = - 17.35 to 0.59; slope = 1.06; 95% CI = 0.86 to 1.31) between iSED and Westergren method. Between iSED and Roller 20PN there was constant

i proporcionalno odstupanje (nagib = 1,41; 95% CI = 1,36 do 1,46).

**Zaključak:** Usporedivost između iSED i Roller 20PN je izvan granica dozvoljenog odstupanja, prema CLSI H02-A5. U usporedbi s Westergren metodom, oba analizatora mjere niže vrijednosti u području SE < 20 mm/h i veće vrijednosti u području SE > 20 mm/h. Neslaganje s Westergren metodom je manje izraženo za iSED automatski analizator.

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(intercept = - 0.43; 95% CI = - 0.92 to - 0.07) and proportional bias (slope = 1.41; 95% CI = 1.36 to 1.46).

**Conclusion:** The agreement between iSED and Roller 20PN is outside the CLSI H02-A5 limits. Both methods underestimate the ESR in the low measurement range (below 20 mm/h) and overestimate ESR in patients with ESR > 20 mm/h. Overall disagreement with Westergren method is less pronounced for iSED.

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## H-2

### Primjena udjela nezrelih granulocita na hematološkom brojaču Sysmex XN-1000 u svrhu optimizacije izrade diferencijalne krvne slike svjetlosnom mikroskopijom

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**Uvod:** Uz potpuno automatiziranu analizu kompletne krvne slike s peterodijelnom diferencijalnom krvnom slikom (DKS) suvremeni hematološki brojači omogućuju mjerenje niza dodatnih parametara. Jedan od dodatnih parametara na brojačima tvrtke Sysmex je udio nezrelih granulocita (IG) koji obuhvaća metamijelocite, mijelocite i promijelocite. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati mogućnost primjene parametra IG u predviđanju prisutnosti nezrelih granulocita u uzorku periferne krvi, odrediti njegovu graničnu vrijednost za izradu DKS-a svjetlosnom mikroskopijom, te na taj način omogućiti optimizaciju njezine izrade.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitivanje je napravljeno na 503 ostatna uzorka venske krvi uzete na K<sub>3</sub>EDTA antikoagulant. Uzorci su analizirani na hematološkom brojaču Sysmex XN-1000 te je izrađena DKS svjetlosnom mikroskopijom nakon bojenja razmaza periferne krvi metodom po Pappenheimu. Podatci su analizirani u statističkom programu MedCalc.

## H-2

### Use of immature granulocytes parameter on the haematology analyzer Sysmex XN-1000 to make optimization of microscopic differential blood count

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**Introduction:** Beside a complete blood count with 5-part differential blood count (DBC), modern haematology analyzers allow the measurement of a number of additional parameters. One of the additional parameters on Sysmex analyzer is a immature granulocytes parameter (IG), which includes metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes. The aim of this study was to examine the possibility of application of the IG parameter in predicting the presence of immature granulocytes in peripheral blood samples, to determine its cut-off value and thus to optimize microscopic DBC determination.

**Materials and methods:** The study was performed on 503 remaining venous blood samples taken on K3EDTA anticoagulant. In all samples a complete blood count on Sysmex XN-1000 analyzer and microscopic DBC on peripheral blood smear stained by Pappenheim method were performed. Statistical analysis was done using MedCalc statistical program.

**Rezultati:** Ispitivanjem povezanosti parametra IG (%) i udjela nezrelih granulocita u DKS-u svjetlosnom mikroskopijom (zbroy metamijelocita, mijelocita i promijelocita) dobivena je statistički značajna korelacija:  $r = 0,36$  ( $P < 0,001$ ). Kada je udjelu nezrelih granulocita iz DKS-a svjetlosnom mikroskopijom dodan i udio nesegmentiranih neutrofilnih granulocita dobiven je koeficijent korelacije s IG%  $r = 0,49$  ( $P < 0,001$ ). ROC analizom je za otkrivanje prisutnosti metamijelocita, mijelocita i promijelocita u perifernoj krvi dobivena granična vrijednost IG  $> 2,5\%$ , osjetljivost 78%, specifičnost 94% i površina ispod krivulje (AUC) s pripadajućim intervalom pouzdanosti (IP), 0,92 (0,89 - 0,94). Za otkrivanje prisutnosti 2% nesegmentiranih neutrofilnih granulocita, metamijelocita, mijelocita i promijelocita dobivena je granična vrijednost IG  $> 0,9\%$ , osjetljivost 59%, specifičnost 85% i AUC 0,78 (IP: 0,74 - 0,81).

**Zaključak:** Prisutna je statistički značajna korelacija parametra IG s udjelom nezrelih granulocita (metamijelocita, mijelocita, promijelocita i/ili nesegmentiranih neutrofilnih granulocita) u DKS-u svjetlosnom mikroskopijom. Primjenom granične vrijednosti parametra IG dobivene ROC analizom za odabir uzorka za izradu DKS-a svjetlosnom mikroskopijom moguće je s visokom pouzdanošću otkriti prisutnost nezrelih granulocita, te na taj način optimizirati izradu DKS-a svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

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### H-3 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Vrijednost kvantitativnih kriterija za mikroskopski pregled razmaza periferne krvi u otkrivanju patoloških nalaza diferencijalne krvne slike

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**Uvod:** Prema preporukama Međunarodne konsenzusne skupine za hematologiju (engl. *International Consensus Group for Hematology Review*) jedan od

**Results:** The correlation of IG (%) and the immature granulocytes in microscopic DBC (sum of metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes) was statistically significant:  $r = 0.36$  ( $P < 0.001$ ). When the band neutrophils from microscopic DBC was added to the immature granulocytes the coefficient of correlation was  $r = 0.49$  ( $P < 0.001$ ). ROC analysis for detections of metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes in peripheral blood revealed the cut-off value of IG  $> 2.5\%$ , sensitivity 78%, specificity 94% and Area Under the Curve (AUC) with associated confidence interval (CI) 0.92 (0.89 - 0.94). As to detect the presence of 2% band neutrophils, metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes, the cut-off value for IG was  $> 0.9\%$ , sensitivity 59%, specificity 85% and AUC 0.78 (CI: 0.74 - 0.81).

**Conclusion:** There is statistically significant correlation of the IG parameter with the immature granulocytes (metamyelocytes, myelocytes, promyelocytes and/or band neutrophils) in microscopic DBC. By applying the cut-off value of the IG parameter obtained by ROC analysis for selection of samples for microscopic DBC, it is possible to reliably detect immature granulocytes and thus optimize the microscopic DBC determination.

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### H-3 (Oral presentation)

#### The utility of quantitative rules for detection of pathological abnormalities of the differential blood count by microscopic smear review

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**Introduction:** The suggested criteria for microscopic smear review from the International Consensus Group for Hematology Review include quantitative



kriterija za mikroskopski pregled razmaza periferne krvi jesu kvantitativne promjene leukocitnih subpopulacija. Cilj rada bio je provjeriti koliko primjena navedenih kriterija doprinosi otkrivanju patoloških nalaza diferencijalne krvne slike (DKS) te koliko bi moguće ukidanje doprinijelo smanjenju broja razmaza za izradu ručne DKS.

**Materijali i metode:** U ispitivanje je uključeno 115 uzoraka analiziranih na hematološkom sustavu Sysmex XN-3000 koji su mikroskopski diferencirani isključivo temeljem kvantitativnih kriterija leukocitnih subpopulacija. Ispitani su sljedeći kvantitativni kriteriji: neutropenija ( $Ne < 1,0 \times 10^9/L$ ), neutrofilija ( $Ne > 20 \times 10^9/L$ ), limfocitoza ( $Ly > 5,0 \times 10^9/L$  za odrasle;  $Ly > 7,0 \times 10^9/L$  za djecu do 12 godina), monocitopenija ( $Mono < 1,0 \times 10^9/L$ ), monocitoza ( $Mono > 1,5 \times 10^9/L$  za odrasle;  $Mono > 3,0 \times 10^9/L$  za djecu do 12 godina), eozinofilija ( $Eo > 2,0 \times 10^9/L$ ) i bazofilija ( $Baso > 0,5 \times 10^9/L$ ). Uzorci kod kojih je mikroskopskim pregledom razmaza periferne krvi nađena jedna ili više nezrela i/ili promijenjena stanica klasificirani su kao stvarno pozitivni (SP), dok su ostali klasificirani kao lažno pozitivni (LP).

**Rezultati:** Od ukupno 115 uzoraka, 63 uzorka (54,8%) diferencirana su zbog monocitoze, 23 (20,0%) zbog neutrofilije, osam (7,0%) zbog monocitopenije, pet (4,3%) zbog neutropenije, četiri (3,5%) zbog eozinofilije, jedan (0,9%) zbog bazofilije te 11 (9,6%) uzoraka s kombinacijom dvaju ili više kvantitativnih pravila. Nađeno je pet SP uzoraka (4,3%) i to: četiri uzorka s 5 – 21% nesegmentiranih granulocita te jedan SP uzorak s 1% mijelocita. Na temelju dobivenih rezultata, nakon ukidanja kvantitativnih kriterija, postignuto je smanjenje ručnih DKS s 12,2% na 10,8%.

**Zaključak:** Mikroskopski pregled razmaza periferne krvi na temelju isključivo pozitivnih kvantitativnih kriterija leukocitnih subpopulacija nije rezultirao otkrivanjem važnih patoloških nalaza u DKS te je bilo moguće ukinuti sve ispitane kriterije. Ukidanjem je postignuto znatno smanjenje broja razmaza za izradu ručne DKS, čime se omogućuje optimizacija laboratorijskog procesa.

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flags of leukocyte subpopulations. The aim of this study was to evaluate if quantitative rules contribute to pathological findings in the blood smear and the impact of their possible exclusion on the reduction of blood smears for microscopic review.

**Materials and methods:** A total of 115 samples analyzed on Sysmex XN-3000 haematology system and manually reviewed according to exclusively quantitative rules for leukocyte subpopulations were included in the study. The following rules were assessed: neutropenia ( $Ne < 1.0 \times 10^9/L$ ), neutrophilia ( $Ne > 20 \times 10^9/L$ ), lymphocytosis ( $Ly > 5.0 \times 10^9/L$  for adults;  $Ly > 7.0 \times 10^9/L$  for children up to 12 years old), monocytopenia ( $Mono < 1.0 \times 10^9/L$ ), monocytosis ( $Mono > 1.5 \times 10^9/L$  for adults;  $Mono > 3.0 \times 10^9/L$  for children up to 12 years old), eosinophilia ( $Eo > 2.0 \times 10^9/L$ ) i basophilia ( $Baso > 0.5 \times 10^9/L$ ). Samples were classified as true positive (TP) when one or more pathological cells were found in the blood smear; otherwise they were classified as false positive (FP).

**Results:** Among 115 assessed samples, 63 smears (54.8%) were manually reviewed because of monocytosis, 23 (20.0%) because of neutrophilia, eight (6.2%) due to monocytopenia, four (3.1%) due to eosinophilia, one (0.8%) due to basophilia, and 11 (8.6%) samples with combination of two or more quantitative rules. From five samples classified as TP, four had only band neutrophils (5 - 21%), whereas one TP smear pertains to the finding of 1% myelocyte. Elimination of quantitative rules yielded a reduction in manual smear reviews from 12.2% to 10.8%.

**Conclusion:** Microscopic smear review triggered only by quantitative rules of leukocyte subpopulations did not result in significant pathological findings in the differential blood count. Elimination of these rules resulted in significant reduction of microscopic smear reviews, which contributes to the optimization of the routine workflow.

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H-4

### Analitička validacija hematoloških analizatora Sysmex XN-10 unutar hematološkog sustava XN-3000

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**Uvod:** Cilj rada bila je analitička validacija dvaju hematoloških analizatora, Sysmex XN-10L i XN-10R, koji su sastavni dio automatiziranoga hematološkog sustava Sysmex XN-3000. Na XN-10R mjere se parametri kompletne krvne slike (KKS) s peterodijelnom diferencijalnom krvnom slikom te broj eritroblasta, a na XN-10L dodatno i broj retikulocita.

**Materijali i metode:** Validacija je provedena prema verifikacijskom postupniku laboratorijskih metoda EP15-A2 (CLSI), a uključila je sljedeća ispitivanja: preciznost u seriji (ponovljivost), preciznost iz dana u dan (međupreciznost), te točnost primjenom komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka u tri razine; mjerna nesigurnost primjenom kalibratora; linearnost analizom serija razrjeđenja uzoraka s visokim vrijednostima ispitivanih parametara; provjera referentnih intervala analiziranjem 20 uzoraka zdravih dobrovoljaca; usporedba rezultata uzoraka pacijenata s postojećim analizatorom Beckman Coulter DxH800.

**Rezultati:** Ispitivanjem ponovljivosti najniži koeficijent varijacije (CV) dobiven je za hemoglobin i prosječni volumen eritrocita (MCV) (0,4%) na oba analizatora, a najviši za relativni broj eritroblasta (10,8%) na XN-10L i apsolutni broj monocita (13,4%) na XN-10R. Za međupreciznost je najniži CV na oba analizatora dobiven za eritrocite (0,1%), a najviši za eozinofilne granulocite (7,9% na XN-10L, 6,4% na XN-10R). Na oba analizatora nije nađeno odstupanje od ciljne vrijednosti za apsolutni broj bazofilnih granulocita, a na XN-10L dodatno i za hemoglobin. Najviše odstupanje nađeno je za apsolutni broj monocita (6,7% na XN-10L, 8,5% na XN-10R). Dobivena je mjerna nesigurnost između 1,9% za eritrocite i hemoglobin i 9,6% za relativni broj retikulocita. Potvrđena je line-

H-4

### Analytical validation of two haematology analyzers XN-10 integrated in the Sysmex XN-3000 automated haematology system

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**Introduction:** The purpose of this study was to perform the analytical validation of two haematology analyzers, Sysmex XN-10L and Sysmex XN-10R, integrated in Sysmex XN-3000 automated haematology system. Both analyzers are intended for measuring complete blood count (CBC) with 5-part differential and nucleated red blood cells (NRBC), with additional reticulocyte count on XN-10L.

**Materials and methods:** The validation was performed according to EP15-A2 CLSI verification protocol and included the determination of within- and between-run precision, accuracy, measurement uncertainty, linearity, reference range verification, and method comparison study with the previously used Beckman Coulter DxH800 analyzer.

**Results:** Examination of within-run precision yielded the lowest CV for haemoglobin and mean cell volume (MCV) (0.4%) on both analyzers, while the highest CV was observed for NRBC (10.8%) on XN-10L, and absolute number of monocytes (13.4%) on XN-10R. The lowest between-run CV was obtained for erythrocytes on both analyzers (0.1%), whereas the highest CV was for eosinophil granulocytes (7.9% on XN-10L and 6.4% on XN-10R). On both analyzers no deviation from target value was observed for basophil granulocytes, and additionally haemoglobin on XN-10L. The highest deviation was obtained for the absolute monocyte count (6.7% on XN-10L and 8.5% on XN-10R). Measurement uncertainty ranged from 1.9% for erythrocytes and hemoglobin, to 9.6% for the absolute reticulocyte count. Linearity defined by the manufacturer was confirmed for all tested parameters ( $r > 0.99$ ). Reference ranges recommended by Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists were

arnost prema proizvođaču za sve ispitivane parametre ( $r > 0,99$ ). Za sve parametre osim prosječnog volumna trombocita (MPV) prihvatljivi su referentni intervali prema HKMB te je za MPV uveden referentni interval prema proizvođaču. Usporedbom s postojećim analizatorom dobiven je  $r > 0,90$ , osim za MPV, monocite, eozinofilne i bazofilne granulocite, te eritroblaste.

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati potvrđuju da ispitivani analizatori zadovoljavaju postavljene analitičke kriterije te se sustav može koristiti u rutinskom radu za određivanje KKS s peterodijelnom diferencijalnom krvnom slikom, eritroblastima i retikulocitima.

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confirmed, except for mean platelet volume (MPV) where the reference ranges defined by the manufacturer were applied. Method comparison yielded  $r > 0.90$ , except for MPV, monocytes, eosinophil and basophil granulocytes and NRBC.

**Conclusion:** The obtained results showed optimal analytical performance of both analyzers which can therefore be implemented in routine practice for determination of CBC with 5-part differential blood count, NRBC and reticulocytes.

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## H-5

### Dinamika sekrecije eritropoetina kod bubrežne insuficijencije

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**Uvod:** Humani eritropoetin (EPO) je glikoproteinski hormon i glavni je regulator eritropoeze. Poremećaji funkcije bubrega vode do poremećaja u izlučivanju EPO, što može rezultirati teškom anemijom ili policitemijom. Razine glomerularne filtracije (GFR), hemoglobina (Hb) i EPO kod kojih treba započeti liječenje anemije u pacijenata s bubrežnim oboljenjem nisu još do kraja razjašnjene. Stoga je cilj ovog rada bio kvantificirati razine EPO i Hb kod pacijenata s kroničnim bubrežnim oboljenjem (CKD), kao i kod kontrolnih ispitanika (C), te istražiti odnos između navedenih parametara u različitim stadijima CKD-a (procjenjenog na osnovu GFR).

**Materijali i metode:** U studiju je uključeno 356 pacijenata sa CKD podijeljenih u 4 podgrupe na osnovu razine GFR. Kontrolnu grupu činilo je 206 zdravih osoba sa razinom GFR  $\geq 90$  mL/min/1,73 m<sup>2</sup>. Razine EPO, Hb i kreatinina u serumu određene su imunokemijskim i spektrofotometrijskim metodama. GFR je određen upotrebom MDRD formule.

## H-5

### The dynamic of erythropoietin secretion during kidney deficiency

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**Introduction:** Human erythropoietin (EPO) is a glycoprotein hormone which is the main humoral regulator of erythropoiesis. Disorders of kidney function lead to abnormal EPO secretion, which may result in severe anaemia or polycythemia. The glomerular filtration rate (GFR), haemoglobin (Hb) and EPO concentrations at which anaemia treatment in patients with renal disorder should be started, are not very well established and many details remains unclear. The aim of this study was to quantify EPO and Hb concentrations in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) as well as in control subjects (C), and investigate the correlations of these parameters in various degrees of CKD (assessed by GFR).

**Materials and methods:** This study included 356 subjects with CKD divided into 4 subgroups according to their GFR. The control group consisted of 206 healthy subjects with GFR rate  $\geq 90$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>. EPO, Hb and serum creatinine levels were determined by using immunochemical and spectrophoto-

**Rezultati:** Koncentracija EPO za C iznosila je 7,26 - 17,10 mIU/mL, sa prosječnom koncentracijom 12,18 ± 4,92 mIU/mL. Srednja koncentracija Hb za C bila je 147 ± 8 g/L. Koncentracije hemoglobina bile su statistički značajno niže u svim podgrupama pacijenata sa CKD u usporedbi sa C (P < 0,001). Razine EPO bile su značajno više u podgrupi I i II nego u C (P < 0,010). EPO je u podgrupi III bio niži nego u C (P < 0,050), kao i u podgrupi IV (P = 0,050).

**Zaključak:** Smanjenje koncentracije EPO u trećem i četvrtom CKD stadiju može se pripisati ozbiljnom oštećenju bubrežnog tkiva i nedostatku normalne sekrecije EPO. Naši rezultati ukazuju na to da se anemija javlja za vrijeme I CKD stadija gdje postoji inverzna korelacija između Hb i EPO (EPO = - 0,213 Hb + 43,45), što podržava tezu smanjene biosinteze EPO kod pacijenata sa CKD.

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tometric methods. GFR was determined using the MDRD formula.

**Results:** The EPO interval for C was 7.26 - 17.10 mIU/mL, with mean value of 12.18 ± 4.92 mIU/mL. The mean Hb value for C was 147 ± 8 g/L. Haemoglobin in all subgroups was statistically significantly lower than in C (P < 0.001). The EPO in subgroups I and II was higher than in C (P < 0.010). The EPO in subgroup III was lower than in C (P < 0.050), and in subgroup IV was lower also, (P = 0.050).

**Conclusion:** The decrease of EPO levels in the third and fourth stage of CKD can be attributed to the serious damage of the kidney tissues and the lack of normal EPO secretion. Our results showing that anemia occurs during early stage of CKD (I subgroup), where there is an inverse correlation between Hb and EPO, (EPO = - 0.213 Hb + 43.45), supports the thesis of a lowered set point for EPO biosynthesis in patients with CKD.

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## H-6

### M-protein: Atipična elektroforetska migracija – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Multipli mijelom predstavlja grupu B staničnih poremećaja koji dovode do sekrecije specifičnih imunoglobulina tzv. monoklonskih proteina. Dijagnoza mijeloma se obično postavlja na osnovu povećanja broja plazma stanica u koštanoj srži, a najčešće na dokazivanju prisutnosti M-proteina u krvi i/ili urinu. M-protein elektroforetski migrira u gama ili beta području, a veoma rijetko se može uočiti i u alfa2 te alfa1 području.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Cilj je prikazati slučaj pacijenta sa atipičnom elektroforetskom prezentacijom monoklonskog proteina u alfa2 području.

**Rezultati:** 80-godišnji pacijent je primljen u Klinički bolnički centar sa simptomima vrućice i dijareje. Laboratorijski nalazi su pokazali umjerenu anemiju (Hb

## H-6

### M-protein: a case of atypical presentation in protein electrophoresis - case report

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**Introduction:** Multiple myeloma is a group of B- cell disorders resulting in the secretion of a specific and unique monoclonal immunoglobulin (M-protein). A myeloma diagnosis is often based on the presence of an increased number of plasma cells in the bone marrow and, in most cases, the presence of excess protein (M-protein) in the blood and/or urine. The M-protein usually migrates in the gamma or beta region of the normal protein pattern; very rarely it may appear in the alpha2 or even alpha1 region.

**Case report:** The aim of this study was to evaluate an atypical case presentation where patient presented M-spike in alpha2 region in capillary electrophoresis pattern.

= 102 g/L), ukupni proteini 59,5 g/L, te albumini 34,5 g/L. Elektroforeza serumskih proteina je pokazala monoklonski protein u alfa2 području. Imunofiksacijska elektroforeza je potvrdila prisustvo monoklonskog IgA tip kapa. Aspiracija koštane srži nije pokazala infiltraciju plazma stanicama kao što nisu uočene osteolitičke lezije. Postavljena je dijagnoza MGUS-a.

**Zaključak:** Elektroforeza serumskih proteina (SPEP) je jednostavni laboratorijski test koji se može koristiti za detekciju monoklonskih gamopatija. To je preliminarni test, kako za detekciju multiplog mijeloma tako i za MGUS. U odnosu na SPEP, imunofiksacija (IFE) je osjetljivija tehnika kako za uočavanje tako i za identifikaciju specifičnog monoklonskog proteina. Obje tehnike su u širokoj uporabi i predstavljaju zlatni standard u dijagnozi monoklonskih gamopatija.

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**Results:** An 80 year old man was referred to University Hospital Centre Osijek with symptoms of fever and diarrhea. In the laboratory examinations performed, the following values were found; Hb = 102 g/L, total proteins 59.5 g/L, albumins 34.5 g/L, Serum protein electrophoresis showed monoclonal gammopathy in alpha2 region. Serum immunofixation revealed IgA, kappa monoclonal gammopathy. The bone marrow aspirate showed no infiltration with plasma cells as X-ray graphy showed no lytic lesions. The diagnosis is MGUS.

**Conclusion:** Serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) is an easy to perform laboratory test which can be used for the detection of monoclonal gammopathy. It is preliminary test for the suspected cases of multiple myeloma and MGUS. Immunofixation (IFE) is more sensitive than SPEP for detecting monoclonal immunoglobulins and to identify specific immunoglobulin isotype. The both techniques are widely used as a gold standard in a diagnosis of monoclonal gammopathy.

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## H-7 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Usporedba dvije metode određivanja diferencijalne krvne slike: CellaVision i mikroskop

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**Uvod:** Diferencijalna krvna slika (DKS) ili leukogram je razdvajanje leukocita (Lkc) na 5 staničnih linija: neutrofil, limfociti, monociti, eozinofili i bazofili. Diferencijacija leukocita je bitna iz razloga što smanjenje odnosno povećanje pojedine vrste leukocita može upućivati na vrstu odnosno tijek bolesti. Osim zrelih linija stanica leukocita u diferencijalnoj krvnoj slici mogu se uočiti i nezrele stanice svake linije. Diferencijalna krvna slika dobiva se uz pomoć hematoloških brojača, no često tako dobiveni rezultati moraju biti provjereni uz pomoć razmaza periferne krvi pri metodi svjetlosnog mikroskopiranja. Mikroskopiranje krvnog razmaza zahtjeva puno vremena (bojanje i sušenje samog preparata) i vješto obučeni operat

## H-7 (Oral presentation)

### Comparison of two methods for differential blood count: CellaVision vs microscope

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**Introduction:** A differential blood count or leukogram is the separation of leukocytes into 5 cell types: neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils and basophils. Except of the mature lines of leukocyte cells in the differential blood count, the immature cells of each line are to be observed. Differential blood counts are obtained by the help of hematologic counters, but results obtained by this method must often be verified by means of peripheral blood smear, using the light microscopy. Microscopy of blood smears requires a lot of time and a skillfully trained operator. Automated systems, such as CellaVision have the ability to digitize blood-smear cells that can basically classify a particular type of

tera. U novije vrijeme, na tržištu su se pojavili automatizirani sustavi poput CellaVisiona koji imaju mogućnost digitalizacije stanica sa krvnog razmaza koji uz pomoć baze mogu sami klasificirati pojedinu vrstu stanice. To pak ubrzava vrijeme potrebno za DKS. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je usporedba DKS-a dobivenog pomoću CellaVisiona s onim dobivenim ručnim diferenciranjem na mikroskopu.

**Materijali i metode:** Analizirani su krvni razmazi 59 nasumično odabranih ispitanika (median Lkc:  $8,3 \times 10^9/L$ , raspon:  $2,8 - 45,0 \times 10^9/L$ ) kojima je zatražena diferencijalna krvna slika pomoću CellaVisiona DM1200 (Lund, Sweden) i ručno pomoću mikroskopa Olympus BX43 (Tokyo, Japan). Krvni razmazi obojeni su metodom po Romanovskom. Napravljena je usporedba Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom u MedCalc programu (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium). Kao referentna metoda uzeti su rezultati dobiveni mikroskopiranjem.

**Rezultati:** Regresijskom analizom utvrđeno je da nema statistički značajne razlike između diferenciranja leukocita pomoću CellaVision-a i ručnom metodom za: neutrofile [ $y = 3,31$  (95% CI:  $-0,91$  do  $6,81$ ) +  $0,96$  (95% CI:  $0,88$  do  $1,03$ ) x], limfocite [ $y = 0,32$  (95% CI:  $-0,42$  do  $2,20$ ) +  $0,97$  (95% CI:  $0,90$  do  $1,02$ ) x] i monocite [ $y = -1,00$  (95% CI:  $-2,00$  do  $0,40$ ) +  $1,00$  (95% CI:  $0,80$  do  $1,17$ ) x].

**Zaključak:** Automatizirani sustavi poput CellaVisiona u mogućnosti su točno zamjeniti ručno diferenciranje leukocita mikroskopom, te time ubrzati proces same analize, što je naročito važno u hitnoj dijagnostici.

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cell by its base. This speeds up the time it takes for differential blood count. The aim of this study is to compare differential blood count obtained by CellaVision with one obtained by manual differentiation on a microscope.

**Materials and methods:** Blood smear was analyzed in 59 randomly selected subjects (median leukocytes:  $8.3 \times 10^9/L$ , range:  $2.8 - 45.0 \times 10^9/L$ ) with requested differential blood counting at the Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics using CellaVision DM1200 (Lund, Sweden) and manually using the Olympus BX43 (Tokyo, Japan) microscope. Blood smears were dyed by Romanowsky stain. A comparison was made by Passing-Bablok regression analysis in MedCalc (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Results:** Passing-Bablok regression analysis has shown that there was no statistically significant difference between leukocyte differentiation by CellaVision and manual microscopy for: neutrophils [ $y = 3.31$  (95% CI:  $-0.91$  do  $6.81$ ) +  $0.96$  (95% CI:  $0.88$  do  $1.03$ ) x], lymphocytes [ $y = 0.32$  (95% CI:  $-0.42$  do  $2.20$ ) +  $0.97$  (95% CI:  $0.90$  do  $1.02$ ) x] and monocytes [ $y = -1.00$  (95% CI:  $-2.00$  do  $0.40$ ) +  $1.00$  (95% CI:  $0.80$  do  $1.17$ ) x].

**Conclusion:** Automated systems such as CellaVision are able to replace the manual leukocyte differentiation by microscopy, thereby accelerating the analysis process, which is needed in emergency diagnostics.

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**H-8 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Ispitivanje dijagnostičke točnosti hematoloških analizatora Sysmex XN-1000 i Beckman Coulter DxH800 u prepoznavanju nakupina trombocita u uzorku pune krvi**

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**Uvod:** Pseudotrombocitopenija je rijetka pojava kod koje se, zbog nakupljanja trombocita *in vitro*, na hematološkom analizatoru dobije lažno sniženi broj trombocita. Jedan je od najčešćih uzroka netočnog nalaza broja trombocita, s učestalošću u općoj populaciji 0,1 – 0,2%, a u bolničkoj populaciji do 2%. Iako je najčešće bezopasna, može dovesti do dodatnih laboratorijskih analiza, pogrešnih dijagnoza, neprimjerenih transfuzija trombocita, te odgađanja dijagnostičkih postupaka. Cilj rada bio je ispitati dijagnostičku točnost hematoloških analizatora u otkrivanju nakupina trombocita u uzorku, usporedbom dobivenog upozorenja analizatora s nalazom mikroskopskog pregleda razmaza periferne krvi na prisutnost nakupina trombocita.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitano je svojstvo prepoznavanja prisutnosti nakupina trombocita na analizatoru Sysmex XN-1000 u 199 uzoraka pune krvi, te na dva analizatora Beckman Coulter DxH800 (DxH800-1 i DxH800-2), za svakog u 200 uzoraka pune krvi. U uzorcima je provjerena prisutnost trombocitnih nakupina svjetlosnom mikroskopijom razmaza periferne krvi obojenih metodom May-Grünwald Giemsa.

**Rezultati:** Od 199 uzoraka analiziranih na Sysmex XN-1000 trombocitne su nakupine potvrđene u 50 uzoraka. Analizom upozorenja s analizatora dobivena je dijagnostička osjetljivost 18% i specifičnost 85%. Od 200 uzoraka analiziranih na DxH800-1 trombocitne su nakupine potvrđene u 29 (dijagnostička osjetljivost: 90%, specifičnost: 58%). Od 200 uzoraka analiziranih na DxH800-2 trombocitne su nakupine potvrđene u 26 i dobivena je dijagnostička osjetljivost 85% i specifičnost 53%.

**Zaključak:** Na svakom analizatoru dobiven je određeni broj lažno pozitivnih i lažno negativnih rezultata.

**H-8 (Oral presentation)****Diagnostic accuracy of Sysmex XN-1000 and Beckman Coulter DxH800 haematology analyzers in detection of platelet clumps in whole blood samples**

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**Introduction:** Pseudothrombocytopenia is a rare phenomenon resulting in falsely decreased platelet count on the haematology analyzer due to *in vitro* platelet aggregation. It is one of the most common causes of incorrect platelet counts with estimated incidence in general population of 0.1 - 0.2%, and in hospital population up to 2%. Although mostly harmless, it can lead to additional laboratory testing, misdiagnosis, inappropriate platelet transfusions, and delayed diagnostic procedures. The aim was to examine diagnostic accuracy of haematology analyzers in detection of platelet clumps, by comparing obtained analyzer flags with microscopic examination of peripheral blood smear.

**Materials and methods:** 199 whole blood samples were tested on Sysmex XN-1000 and 200 samples on two Beckman Coulter DxH800 analyzers (DxH800-1 and DxH800-2). The presence of platelet clumps was verified by light microscopy of peripheral blood smear stained with May-Grünwald Giemsa method.

**Results:** Platelet clumps were confirmed in 50 out of 199 samples analyzed on Sysmex XN-1000, resulting in diagnostic sensitivity of 18% and specificity 85%. Out of 200 samples analyzed on DxH800-1 and DxH800-2, platelet clumps were confirmed in 29 and 26 samples, respectively. Obtained diagnostic sensitivity and specificity on DxH800-1 and DxH800-2 were 90% and 58%, and 85% and 53%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Each analyzer gave a certain number of false positive and false negative results. Since it is a screening method and every positive finding is followed by a confirmation method, it is important that the analyzer has high diagnostic sensitivity. As falsely decreased platelet count may have significant clinical consequences, we believe that it is necessary

S obzirom na to da se radi o metodi probiranja i da nakon pozitivnog nalaza slijedi potvrdna metoda, važno je da analizator ima visoku osjetljivost. Kako nalaz lažno sniženog broja trombocita može imati bitne kliničke posljedice, smatramo da je nužno provesti mikroskopski pregled razmaza periferne krvi u svim uzorcima u kojima je prvi put dobiven broj trombocita  $< 100 \times 10^9/L$ . Dobiveni rezultati upozoravaju na potrebu provođenja ispitivanja osjetljivosti hematoloških analizatora na prisutnost trombocitnih nakupina u sklopu verifikacijskog postupka analizatora.

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### H-9 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Provjera granica kvantifikacije leukocita i trombocita na hematološkom brojaču Sysmex XN-1000

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**Uvod:** Hematološki brojač Sysmex XN-1000 često je korišten i pouzdan analitički uređaj u hematološkim laboratorijima. Cilj istraživanja bio je provjeriti granice kvantifikacije (LoQ) leukocita u tzv. „low white blood cell (WBC)“ načinu rada uređaja koji se sve češće koristi, posebno kod imunosuprimiranih pacijenata, te je laboratorijskom osoblju važno koju dobivenu vrijednost može s pouzdanjem izdati kao točnu i preciznu. Također smo provjerili i granicu kvantifikacije trombocita u uobičajenom načinu rada.

**Materijali i metode:** Za određivanje granice kvantifikacije leukocita koristili smo se nativnim uzorcima s iznimno niskim brojem leukocita ( $< 0,2 \times 10^9/L$ ), te uzorke s višim brojem leukocita ( $> 1,0 \times 10^9/L$ ) razrijeđene plazmom kako bi razrijeđeni uzorak bio što vjerniji matriksu nativnog uzorka. „Low-WBC“ način rada koristi tzv. WDF kanal te svako mjerenje izvodi u triplikatu, čime se povećava preciznost postupka. Kod razrijeđivanja uzoraka za mjerenja trombocita korištena je plazma dobivena dvostrukim centrifugiranjem na 4000 okr/min.

to perform microscopic examination of peripheral blood smear in all samples in which platelet count  $< 100 \times 10^9/L$  was first obtained. These results indicate the need to conduct testing of the sensitivity of haematology analyzers for the presence of platelet clumps as part of the verification procedure.

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### H-9 (Oral presentation)

#### Limit of quantification check for leukocyte and platelet count using Sysmex XN-1000 haematology analyzer

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**Introduction:** The aim of this study was to check the limit of quantification (LoQ) of leukocytes by applying the „low white blood cell“ mode which is used especially for samples of immunosuppressed patients. Therefore, it is very important to know which value can be validated as accurate and precise. Also, as part of our study, we checked the limit of quantification of platelets in the whole blood mode.

**Materials and methods:** To determine the limit of quantification of leukocytes, we used native samples with extremely low leukocyte count ( $< 0.2 \times 10^9/L$ ), as well as samples with higher leukocyte count ( $> 1.0 \times 10^9/L$ ) diluted with plasma so that the diluted sample is as close as possible to the matrix of a native sample. „Low-WBC“ mode uses the WDF channel. It performs every measurement in triplicate and thereby increases procedure accuracy. Dilution of samples for measurements of platelet count was made using the plasma obtained by double centrifuging at 4000 rpm.



**Rezultati:** Isprva smo odredili razinu signala pozadine, te se uvjerili da ona iznosi  $0,00 \times 10^9/L$ . Granicu kvantifikacije leukocita dobili smo eksperimentalno, sustavnim mjerenjem sve nižih koncentracija leukocita (1,0; 0,8; 0,5; 0,2; 0,1; 0,09; 0,07; 0,05; 0,03)  $\times 10^9/L$ . Zatim smo uz prethodno dogovoren kriterij za maksimalno prihvatljivu netočnost i nepreciznost od 10% utvrdili kako je granica kvantifikacije  $0,1 \times 10^9/L$ . Uz iste uvjete odredili smo i granicu kvantifikacije trombocita u nizu od (60, 20, 10, 5, 3)  $\times 10^{12}/L$  te dobili granicu od  $5 \times 10^{12}/L$ .

**Zaključak:** Usporedbom dobivenih rezultata iz naših mjerenja i podataka dobivenih iz priručnika za hematološki brojač XN-1000 utvrdili smo kako su rezultati za leukocite podudarni s deklaracijom proizvođača. Dobiveni rezultat za trombocite bio je bolji od onoga koji je naveo proizvođač ( $10 \times 10^{12}/L$ ) pri našim uvjetima prihvaćanja netočnosti i nepreciznosti. To je vrlo korisno u svakodnevnoj praksi, posebice u specijalističkim laboratorijima ustanova kojima gravitira velik broj onkoloških bolesnika.

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**Results:** First we measured the limit of blank which was  $0.00 \times 10^9/L$ . Leukocyte LoQ was determined experimentally, by continuous measurements of ever lower leukocyte concentrations (1.0, 0.8, 0.5, 0.2, 0.1, 0.09, 0.07, 0.05, 0.03)  $\times 10^9/L$ . Furthermore, using the previously agreed criteria for the highest acceptable imprecision and inaccuracy (bias and CV) of 10%, we determined the leukocyte LoQ at  $0.1 \times 10^9/L$ . By using the same criteria, the platelet LoQ was determined at  $5 \times 10^{12}/L$  after testing a series of samples of (60, 20, 10, 5, 3)  $\times 10^{12}/L$ .

**Conclusion:** Comparing our test results and the data provided by Sysmex XN-1000 manual, we concluded that the leukocyte LoQ results match the data provided by the manufacturer. The result of platelet LoQ was even better than the one declared (at  $10 \times 10^{12}/L$ ), with our criteria of accepting 10% bias and CV. To conclude, these findings are very useful in day-to-day practice, especially for the specialized laboratories of medical institutions that take care of a large number of oncological patients.

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## H-10

### Verifikacija analize leukocitnih biljega na protočnom citometru Navios

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**Uvod:** Imunofenotipizacija protočnom citometrijom, kao sastavnica klasifikacije tumora hematopoetskog i limfoidnog tkiva Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije je nezamjenjiv alat za dijagnozu, klasifikaciju, određivanje stadija i praćenje hematoloških neoplazmi. Cilj ovog rada je procjena uspješnosti analize najčešće korištenih leukocitnih biljega koji se koriste u rutin-

## H-10

### Verification of leukocyte markers determination on Navios flow cytometer

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**Introduction:** Flow cytometry immunophenotyping as a component of WHO Classification of Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Tumors, is an indispensable tool for the diagnosis, classification, staging, and monitoring of haematologic neoplasms. The aim of this study was to verify the analysis of the most relevant leukocyte markers used in routine work in the

skom radu u dijagnostici hematoloških neoplazmi na protočnom citometru Navios, Beckman Coulter.

**Materijali i metode:** Određivanje leukocitnih biljega u medicinsko biokemijskom laboratoriju akreditiranom prema HR EN ISO 15189 za imunofenotipizaciju stanica protočnom citometrijom na protočnom citometru Navios, Beckman Coulter, je provjereno prema CLSI EP-A2 protokolu. Određivani su najučestaliji biljezi: CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD13, CD14, CD19, CD33, HLA D/DR, KAPPA i LAMBDA, koji se rutinski koriste za dijagnostiku hematoloških neoplazmi. Verifikacijski protokol je uključio 5-dnevno određivanje komercijalne kontrolne krvi normalnih vrijednosti u triplikatu, izračun ponovljivosti, međupreciznosti, ukupne laboratorijske preciznosti i proširene mjerne nesigurnosti. Izračuni su izrađeni u Analyze-It statističkom programu.

**Rezultati:** Provedenom verifikacijskom analizom dobiveni rezultati su se kretali ovisno o biljegu u rasponu: za ponovljivost od 0,74 do 9,23%, za međupreciznost od 0,71 do 6,43%, za ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost od 0,92 do 7,80%, što je unutar kriterija prihvatljivosti proizvođača,  $\leq 10\%$  za visoko i  $\leq 40\%$  za nisko područje. Za proširenu mjernu nesigurnost rezultati su bili u rasponu od 1,94 do 15,6%. U rutinskom radu analiza uzoraka pacijenata sa hematološkom neopazmom ili reaktivnom proliferacijom stanica, potvrđena je citomorfološkom ili histopatološkom analizom. Analiza točnosti mjerenja provedena je u odnosu na ciljne vrijednosti ( $\pm 10\%$  za pozivan nalaz) organizatora vanjske procjene kvalitete UKNEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping u shemi Leukaemia Immunophenotyping. Nađene razlike bile su unutar ukupne laboratorijske preciznosti.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacijska analiza određivanih staničnih bijega pokazala je analitičku pouzdanost mjerenja na protočnom citometru Navios, Beckman Coulter, u potpunosti zadovoljavajući kriterije proizvođača kontrolnog materijala. Prihvatljivost za rutinsku primjenu u kliničke svrhe je potvrđena citomorfološkom ili histopatološkom analizom.

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diagnosis of haematological neoplasms on Navios flow cytometer, Beckman Coulter.

**Materials and methods:** Determination of leukocyte markers in the laboratory accredited according to HR EN ISO 15189 norm for immunophenotyping by flow cytometry on Navios flow cytometer, Beckman Coulter, was verified following CLSI EP-A2 protocol. The most relevant markers: CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD13, CD14, CD19, CD33, HLA D / DR, KAPPA and LAMBDA, routinely used for the diagnosis of haematological neoplasms, were tested. The verification protocol included triplicate measurements of commercial control blood for five days consecutively, repeatability calculation, intermediate precision, within laboratory precision, and extended uncertainty measurement. Calculations were made in the Analyze-It statistical program.

**Results:** The results obtained in the verification study varied depending on the marker. Observed interval was 0.74 – 9.23%, 0.71 – 6.43%, and 0.92 – 7.80 %, for repeatability, intermediate precision, and total laboratory precision, respectively, that is within the manufacturer's acceptable criteria,  $\leq 10\%$  in high and  $\leq 40\%$  in low range. For extended measurement uncertainty the results were in range from 1.94 – 15.6%. In routine work, the analysis of patient samples with haematological neoplasm or reactive cell proliferation was confirmed by cytomorphological or histopathological analysis. The accuracy of the measurement was checked in relation to the target values ( $\pm 10\%$  for positive expression) of the UKNEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping External Qualities Organizer in the Leukaemia Immunophenotyping Scheme. The differences found were within laboratory precision.

**Conclusion:** Verification analysis of determined cell markers showed analytical reliability of measurement on Navios flow cytometer, Beckman Coulter, fulfils the manufacturer's specifications. The acceptance for routine use for clinical purposes has been verified by cytomorphological or histopathological analysis.

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**H-11 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Dijagnostička učinkovitost CD200 i CD43 u dijagnozi kronične limfocitne leukemije**

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**Uvod:** Izmijenjen Matutes-ov indeks koji se temelji na imunofenotipu dobivenom protočnom citometrijom od nekoliko biljega (CD5+, CD23+, FMC7-, Smlg<sup>slabo+</sup> i CD22<sup>slabo+</sup>/CD79b<sup>slabo+</sup>) je osnova za dijagnozu B-kronične limfocitne leukemije (B-KLL) zadnjih 15 godina. Cilj ovog rada bio je analizirati da li uvrštenje biljega CD200 i CD43 koji su određivani prema EuroFlow smjernicama u Matutesov sustav poboljšava dijagnostičku točnost B-KLL-a.

**Materijali i metode:** Prospektivno smo procijenili imunofenotip dobiven tijekom 2017. na 185 uzoraka periferne krvi, citoloških punkata tankom iglom koštane srži ili limfnog čvora od pacijenata koji su imali citološkim/histološkim pregledom potvrđene CD5+ B-stanične maligne bolesti, B-KLL ili limfom plaštene zone (MCL). Imunofenotipizacija je provedena HRN EN ISO 15189 akreditiranim metodama za određivanje staničnih biljega na Canto II (Becton Dickinson) ili Navios protočnom citometru (Beckman Coulter)

**Rezultati:** Analiza protočne citometrije je provedena u 185 bolesnika, 161 s dijagnozom B-KLL-a (87%) i 24 s MCL-a (13%). Matutesov indeks bio je 3 - 4 u svim slučajevima B-KLL-a koji su bili CD23+ (60,1%), a 2 - 3 u CD23 negativnim slučajevima (39,9%), što sugerira atipični oblik bolesti ali nepotvrđen drugim dijagnostikama. U slučajevima MCL-a je bio ≤ 1. CD200, CD5 i CD43 bili su najdosljedniji biljezi za B-CLL (100%, 98,1% i 96,7% osjetljivosti) bez obzira na pozitivnost CD23. Nasuprot tome, u MCL je dokazana 100% specifičnost CD200 i 100% i 87,5% osjetljivost za CD5 i

**H-11 (Oral presentation)****Diagnostic utility of CD200 and CD43 in the diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia**

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**Introduction:** The modified Matutes immunophenotypic score based on a few markers (CD5+, CD23+, FMC7-, Smlg<sup>weak+</sup> and CD22<sup>weak+</sup>/CD79b<sup>weak+</sup>) has been the basis for the diagnosis of B-chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (B-CLL) by flow cytometry for the past 15 years. The aim of this study was to analyze whether the utilization of CD200 and CD43 markers following EuroFlow guidelines, to the Matutes score improves the diagnostic accuracy of B-CLL.

**Material and methods:** We prospectively assessed the immunophenotype obtained during 2017 on 185 peripheral blood, bone marrow or fine needle cytological aspirates of lymph node samples of patients having CD5+ B-cell malignancies, B-CLL or mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) stratified by cytological/histological examination. Immunophenotyping was done according to HRN EN ISO15189 accredited methods for cellular markers on Canto II (Becton Dickinson) or Navios Flow Cytometer (Beckman Coulter).

**Results:** Flow cytometry analysis was performed in 185 patients, including 161 cases with a diagnosis of B-CLL (87%) and 24 cases with MCL (13%). Matutes score was 3-4 in all CD23+ B-CLL cases (60.1%), whilst 2 - 3 in CD23 negative cases (39.9%), suggested atypical form of disease without concordance with other diagnostics. In MCL cases score was ≤ 1. CD200, CD5 and CD43 were the most consistent markers for B-CLL (100%, 98.1% and 96.7% of sensitivity, respectively) regardless on CD23 positivity. In opposite, MCL provided 100% specificity of CD200,

CD43. Stoga, uključivanje CD200 i CD43 u naš novi B-KLL indeks je pokazao značajno povećanje točnosti (97,9% nasuprot 79,1% za Matutes indeks,  $P < 0,001$ ), uz zadržanu visoku specifičnost (100% vs. 100%) u ostalim CD5+ malignitetima.

**Zaključak:** Ovi rezultati potvrđuju CD200 i CD43 kao vrijedne biljege u dijagnostici B-KLL-a, i razlikovanju tipičnih slučajeva B-KLL-a od MCL-a, što je u skladu s dosadašnjim literaturnim podacima.

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and 100% and 87.5% sensitivity of CD5 and CD43. Therefore, inclusion of CD200 and CD43 in our new B-CLL flow score showed markedly increased accuracy (97.9% vs. 79.1% for the Matutes score,  $P < 0.001$ ), but retained high specificity (100% vs. 100%) in other CD5+ malignancy.

**Conclusion:** These results confirm CD200 and CD43 as valuable markers in the diagnosis of B-CLL as well as in distinguishing typical cases of B-CLL from MCL, which is in concordance with previous literature data.

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## H-12

### Procjena automatiziranog sustava za analizu razmaza periferne krvi Vision Hema Assist u novorođenčadi

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**Uvod:** U diferencijalnoj krvnoj slici novorođenčadi prisutni su nezreliji oblici leukocita koje hematološki brojač ne prepoznaje. Novorođenčad je vrlo osjetljiva na sepsu, a znakovi često mogu biti nejasni i nespecifični. Pojava i uvećani broj nezrelijih oblika leukocita, posebice nezrelih neutrofila, mogu upućivati na upalu ili sepsu. Cilj istraživanja bio je procijeniti efikasnost automatiziranog sustava za analizu razmaza periferne krvi Vision Hema Assist (West Medica) za diferenciranje leukocita novorođenčadi u odnosu na preporučenu manualnu metodu.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitano je 240 uzoraka razmaza periferne krvi novorođenčadi. Kompletna krvna slika određena je hematološkim brojačem Sysmex XE5000 akreditiranim prema ISO 15189 čiji su rezultati redovito uključeni u vanjsku kontrolu kvalitete neovisnog organizatora Labquality (Finska). Istodobno su izrađeni razmazi periferne krvi za manualni pregled i automatizirani sustav te obojeni prema May-Grünwald-Giemsa postupku. Potom su pregledani pod mikroskopom i automatiziranim sustavom čiji su rezultati korigirani prema potrebi. Relativni udjeli pojedinih vrsta leukocita dobiveni automatiziranim sustavom uspoređeni su Passing-Bablok regre-

## H-12

### Evaluation of automated peripheral blood smear analyzer Vision Hema Assist in newborns

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**Introduction:** The haematology analyzer does not recognize the immature leukocytes that may be present in newborn's peripheral blood. The appearance and increased number of immature types of leukocytes, especially immature neutrophils, may indicate inflammation or sepsis. The aim of our study was to evaluate the efficacy of the automated blood smear analyzer Vision Hema Assist (West Medica) in the differentiation of newborn leukocytes by comparing its results with the results obtained by manual microscopy.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 240 newborn blood samples. Complete blood count was performed by haematology analyzer Sysmex XE5000 using analytical methods accredited according to ISO 15189 and controlled by external quality assurance program of an independent organizer Labquality (Finland). Peripheral blood was simultaneously smeared and May-Grünwald-Giemsa stained for manual inspection and for the automated analyzer which results were corrected if necessary. Results obtained by the analyzer were compared with the results gained by reference manual method using Passing-Bablok regression analysis.

sijskom analizom u odnosu na referentnu manualnu metodu.

**Rezultati:** Regresijskom analizom za segmentirane neutrofilne granulocite [ $y = 1,00$  (- 1,57 do 3,00) + 1,00 (0,95 do 1,05) x], limfocite [ $y = 0,00$  (- 2,03 do 0,00) + 1,00 (1,00 do 1,07) x], monocite [ $y = - 1,00$  (- 1,00 do 0,50) + 1,00 (0,83 do 1,00) x], eozinofilne granulocite [ $y = 0,00$  (0,00 do 0,00) + 1,00 (1,00 do 1,14) x], kao i za nezrele oblike neutrofila (nesegmentirani granulociti [ $y = 0,00$  (- 0,25 do 0,00) + 1,00 (1,00 do 1,13) x], metamijelociti [ $y = 0,00$  (0,00 do 0,00) + 1,00 (1,00 do 2,00) x] i mijelociti [ $y = 0,00$  (0,00 do 0,40) + 0,82 (0,60 do 1,00) x]) nije nađena konstantna ni proporcionalna razlika. Bazofilni granulociti su isključeni iz statističke obrade zbog premalog broja uzoraka u kojima su bili prisutni.

**Zaključak:** Budući da hematološki brojač ne može prepoznati nezrele oblike leukocita i zato što nije nađena statistički značajna razlika između automatiziranog sustava za pregled razmaza i manualnog diferenciranja pod mikroskopom, korištenje automatiziranog sustava Vision Hema Assist (West Medica) značajno skraćuje TAT (engl. *turnaround time*), a standardizacijom predanalitičke i analitičke faze pridonosi većoj točnosti i preciznosti te manjoj mogućnosti pogreške. No, neovisno o odličnim karakteristikama automatiziranog sustava, ipak najveće značenje ima iskustvo stručnjaka za prepoznavanje različitih vrsta leukocita.

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### H-13

#### Evaluacija automatskog hematološkog analizatora Sysmex XN-1000

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**Uvod:** Laboratorijsko određivanje kompletne i diferencijalne krvne slike osnovne su hematološke pretrage u svim medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima, a evaluacija analizatora standardan postupak prije puštanja u rutinski rad. Cilj je verifikacija meto-

**Results:** Regression analysis did not show any constant or proportional difference for segmented neutrophil granulocytes [ $y = 1.00$  (- 1.57 to 3.00) + 1.00 (0.95 to 1.05) x], lymphocytes [ $y = 0.00$  (- 2.03 to 0.00) + 1.00 (1.00 to 1.07) x], monocyte [ $y = - 1.00$  (- 1.00 to 0.50) + 1.00 (0.83 to 1.00) x], eosinophil granulocytes [ $y = 0.00$  (0.00 to 0.00) + 1.00 (1.00 to 1.14) x], as well as for immature leukocytes (band neutrophils [ $y = 0.00$  (- 0.25 to 0.00) + 1.00 (1.00 to 1.13) x], metamyelocytes [ $y = 0.00$  (0.00 to 0.00) + 1.00 (1.00 to 2.00) x] and myelocytes [ $y = 0.00$  (0.00 to 0.40) + 0.82 (0.60 to 1.00) x]). Basophilic granulocytes were excluded from statistical calculations due to the limited number of samples in which they were present.

**Conclusion:** Since the hematology analyzer does not differentiate immature leukocytes and because no statistically significant difference was found between the results obtained by the automated analyzer and the manual microscopy, the use of Vision Hema Assist significantly shortens turnaround time and with the standardization of pre-analytical and analytical phases contributes to greater accuracy, precision and fewer possibilities of errors. However, despite the excellent performance of the automated analyzer, the expert's proficiency in recognition of different types of leukocytes still remains essential.

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### H-13

#### Evaluation of automatic haematological analyzer Sysmex XN-1000

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**Introduction:** Determination of complete blood count (CBC) and differential blood count (DBC) are basic haematological tests, and the evaluation of the analyzer is a standard procedure prior to routine work. Objective was the verification of the CBC pa-

de određivanja parametara kompletne krvne slike na hematološkom analizatoru Sysmex XN-1000, nakon validacije koju je proveo proizvođač.

**Materijali i metode:** Evaluacija je obuhvatila sljedeće parametre: preciznost u seriji (ponovljivost), preciznost iz dana u dan (međupreciznost), točnost, linearnost te usporedba s analizatorom Abbott CELL-DYN Ruby. Međupreciznost je ispitana sa 3 razine komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka puštanih u triplikatu kroz 5 dana. Za ponovljivost analizirane su 3 razine krvi pacijenata u serijama od 10 uzastopnih mjerenja. Za točnost su vrijednosti dobivene mjerenjem međupreciznosti uspoređene sa deklariranim vrijednostima proizvođača kontrola. Linearnost je ispitana razrijeđivanjem visokih koncentracija pojedinih parametara te usporedbom dobivenih i očekivanih vrijednosti. Podaci 40 uspoređenih uzoraka obrađeni su Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati preciznosti i točnosti odgovaraju kriterijima za preciznost i točnost prema Westgardu za sve analite osim rezultati ponovljivosti za niske trombocite. Ispitivanje linearnosti metode zadovoljava zadani kriterij koeficijenta korelacije  $r \geq 0,990$  za sve parametre čime je potvrđena linearnost metode u ispitivanom mjernom području. Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza pokazuje da postoji konstantna razlika u određivanju hemoglobina ( $y = - 3,62 (- 6,88 \text{ do } - 0,70) + 1,03 (1,00 \text{ do } 1,06) x$ ). Postoji i proporcionalna razlika između dviju metoda kod određivanja leukocita ( $y = 0,04 (- 0,18 \text{ do } 0,17) + 0,97 (0,94 \text{ do } 0,99) x$ ) i trombocita ( $y = - 4,41 (- 11,57 \text{ do } 3,41) + 1,24 (1,19 \text{ do } 1,28) x$ ). Ne postoji konstantna niti proporcionalna razlika za eritrocite i hematokrit.

**Zaključak:** Metoda određivanja kompletne krvne slike na analizatoru Sysmex XN-1000 zadovoljava zadane kriterije kratke verifikacije metode i prihvatljiva je za rutinski rad.

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rameters determination on the hematological analyzer Sysmex XN-1000 after validation by the manufacturer.

**Materials and methods:** Evaluation included repeatability, intermediate precision, accuracy, linearity and comparison with the Abbott CELL-DYN Ruby analyzer. Intermediate precision was tested with 3 levels of commercial controls in triplicate for 5 days. For repeatability, 3 levels of patients blood were analyzed in series of 10 consecutive measurements. For accuracy, values obtained by measuring intermediate precision were compared with the control target values. Linearity was tested by diluting high concentrations of certain parameters and comparing obtained with the expected values. Data from 40 compared sets of samples was analyzed by Passing-Bablok regression.

**Results:** Repeatability, intermediate precision and accuracy correspond to the Westgard criteria for all analytes except the repeatability results for low platelets. Result of linearity testing meets the given criterion of correlation coefficient  $r \geq 0,990$  for all parameters, thus confirming the linearity in the examined measuring range. Regression analysis shows that there is a constant difference in hemoglobin determination ( $y = - 3.62 (- 6.88 \text{ to } - 0.70) + 1.03 (1.00 \text{ to } 1.06) x$ ). There is also a proportional difference between the two methods in leukocyte ( $y = 0.04 (- 0.18 \text{ to } 0.17) + 0.97 (0.94 \text{ to } 0.99) x$ ) and platelets determination ( $y = - 4.41 (- 11.57 \text{ to } 3.41) + 1.24 (1.19 \text{ to } 1.28) x$ ). There is no constant or proportional difference for erythrocytes and haematocrit.

**Conclusion:** The CBC determination method on the Sysmex XN-1000 analyzer meets the criteria for method verification and is acceptable for routine work.

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H-14

### Usporedba automatizirane analize sedimentacije eritrocita na Alcor iSED analizatoru i referentne Westergren metode

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**Uvod:** Referentna metoda za određivanje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita je Westergren metoda. Cilj ispitivanja bio je uvesti alternativnu automatiziranu metodu Alcor iSED® u rutinski rad, sukladno preporukama Međunarodnog odbora za standardizaciju u hematologiji (International Council for Standardization in Hematology–ICSH).

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacija metode je provedena prema CLSI protokolu EP15-A3 primjenom kontrolnih uzoraka Seditrol u dvije razine (2 - 16 mm/3.6ks, odnosno 52 - 120 mm/3.6ks). Prema proizvođaču, dozvoljeni koeficijenti varijacije za preciznost iznose 39% za normalnu i 20% za patološku razinu. Princip mjerenja metode je kvantitativna protočna fotometrija tijekom nastajanja rouleaux formacija u K<sub>3</sub>EDTA uzorku, dok se Westergren metoda temelji na mjerenju brzine kojom eritrociti u uzorku s natrijevim citratom tijekom jednog sata pređu udaljenost od vrha plazme do gornjeg sloja eritrocita. Zbog utjecaja anemije na sedimentacijski proces, statistički su obrađeni podaci za 113 pacijenata s vrijednostima hematokrita unutar referentnog intervala (0,356 - 0,530 L/L). Passing Bablok i Bland Altman analizom u statističkom programu Analyse-it.

**Rezultati:** Koeficijenti varijacije za ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost iznose 14,0% za normalnu, odnosno 3,1% za patološku razinu. Prema rezultatima usporednih ispitivanja primjenom Passing Bablok regresijske analize dobivena je statistički značajna konstantna razlika [ $y = 2,14 (1,17 \text{ do } 3,00) + 1,06 (1,00 \text{ do } 1,17) x$ ]. Bland Altman analiza pokazala je postojanje statistički značajne razlike gdje Alcor iSED mjeri u prosjeku za 3,7 veću sedimentaciju u odnosu na Westergren metodu.

**Zaključak:** S ciljem uvođenja nove alternativne automatizirane metode u rutinski rad, provedena je verifikacija metode čiji su rezultati bili unutar kriterija prihvatljivosti proizvođača. Dobivene razlike ispitivanjem uzoraka pacijenata moguće su zbog korištenja različiti-

H-14

### The comparison between Alcor iSED automated measurement of erythrocyte sedimentation rate and reference Westergren method

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**Introduction:** Westergren method is the reference method for measuring erythrocyte sedimentation rate. The aim of study was to introduce an alternative automated method by Alcor iSED analyzer in routine work, according to International Council for Standardization in Hematology recommendations.

**Materials and methods:** Method verification was performed according to CLSI EP15-A3 protocol, using two levels of Seditrol control samples (2 - 16 mm/3.6ks and 52 - 120 mm/3.6ks). According to manufacturer, acceptable coefficients of variation for precision were 39% for normal and 20% for pathological level. The methodology is based on quantitative flow photometry measurement during rouleaux formation in K<sub>3</sub>EDTA sample, while the Westergren method measures the rate at which erythrocytes in the sodium citrate sample pass the distance for one hour from the top of the plasma to the upper layer of erythrocytes. Because of the anemia effect on the sedimentation process, data for 113 patients with hematocrit values within the reference interval (0.356 - 0.530 L/L) were used and analyzed using Passing Bablok and Bland Altman analysis in the Analyse-it program.

**Results:** Coefficients of variation for total laboratory precision were 14.0% for normal and 3.1% for pathological level. Results of the comparative studies using Passing Bablok regression analysis yielded a statistically significant constant difference [ $y = 2.14 (1.17 \text{ to } 3.00) + 1.06 (1.00 \text{ to } 1.17) x$ ]. Bland Altman analysis showed statistically significant difference where Alcor iSED measured an average of 3.7 higher sedimentation rate compared to Westergren method.

**Conclusion:** Verification results were within the acceptable manufacturer's criteria. Differences in measurement are possible due to various methodology. Although Alcor iSED method significantly reduces measurement time and enables the establishment of internal quality control by using commercial

tih analitičkih principa mjerenja. Iako se primjenom Alcor iSED metode značajno smanjuje vrijeme određivanja te omogućuje uspostava unutrašnje kontrole kvalitete primjenom komercijalnih kontrolnih uzorka kao ključnom koraku u standardizaciji predanalitičkih i analitičkih procesa mjerenja i povećanju preciznosti i točnosti rezultata, prije uvođenja u rutinsku primjenu neophodna je provjera primjenjivanih referentnih intervala te upoznavanje korisnika s analitičkim karakteristikama nove metodologije.

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## S – Hemostaza

### S-1

#### Antiagregacijski učinak flavanona

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**Uvod:** Flavonoidi su velika grupa niskomolekularnih polifenolnih spojeva, široko zastupljenih u biljkama. Antiagregacijsko djelovanje flavonoida (flavanona) prisutno je testovima agregacije uz ADP kao induktore agregacije. Minimalna antiagregacijska koncentracija (MINaAC) ispitivanog flavonoida 0,1 - 1,0 µM ostvariva *in vivo* (prehranom) objašnjava blagotvorni učinak prehrane bogate polifenolnim spojevima u prevenciji srčano-žilnih bolesti, te predstavlja mogući preanalitički čimbenik pri izvođenju testova agregacije. Cilj rada bio je ispitati antiagregacijski učinak flavanona u testovima agregacije potaknute kolagenom, TRAP-6, arahidonskom kiselinom i ristocetinom.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci krvi zdravih dobrovoljaca koji nisu na antiagregacijskoj terapiji, uzeti su u epruvetu od 4,5 mL s natrijevim citratom (9NC 0,105 M Vacutainer BD, SAD) unutar 4 sata prije ispitivanja. Otopina flavanona u dimetil-sulfoksidu (DMSO, Sigma Aldrich, SAD) postigla je konačne koncentracije

control samples as a key step in standardizing pre-analytical and analytical measurement processes and increases precision and accuracy of the results, it is necessary to check the applied reference intervals and familiarize users with the analytical characteristics of the new methodology.

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## S – Haemostasis

### S-1

#### Antiaggregatory effect of flavanone

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**Introduction:** Flavonoids are a large group of low molecular polyphenols, which are widely distributed in plants. Antiaggregatory effect of flavonoids (flavanone) is present in assessment of ADP-induced platelet aggregation. Beneficial effect of polyphenol rich diet in prevention of cardiovascular disease and possible preanalytical factor in platelet aggregation testing could be explained with minimal antiaggregatory concentration (MINaAC) of flavonoid tested, 0.1 - 1.0 µM, achievable *in vivo* through everyday diet. Aim of this study was to examine antiaggregatory effect of flavanone in collagen, TRAP-6, arachidonic acid and ristocetin-induced aggregation tests.

**Materials and methods:** Freshly drawn blood samples from healthy volunteer who are not on antiaggregatory therapy, are collected in tubes (4.5 mL) with sodium citrate (9NC 0.105 M Vacutainer BD, SAD). Flavanone in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO, Sigma Aldrich, SAD) solution reached final blood concentration from 488 to 0.03 µM. Platelet aggre-



u punoj krvi od 488 do 0,03  $\mu\text{M}$ . Agregacija trombocita u parovima uzoraka pune krvi s i bez flavanona (kontrola s DMSO) određena je impedancijskom agregometrijom (Multiplate, Roche Diagnostics, Njemačka), uz uporabu ADP-a, kolagena, TRAP-a 6, arahidonske kiseline i ristocetina kao agonista agregacije. Rezultati mjerenja iskazani su u arbitrarnim jedinicama, izmjerene površine ispod krivulje (AUC). Rezultati su iskazani kao MINaAC flavanona tj. koncentracija flavanona u krvi koja uzrokuje statistički značajno (jednosmjerni *t*-test,  $P < 0,05$ ) smanjenje agregacije trombocita u usporedbi s kontrolnim uzorkom u tri neovisna uzorka dobrovoljaca.

**Rezultati:** MINaAC za flavanon uz agoniste ADP, kolagen, TRAP-6, arahidonsku kiselinu i ristocetin su kako slijedi: 0,063  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0,037$ ); 0,5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0,018$ ); 2,0  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0,032$ ); 0,5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0,004$ ); 0,5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0,027$ ).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ukazuju da flavanon ima statistički značajan učinak na smanjenje agregacije trombocita i da je antiagregacijski učinak flavanona neovisan o induktoru agregacije. Temeljem učinka flavanona na rezultate testova agregacije trombocita izražene u MINaAC, flavanon u prehrani može biti preanalitički čimbenik značajan za rezultat testova agregacije trombocita.

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S-2

### Procjena utjecaja *in vitro* hemolize na pretrage protrombinsko vrijeme, aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme i fibrinogen prema specifikacijama proizvođača

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**Uvod:** Cilj rada je bio istražiti učinak *in vitro* hemolize na protrombinsko vrijeme (PV), aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV) i fibrinogen te procijeniti rezultate prema pragu za interferenciju hemolize koji za svaku pretragu specificira proizvođač.

gation of paired blood samples, with and without flavanone, was measured by *Multiplate* whole blood aggregation (Roche Diagnostics, Germany) with ADP, collagen, TRAP-6, arachidonic acid and ristocetin as agonists. Results are expressed in arbitrary units, area under the curve (AUC). Minimal antiaggregatory concentration of flavanone is the lowest concentration which caused statistically significant (one-tailed *t*-test,  $P < 0.05$ ) reduction in platelet aggregation when compared with control sample (blood with DMSO) for three independent samples.

**Results:** Flavanone MINaAC when ADP, collagen, TRAP-6, arachidonic acid and ristocetin are used as agonist, are as follows: 0.063  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0.037$ ); 0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0.018$ ); 2.0  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0.032$ ); 0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0.004$ ); 0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $P = 0.027$ ).

**Conclusion:** Result indicate that antiaggregatory effect of flavanone is statistically significant and aggregation agonist independent. Based on flavanone effect on platelet aggregation through MINaAC, flavanone from everyday diet could be important pre-analytical factor when platelet aggregation tests are performed.

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S-2

### Evaluation of *in vitro* haemolysis influence on prothrombin time, activated partial thrombin time and fibrinogen results in relation to manufacturer specifications

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**Introduction:** The aim of the study was to investigate effect of *in vitro* haemolysis on prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thrombin time (aPTT) and fibrinogen and to evaluate results according to manufacturer haemolysis threshold specifications for each method.

**Materijali i metode:** PV (udio), APTV (s) i fibrinogen (g/L) su određeni kod 61 para hemoliziranih i ponovno prikupljenih ne-hemoliziranih citratnih plazmi, redom s reagensima Innovin, Actin FS i Multifibren U na Sysmex-u CA1500 (Siemens, Njemačka). Indeks hemolize (IH) određen je na analizatoru Architect c4000 (Abbott, SAD). Za svaku pretragu između parova uzoraka izračunato je odstupanje (bias) te je uspoređeno s ukupnom dozvoljenom pogreškom i kritičnom razlikom radi određivanja analitičke i klinički značajne promjene. Dobiveni rezultati su promatrani prema pragu za interferenciju hemolize koje specifičira proizvođač (10 g/L za PV i fibrinogen, te 6 g/L za APTV).

**Rezultati:** Lagana hemoliza je zabilježena kod 41 ( $IH_1 = 0,30 - 0,93$  g/L), umjerena kod 15 ( $IH_2 = 1,06 - 1,83$  g/L) i izrazita kod 5 ( $IH_3 = 2,45 - 7,04$  g/L) uzoraka. U usporedbi s odgovarajućim ne-hemoliziranim uzorcima svake podskupine, kod  $IH_1$  i  $IH_3$  uzoraka je dobiven veći udjel PV-a (0,88 vs. 0,85,  $P = 0,001$ ; 0,94 vs. 0,89,  $P = 0,038$ ), a kod  $IH_1$  i veća koncentracija fibrinogena (4,4 vs. 4,1;  $P = 0,031$ ). U odnosu na ne-hemolizirane skraćeni APTV je zabilježen kod svih hemoliziranih uzoraka ( $IH_1$ : 24,7 vs. 26,1s,  $P < 0,001$ ;  $IH_2$ : 25,6 vs. 27,6,  $P = 0,020$ ;  $IH_3$ : 23,4 vs. 24,7,  $P = 0,029$ ). Analitičko odstupanje je zabilježeno kod ukupno 23/61 PV-a, 26/61 APTV-a i 29/61 fibrinogena (promatrajući unutar IH podskupina za svaki parametar kod  $> 20\%$  uzoraka). Kliničko odstupanje dobiveno je za ukupno 19/61 APTV-a, 4/61 PV-a i 5/61 fibrinogena s time da su sva odstupanja zabilježena kod uzoraka s  $IH \leq 2,45$  g/L.

**Zaključak:** Interferencija hemolize za ispitivane pretrage je klinički značajna i pri koncentracijama hemoglobina manjim od granice koju navodi proizvođač što sugerira da svaki laboratorij mora verificirati postavljene i odrediti vlastite kriterije za prihvaćanje hemolitičnih uzoraka.

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**Materials and methods:** PT (proportion), aPTT (s) and fibrinogen (g/L) were determined in 61 pairs of haemolysed and subsequently re-collected non-haemolysed citrated plasmas using Innovin, Actin FS and Multifibren U reagents, respectively, on Sysmex CA1500 (all Siemens, Germany). Haemolysis index (HI) was determined on Architect c4000 (Abbott, USA). Bias between corresponding samples was calculated and compared to total allowable error and reference change values to define analytically and clinically relevant variations. Obtained results were evaluated according to manufacturer's haemolysis threshold settings (10 g/L for PT and fibrinogen; 6 g/L for aPTT).

**Results:** Mild haemolysis ( $HI_1 = 0.30 - 0.93$  g/L) was observed in 41, moderate ( $HI_2 = 1.06 - 1.83$  g/L) in 15 and severe ( $HI_3 = 2.45 - 7.04$ g/L) in 5 samples. In comparison to non-haemolysed samples, PT was overestimated in  $HI_1$  and  $HI_3$  subgroups (0.88 vs. 0.85,  $P < 0.001$ ; 0.94 vs. 0.89,  $P = 0.038$ , respectively), whereas fibrinogen was overestimated in  $HI_1$  subgroup (4.4 vs. 4.1,  $P=0.031$ ). Furthermore, aPTT was significantly shortened in all HI subgroups ( $HI_1$ : 24.7 vs. 26.1s,  $P < 0.001$ ;  $HI_2$ : 25.6 vs. 27.6s,  $P = 0.02$ ;  $HI_3$ : 23.4 vs. 24.7s,  $P = 0.029$ ) compared to non-haemolysed samples. Analytically relevant bias was obtained in total for 23/61 PT, 26/61 aPTT and 29/61 fibrinogen results (considering HI subgroups it was significant in  $> 20\%$  of samples for each studied parameter). Clinically relevant bias was obtained for 19/61 aPTT, 4/61 PT and 5/61 fibrinogen results, in all samples with  $HI \leq 2.45$  g/L.

**Conclusion:** Haemolysis interference on investigated parameters was clinically relevant even at haemoglobin concentrations below manufacturer's threshold limits, suggesting that each laboratory should verify proposed and establish its own criteria for haemolysis acceptance.

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### S-3 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Povezanost povišene koncentracije lipoproteina(a) i nasljednih polimorfizama trombofilije s dobi nastanka i lokalizacijom arterijskog ishemijskog moždanog udara u djece**

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**Uvod:** Arterijski ishemijski moždani udar u djece (AIMU) rijetka je bolest s višestrukom etiologijom. Razni genski polimorfizmi mogu uzrokovati hiperkoagulabilnost i dovesti do nastanka ishemijske lezije u različitim dijelovima mozga. Također, povišena koncentracija lipoproteina(a) (Lp(a)) ( $\geq 0,3$  g/L) utvrđena je kao jedan od rizičnih čimbenika za nastanak AIMU. Cilj istraživanja bio je ispitati povezanost povišene koncentracije Lp(a) s dobi nastanka i lokalizacijom AIMU, te sa specifičnim nasljednim polimorfizmima trombofilije.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Koncentracija Lp(a) izmjerena je u 70 djece (29 djevojčica, 41 dječak) s perinatalnim (N = 30) i AIMU u dječjoj dobi (N = 40) (Tina-quant Lipoprotein (a), Cobas c501, Roche Diagnostics, Švicarska). Genotipizacija polimorfizama FV Leiden, FV HR2, FII G20210A,  $\beta$ -fibrinogen -455G>A, FXIII-A Val34Leu, PAI-1 4G/5G, HPA-1, MTHFR C677T, MTHFR A1298C, ACE I/D i apoE  $\epsilon$ 2-4 napravljena je uporabom CVD Strip Assay (ViennaLab, Austrija).

**Rezultati:** Statistički značajna (P = 0,012) povišena koncentracija Lp(a) (0,58 (0,35 – 1,92) g/L) dobivena je u 18/70 djece: u 14/40 djece s AIMU u dječjoj dobi (0,62 (0,35 – 1,92) g/L) i u 4/30 djece s perinatalnim AIMU (0,46 (0,35 – 0,96) g/L). Povišena koncentracija Lp(a) izmjerena je u 13/49 djece s kortikalnim AIMU (4/27 perinatalni, 9/22 u dječjoj dobi) i 5/21 djece sa subkortikalnim AIMU. Statistički značajna poveza-

### S-3 (Oral presentation)

#### **Association of elevated lipoprotein(a) concentrations and inherited thrombophilia polymorphisms with time of onset and localisation of paediatric arterial ischemic stroke**

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**Introduction:** Pediatric arterial ischemic stroke (AIS) is rare disease with multifactorial etiology. Diverse gene polymorphisms can cause hypercoagulability and ischemic lesion in different parts of the brain. Also, elevated lipoprotein(a) (Lp(a)) ( $\geq 0.3$  g/L) has been identified as a risk factor for AIS. The aim of this study was to investigate association of elevated Lp(a) with a) age and localization of AIS, b) specific inherited thrombophilia polymorphisms.

**Subjects and methods:** Lp(a) concentration was determined in 70 children (29 girls, 41 boys) with perinatal (N = 30) and childhood AIS (N = 40) (Tina-quant Lipoprotein (a), Cobas c501, Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland). Genotype analysis of polymorphisms FV Leiden, FV HR2, FII G20210A,  $\beta$ -fibrinogen -455G>A, FXIII-A Val34Leu, PAI-1 4G/5G, HPA-1, MTHFR C677T, MTHFR A1298C, ACE I/D and apoE  $\epsilon$ 2-4 was performed using CVD Strip assay (ViennaLab, Austria).

**Results:** Statistically significant (P = 0.012) elevated Lp(a) concentrations (0.58 (0.35 - 1.92) g/L) were identified in 18/70 children: in 14/40 with childhood AIS (0.62 (0.35 - 1.92) g/L) and in 4/30 cases with perinatal AIS (0.46 (0.35 - 0.96) g/L). Elevated Lp(a) concentrations were observed in 13/49 children with cortical AIS (4/27 perinatal, 9/22 childhood) and 5/21 children with subcortical AIS. In children with perinatal AIS, elevated Lp(a) concentrations were signi-

nost između povišene koncentracije Lp(a) i genotipa MTHFR 1298CC dobivena je u djece s perinatalnim AIMU ( $P = 0,014$ ). Apo  $\epsilon 2\epsilon 3$  genotip bio je češće zastupljen u djece s povišenom koncentracijom Lp(a) (5/18 u usporedbi s 5/52), bez obzira na tip AIMU. Genotip apo  $\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$  bio je češći u djece s normalnom koncentracijom Lp(a) (9/52 u usporedbi s 1/18). FV Leiden identificiran je jedino u djece s koncentracijom Lp(a)  $< 0,3$  g/L (7/52).

**Zaključak:** Dokazana je povezanost povišenih koncentracija Lp(a) s AIMU u dječjoj dobi bez obzira na lokalizaciju ishemijske lezije. Kombinacija genotipa MTHFR 1298CC i povišenog Lp(a) povećava rizik za perinatalni AIMU.

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S-4

### Utjecaj temperature centrifugiranja na rezultate koagulacijskih pretraga

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**Uvod:** Centrifugiranje je jedan od predanalitičkih čimbenika važan za dobivanje točnih rezultata koagulacijskih pretraga. Preporuka je uzorke krvi za koagulacijske pretrage centrifugirati na sobnoj temperaturi. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati koliki je utjecaj snižene temperature centrifugiranja na rezultate koagulacijski pretraga (PV, APTV, TV, fibrinogen, D-dimeri i antitrombin).

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanju je sudjelovalo 40 ispitanika. Svim ispitanicima krv je vađena u dvije epruvete za koagulacijske pretrage. Prva epruveta centrifugirana je 15 minuta na 4000 okr/min na 21 °C, a druga 15 minuta na 4000 okr/min na 6 °C. U obje epruvete određivani su PV, APTV, TV, fibrinogen, D-dimeri, antitrombin na analizatoru STA Compact Max (Diagnostica Stago, Francuska) s pripadajućim reagensima. Za usporedbu brojčanih podataka s normalnom raspodjelom primijenjen je parni Student t-test, a za one s nenormalnom raspodjelom Wilcoxon test. Statistički značajnom razlikom sma-

ficantly associated with MTHFR 1298CC genotype ( $P = 0.014$ ). Apo  $\epsilon 2\epsilon 3$  genotype was more frequently detected in children with elevated Lp(a) concentrations (5/18 compared to 5/52), both in childhood and perinatal AIS. In contrast, apo  $\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$  genotype was more frequently detected in children with normal Lp(a) levels (9/52 compared to 1/18). FV Leiden was identified in children with Lp(a) concentration  $< 0.3$  g/L, only (7/52).

**Conclusion:** The study revealed that elevated Lp(a) concentrations were more frequently associated with childhood AIS, regardless of ischemic lesion localization. Combination of MTHFR 1298CC genotype with elevated Lp(a) concentrations increases the risk for perinatal AIS.

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S-4

### Influence of centrifuge temperature on coagulation test results

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**Introduction:** Centrifugation is one of pre-analytical factor important for obtaining accurate results of coagulation tests. Centrifugation of blood samples for coagulation tests at room temperature is recommended. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of lowered centrifuge temperature on the coagulation testing (PV, APTT, TT, fibrinogen, D-dimer and antithrombin).

**Materials and methods:** The study involved 40 patients. For all patients blood was collected into two tubes for coagulation testing. The first tube was centrifuged for 15 minutes at 4000 rpm at 21 °C, and the second 15 minutes at 4000 rpm at 6 °C. PV, APTT, TT, fibrinogen, D-dimer, antithrombin were measured on STA Compact Max analyzer (Diagnostica Stago, France) with appropriate reagents in both tubes. For comparison of data with normal distribution paired Student t-test, and for those with abnormal distribution Wilcoxon test was used.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. Bland Altman plot was used

trane su vrijednosti  $P < 0,05$ . Bland Altmanova analiza korištena je za procjenu odstupanja srednjih vrijednosti razlika mjerenja i za procjenu intervala podudarnosti unutar kojeg se nalazi 95% razlika između mjerenja. Dozvoljeni kriteriji odstupanja temeljili su se na biološkoj varijabilnosti.

**Rezultati:** Na Bland Altmanovom prikazu srednja vrijednost razlika mjerenja iznosila je 0,3% (95% CI - 1,4 do 1,9) za PV, - 0,9% (95% CI - 2,1 do 0,4) za APTV, 0,3% (95% CI - 1,3 do 1,9) za fibrinogen, - 0,5% (95% CI - 1,5 do 0,6) za antitrombin, - 0,1% (95% CI - 1,0 do 0,8) za TV i - 1,4% (95% CI - 8,7 do 5,9) za D-dimere. Nije nađena statistički značajna razlika između mjerenja za PV ( $P = 0,330$ ), APTV ( $P = 0,065$ ), Fibrinogen ( $P = 0,453$ ), antitrombin ( $P = 0,504$ ), TV ( $P = 0,914$ ) i D-dimere ( $P = 0,734$ ).

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati pokazuju da ne postoji statistički niti klinički značajna razlika u rezultatima PV-a, APTV-a, TV-a, fibrinogena, D-dimera, antitrombina ako se uzorci umjesto na sobnoj temperaturi centrifugiraju na 6 °C.

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for evaluate a bias between the mean differences, and to estimate an agreement interval, within which 95% of the differences between measurements fall. Biological variability was considered as acceptance criteria.

**Results:** Bias between the mean differences were as follows: 0.3% (95% CI - 1.4 to 1.9) for PV, - 0.9% (95% CI - 2.1 to 0.4) for APTT 0.3% (95% CI - 1.3 to 1.9) for fibrinogen, - 0.5% (95% CI - 1.5 to 0.6) for antithrombin, - 0.1% (95% CI - 1.0 to 0.8) for TT and - 1.4% (95% CI - 8.7 to 5.9) for D-dimer. There was no statistically significant difference for PV ( $P = 0.330$ ), APTT ( $P = 0.065$ ), fibrinogen ( $P = 0.453$ ), antithrombin ( $P = 0.504$ ), TT ( $P = 0.914$ ) and D-dimer ( $P = 0.734$ ).

**Conclusion:** The results of PV, APTT, TT, fibrinogen, D-dimer, antithrombin show that there is no statistically or clinically significant difference if the samples are centrifuged at 6 °C instead of room temperature.

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## S-5

### Utjecaj biljnih ekstrakata vrsta porodice Lamiaceae na primarnu hemostazu

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**Uvod:** Biljne vrste porodice Lamiaceae (*Calamintha nepeta* L., *Lavandula angustifolia* Mill., *Mentha x piperita* L., *Ocimum basilicum* L., *Origanum vulgare* L. i *Rosmarinus officinalis* L.) često se primjenjuju kao biljne droge ili dijetetski proizvodi. Po svom kemijskom sastavu bogate su flavonoidima, spojevima koji pokazuju antiagregacijsko djelovanje. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati utjecaj ekstrakata biljnih droga na agregaciju trombocita potaknutu ADP-om.

## S-5

### Influence of Lamiaceae family plant extracts on primary haemostasis

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**Introduction:** Plant species of Lamiaceae family (*Calamintha nepeta* L., *Lavandula angustifolia* Mill., *Mentha x piperita* L., *Ocimum basilicum* L., *Origanum vulgare* L. and *Rosmarinus officinalis* L.) are often used as medicinal drugs or dietary supplements. They are rich in flavonoids, compounds that show antiaggregatory activity. The objective of this study was to examine the influence of medicinal plant extracts on platelet aggregation induced by ADP.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitivanje agregacije trombocita provedeno je općom impedancijskom metodom namijenjenom za praćenje agregacije trombocita (ADPtest, Multiplate, Roche, Švicarska). Analiza je provedena na punoj krvi 10 zdravih dobrovoljaca. Rezultati su iskazani kao minimalna koncentracija ekstrakta koja uzrokuje statistički značajno smanjenje agregacije trombocita pri čemu je primijenjen Studentov *t*-test.

**Rezultati:** Uzorci biljnih ekstrakata pokazali su antiagregacijski učinak u rasponu koncentracija 0,2 do 200 mg/L. Najjači utjecaj na smanjenje agregacije imao je ekstrakt vrste *Ocimum basilicum* 0,2 mg/L ( $P = 0,044$ ).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ispitivanja antiagregacijskog učinka biljnih vrsta porodice Lamiaceae ukazuju da biljni pripravci, dijetetski proizvodi ili sastojci prehrane mogu utjecati na agregaciju trombocita.

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**Materials and methods:** Platelet aggregation assays were conducted by generally used impedance method (ADPtest, Multiplate, Roche, Switzerland). Analysis was conducted on whole blood of 10 volunteers. Results were expressed as minimal concentration of extract that can statistically reduce platelet aggregation based on Student's *t*-test.

**Results:** Plant extracts samples have shown antiaggregatory effect in concentration range from 0.2 to 200 mg/L. The strongest effect was of *Ocimum basilicum* extract of 0.2 mg/L ( $P=0.044$ ).

**Conclusion:** Results of this antiaggregatory study show that Lamiaceae family plant extracts based herbal products, dietary supplements and foods can influence platelet aggregation.

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S-6

### Analitička validacija kvantitativne imunokemijske metode za određivanje antigena proteina C na uređaju mini VIDAS

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog rada bio je analitička validacija kvantitativne metode određivanja antigena proteina C (PC:Ag) u plazmi automatiziranom enzimokemijskom metodom s fluorescentnom detekcijom na uređaju mini VIDAS (bioMérieux, Francuska).

**Materijali i metode:** Analitička validacija provedena je prema postupniku za verifikaciju laboratorijskih metoda EP15-A2 (CLSI), a uključila je provjeru preciznosti u seriji (ponovljivost) i iz dana u dan (međupreciznost), točnosti, mjerne nesigurnosti, linearnosti i referentnog intervala. Za provjeru preciznosti analiziran je komercijalni kontrolni uzorak C1 (patološka razina) te sekundarni koagulacijski standard SSC/ISTH Lot #3 (normalna razina) u triplicatu kroz pet dana, a dobiveni podatci korišteni su i za izračun

S-6

### Analytical validation of the quantitative immunoassay for protein C antigen determination on the mini VIDAS instrument

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**Introduction:** The aim of our study was to perform analytical validation of the automated enzyme linked fluorescent assay for quantitative determination of protein C antigen (PC:Ag) on the mini VIDAS instrument (bioMérieux, France).

**Materials and methods:** Analytical validation was performed according to the CLSI EP15-A2 protocol and included determination of within-run and between-run precision, accuracy, measurement uncertainty, and verification of linearity and reference interval. Precision study was performed by analyzing a commercial control sample C1 (pathological level) and the SSC/ISTH secondary coagulation standard Lot #3 (normal level) for five consecutive days in triplicate. Obtained data were also used for

točnosti. Provjera linearnosti provedena je analizom pet razrijeđenja uzorka bolesnika s vrijednošću PC:Ag iznad gornje granice linearnosti, dok je referentni interval verificiran ispitivanjem 20 uzoraka ispitanika populacije za koju će se primijenjivati.

**Rezultati:** Ispitivanjem ponovljivosti koeficijent varijacije (CV) za kontrolni uzorak C1 iznosio je 1,7%, a za SSC/ISTH standard 2,1%, što zadovoljava kriterije proizvođača (1,9 – 3,5%), dok su za međupreciznost dobiveni CV iznosili 1,8% za kontrolni uzorak C1 te 1,2% za standard SSC/ISTH, čime je dobiven znatno niži CV od proizvođača (3,6 – 4,8%). Provjerom točnosti dobiveno je odstupanje od očekivane vrijednosti od 3,2% za kontrolni uzorak C1 te - 2,5% za standard SSC/ISTH. Mjerna nesigurnost iznosila je 5,8%. Ispitivanjem linearnosti potvrđena je linearnost koju je definirao proizvođač (1 – 120%). Provjerom referentnog intervala svi ispitanici imali su vrijednosti unutar očekivanoga raspona, čime se zadovoljavaju kriteriji prihvatljivosti (> 90%) te se referentni interval prihvaća (65 – 145%).

**Zaključak:** Validacija metode za određivanje PC:Ag na uređaju mini VIDAS u potpunosti je ispunila analitičke kriterije prihvatljivosti te se pokazala pogodnom za primjenu u rutinskom radu.

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## S-7

### Transport uzoraka krvi utječe na agregaciju trombocita

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**Uvod:** Predanalitički zahtjev određivanja agregacije trombocita je da se uzorak krvi ne podvrgava mućkanju i pretjeranom miješanju. Tijekom transporta do laboratorija, uzorak krvi biva podvrgnut takovim uvjetima. Budući da postoji potreba za dostavom uzoraka krvi iz suradnih zdravstvenih ustanova i laboratorija, ispitivali smo utječe li transport na rezultate ispitivanja agregacije trombocita.

accuracy determination. Method linearity was assessed by analyzing five dilutions of a human plasma sample with PC:Ag value exceeding the upper linearity limit while the reference interval was verified using 20 samples of healthy volunteers.

**Results:** Within-run coefficient of variation (CV) for the control sample C1 was 1.7% and for SSC/ISTH standard 2.1%, and met the requirements defined by the manufacturer (1.9 - 3.5%). Between-run CV for the C1 control sample was 1.8%, and for the SSC/ISTH standard 1.2%, being significantly lower than the ones defined by the manufacturer (3.6 - 4.8%). Accuracy study yielded a bias of 3.2% for the C1 control sample and - 2.5% for the SSC/ISTH standard. Measurement uncertainty was 5.8%. Method linearity defined by the manufacturer was confirmed (1 - 120%). PC:Ag values of all healthy volunteers were within the proposed reference range (65 - 145%) and fulfilled the acceptance criteria (> 90%) so that this reference range can be implemented.

**Conclusion:** Validation study of the automated PC:Ag analysis on the mini VIDAS instrument fulfilled all recommended criteria and can be implemented in routine practice.

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## S-7

### Transport of blood samples affects platelet aggregation testing

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**Introduction:** According to guidelines for platelet function testing, blood samples should not be subjected to excessive mixing or agitation. During transport, blood samples are inevitably being mixed and agitated. Since there is a need of delivering blood samples from distanced laboratories and wards, we investigated the influence of transport on platelet function testing.

**Materijali i metode:** Krv je uzorkovana na antikoagulans heparin sistemom Vacutainer (Becton Dickinson). Uzorak je podijeljen na dva alikvota. Jedan alikvot je podvrgnut mućkanju tijekom 1h (simulacija transporta) dok je drugi alikvot mirovao. Nakon toga je određena agregacija trombocita uz agoniste ADP i ristocetin metodom impedancijske agregometrije na uređaju Multiplate Analyzer, Roche. Statistička analiza učinjena je Wilcoxonovim testom pomoću programa MedCalc Statistical Software pri čemu je odabrana statistička značajnost  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** Agregacija trombocita s ADP-om u uzorcima krvi podvrgnutih simulaciji transporta je statistički značajno niža  $P = 0,016$  u odnosu na agregaciju trombocita u uzorcima koji su mirovali prije analize. Nije nađena statistički značajna razlika između agregacije trombocita s ristocetinom  $P = 0,074$  u uzorcima podvrgnutim simulaciji transporta u odnosu na uzorke koji su mirovali prije analize, iako je u 8 od 10 uzoraka agregacija bila niža nakon simulacije transporta.

**Zaključak:** Simulacija transporta je pokazala da mućkanje uzoraka krvi tijekom transporta u trajanju od 1 h značajno utječe na rezultate agregacije trombocita s agonistima ADP-om i ristocetinom, te su stoga takvi uzorci neprihvatljivi za analizu.

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### S-8 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Laboratorijsko ispitivanje trombocitopenije izazvane heparinom u Hrvatskom zavodu za transfuzijsku medicinu u razdoblju od 2011. do 2016. godine

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**Uvod:** Trombocitopenija izazvana heparinom (HIT) ozbiljna je nuspojava tijekom liječenja heparinom. Ovaj klinički sindrom u središtu je interesa prvenstveno radi ozbiljnih trombo-embolijskih komplikacija koje mogu imati i smrtni ishod. Trombocitopenija izazvana heparinom tipa II je imunološki (protuti-

**Materials and methods:** Blood samples were drawn using BD Vacutainer heparin blood collection tubes. We divided blood sample into two aliquots. The first one was left to rest and the second one was placed on a shaker for one hour. Afterwards, platelet aggregation was measured in whole blood on impedance aggregometer Multiplate (Roche) using ADP and ristocetin. Wilcoxon test for paired samples was used for assessment of significance of difference between data sets. MedCalc statistical software (Mariakerke, Belgium) was used for data analysis. P-value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** Statistically significant difference  $P = 0.016$  was found for platelet aggregation with ADP between samples placed on shaker (transport simulation) and left to rest. Aggregation with ristocetin between shaken samples and not shaken did not show statistically significant difference  $P = 0.002$ . However, 8 out of 10 platelet aggregation results were notably lower after transport simulation.

**Conclusion:** The effect of transport in duration of one hour on platelet aggregation studies is both statistically and clinically significant. Hence, samples delivered from distanced laboratories and wards are unacceptable for analysis.

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### S-8 (Oral presentation)

#### Laboratory investigation of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia in the Croatian Institute of Transfusion Medicine in the period from 2011 to 2016

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**Introduction:** Heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) is a serious complication of heparin administration. This clinical syndrome has come into the focus of interest, primarily because of the severe thromboembolic complications that may lead to lethal outcome. Heparin induced thrombocytopenia II



jelima) posredovan sindrom, obilježen smanjenjem broja trombocita i sklonošću trombo-embolijskim komplikacijama. Cilj ovoga rada bio je evaluacija primjene smjernica za laboratorijsko ispitivanje i liječenje HIT-a u Hrvatskom zavodu za transfuzijsku medicinu (HZTM) u razdoblju od 2011. do 2016. godine.

**Materijali i metode:** Kliničko-laboratorijski podaci za 521 bolesnika kojima je u HZTM učinjeno laboratorijsko ispitivanje za HIT. „4T“ bodovanje primjenjeno je za kliničku procjenu vjerojatnosti HIT-a. Laboratorijsko ispitivanje za HIT učinjeno je testom za dokazivanje protutijela na kompleks heparina i trombocitnog faktora 4 (anti-HPF4), u gel mikrokolonama (PAGIA, Biorad, Švicarska), lateralnom imunodifuzijom (LFIA, Stic HIT Expert, Stago, Francuska) i enzimsko-imunološkom metodom (HPF4-EIA-IgG, Lifecodes, SAD). Za funkcijski test primjenjena je metoda agregacije trombocita potaknute heparinom (HIPA). Faktor Xa inhibitor; fondaparinux primjenjen je kao prvi zamjenski lijek za heparin.

**Rezultati:** Pre-test vjerojatnost za HIT izražena „4T“ bodovanjem određena je u 297 od 521 (57%) bolesnika. Osam od 297 (29,6%) imalo je malu vjerojatnost, 178 (59,9%) umjerenu i 31 (10,5%) veliku vjerojatnost za HIT. Anti-PF4 protutijela bila su pozitivna u 89 od 521 (17,1%) bolesnika u gel i/ili metodi imunodifuzije i u 62 (12%) u enzimsko-imunološkoj metodi. U 37 od 62 (59,7 %) bolesnika s pozitivnim EIA testom, bio je pozitivan funkcijski test (HIPA). Četrdeset od 62 bolesnika liječeno je inhibitorom FXa; fondaparinux-om.

**Zaključak:** Primjena nacionalnih smjernica za laboratorijsko ispitivanje HIT-a unaprijedila je kvalitetu laboratorijskog ispitivanja, poboljšala tumačenje rezultata testova i njihove primjene u odabiru zamjenskoga lijeka za heparin u bolesnika s HIT-om II.

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is immunologically (antibodies) mediated syndrome, characterized by decrease in platelet number connected with increased inclination to thromboembolic incidents. The aim of this study was to evaluate the use of guidelines for laboratory diagnosis of HIT in Croatian Institute of Transfusion Medicine (CITM) in the period from 2011 to 2016.

**Materials and methods:** Clinical and laboratory data for 521 consecutive patients with suspected HIT, referred to CITM. „4T score“ system has been used as a clinical judgement for HIT probability. Laboratory testing for HIT was done by antibody assays for anti-heparin antibodies to platelet factor 4 (PF4) using particle gel method (HPF4 PaGia, Biorad, Switzerland), lateral flow immunodiffusion (LFIA, Stic HIT Expert, Stago, France) and enzyme-immunologic method (HPF4 EIA-IgG, Lifecodes, USA). Heparin induced platelet aggregation assay (HIPA) was used as functional confirmation assay. FXa inhibitor; fondaparinux was used for replacement therapy for heparin.

**Results:** Pre-test probability of HIT by „4Ts“ was done in 297 of 521 (57%) patients. Eight of 297 (29.6%) had low probability, 178 (59.9%) moderate and 31 (10.5%) high probability for HIT. Anti-PF4 antibodies were found positive in 89 of 521 (17.1%) patients by gel or LIFA method and 62 (12%) by EIA method. In 37 of 62 (59.7%) EIA positive patients functional assay (HIPA) was positive. Forty of 62 patients were treated with Factor Xa inhibitor; fondaparinux.

**Conclusion:** Implementation of national guidelines for laboratory diagnosing of HIT upgrade the quality of laboratory diagnostic, improve interpretation of laboratory test results and their relevance and patient treatment with substitute therapy for heparin in HIT II patients.

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## I – Izvananalitička faza

### I-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Predanalitički čimbenici pri određivanju paratireoidnog hormona

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**Uvod:** Paratireoidni hormon (PTH) je peptid odgovoran za regulaciju koncentracije kalcija u krvi i poznato je da ima vrlo kratko poluvrijeme života. Hrvatske nacionalne smjernice za uzorkovanje venske krvi navele su da uzorci za određivanje PTH odmah nakon uzorkovanja trebaju biti stavljeni na led. Cilj našeg istraživanja bio je istražiti stabilnost PTH odmah i 4 sata nakon uzorkovanja, te s ili bez leda koristeći dvije metode.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno u Kliničkom zavodu za kemiju, KBC Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb, Hrvatska. Sudjelovalo je 20 pacijenata i za svakog pacijenta uzorkovana su dva uzorka venskog seruma koristeći epruvete s aktivatorom zgrušavanja bez gel separatora (Vacuette, GrainerBio-One, Kremsmünster, Austrija). Prva epruveta je odmah nakon uzorkovanja stavljena na led, a druga epruveta je ostavljena na sobnoj temperaturi. Nakon 30 minuta uzorci su centrifugirani na 1800 x g 10 minuta i određena je koncentracija PTH na analizatorima Abbott Architect i2000SR (Abbott, Abbott Park, IL, SAD) i Roche Cobas e411 (Roche, Mannheim, Njemačka) koristeći originalne reagense (druga generacija PTH imuno testa). Uzorci koji nisu izvađeni na ledu nakon prve analize ostavljeni su 4 sata na sobnoj temperaturi i ponovno analizirani na oba analizatora. Za statističku analizu korištena je Bland Altman analiza, Medcalc statistički softver (MedCalc software, Ostend, Belgija). Konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje procijenjeno je usporedbom 95% intervala pouzdanosti s 0.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati su pokazali da ne postoji statistički značajna razlika u PTH koncentraciji u uzorcima uzorkovanim na ledu i onima ostavljenim na sobnoj temperaturi, prije centrifugiranja, na oba analizatora. Međutim, za uzorke ostavljene na sobnoj temperaturi 4 sata Bland Altman analiza pokazala je konstantno i proporcionalno statistički značajno odstu-

## I – Extraanalytical phase

### I-1 (Oral presentation)

#### Preanalytical factors in parathyroid hormone measurement

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**Introduction:** Parathyroid hormone (PTH) is peptide responsible for regulating calcium blood concentrations and is known to have very short half-life. Croatian national guidelines for venipuncture state that samples should be placed on ice immediately after drawing when PTH is ordered. Aim of our study was to investigate PTH stability in serum samples immediately and 4 hours after venipuncture with and without ice using two methods.

**Materials and methods:** This study was carried out in Department of Clinical Chemistry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Centre, Zagreb, Croatia. Twenty outpatients participated and for each patient, two serum blood samples were drawn in tubes with serum clot activator without gel separator (Vacuette, GrainerBio-One, Kremsmünster, Austria). One tube was immediately placed on ice and second was left on room temperature. After 30 minutes, samples were centrifuged at 1800xg for 10 minutes, PTH concentration was measured on Abbott Architect i2000SR (Abbott, Abbott Park, IL, USA) and Roche Cobas e411 (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) using original reagents (second generation PTH immunoassay). Samples which were not drawn on ice were left for 4 hours on room temperature and analyzed again on both analyzers. For statistical evaluation Bland Altman analysis was done using MedCalc statistical software (MedCalc software, Ostend, Belgium). Constant and proportional bias was evaluated by comparing 95% confidence interval limits with 0.

**Results:** Our results have shown that there was no statistical significant difference in PTH concentration from samples drawn on ice and those left on room temperature before centrifugation on both analyzers. However, for samples left 4 hours at room temperature, Bland-Altman analysis showed constant and proportional statistical significant difference for

panje za obje metode (7,8 pg/mL, 11,4% za Abbott i 3,8 pg/mL, 6,9% za Roche).

**Zaključak:** Uzorci ne trebaju odmah nakon uzorkovanja biti stavljani na led, međutim moraju biti analizirani unutar 4 sata od uzorkovanja.

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both methods (7.8 pg/mL, 11.4% for Abbott and 3.8 pg/mL, 6.9% for Roche, respectively).

**Conclusion:** Samples do not have to be placed on ice immediately after sampling, however, samples have to be analyzed within 4 hours.

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I-2

## Učestalost predanalitičkih grešaka u laboratoriju Kantonalne bolnice Zenica u Bosni i Hercegovini

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**Uvod:** Predanalitička faza pokazuje najveću učestalost grešaka u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici. Cilj rada je identificirati stupanj najčešćih predanalitičkih grešaka i dokumentirati postoji li različit stupanj grešaka između bolničkih i izvanbolničkih pacijenata.

**Materijali i metode:** Ova retrospektivna studija je provedena na Odjelu medicinsko-biohemijske i imunološke dijagnostike Kantonalne bolnice Zenica, za vrijeme tromjesečnog razdoblja, od prosinca 2016. do ožujka 2017. godine. Analizirani su podaci o odbijenim uzorcima krvi u laboratorijskom informacijskom sustavu. Za bolničke pacijente, predanalitički postupci su izvedeni od strane medicinskog osoblja na kliničkim odjelima. Što se tiče vanbolničkih pacijenata, one su izvođene od strane laboratorijskih tehničara, u našem laboratoriju i na udaljenim mjestima prikupljanja uzoraka.

**Rezultati:** Ukupno 35 343 uzorka krvi pacijenata (25 545 bolničkih i 9798 vanbolničkih) je primljeno u naš laboratorij, za vrijeme trajanja studije. Identificirali smo 602 (1,7%) odbijena uzorka zbog predanalitičkih grešaka, uglavnom zbog hemolize (48,50%) i prisutnog ugruška (39,87%). Preostali uzorci su odbijeni zbog neprikladnog volumena uzorka, neprikladne epruvete i identifikacijskih grešaka (7,81%, 2,16% i 1,66%, redom). Postotak bolničkih odbijenih uzoraka

I-2

## The prevalence of preanalytical errors in the laboratory of the Cantonal Hospital Zenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**Introduction:** The preanalytical phase shows the highest prevalence of errors in laboratory diagnostics. The study aim was to identify the rates of the most common preanalytical errors and to document if there are different error rates between inpatients and outpatients.

**Materials and methods:** This retrospective study was conducted at the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Immunology Diagnostics, Cantonal Hospital Zenica, from December 2016 until March 2017. Data on rejected blood samples in the laboratory information system were analyzed. For inpatients, preanalytical procedures are performed by the nursing staff in the clinical wards. Regarding outpatients, they are performed by laboratory technicians, in our laboratory and at peripheral collection sites.

**Results:** A total of 35,343 patient blood samples (25,545 inpatients and 9798 outpatients) were received during the study in our laboratory. We identified 602 (1.70%) rejected samples because of preanalytical errors, mostly due to haemolysis (48.50%) and clotted samples (39.87%). The remaining samples were rejected because of inappropriate sample volume, inappropriate container and identification errors (7.81%, 2.16% and 1.66%, respectively). The pro-

je bio 8,7 puta veći nego vanbolničkih uzoraka. Dok je postotak odbijenih uzoraka zbog hemolize, prisutnog ugruška, neprikladnog volumena i neprikladne epruvete bio veći kod bolničkih pacijenata (20,5; 12,1; 2,3 i 1,3 puta veći, redom), postotak odbijenih uzoraka zbog identifikacijskih grešaka je bio 8.0 puta veći kod vanbolničkih pacijenata, uglavnom sa udaljenih mjesta prikupljanja uzoraka.

**Zaključak:** Veći udio predanalitičkih grešaka su dokazan je na kliničkim odjelima u odnosu na to kad laboratorijsko osoblje izvodi predanalitičke postupke. Identifikacijske greške su češće kod vanbolničkih pacijenata sa udaljenih mjesta prikupljanja uzoraka. Uspostavljanje periodične edukacije bolničkih zaposlenika u procesu poboljšanja predanalitičke kvalitete i uvođenje informacijske tehnologije na udaljenim mjestima prikupljanja uzoraka bi moglo smanjiti predanalitičke greške.

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portion of inpatient rejected samples was 8.7-fold higher than in the outpatient samples. While the proportions of inpatient rejected samples because of haemolysis, clotted samples, inappropriate sample volume and inappropriate container were higher than in the outpatient samples (20.5-, 12.1-, 2.3- and 1.3-fold higher, respectively), proportion of rejected samples because of identification errors was 8.0-fold higher in the outpatient, mostly from the peripheral collection sites, than in the inpatient samples.

**Conclusion:** Higher preanalytical error rates are demonstrated with clinical ward rather than laboratory staff performing preanalytical procedures. Identification errors are higher in outpatients from peripheral collection sites. Establishment of periodic training of hospital workers in process of improvement of preanalytical quality and introduction of information technology in the peripheral collection sites, could reduce preanalytical errors.

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### I-3

#### Smanjenje predanalitičkih varijacija u određivanju lipida

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**Uvod:** Određivanje lipida važno je u procjeni rizika za razvoj kardiovaskularnih bolesti. Većina pogrešaka u određivanju lipida događa se u predanalitičkoj fazi koje mogu nastati zbog utjecaja nelaboratorijskog osoblja u procesu laboratorijskog testiranja (lijeknici, medicinske sestre i vadioci krvi). Ove pogreške nisu pod laboratorijskom kontrolom i mogu dovesti do ozbiljnih pogrešaka, čak i pogrešne dijagnoze pacijenta. Cilj ovog rada bio je procijeniti učinak pogrešaka zbog neadekvatne pripreme pacijenta i nepravilnog uzorkovanja te načine njihovog smanjenja. **Materijali i metode:** U svrhu ovog rada korišteni su podaci iz konsenzus dokumenata ekspertnih grupa i manjih istraživanja.

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#### Reduction of some pre-analytical variations in lipid assessment

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**Introduction:** Testing of lipids is an important part in cardiovascular disease risk assessment. Most errors affecting laboratory testing of lipids occur in the pre-analytical phase and some of them may be due to action taken by others involved in the testing process (e.g., physicians, nurses and phlebotomists). These errors are beyond the laboratory's control and can potentially lead to a serious patient misdiagnosis. The aim of this study was to underline the effect of errors at proper patient preparation and phlebotomy and how to reduce them.

**Materials and methods:** Extensive data derived from consensus opinion of experts and small studies were used.

**Rezultati:** Post od 10 do 14 sati noć prije vađenja krvi smanjuje varijacije u određivanju lipida. Određivanje natašte i postprandijalno mora biti komplementarno ali ne međusobno isključivo. Različita patološka stanja uključujući infekcije, dijabetes, nefrotski sindrom i srčane bolesti kao i pretilost te trudnoća utječu na lipidni profil. Produljena staza (> 1 minuta) i promjena položaja tijela od ležećeg do uspravnog mogu utjecati na koncentraciju kolesterola i triglicerida. Raspad eritrocita tijekom hemolize može promijeniti vrijednosti ukupnog i HDL kolesterola te triglicerida. Literaturni podatci pokazuju da za određena stanja i predanalitičke varijacije smjernice ne postoje.

**Zaključak:** Priprema pacijenta i pravilno uzorkovanje predstavljaju izvore varijacije prilikom određivanja lipida i potrebno ih je standardizirati. Važna je edukacija pacijenta u svrhu pravilne pripreme za uzorkovanje. Bolja edukacija i suradnja između kliničara i laboratorija može pridonijeti smanjenju predanalitičkih pogrešaka.

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**Results:** The results showed that an overnight fasting period of 10 to 14 hours prior to blood collection is preferred for minimizing variations. Non-fasting and fasting measurements should be complementary but not mutually exclusive. Disease states such as infection, diabetes, nephrotic syndrome and heart disease and conditions such as obesity and pregnancy influence lipid profiles. Prolonged tourniquet application (> 1 minute) and changing the position from supine to upright may affect cholesterol and triglyceride levels. As hemolysis break red cells HDL, triglycerides, and cholesterol level may be altered. Literary data also showed that sometimes guidelines do not exist.

**Conclusion:** Preparation of patient and phlebotomy can be controllable sources of variation and should be carefully standardized. Communicating these requirements to patients is important to ensure appropriate preparation for testing. Better education and inter-departmental cooperation between clinical laboratory and medical personnel outside can contribute in quantitatively largest reduction of all pre-analytical errors.

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### Iskustva s automatiziranom pretragom mokraće u dnevnoj praksi privatnog laboratorija

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**Uvod:** Uvođenjem automatiziranog pregleda mokraće u svakodnevnu laboratorijsku praksu podigla se razina kvalitete i skratilo se vrijeme izdavanja nalaza kod obrade velikog broja uzoraka mokraće (engl. *turnaround time, TAT*).

**Materijali i metode:** Ukupno 34.874 uzoraka mokraće obrađeno je tijekom razdoblja od dvije godine u dva privatna laboratorija: LabPlus Zagreb (Lab1) i LabPlus Split (Lab2). Oba laboratorija koriste isti analitički postupak na automatiziranom analizatoru: La-

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### Experience in automated urinalysis in private laboratory's daily routine

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**Introduction:** Introduction of automated urinalysis provides the best quality of the examination of large numbers of urine samples and produces comprehensive routine urinalysis reports with significantly shorter turnaround time (TAT).

**Materials and methods:** A total of 34,874 urine samples were processed through two years from two private laboratories: LabPlus Zagreb (Lab1) and LabPlus Split (Lab2). Both laboratories used the same analytical procedure on an automated urine

bUMat (čitač trakica, LabStrip 11 Plus test strips) u kombinaciji sa UriSed analizatorom (77 Elektronika Kft, Budimpešta, Mađarska). UriSed koristi tehnologiju mikroskopije bazirane na kivetama (engl. *cuvette based microscopy*, CBM) u kojima se nakon aspiracije uzorka u kivetu i centrifugiranja stvara tanki sloj sedimenta mokraće. Sediment se tada analizira svjetlosnim mikroskopom i obrađuje digitalnom kamerom kako bi se kategorizirale čestice pregledom 15 vidnih polja. Čestice se svrstavaju u kategorije na osnovu veličine i oblika koristeći program za obradu snimljenih fotografija sedimenta mokraće (Auto image evaluation module, AIEM). Svaki sporni uzorak se dodatno pregledava manualnom mikroskopijom prema Europskim smjernicama za analizu mokraće.

**Rezultati:** Ukupno 14.576 (75%) Lab1 i 10.962 (71%) Lab2 rezultata pretrage mokraće bilo je negativno. Mikrohematurija (< 3 Erc/vid.polju) je pronađena u 9134 (47%) Lab1 i 7874 (51%) Lab2 uzoraka mokraće. Patološki elementi (cilindri, kristali, dismorfni eritrociti, bubrežne stanice, lipidi, gljivice, Trichomonas) pronađeni su u 8162 (42%) Lab1 i 6176 (40%) Lab2 uzoraka mokraće. 30% pozitivnih uzoraka dodatno je pregledano manualnom mikroskopijom.

**Zaključak:** Prema našem iskustvu, prava vrijednost automatizirane pretrage mokraće je u mogućnosti učinkovitog probira i izvještavanja uzoraka mokraće u kojima nema patoloških elemenata, čime se postiže znatna ušteda vremena i rada. Ipak, pokazalo se da nije moguće u potpunosti zamijeniti mikroskopski pregled mokraće koji i dalje ostaje „zlatni standard“. Isto tako, uvođenje automatizirane pretrage mokraće smanjuje učinak ljudske greške u identifikaciji i ručnom upisu rezultata.

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analyzer: LabUMat (urine strip reader, LabStrip U11 Plus test strips) combined with UriSed (microscopic urine sediment analyzer (77 Elektronika Kft, Budapest, Hungary). UriSed uses cuvette based microscopy (CBM) technology by producing a monolayer of urine sediment by centrifugation in a special cuvette. The sediment is analyzed by a bright field microscope and digital camera to capture and categorize particles in 15 images based upon size and shape using image processing software (Auto Image Evaluation Module, AIEM). Every doubtful sample was re-evaluated with manual microscopy according to the recommendation by the European Urinalysis Group.

**Results:** 14,576 (75%) Lab1 and 10,962 (71%) Lab2 results of urine findings were negative. Microhematuria (< 3 Ery/hpf) was found in 9134 (47%) Lab1 and 7874 (51%) Lab2 samples. Pathological findings (casts, crystals, dysmorphic erythrocytes, renal tubular cells, lipids, yeasts, Trichomonas) were found in 8162 (42%) Lab1 and 6176 (40%) Lab2 patients. 30% of positive samples was re-evaluated with manual microscopy according to the recommendation by the European Urinalysis Group.

**Conclusion:** In our opinion, true value of automated urinalysis lies in the ability to efficiently screen and report urine samples that lack pathological findings, saving a considerable amount of time and labor. However, it is not a complete substitute for microscopic sediment examination which is still required as a „gold standard“. Also, the implementation of automated urinalysis in general practice reduces human errors in patient identification and transcription of results.

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## Kraće vrijeme centrifugiranja može utjecati na kvalitetu uzorka

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**Uvod:** Proizvođači epruveta preporučuju centrifugiranje serumskih uzoraka pri uvjetima: 10 - 15 minuta uz brzinu centrifugiranja 1800 - 2200 x g. Ukoliko se uzorci centrifugiraju pri neodgovarajućim uvjetima, kvaliteta uzoraka može biti smanjena zbog preostalih fibrinskih niti i višeg stupnja hemolize u uzorcima. Cilj ovog istraživanja je ispitati utječe li kraće vrijeme centrifugiranja na kvalitetu uzorka.

**Materijali i metode:** U Kliničkom zavodu za kemiju, KBC Sestre milosrdnice uvjeti centrifugiranja serumskih uzoraka bili su 10 minuta na 2876 x g na centrifugi HettichRotanta 46RSC (Hettich, Tuttlingen, Njemačka). Tijekom 10 dana u rujnu 2017. vrijeme centrifugiranja je smanjeno na 5 minuta. Uzorci s preostalim fibrinskim nitima zabilježeni su iz Architect c8000 i i2000 analizatora (Abbott, Abbott Park, IL, SAD) kao greške u aspiraciji uzoraka. Indeks hemolize (H) mjeren je na analizatoru Architect c8000 za sve serumske uzorke. Hemolitični uzorci smatrani su svi s indeksom  $H > 0,5$ . Udio uzoraka s preostalim fibrinskim nitima i hemolizom izračunat je prema ukupnom broju uzoraka koji su zaprimljeni u laboratorijski informacijski sustav. Rezultati su prikazani kao brojevi i postotci. Udio hemoliziranih uzoraka i uzoraka s aspiracijskim greškama uspoređen je hi-kvadrat testom za usporedbu proporcija za skupine s različitim vremenima centrifugiranja od 10 i 5 minuta. Za izračun su korišteni Excel i MedCalc (Ostend, Belgija). P vrijednost  $< 0,05$  određena je kao statistički značajna.

**Rezultati:** Udio uzorka s preostalim fibrinskim nitima bio je veći kod uzoraka koji su centrifugirani 5 minuta u odnosu na one centrifugirane 10 minuta (2,78% (161 od ukupno 5796) vs. 2,14% (139 od 6506), uz  $P = 0,025$ ). Veći udio hemoliziranih uzoraka primijećen je kod 5-minutnog centrifugiranja (4,60% (235 od 5113)) u odnosu na 10-minutno centrifugiranje (3,65% (219 od 5993),  $P = 0,013$ ).

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## Shorter centrifugation time could compromise sample quality

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**Introduction:** According to the tube manufacturers recommended centrifugation conditions of serum samples are 10 - 15 minutes on 1800 - 2200 x g. If samples are not properly centrifuged, serum quality could be compromised due to the leftover fibrin in samples and higher degree of hemolyzed samples. The aim of this study was to investigate if shorter centrifugation time affects sample quality.

**Materials and methods:** In Department of Clinical Chemistry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center serum samples were routinely centrifuged for 10 minutes at 2876 x g on HettichRotanta 46RSC (Hettich, Tuttlingen, Germany). In September 2017 for 10 days, time of centrifugation was reduced to 5 minutes. Samples with leftover fibrin were recorded from Architect c8000 and i2000 analyzers (Abbott, Abbott Park, IL, USA) as aspiration errors. Index of hemolysis (H) was measured on Architect c8000 for all serum samples. Samples with H index  $> 0.5$  were considered as hemolyzed. Proportion of samples with leftover fibrin and hemolysis was calculated against the total number of samples received from the laboratory information system. Results are presented as numbers and percentages. Proportions of hemolyzed and samples with aspiration errors were compared for 10 minutes and 5 minutes period with Chi-squared test for comparison of two proportions. Excel and MedCalc (Ostend, Belgium) were used for all calculations. P value  $< 0.05$  was considered as significant.

**Results:** Proportion of samples with leftover fibrin was higher when centrifuged for 5 minutes than for 10 minutes (2.78% (161 out of total 5796) vs. 2.14% (139 out of 6506), respectively,  $P = 0.025$ ). Higher proportion of hemolyzed samples was observed in 5 minutes centrifugation (4.60% (235 out of 5113) vs. 3.65% (219 out of 5993) for 5 and 10 minutes, respectively,  $P = 0.013$ ).

**Zaključak:** Prilikom centrifugiranja od 5 minuta za-bilježen je veći udio hemolitičnih uzoraka i uzoraka s preostalim fibrinskim nitima. Kraće vrijeme centrifugiranja može ugroziti kvalitetu uzorka.

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### Utjecaj vrste epruveta i uvjeta centrifugiranja na rezultate analize sedimenta mokraće

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**Uvod:** Prema Europskim smjernicama za analizu mokraće, optimalni uvjeti za pripremu mokraćnog sedimenta podrazumijevaju centrifugiranje standardiziranog volumena mokraće tijekom 5 minuta na 400 x g, ako je moguće na 4 °C. Naš je cilj bio ispitati utjecaj različitih vrsta epruveta i uvjeta centrifugiranja na rezultate analize sedimenta mokraće usporedbom rezultata dobivenih trima modificiranim postupcima za pripremu sedimenta s onim preporučenim.

**Materijali i metode:** Prospektivno prikupljeni slučajni uzorci mokraće od ukupno 47 bolesnika su dostavljeni u laboratorij u zatvorenim spremnicima za mokraću. Standardizirani volumen uzorka alikvotiran je u 4 različite epruvete za centrifugiranje: 2 staklene konkavnog dna (REF i GC), plastičnu oblog dna (PR) i plastičnu konkavnog dna (PC). Referentna (REF) epruveta centrifugirana je sukladno preporukama, dok su ostale (GC, PR i PC) centrifugirane 8 minuta na 550 x g. Nativni mokraćni sediment pripremljen je odlijevanjem supernatanta i analiziran pod svjetlosnim mikroskopom. Rezultati dobiveni modificiranim postupcima uspoređeni su s rezultatima preporučenog postupka koristeći Wilcoxonov parni i hi-kvadrat test. Dobiveni rezultati za eritrocite i leukocite su podijeljeni u 6 kategorija, a klinički značajne razlike ispitane kappa statistikom.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati za pločaste stanice, bakterije, sluz, gljivice i kristale dobiveni analizom sedimenta iz

**Conclusion:** When samples are centrifuged for 5 minutes, higher proportions of hemolyzed and clotted samples are observed. Shorter centrifugation time compromises sample quality.

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### Impact of tube type and centrifugation conditions on urine sediment analysis results

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**Introduction:** According to the European Urinalysis Guidelines, optimal urine sediment preparation for analysis is achieved by centrifuging a standardized sample volume for 5 minutes at 400 x g, preferably at 4 °C. Our aim was to estimate the impact of tube type and centrifugation conditions on sediment analysis results by comparing of 3 modified sediment preparation protocols to the recommended one.

**Materials and methods:** Random urine samples from 47 patients were prospectively collected in closed urine cups and standardized volumes transferred into different centrifugation tubes: 2 conical bottom glass tubes (REF and GC), a round bottom plastic (PR) and a conical bottom plastic (PC) tube. The referent (REF) glass tube was processed as *per* recommended, while the remaining tubes (GC, PR and PC) were centrifuged at 550 x g for 8 minutes. Native urine sediments were prepared by supernatant decanting and analysed using bright-field microscopy. Sediment analysis results obtained from modified protocols were compared to REF results, using Wilcoxon-paired and Chi-squared tests. Clinically significant differences were tested by dividing leucocytes and erythrocytes results in 6 categories and agreement assessment using kappa statistics.

**Results:** No difference was found when results for squamous epithelial cells, bacteria, mucus, fungi



GC, PR i PC epruvete nisu bili statistički značajno različiti u usporedbi s rezultatima iz REF epruvete. Broj leukocita u sedimentu iz GC epruvete ( $P = 0,045$ ), te broj leukocita ( $P < 0,001$ ) i eritrocita ( $P = 0,025$ ) iz sedimenta PC epruvete bili su viši u usporedbi s rezultatima iz REF epruvete. Nije nađena razlika u broju leukocita i eritrocita iz sedimenta PR epruvete u usporedbi s rezultatima iz REF epruvete. Kappa vrijednosti pokazale su vrlo dobru podudarnost rezultata leukocita i eritrocita između svih ispitivanih postupaka pripreme sedimenta mokraćne.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivani modificirani postupci pripreme sedimenta mokraćne, koristeći različite epruvete i uvjete centrifugiranja, ne utječu na pouzdanost dobivenih rezultata analize. Točni rezultati analize mokraćnog sedimenta mogu se dobiti rutinskom primjenom svakog od tri ispitana modificirana postupka.

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#### I-7 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Klinički značaj utjecaja hemolize na 25 biokemijskih mjernih postupaka

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**Uvod:** Deklaracije proizvođača o interferenciji hemolize na ispitivane parametre često su nepotpune, neharmonizirane, a točnost navoda teško je provjeriti. Cilj rada je ispitati utjecaj četiri stupnja hemolize na 25 biokemijskih mjernih postupaka te procijeniti klinički značaj interferencije hemolize.

**Materijali i metode:** Za ispitivanje je korišteno 17 uzoraka venske krvi u koje su neposredno nakon uzorkovanja dodani serumi s visokim vrijednostima određenih parametara kako bi se utjecaj hemolize ispitao u širem rasponu rezultata. Iz svakog uzorka izdvojen je 1mL krvi za pripremu hemolizata postupkom naglog zamrzavanja-odmrzavanja. Nakon centrifugiranja preostale količine krvi i tretiranog alikvota, nehemolitičan serum je podijeljen u 5 alikvota. Dodavanjem hemolitičnog seruma priređena su 4 stupnja hemolize s indeksom hemolize (IH) i raspo-

and crystals in GC, PR and PC were compared to the REF tube. Leukocytes were statistically higher in GC tubes ( $P = 0.045$ ), while erythrocytes and leukocytes were statistically higher in PC tubes compared to REF results ( $P = 0.025$  and  $P < 0.001$ , respectively). No difference was found comparing erythrocytes and leukocytes from PR tubes to REF. The weighted kappa showed very good agreement for leukocytes and erythrocytes between all tested sediment preparation protocols.

**Conclusion:** The investigated protocols for urine sediment preparation, using modified tube types and centrifugation conditions, did not affect the reliability of reported results. Thus, accurate urine sediment analysis results can be obtained by the routine implementation of either of these modified preanalytical protocols.

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#### I-7 (Oral presentation)

### Clinically significant influence of haemolysis on 25 biochemistry parameters

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**Introduction:** Manufacturers' recommendations on haemolysis influence on tests parameters are often scarce, non-harmonized and therefore should be evaluated prior to implementation in routine work. The aim of this study was to investigate influence of haemolysis on four different haemolysis levels for 25 biochemistry parameters and to evaluate the clinical significance of hemolysis in order to prevent unnecessary sample rejection.

**Materials and methods:** A total of 17 venous blood samples collected in gel-separator tubes were included in the study. The samples were immediately spiked with high concentrations of tested parameters and a 1 mL aliquot was taken for haemolysate preparation by rapid freeze-thaw method. The non-haemolyzed serum was divided into five aliquots. Four haemolysis levels were prepared by adding haemolyzed serum.

nom koncentracija hemoglobina: (+) = 0,5 - 0,99 g/L, (++) = 1 - 1,99 g/L, (+++) = 2 - 2,99 g/L, (++++) = 3 - 4,99 g/L. U svim uzorcima na analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU 480 određeni su: IH, kalij, natrij, kloridi, ukupni kalcij i magnezij, anorganski fosfati, željezo, glukoza, ukupni i konjugirani bilirubin, ureja, kreatinin, urati, alkalna fosfataza (ALP), gama-glutamyltransferaza (GGT), aspartat-aminotransferaza (AST), alanin-aminotransferaza (ALT), kreatin-kinaza (CK), CK-MB, laktat-dehidrogenaza (LD), alfa-amilaza, kolonesteraza, C-reaktivni protein (CRP), ukupni proteini, albumin. Dobivena odstupanja prema nehemolitičnom serumu uspoređena su s vrijednostima poželjnog bias-a (DSB) preuzetim iz biološke varijacije te referentnim vrijednostima promjene (RCV) izračunatim prema jednadžbi  $RCV = 2^{1/2} \times Z \times (CV_A^2 + CV_I^2)^{1/2}$  gdje je  $Z = 1,96$ ;  $CV_A$  = izračunata analitička nepreciznost;  $CV_I$  = intraindividualna biološka varijacija. Razlika veća od RCV smatrana je klinički značajnom.

**Rezultati:** Veće odstupanje od DSB imali su: kalij, ukupni i konjugirani bilirubin, AST, CK-MB i LD kod IH = (+); natrij, ukupni magnezij, anorganski fosfati, GGT i ukupni proteini kod IH = (++) ; ukupni kalcij, ALP, CK, alfa-amilaza i albumin kod IH = (++++). Veće odstupanje od RCV imali su: LD kod IH = (+); CK-MB kod IH = (++) ; kalij i AST kod IH = (+++).

**Zaključak:** Interferencija hemolize ima klinički značaj za LD kod IH = (+), za CK-MB kod IH = (++) , za kalij i AST kod IH = (+++).

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Haemolysis index (HI) and haemoglobin concentration in prepared samples were classified as following: (+) = 0.5 - 0.99 g/L, (++) = 1 - 1.99 g/L, (+++) = 2 - 2.99 g/L, (++++) = 3 - 4.99 g/L. The following parameters were determined on Beckman Coulter AU680 analyzer: IH, potassium, sodium, chloride, calcium, magnesium, inorganic phosphates, iron, glucose, total and conjugated bilirubin, urea, creatinine, uric acid, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) creatine kinase (CK), CK-MB, lactate dehydrogenase (LD), alpha-amylase, cholinesterase, C-reactive protein (CRP), total protein, albumin. The percentage differences between non-haemolytic and haemolytic serum judged against desirable bias (DSB) derived from biological variation and reference change values (RCV) calculated according to the following formula:  $RCV = 2^{1/2} \times Z \times (CV_A^2 + CV_I^2)^{1/2}$ , where  $Z = 1,96$ ;  $CV_A$  = calculated analytical imprecision;  $CV_I$  = intraindividual biological variation. The difference higher than RCV was considered clinically significant.

**Results:** The differences exceeded DSB for: potassium, total and conjugated bilirubin, AST, CK-MB, LD at IH = (+); sodium, magnesium, inorganic phosphates, GGT, total protein at IH = (++) ; calcium, CK, alpha-amylase, albumin at IH = (++++). The differences exceeded RCV for: LD at IH = (+); CK-MB at IH = (++) ; potassium, AST at IH = (+++).

**Conclusion:** Haemolysis influence is clinically significant for LD at IH = (+), CK-MB at IH = (++) , potassium, AST at IH = (+++).

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## Terapija inhibitorima protonske pumpe uzrokuje porast koncentracije kromogranina A

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**Uvod:** Kromogranin A se koristi kao pan-neuroendokrini biljeg u dijagnostici i praćenju neuroendokrinih tumora (NET). Terapija inhibitorima protonske pumpe

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## Proton pump inhibitor therapy causes increased chromogranine A concentration

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**Introduction:** Chromogranine A is considered a pan-neuroendocrine tumor marker. It has been used widely as a sensitive marker in the diagnosis and

pe (IPP) pojačava lučenje gastrina, povećava proliferaciju enterokromatofinih stanica želuca i uzrokuje pojačano oslobađanje kromogranina A. Cilj ovoga rada je utvrditi promjene u serumskoj koncentraciji kromogranina A tijekom i nakon ukidanja terapije IPP.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Koncentracija kromogranina A određena je u 20 ispitanika s dijagnosticiranom gastroezofagealnom refluksnom bolesti (GERB) ili kroničnim gastritisom koji su liječeni IPP. Istim ispitanicima određivanje kromogranina A ponovljeno je 3 - 6 tjedana nakon ukidanja terapije. Koncentracija kromogranina A određena je i u serumu 30 zdravih ispitanika. Dobivene vrijednosti kromogranina A uspoređene su i sa skupinom pacijenata koji boluju od NET (N = 75), čiji su rezultati preuzeti iz laboratorijske baze podataka. Rezultati mjerenja prikazani su kao medijan i interkvartilni raspon. Za utvrđivanje razlike između skupina korišteni su Wilcoxon test za parne uzorke i Mann-Whitney test.  $P \leq 0,05$  smatran je statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** Vrijednost medijana kromogranina A smanjio se sa 162  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (143 - 196  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) izmjerena tijekom terapije IPP na medijan koncentracije 61,5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (32 - 87  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) nakon ukidanja terapije ( $P < 0,001$ ). Terapija IPP rezultirala je značajnim porastom koncentracije kromogranina A u serumu (25 - 90%). Vrijednosti kromogranina A značajno su se razlikovale između skupine ispitanika na terapiji IPP i skupine zdravih ispitanika ( $P < 0,001$ ) te skupine ispitanika na terapiji IPP i skupine pacijenata oboljelih od NET ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Terapija IPP uzrokuje značajan porast koncentracije kromogranina A u serumu. Uzimajući u obzir da se radi o često korištenoj terapiji, dokazani učinak se mora uzeti u obzir tijekom interpretacije rezultata kromogranina A kako bi se izbjegao nepotreban i skup probir na NET.

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follow-up of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). Proton pump inhibitors (PPI) significantly increase gastrin secretion, cause hyperproliferation of chromaffin-like cells of the stomach and change chromogranine A release. The aim of the study was to determine the effect of PPI therapy and its discontinuation on chromogranine A levels in serum.

**Subjects and methods:** Fasting serum chromogranine A was determined in twenty patients diagnosed with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and chronic gastritis treated with PPI. 3 - 6 weeks after PPI therapy discontinuation serum chromogranine A measurement was repeated. Chromogranine A was also determined in serum of 30 healthy subjects. Results of chromogranine A were compared to NET group of patients (N = 75), whose values were generated from laboratory database. The results are presented as median and interquartile range. Differences between groups were tested using the Wilcoxon paired test and Mann-Whitney test. Significance was assumed at  $P \leq 0.05$ .

**Results:** Median value of chromogranine A decreased from 162  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (143 - 196  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) during PPI treatment to 61.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (32 - 87  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) after PPI discontinuation ( $P < 0.001$ ). Treatment with PPI resulted in a significant increase (25 - 90%) in chromogranine A serum concentration. Chromogranine A values differed significantly between group of patients on PPI therapy and healthy subjects ( $P < 0.001$ ), but also between group of patients on PPI therapy and NET group of patients ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Proton pump inhibitors treatment results in a significant increase of chromogranine A concentration in serum. Considering the widespread administration of PPIs, this effect needs to be considered when interpreting results of chromogranine A measurements to avoid false positive data and prevent unnecessary expensive diagnostic work-up in screening for NETs.

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I-9

## Utjecaj antikoagulansa, uvjeta pohrane i vremena analize na vrijednosti trombocitnih pokazatelja

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**Uvod:** Etilendiamintetraoctena kiselina (EDTA) je antikoagulans izbora za određivanje parametara kompletne krvne slike. Međutim u kontaktu s trombocitima EDTA uzrokuje strukturne i funkcionalne promjene u njima. Cilj ovog ispitivanja jest utvrditi kako korišteni antikoagulans (EDTA), uvjeti pohrane i vrijeme analize utječu na vrijednosti trombocitnih pokazatelja: srednji volumen trombocita (MPV), širina raspodjele trombocita (PDW) i udio velikih trombocita (P-LCR).

**Ispitanici i metode:** U ispitivanju je sudjelovalo 20 ispitanika. Uzorci krvi uzorkovani su u epruvete Vacutube (Laboratorijska tehnika Burnik, Slovenija) s  $K_3$ EDTA, te su odmah nakon vađenja ( $t = 0h$ ) analizirani na Sysmex XN 550 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan) hematološkom analizatoru. Nakon toga 10 uzoraka je pohranjeno na sobnoj temperaturi (RT), a 10 uzoraka u hladnjaku (H) na  $4^\circ C$ . Određivanje trombocitnih pokazatelja ponovljeno je na svim uzorcima nakon 30 minuta, 1, 2, 3 i 4 sata. Za statističku obradu podataka korišten je program MedCalc (Mariakerke, Belgija). Vrijednosti  $P < 0,05$  smatrane su statistički značajnima.

**Rezultati:** Kod svih trombocitnih pokazatelja prisutan je porast vrijednosti s dužinom trajanja vremena koje je prošlo od uzorkovanja do analize neovisno o načinu pohrane. Statistički značajna razlika prisutna je već nakon pola sata kod pohrane na sobnoj temperaturi i hladnjaku za parametre PDW ( $P = 0,007 / P = 0,016$ ) i P-LCR ( $P = 0,002 / P = 0,014$ ), a za MPV nakon pola sata pohrane na sobnoj temperaturi ( $P = 0,008$ ) i nakon sat vremena pohrane u hladnjaku ( $P = 0,006$ ).

**Zaključak:** Antikoagulans EDTA prilikom kontakta s trombocitima uzrokuje strukturne promjene slično kao prilikom aktivacije trombocita. S dužim vremenom kontakta povećava se volumen trombocita, a s time i udio velikih trombocita i širina distribucije trombocita. Za longitudinalno praćenje vrijednosti

I-9

## Influence of anticoagulant, storage conditions and time of analysis on values of platelet indices

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**Introduction:** Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) is the anticoagulant of choice for the complete blood count (CBC). However, in contact with platelets EDTA causes structural and functional changes in them. The aim of this study is to determine how the anticoagulant (EDTA), the storage conditions and the time of analysis affect on the values of platelet indices: mean platelet volume (MPV), platelet distribution width (PDW) and platelet large cell ratio (P-LCR).

**Subjects and methods:** Twenty participants participated in the study. Blood samples were sampled in Vacutube tubes (Laboratorijska tehnika Burnik, Slovenija) with  $K_3$ EDTA and immediately after sampling ( $t = 0h$ ) they were analyzed on Sysmex XN 550 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan) hematology analyzer. Ten samples were then stored at room temperature (RT) and 10 samples were stored in the refrigerator (H) at  $4^\circ C$ . Determination of platelet indices was repeated on all samples after 30 minutes, 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours. MedCalc (Mariakerke, Belgium) was used for statistical data processing.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** In all platelet indices, there is an increase in values with the duration of time that has passed from the sampling to the analysis regardless of the storage condition. A statistically significant difference was present after half an hour for storage at room temperature and in refrigerator for PDW ( $P = 0.007 / P = 0.017$ ) and P-LCR ( $P = 0.002 / P = 0.014$ ). For MPV statistically significant difference was present after half an hour for storage at room temperature ( $P = 0.008$ ) and after one hour of storage in the refrigerator ( $P = 0.006$ ).

**Conclusion:** Anticoagulant EDTA in contact with platelets causes structural changes similar to those during platelet activation. With longer contact time the platelet volume increases, as well as share of large platelets and platelets distribution width. For

trombocitnih pokazatelja kod pacijenata važno je standardizirati vrijeme analize i uvjete pohrane kako bi dobiveni rezultati bili usporedivi.

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### I-10 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Predanalitika tumorskih biljega, ukupnog i slobodnog prostata specifičnog antigena te neuron specifične enolaze**

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**Uvod:** Literaturni navodi o stabilnosti uzorka za određivanje ukupnog i slobodnog prostata specifičnog antigena (TPSA i fPSA) su oprečni, a za neuron specifičnu enolazu (NSE) nedostatni. U smjeru racionalizacije i bolje preciznosti potrebno je utvrditi razinu odstupanja. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati utjecaj različitih uvjeta pohrane uzorka seruma na rezultate TPSA i fPSA te porast koncentracije NSE stajanjem seruma na stanicama.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Analizirana su 23 uzorka za TPSA (ng/mL), 20 za fPSA (ng/mL) i 6 za NSE (ng/mL), vađena u serumske epruvete (crveni čep), Vaccuete (Greiner Bio-One). Analize sunapravljen na Roche Cobas e601 analizatoru, metodom ECLIA. TPSA i fPSA su određeni u roku sat vremena od vađenja, nakon 4 sata, nakon 24 h u hladnjaku (2 - 8°C) i nakon 24 sata na sobnoj temperaturi (20 - 24°C). Izabrane su vrijednosti TPSA do gornje granice preporučene vrijednosti (4 ng/mL), zdravih i ispitanika sa učinjenom prostatektomijom. Uzorci seruma 6 zdravih ispitanika za NSE vađeni su u 7 epruveta uzastopno te ostavljeni na stanicama 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105 minuta na sobnoj temperaturi. Hemolitični uzorci nisu korišteni.

**Rezultati:** Odstupanje vrijednosti za TPSA nakon 4h je - 1,8 do 2,6%, nakon 24h-hladnjak - 2,7 do 2,4%, nakon 24h-sobna temperatura - 1,8 do 3,5%. Odstupanje fPSA nakon 4h je od - 1,8 do 6,4%, nakon 24h-hladnjak - 1,1 do 8,8%, nakon 24h-sobna tem-

longitudinal monitoring of values of platelet indices in patients it is important to standardize the time of analysis and storage conditions so that the obtained results are comparable.

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### I-10 (Oral presentation)

#### **Preanalytics of tumour markers - total and free prostatic specific antigen and neuron specific enolase**

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**Introduction:** Literature of the total and free prostatic specific antigen (TPSA and fPSA) stability is contradictory, and for neuron specific enolase (NSE) inadequate. In the direction of rationalization and better precision, it is necessary to establish the level of deviations. The aim of our study was to investigate the effect of different serum storage conditions on tumor markers TPSA, fPSA and NSE results.

**Subjects and methods:** 23 samples for TPSA (ng/mL), 20 fPSA (ng/mL) and 6 NSE (ng/mL), serum tubes (red cap), Vaccuete (Greiner Bio-One). All analyzes were made on the Roche Cobas e601 analyzer, ECLIA method. TPSA and fPSA are determined within one hour after venipuncture, after 4 hours, after 24 hours in a refrigerator (2 - 8°C) and after 24 hours at room temperature (20 - 24°C). TPSA values were chosen to the upper limit of the recommended value (4 µg/L), healthy and subjects with prostatectomy. Serum samples of 6 healthy subjects for NSE were venipunctured in 7 tubes successively and left on cells 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 105 minutes at room temperature. Hemolytic samples weren't used.

**Results:** TPSA deviation after 4h is - 1.8 to 2.6%, after 24h-cooler - 2.7 to 2.4%, after 24h-room temperature - 1.8 to 3.5%. The deviation of fPSA after 4h is from - 1.8 to 6.4%, after 24h-refrigerator - 1.1 to 8.8%, after 24h-room temperature 0.8 to 9.8%. Room and refrigerator values after 24h for TPSA are

peratura 0,8 do 9,8%. Odstupanja vrijednosti sobne i hladnjaka nakon 24h za TPSA su - 1,8 do 3,5% , a za fPSA - 4,9 do 3,1%. Odstupanja vrijednosti NSE nakon 30min - 3,3 do 0,9%, nakon 45min - 0,7 do -13,2%, nakon 60min - 0,1 do -26,6%, nakon 75min - 1,1 do - 32,5%, nakon 90min - 2,5 do - 50,3%, i nakon 105 minuta od - 0,2 do - 84,1%. Mjerna nesigurnost TPSA = 3,2%, fPSA = 10,6% i NSE = 3,6%.

**Zaključak:** Biljezi TPSA i fPSA se mogu određivati naknadno iz uzorka do 24h na temperaturi pohrane 2 – 8 °C. Uzorak krvi za NSE treba biti dostavljen odmah nakon vađenja krvi te nakon centrifugiranja odvojen od stanica.

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#### I-11 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Cjelokupni plan kvalitete izvananalitičke faze - dodana vrijednost kontroli laboratorijskog ispitivanja

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**Uvod:** Pogriješke u laboratorijskoj medicini mogu imati značajan učinak na sigurnost bolesnika. Kako bi čim bolje kontrolirali izvananalitičku fazu cilj nam je bio analizirati rizike te uspostaviti cjelokupni plan kvalitete, provođenjem dodatnih kontrolnih mehanizama smanjiti ili ukloniti potencijalne pogriješke u rezultatima ispitivanja.

**Materijali i metode:** Za procjenu rizika koristili smo FMEA (engl. *Failure Mode and Effects Analysis*) analizu vrste pogriješke/propusta i ishoda. Vjerojatnost neželjenog događaja i težinu tog događaja bodovali smo od 1 do 5. Umnožak tih dviju varijabli klasificiran je kao nizak rizik: 1–8, umjeren rizik 9–15, visok rizik 16–25. Izračunavanjem Sigma vrijednosti za izvananalitičke indikatore kvalitete (rizici koji se odnose na kvalitetu uzorka, TAT, opozvani nalazi) detektirali smo procese koji zahtijevaju dodatne kontrolne mehanizme (Sigma < 4). Za te procese provodili smo korektivne radnje.

- 1.8 to 3.5%, and for fPSA - 4.9 to 3.1%. NSE deviations after 30min - 3.3 to 0.9%, after 45min - 0.7 to - 13.2%, after 60min - 0.1 to - 26.6%, after 75min - 1.1 to - 32.5%, after 90min - 2.5 to - 50.3%, and after 105 minutes from - 0.2 to - 84.1%. Measurement uncertainty of TPSA = 3.2%, fPSA = 10.6% and NSE = 3.6%. **Conclusion:** TPSA and fPSA can be determined from sample up to 24h at 2 - 8 °C storage temperature. The blood sample for NSE should be delivered immediately after venipuncture, centrifuge and separate serum from the cells.

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#### I-11 (Oral presentation)

### Total Quality-Control Plan of the extraanalytical phase – added value for control of laboratory testing

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**Introduction:** Laboratory errors can have significant effects on the patient care. For better control of the extraanalytical phase, we aim to analyse risks and implement a Total Quality Plan. It is introduced by adding control mechanisms such as risk assessment and corrective actions to decrease and eliminate errors in the laboratory testing.

**Materials and methods:** For Risk assessment we use Failure Mode and Effects Analysis. The results are measured in the range of 1 to 5, accounting the probability and the severity of error. By multiplying those two variables we calculate the risk score for the final range as 1-8 low, 9-15 moderate, 16-25 high. To detect processes which require additional control mechanisms we use Sigma Risk Analysis for extraanalytical quality indicators (sample quality, TAT, incorrect reports). For processes with Sigma < 4, we implement corrective mechanisms.

**Rezultati:** FMEA analiza pokazala je umjerene rizike za sljedeće procese: 15 bodova – proces povezan sa čekaonicom, 10 bodova – rizici koji se odnose na kvalitetu uzorka. Sigma vrijednosti iznosile su 3,9 – udio hemolitičnih uzoraka, 2,9 - TAT hs-TropI, 5,5 - broj opozvanih nalaza. Dobiveni rezultati zahtijevali su dodatne kontrolne mehanizme. Kako bi umanjili rizik dobivanja nepouzdanih rezultata proveden je projekt integrirane čekaonice (redomat, PIPIN uređaji, centralni ekrani). Broj kojeg pacijent uzima na redomatu vodi pacijenta kroz cijeli proces, centralni ekran u čekaonici osigurava da pacijent prije vađenja može mirno sjediti. PIPIN uređaji na mjestima za vađenje krvi omogućavaju automatsku evidenciju uzoraka (In2). Time se znatno ubrzalo vađenje i udovoljilo zahtjevu da pacijent miruje prije vađenja krvi. Udio hemolitičnih uzoraka vodeći je razlog odbijanja uzoraka za daljnju analizu, a svaki neprihvatljiv uzorak može dovesti do prekoračenja vremena validacije. Korektivna mjera obučavanja osoblja o ispravnim postupcima uzorkovanja krvi, provodi se dva puta godišnje.

**Zaključak:** Analizom rizika kritičnih procesa u izvnananalitičkoj fazi i poduzetim radnjama, kojim smo umanjili rizike, uveli smo cjelokupni plan kvalitete kao dodanu vrijednost kontroli laboratorijskih ispitivanja.

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## I-12 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Stabilnost analita kontrolnog uzorka pri sobnoj temperaturi na svjetlu i u tami

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**Uvod:** Proizvođač kontrolnog uzorka deklarira stabilnost kontrolnog uzorka u hladnjaku na 2 - 8 °C, dok stabilnost na sobnoj temperaturi nije deklarirana. U rutinskom se radu često dogodi da kontrolni uzorak ostane duže vremena na sobnoj temperaturi pa nije poznato može li se takav uzorak koristiti za

**Results:** FMEA presents moderate risk in the following ranges: 15 points-waiting-room, 10 points-quality of sample. Sigma test results were 3.9-hemolyzed samples, 2.9-TAT hs-Trop I, 5.5-number of incorrect reports. Results proved requirement for additional control mechanisms. We implemented project of smart-waiting-room (automatic counter, PIPIN, central screen). The patient is introduced with a line number, coded to follow the patient throughout the entire process of examination. Central screens ensure that the patient can sit and relax before the examination. PIPIN device enable automatic sample registration (In2). Implementing changes significantly reduces time required for blood sampling and comply with patient requirements to remain rest prior to testing. Haemolysed samples, the most common reason for erroneous laboratory results require sample recollection and lead to validation delay. Staff training on appropriate blood sample collection was preformed twice per year, as corrective action.

**Conclusion:** By implementing risk analysis for critical processes in extraanalytical phase and applying required changes, we introduce Total Quality Plan as added value to laboratory testing.

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## I-12 (Oral presentation)

### Control sample analytes stability at room temperature in the light and in the dark

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**Introduction:** Manufacturer declares the stability of control sample in refrigerator at 2 - 8 °C, while stability on room temperature is not described. Often during routine work, control sample stays longer at room temperature and it is not evident can such sample be used for analyte measurement. The aim

određivanje analita. Cilj rada bio je ispitati stabilnost određenih analita iz kontrolnog uzorka u tijekom 14 sati u razmacima od jednog sata na svjetlu i u tami.

**Materijali i metode:** U analizi je korišten kontrolni uzorak Multichem S razina 3 (Techno-path Manufacturing Ltd, Ireland). Analize su napravljene na analizatoru Abbott Architect c8000 (Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, USA). Analiti koji su ispitivani bili su: albumin, ALT, amilaza, AST, ukupni bilirubin, direktni bilirubin, Ca, CK, Cl, kreatinin, enzimski kreatinin, CRP, etanol, glukoza, K, laktat, LDH, lipaza, Mg, Na, fosfati, ukupni proteini, urat i urea. Pri tome su korišteni originalni reagensi proizvođača Abbott. Jedan alikovit kontrolnog uzorka je pohranjen u prozirnu epruvetu sa čepom na svjetlu tijekom cijelog perioda ispitivanja, dok je drugi alikovit bio pohranjen u tamnoj bočici zatvorenoj u ormarić u kojeg ne dopire svjetlost. Uzorci su analizirani svakih sat vremena u periodu od 9 ujutro do 23 navečer. Za svaki vremenski interval se izračunalo odstupanje prema početnoj vrijednosti dobivenoj u 9 sati. Kriteriji prihvatljivosti za nepreciznost preuzeti su sa Westgardove stranice o bilološkoj varijaciji (<https://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm#1>).

**Rezultati:** Stabilnost svih ispitivanih analita u tami u potpunost je zadovoljila kriterije prihvatljivosti tijekom cijelog vremenskog intervala ispitivanja. Stabilnost na svjetlu nije zadovoljio kalcij nakon trećeg sata ispitivanja. Odstupanje je iznosilo 2,5%, a dozvoljeni kriterij je 1,05%.

**Zaključak:** Svi analiti su stabilni 14 sati na svjetlu i tami, izuzev kalcija koji je stabilan na svjetlu 3 sata.

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of the study was to examine the stability of control sample during 14 hours at 1-hour time intervals at room temperature in the light and in the dark.

**Materials and methods:** A control sample of Multichem S level 3 (Techno-path Manufacturing Ltd, Ireland) was used for analysis. Analytes were measured on the Abbott Architect c8000 analyzer (Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, USA): albumin, ALT, amylase, AST, total bilirubin, direct bilirubin, Ca, CK, Cl, creatinine, enzymatic creatinine, CRP, ethanol, glucose, K, lactate, LDH, lipase, phosphates, total proteins, urate and urea using Abbott's original reagents. One aliquot of control sample was stored in a transparent tube with a stopper in the light throughout the test period, while another aliquot was stored in a dark bottle sealed in a cupboard that did not reach the light. Samples were analyzed every hour in the period from 9 am to 23 pm. For each time interval, the bias was calculated by the initial value obtained at 9 hours. Acceptance criteria for imprecision are downloaded from the Westgard Desirable Biological Variation Database web page (<https://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm#1>).

**Results:** Stability of all tested analytes in darkness has fully met the eligibility criteria throughout the entire test interval. Stability in the light did not satisfy calcium after the third hour of testing interval. The deviation was 2.5% and the permitted criteria was 1.05%.

**Conclusion:** All analytes are stable for 14 hours in light and dark, except for calcium which is stable 3 hours in the light.

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### I-13 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Analiza rizika za isključivanje mikroskopskog pregleda sedimenta mokraće kod test trake pozitivne na glukozu, ketone, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH i specifičnu težinu**

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**Uvod:** Mikroskopski pregled sedimenta mokraće (MPSM) nepotreban je kod negativne test trake, ali je obavezan kod pozitivnih proteina, leukocita, hemoglobina i nitrita. Cilj je procijeniti rizik isključivanja MPSM kod test traka pozitivnih za glukozu, ketone, bilirubin i urobilinogen te nalaza pH i specifične težine izvan referentnog raspona.

**Materijali i metode:** Analiza uključuje rezultate kvalitativnog pregleda mokraće tijekom 45 dana (1.7.-18.8.2017.) u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBC-a Rijeka. Mikroskopski pregled sedimenta mokraće je učinjen u 2053 uzorka s pozitivnom test trakom. Isključenjem uzoraka s pozitivnim proteinima, leukocitima, nitritima i hemoglobinom te zamućenih i obojanih uzoraka, preostalo je 98 uzoraka (s patološkim nalazom za jedan ili više od sljedećih analita: glukozu, ketoni, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH i specifična težina) koji su uključeni u analizu rizika. Identificirano je 20 mogućih propusta MPSM koji su podijeljeni u 4 kategorije (S1-S4) s obzirom na rizik za pacijenta (S1 najmanji rizik). Prema postotku njihovih pojavnosti (O) razvrstani su u 5 kategorija: O1 (< 3%), O2 (3 - 10%), O3 (11 - 25%), O4 (26 - 50%) i O5 (> 50%). Rizik za pacijenta (niski, umjereni i visoki) procijenjen je iz tabličnog prikaza ovisnosti jačine propusta u nalazu MPSM (S) i njihovoj pojavnosti (O).

**Rezultati:** Analiza rizika upućuje kako nema mogućnosti propusta MPSM visokog rizika za pacijenta. Umjereni rizik dokazan je za propuste nalaza prijelaznog epitela S4 razine rizika (> 5 stanica/v.p.; učestalost 0,47%) i S3 razine rizika (< 5 stanica/v.p.; učestalost 4,23%). Umjereni rizik S2 razine dokazan je za nalaz pločastog epitela (5 - 19 stanica/v.p.; učestalost 15,49%) te S1 razine za nalaz leukocita (< 5 stanica/v.p.; učestalost 34,27%). Ti su nalazi najučestaliji zabilježeni propusti.

### I-13 (Oral presentation)

#### **Risk analysis for exclusion of microscopic examination of urine sediment for positive dipstick on glucose, ketones, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH and specific gravity**

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**Introduction:** Microscopic examination of urine sediment (MEUS) is not necessary for negative dipstick but it is mandatory when proteins, leucocytes, hemoglobin and nitrites are positive. Aim was to estimate the risk of exclusion of MEUS when dipstick is positive for glucose, ketones, bilirubin, urobilinogen and for pH and specific gravity outside the reference range.

**Materials and methods:** Analysis included results of qualitative urine examination during 45 days (1.7.-18.8.2017.) in the Clinical Department of Laboratory Diagnostics CHC Rijeka. Microscopic examination of urine sediment was performed for 2053 samples with positive dipstick. Samples with positive dipstick for proteins, leucocytes, hemoglobin, nitrites and turbid and colored samples were excluded. Risk analysis was performed on 98 samples with dipstick positive for glucose, ketones, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH and specific gravity. We identified 20 potential errors of MEUS which were divided into 4 categories (S1-S4) respective to relative risk for patient (S1 lowest severity). According to their frequencies they were classified into 5 categories: O1 (< 3%), O2 (3 - 10%), O3 (11 - 25%), O4 (26 - 50%), O5 (> 50%). Risk analysis (low, intermediate, high) was performed on the matrix combining severity of error of MEUS (S) and their occurrence (O).

**Results:** Risk analysis did not reveal errors in MEUS of the high risk for patient safety. Intermediate risk was identified for the error in transitional epithelial cells severity level S4 (> 5 cells/field; frequency 0.47%) and severity level S3 (< 5 cells/field; frequency 4.23%); for the error in squamous epithelial cells severity level S2 (5 - 19 cells/field; frequency 15.49%) and for error in leucocytes severity level S1 (< 5 cells/field; frequency 34.27%). Two later are also the errors with highest frequencies.

**Zaključak:** Analiza rizika pokazala je kako isključiva-  
nje izrade MPSM kod pozitivne test trake za glukozu,  
ketone, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH i specifičnu težinu  
za bistre i žute uzorke mokraće neće imati posljedice  
na sigurnost pacijenata.

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**Conclusion:** Risk analysis demonstrated that exclu-  
sion of MEUS when dipstick is positive for glucose,  
ketones, bilirubin, urobilinogen, pH and specific gra-  
vity for clear and yellow urine samples will not have  
impact on patient safety.

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I-14

### Kako postupati s uzorcima likvora iz ekstraventricularne drenaže u hitnoj službi?

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**Uvod:** Uzorci likvora iz ekstraventricularnih drenaža  
(EVD) nakon neurokirurških zahvata rutinski se ana-  
liziraju u svrhu rane dijagnostike bakterijskog men-  
ingitisa. U radu je ispitan utjecaj vremena i načina  
obrade likvora iz EVD na rezultate hitnih laboratorij-  
skih pretraga s ciljem donošenja preporuka o postu-  
panju s uzorkom i postavljanju optimalnog TAT-a.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno na  
32 uzorka likvora iz EVD, u tri vremenska intervala:  
unutar 60 minuta od prijama, nakon 61-90 minuta i  
nakon 91-150 minuta. Stanice su analizirane ručno u  
Fuchs-Rosenthalovoj komorici i na automatiziranom  
brojaču Sysmex XE5000, Sysmex Corporation, Japan.  
Glukoza, laktat i ukupni proteini su analizirani u na-  
tivnim i centrifugiranim uzorcima likvora na bioke-  
mijskom analizatoru cobas c501 (Roche Diagnostics,  
Njemačka) reagensima istog proizvođača.

**Rezultati:** Analizom rezultata ručnoga i automa-  
tiziranog brojenja stanica dobivena je proporcio-  
nalna razlika u broju leukocita, eritrocita te monon-  
uklearnih leukocita, dok je za polimorfonuklearne  
leukocite dobivena i proporcionalna i konstantna  
razlika. Nakon 61 – 90 minuta od prijama dobivena  
je statistički bitno niža vijednost ukupnog broja stan-  
ica ( $P = 0,033$ ), neutrofilnih granulocita ( $P = 0,046$ ) i  
fagocita ( $P = 0,020$ ) u odnosu na početno brojenje.  
Nakon 91 - 150 minuta, uz statistički bitno niže vijed-

I-14

### How to treat urgent cerebrospinal fluid samples from extraventricular drainage?

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**Introduction:** Analysis of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)  
from extraventricular drainage (EVD) is a routine  
procedure performed for the purpose of early di-  
agnosis of EVD-related bacterial meningitis. We in-  
vestigated the effect of time delay and sample pro-  
cessing on cell count and basic biochemistry tests in  
EVD CSF in order to standardize sample treatment  
and define optimal TAT.

**Materials and methods:** A total number of 32 CSF  
samples from EVD were included. CSF was aliquoted  
in two tubes. One tube was used for baseline testing  
(0-60 minutes) which included cell counting (Fuchs-  
Rosenthal chamber and Sysmex XE5000, Sysmex  
Corporation, Japan) and biochemistry analyses (glu-  
cose, lactate, total protein; Roche Diagnostics, Ger-  
many) in uncentrifuged and centrifuged samples.  
The other tube remained closed at room tempera-  
ture and was used for delayed (61 - 90 and 91 - 150  
minutes) cell counting and chemistry analyses.

**Results:** Automated and manual methods showed  
proportional difference for white blood cells (WBC),  
red blood cells (RBC) and mononuclear cells (MN)  
while polymorphonuclear cells (PMN) showed both  
proportional and constant difference. At 61-90 min-  
ute interval, total cell count ( $P = 0.033$ ), neutrophil  
granulocytes ( $P = 0.046$ ) and phagocytes ( $P = 0.020$ )  
were lower compared to the initial counting. At 91

nosti ukupnog broja stanica ( $P < 0,001$ ), limfocita ( $P = 0,007$ ), neutrofilnih granulocita ( $P < 0,001$ ) i fagocita ( $P = 0,006$ ), dobiven je veći broj stanica u raspadu ( $P = 0,016$ ) u odnosu na početno brojenje. U necentrifugiranim uzorcima likvora izmjerene su niže koncentracije glukoze i laktata ( $P < 0,001$ ) u odnosu na centrifugirane uzorke. Stajanje uzorka na sobnoj temperaturi do 150 minuta ne utječe na vrijednosti glukoze ( $P = 0,797$ ), laktata ( $P = 0,493$ ) i proteina ( $P = 0,866$ ).

**Zaključak:** Broj stanica u likvoru iz EVD treba analizirati unutar 60 minuta od prijama jer odgađanje utječe na rezultat. Rezultati ručnoga i automatiziranog brojenja stanica razlikuju se te se za longitudinalno praćenje preporuča uvijek primjenjivati istu metodu. Glukoza, proteini i laktat u likvoru stabilni su do 150 minuta na sobnoj temperaturi, a analize treba raditi iz centrifugiranih uzoraka.

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- 150 minute interval, total cell count ( $P < 0.001$ ), lymphocytes ( $P = 0.007$ ), neutrophil granulocytes ( $P < 0.001$ ) and phagocytes ( $P = 0.006$ ) were lower and the number of disintegrated cells was higher ( $P = 0.016$ ) than the initial count. Native samples had lower glucose and lactate ( $P < 0.001$ ) concentrations compared to the centrifuged CSF. The time delay in sample centrifugation had no significant effect on glucose ( $P = 0.797$ ), lactate ( $P = 0.493$ ) and total protein ( $P = 0.866$ ) concentrations.

**Conclusion:** Cell counting in CSF from EVD should be performed within 60 minutes as any delay can alter results. Manual and automated counting methods are not comparable so that the same technique should be used for longitudinal assessment. Biochemistry tests are stable in uncentrifuged CSF up to 150 minutes.

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## I-15

### Biološka interferencija hemolize na koncentraciju laktata u plazmi

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**Uvod:** Hemoliza u plazmi može utjecati na koncentraciju laktata zbog djelovanja glikolitičkih enzima i laktata oslobođenog iz raspadnutih eritrocita. Cilj je bio istražiti biološku interferenciju hemolize do 10 g/L (indeks hemolize, IH 1000) na određivanje laktata u plazmi iz različitih epruveta.

**Materijali i metode:** U studiji je sudjelovalo 20 zdravih muškaraca; kompletna krvna slika napravljena je na uređaju Sysmex XN-1000. Kod 10 sudionika krv je dodatno izvađena u epruvetu s NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA, a kod ostalih 10 u epruvetu s Li-heparinom. Različiti stupnjevi hemolize proizvedeni su proštrcavanjem pune krvi 0x, 4x, 8x i 12x. Nakon centrifugiranja 15 min na 2000 x g koncentracija laktata i IH u plazmi su određeni na uređaju Cobas c501. Promjene u koncentraciji

## I-15

### Biological interference of haemolysis on plasma lactate concentration

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**Introduction:** Haemolysis in plasma can affect lactate concentration due to activity of glycolytic enzymes and lactate released from ruptured erythrocytes. We aimed to investigate impact of biological interference of haemolysis up to 10 g/L (haemolysis index, HI 1000) on lactate concentration in different test-tubes.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 20 healthy male volunteers; complete blood cell count was measured on Sysmex XN-1000 analyzer. Additionally, whole blood was drawn in NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes for 10 participants and for another 10 in Li-heparin tubes. Different degrees of haemolysis were produced applying 0x, 4x, 8x and 12x syringe aspirations. After 15 min centrifugation at 2000 x g plasma

ciji laktata izračunate su kao razlike laktata između hemoliziranog i nativnog uzorka (0x). Statistička analiza je napravljena na uzorcima s IH do 1130 korištenjem t-testa.

**Rezultati:** Za sve sudionike srednja vrijednost eritrocita bila je  $4,99 \pm 0,47 \times 10^{12}/L$ , a srednja koncentracija hemoglobina  $153 \pm 11$  g/L. U NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA epruvetama početna koncentracija laktata i IH bili su  $1,71 \pm 0,64$  mmol/L i  $31 \pm 11$ , a u Li-heparin epruvetama  $3,09 \pm 0,66$  mmol/L i  $5 \pm 4$ . Prosječna promjena koncentracije laktata u hemoliziranim Li-heparin uzorcima s IH 89 - 1131 bila je  $0,28 \pm 0,10$  mmol/L (95% CI: 0,22 - 0,34). To je statistički značajno veća promjena u odnosu na uzorke NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA ( $P < 0,001$ ) u kojima je HI bio 229 - 1134, a promjena laktata  $0,005 \pm 0,09$  mmol/L (95% CI: 0,03 - 0,05). U NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA uzorcima nije bilo klinički značajne razlike u koncentraciji laktata s obzirom na referentni interval.

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati dobiveni na uzorku zdravih muškaraca s podjednakim brojem eritrocita i koncentracijom hemoglobina potvrdili su interferenciju IH koju je deklarirao proizvođač testa za određivanje laktata. U epruvetama s NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA rezultati su pokazali da nema utjecaja hemolize na koncentraciju laktata u plazmi do IH 1130; za epruvete s Li-heparinom granična vrijednost IH koja interferira pri određivanju laktata treba se odrediti na većem broju uzoraka.

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lactate and HI were measured on Cobas c501 analyzer. Changes in lactate concentration were calculated as difference between haemolysed and native samples (0x). Statistical analysis was done on haemolysed samples with HI up to 1130 using t-test.

**Results:** For all participants mean erythrocyte count was  $4.99 \pm 0.47 \times 10^{12}/L$  and mean haemoglobin concentration  $153 \pm 11$  g/L. In NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes initial lactate concentration and HI were  $1.71 \pm 0.64$  mmol/L and  $31 \pm 11$ , and in Li-heparin tubes  $3.09 \pm 0.66$  mmol/L and  $5 \pm 4$ , respectively. Mean change in lactate concentration for haemolysed Li-heparin samples with HI range 89 - 1131 was  $0.28 \pm 0.10$  mmol/L (95% CI: 0.22 - 0.34). It is statistically significant change compared to NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA ( $P < 0.001$ ) where HI range was 229-1134 and lactate change was  $0.005 \pm 0.09$  mmol/L (95%CI: 0.03 - 0.05). Yet there was no clinically significant difference in lactate concentration regarding reference interval for plasma lactate in NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA samples.

**Conclusion:** Our results obtained for healthy male volunteers with similar number of erythrocytes and hemoglobin concentration confirmed manufacturer's declaration about HI interference on lactate determination. Regarding NaF/K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes results showed no biological interference of haemolysis on plasma lactate concentration up to HI 1130; for Li-heparin tubes cut-off for HI interference must be established on a larger sample number.

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## K – Kardiovaskularne bolesti

### K-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Analitička verifikacija visoko osjetljivog troponina T i primjena u ranoj prognozi kardiovaskularnih komplikacija u pacijenata sa završnim stadijem bubrežne bolesti**

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**Uvod:** Razvoj pete generacije testa za visoko osjetljivi troponin T (hs-cTnT) uz primjenu preporučenog koeficijenta varijacije  $\leq 10\%$  na graničnoj vrijednosti za akutni infarkt miokarda (AMI) doprinijelo je poboljšanju kvantifikacijskih mogućnosti u slučajevima srčanog oštećenja, uključujući kardiovaskularne komplikacije povezane sa završnim stadijem bubrežne bolesti. Nadalje, u ovim je slučajevima zbog izraženijih povišenja vrijednosti troponina T njegovo određivanje preferirano u odnosu na troponin I. Cilj istraživanja bila je analitička procjena Elecsys TroponinT hs testa prije uvođenja u rutinski rad, u svrhu rane procjene rizika od akutnog koronarnog sindroma kod pacijenata sa završnim stadijem bubrežne bolesti.

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacija kemiluminiscentne imunokemijske metode s mikročesticama za hsTnT na imunokemijskom analizatoru Roche cobas e411 provedena je u skladu s CLSI EP15-A2 protokolom, koristeći PreciControl TroponinT komercijalne kontrolne uzorke u dvije koncentracijske razine (27 i 2180 ng/L). Granica kvantifikacije (LoQ) određena je prema CLSI EP17-A protokolu. Proširena mjerna nesigurnost procjenjena je prema rezultatima ukupne laboratorijske preciznosti i mjerne nesigurnosti kalibratora.

**Rezultati:** Dobiveni su sljedeći koeficijenti varijacije (KV) za preciznost u dvije koncentracijske razine: 2,7%

## K – Cardiovascular diseases

### K-1 (Oral presentation)

#### **Analytical performance evaluation of the high-sensitive cardiac troponin T assay and application in early prognosis of cardiovascular events in patients with end - stage renal disease**

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**Introduction:** Development of the 5<sup>th</sup> generation high-sensitive cardiac TroponinT (hs-cTnT) assay along with the application of proposed CV of  $\leq 10\%$  at cut-off value for acute myocardial infarction has led to improved quantification possibilities regarding heart injury, including cardiovascular complications following conditions like end stage renal disease (ESRD). Furthermore, in these cases, an hsTnT assay was preferred over hsTnI assays due to more significant elevations. The goal of this study was the analytical performance evaluation of Elecsys TroponinT hs assay prior to its implementation in the routine laboratory work, for purposes of early risk stratification for acute coronary syndrome in ESRD patients.

**Materials and methods:** Verification of hsTnT chemiluminescent micro-particle immunoassay on the analytical platform Roche cobas e411 was performed according to CLSI EP15-A2 protocol, using PreciControl TroponinT control materials in two concentration levels (27 and 2180 ng/L). Limit of quantitation (LoQ) was determined according to CLSI EP17-A protocol. Expanded measurement uncertainty was estimated based on the calculated within-laboratory precision and measurement uncertainty of calibrators.

**Results:** Precision profile for two concentration levels included: repeatability CV 2.7%, and 0.6%, wit-

i 0,6% za ponovljivost, 3,6% i 1,6% za međupreciznost te 4,4% i 1,7% za ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost. Granica kvantifikacije određena je kod 6,4 ng/L. Proširena mjerna nesigurnost iznosila je  $\pm 49,6\%$  za nisku i  $\pm 3,7\%$  za visoku koncentracijsku razinu, što proizlazi iz relativno visoke mjerne nesigurnosti kalibratora u niskom koncentracijskom području.

**Zaključak:** Analitička procjena Elecsys TroponinT hs testa pokazala je da su dobiveni rezultati za preciznost unutar proizvođačkih i bioloških kriterija, te je metoda prikladna za rutinsku primjenu. Koeficijenti varijacije  $\leq 10\%$  na graničnoj vrijednosti za AMI i niže govore u prilog poboljšanoj analitičkoj osjetljivosti i preciznosti. Stoga uvođenje hs-cTnT testa otvara mogućnost pravovremene i pouzdanije prognoze kardiovaskularnih komplikacija kod pacijenta s završnim stadijem bubrežne bolesti, osobito u asimptomatskim slučajevima koji se očituju umjereno povišenim vrijednostima hs-cTnT.

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## K-2

### MakroCK-tip 1 izoenzim – zašto je važno prikazati slučaj?

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**Uvod:** Makroenzimi su normalni enzimi (ili izoenzimi) u serumu koji stvaraju komplekse visoke molekularne mase, imaju sporiji klirens i povećavaju aktivnost odgovarajućeg enzima. Cilj ovog rada je prikazati rezultate nalaza bolesnika sa dokazanom prisutnošću makro-CK tip1.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Pacijent (45 godina) je primljen u Hitni prijem zbog bolova u prsima unazad 4 dana. Zadnja 3 dana febrilan, a posljednja 4 mjeseca pod kontrolom urologa zbog prostatitisa. Prije 20 dana u urinokulturi i ejakulatu izolirana *E. coli*. Preporučena terapija prema antibiogramu Ninur kroz 4 tjedna. Učinjen je EKG, RTG srca i pluća i uzorkovana krv za određivanje KKS, CRP, CKMB, hs-TnI te analizirana mokraća.

in-run precision CV 3.6% and 1.6%, and within-laboratory precision CV 4.4% and 1.7%. LoQ was determined at 6.4 ng/L. Expanded measurement uncertainty ( $k = 2$ ) for two concentration levels was  $\pm 49.6\%$  and  $\pm 3.7\%$ , yielding from relatively high calibrator measurement uncertainty for lower value.

**Conclusion:** Performance evaluation of Elecsys TroponinT hs assay has shown satisfactory results regarding manufacturers as well as biological criteria for precision, and is therefore considered suitable for routine laboratory use. CVs  $\leq 10\%$  at and below AMI cut-off value speak in favor of enhanced analytical sensitivity and precision. Therefore, utilizing an hs-TnT assay could result in prompt and more reliable prognosis of cardiovascular events in group of patients with end-stage renal disease, especially in asymptomatic cases displaying moderate hsTnT elevations.

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## K-2

### MacroCK-type 1 isoenzyme - why is it important to present the case?

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**Introduction:** Macroenzymes are normal enzymes (or isoenzymes) in serum that produce complexes of high molecular weight, have a slower clearance and increase the activity of the corresponding enzyme. The aim of this study is to show the findings of patients with proven presence of macro-CK type1.

**Subjects and methods:** The patient (45 years) was admitted to Emergency for chest pain after 4 days. The last 3 days were febrile, and the last 4 months were under control of urology due to prostatitis. Twenty days ago urinary culture and ejaculate isolated *E. coli*. Recommended therapy according to the antibiogram Ninur for 4 weeks. ECG, RTG of heart and lungs and sampled blood were performed for the determination of KKS, CRP, CKMB, hs-TnI and analyzed urine.

**Rezultati:** EKG je bio uredan, leukociti blago povišeni, CRP 123,2 mg/L, u sedimentu mokraćne nađeni leukociti i bakterije, uredni početni hs-TnI 5ng/L, CK 110U/L, povišen CKMB 122 U/L, a nakon 2 sata uredni kontrolni hs-TnI 6ng/L, CK 125U/L, povišen CKMB 139 U/L. CKMB je određen metodom imunoinhibicije (BC, AU680). Sljedećeg dana, analizirani tumorski biljezi CEA, AFP, CA19-9, CA15-3, PSA, Cyfra21-1 su uredni, CRP u padu 87,8 mg/L. Nakon 23 dana utvrđen je porast enzima (CK = 523 U/L, CKMB = 804 U/L). Prisutnost makro-CK dokazana je nakon 26 dana elektroforezom na agarozu u drugom laboratoriju (CKMM 156U/L, CKMB 6U/L, CKBB < 1U/L, tip1 makro-CK 368 U/L). 62 dana nakon dolaska u hitni prijem CK je 203 U/L, CKMB 181 U/L, a nakon 6 mjeseci CK 111 U/L, CKMB 59 U/L.

**Zaključak:** Uredan nalaz troponina uz nespecifičan porast CKMB-a, ukazao je na prisutnost makro-CK, što je na kraju i potvrđeno elektroforezom na agarozu. U literaturi su opisani slučajevi kratkotrajne i dugotrajne prisutnosti makroenzima u serumu pacijenata, a opisani su i slučajevi njegove trajne prisutnosti. Također, navodi se da makro-CK tip1 može i ne mora biti povezan sa prisutnošću određenih bolesti uglavnom s autoimunim poremećajima, pa je uz prevalenciju makro CK tipa1 od 0,43 - 1,2% svaki dokumentirani slučaj doprinos u eventualnom otkrivanju novog dijagnostičkog biljega.

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### K-3

#### **Analitička validacija Beckman Coulter testa visoke osjetljivosti za određivanje troponina I**

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**Uvod:** Test Access hsTnI je novi Beckman Coulter kemiluminescentni imunokemijski test namjenjen za visoko osjetljivo kvantitativno određivanje razina srčanog troponina I (cTnI) u serumu i plazmi kao po-

**Results:** ECG round no abnormalities, slightly elevated leukocytes, CRP 123.2mg/L, leukocyte and bacteria found in urine sediment, initial hs-TnI was normal 5 ng/L, CK 110 U/L, elevated CKMB 122 U/L, and after 2 hours an orderly control hs-TnI 6ng/L, CK 125U/L, increased CKMB 139 U/L. CKMB was determined by immunoinhibition (BC, AU680). The next day, the analyzed tumor markers CEA, AFP, CA19-9, CA15-3, PSA, Cyfra21-1 were normal, CRP in the fall of 87.8mg/L. After 23 days, the enzyme increased (CK = 523 U/L, CKMB = 804 U/L). The presence of macro-CK was made after 26 days by agarose electrophoresis in another laboratory (CKMM 156 U/L, CKMB 6 U/L, CKBB < 1 U/L, Type 1 macro-CK 368 U/L). 62 days after arrival, CK is 203 U/L, CKMB 181 U/L, and after 6 months CK 111 U/L, CKMB 59 U/L.

**Conclusion:** An accurate finding of troponin with a non-specific increase of CKMB, indicated the presence of macro-CK, which was eventually confirmed by electrophoresis on agarose. The literature describes cases of short-term and long-term presence of macroenzymes in serum patients, and cases of its persistent presence are also described. It is also stated that macro-CK type1 may not be associated with the presence of certain diseases mainly with autoimmune disorders, so with the prevalence of macro type CK of 0.43 - 1.2% every documented case contributes to the eventual detection of a new diagnostic marker.

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### K-3

#### **Analytical validation of Beckman Coulter high sensitivity test for determination of troponin I**

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**Introduction:** The Access hsTnI assay is a chemiluminescent immunoassay for high sensitivity quantitative determination of cardiac troponin I (cTnI) concentrations in serum and plasma to aid in the di-

moć u dijagnozi infarkta miokarda. Cilj je evaluacija tog testa na UniCell Dxl600 analizatoru u okviru validacije i stavljanja na tržište novog testa.

**Materijali i metode:** Protokolom o validaciji obuhvaćeno je određivanje ponovljivosti, preciznosti, usporedivost s drugom metodom i analizatorom, potvrđivanje mjernog područja, donjih analitičkih granica te provjera referentnih intervala.

**Rezultati:** Ispitana je ponovljivost i unutarlaboratorijska međupreciznost u tri razine komercijalne kontrole Liquicheck Cardiac Level 1, 2 i 3. Dobivene vrijednosti koeficijenta varijacije (KV) su redom 3,69%, 6,20% i 1,78% za ponovljivost te 10,51%, 6,20% i 6,26% za unutarlaboratorijsku međupreciznost. Usporedba rezultata provedena je korištenjem dva reagensa AccuTnl i hsTnl na analizatoru UniCell Dxl 600 (BC) te usporedba sa hsTnl testom na Architect i1000 (Abbott). Bland-Altman analizom utvrđeno je da je više od 95% rezultata unutar  $\pm 1,96$  SD te nema statistički značajne razlike između mjerenja. Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom dobiveni su pravci regresije koji ukazuju na postojanje proporcionalne pogreške. Kappa statistikom dokazano je slaganje metoda s 95% specifičnošću 50,6% osjetljivošću za povišenu vrijednost za cTnl. Mjerno područje potvrđeno je kalibracijskom krivuljom u 6 točaka. Granica slijepe probe (LoB) je 2,4 ng/L, granica detekcije (LoD) je 2,6 ng/L i jednaka je granici kvantifikacije sa KV < 20%. Provjerom referentnih intervala potvrđena je distribucija za žene do 9,7 ng/L, a za muškarce do 7,4 ng/L.

**Zaključak:** Svi dobiveni rezultati validacije su sukladni dobivenim rezultatima ostalih laboratorija koji su sudjelovali u validaciji hsTnl reagensa. Završni rezultati prikazani su i u Uputama za upotrebu Beckman Coulter za Access imunokemijske sustave.

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agnosis of myocardial infarction. The aim is to evaluate this test on the UniCell Dxl600 analyzer as part of the validation and marketing of the new test.

**Materials and methods:** The validation protocol encompasses the determination of repeatability, precision, comparability with another method and analyzer, verification of the measuring range, lower analytical limits and reference interval verification.

**Results:** Repeatability and intra-laboratory precision were investigated at three levels of commercial control of Liquicheck Cardiac Level 1, 2 and 3. The obtained coefficient of variation (CV) values were 3.69%, 6.20% and 1.78% for repeatability and 10.51%, 6.20% and 6.26% for intra-laboratory precision. The results were compared using two AccuTnl and hsTnl reagents on the UniCellDxl 600 (BC) analyzer and comparison with hsTnl reagent on Architect i1000 (Abbott). Bland-Altman analysis found that more than 95% of results were within  $\pm 1.96$  SD and none statistically significant difference between measurements were found. Passing-Bablok regression analysis has obtained regression lines that indicate a proportional error. Kappa statistics show that the methods agree with 95% specificity and with 50.6% sensitivity for elevated value for cTnl. The measuring area is confirmed by a 6-point calibration curve. The limit of Blank (LoB) is 2.4 ng / L, the limit of detection (LoD) is 2.6 ng /L and equals the limit of quantification with CV < 20%. Verification of the reference intervals confirmed the distribution for women up to 9.7 ng /L, and for men up to 7.4 ng / L.

**Conclusion:** All validation results obtained are consistent with the results of other laboratories that participated in the validation of hsTnl reagents. The final results are also presented in the Beckman Coulter User Guide for Access Immunoassay Systems.

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K-4

### Usporedba aterogenih indeksa kod bolesnika sa stabilnom kroničnom opstruksijskom plućnom bolesti

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**Uvod:** Kronična opstruksijska plućna bolest (KOPB) je kronična respiratorna bolest kod koje su često prisutni komorbiditeti kao što je kardiovaskularna bolest. Procjene kardiovaskularnog rizika mogu se provesti s nekim aterogenim indeksima kao što su aterogeni indeks plazme (AIP), aterogeni koeficijent (AC), Castelli rizik indeks-I (CRI-I) i Castelli rizik indeks-II (CRI-II). Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je utvrditi jesu li aterogeni indeksi povećani u težim stadijima KOPB-i u usporedbi s blagim i umjerenim stadijem.

**Materijali i metode:** U studiju su uključeni bolesnici sa stabilnom KOPB-i (N = 65), iz Kliničkog bolničkog centra Zagreb. U serumu su izmjereni ukupni kolesterol (T-CHOL), lipoproteini visoke gustoće (HDL-C), lipoproteini niske gustoće (LDL-C) i trigliceridi (TG) na analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU640. Visoko osjetljivi C-reaktivni protein (hsCRP) izmjeren je nefelometrijom (BN ProSpec II, Siemens). Ispitanici su podijeljeni prema forsiranom ekspiratornom volumenu u 1 sekundi (FEV1%) u dvije skupine: KOPB bolesnici s blagim i umjerenim (FEV1% ≥ 50, N = 36) i teškim i vrlo teškim ograničenjima protoka zraka (FEV1% < 50, N = 29). Izračunati su aterogeni indeksi: AIP, AC, CRI-I, CRI-II i indeks tjelesne mase (BMI). Statistička analiza provedena je u MedCalc-u. T-test i Wilcoxon test korišteni su za usporedbu skupina, ovisno o distribuciji podataka.

**Rezultati:** KOPB bolesnici s FEV1% < 50 nisu imali statistički značajnu razliku u odnosu na bolesnike s FEV1% ≥ 50 za sve indekse: AIP (-0,18 ± 0,26 vs. -0,04 ± 0,30; P = 0,055); AC (2,49 ± 0,95 vs. 2,98 ± 1,04; P = 0,054); CRI-I (3,49 ± 0,95 vs. 3,98 ± 1,04; P = 0,054); CRI-II (1,95 ± 0,84 vs. 2,21 ± 0,81; P = 0,217) niti za hs-

K-4

### Comparison of atherogenic indices in patients with stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Introduction:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic respiratory disease often presenting with comorbidities such as cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular risk assessment can be done with some atherogenic indices such as atherogenic index of plasma (AIP), atherogenic coefficient (AC), Castelli Risk index-I (CRI-I) and Castelli Risk index-II (CRI-II). The aim of this study was to evaluate whether atherogenic indices are increased in more severe stages of COPD compared to mild or moderate COPD.

**Materials and methods:** Stable COPD patients (N = 65) from the University Hospital Centre Zagreb were enrolled in the study. Measurement of total cholesterol (T-CHOL), high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and triglycerides (TG) on a Beckman Coulter AU640 analyzer was done. High sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) was measured nephelometrically (BN ProSpec II, Siemens). Subjects were divided according to forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1%) in two groups: COPD patients with mild and moderate (FEV1% ≥ 50, N = 36) and severe and very severe airflow limitation (FEV1% < 50, N = 29). Calculation of atherogenic indices: AIP, AC, CRI-I, CRI-II and of body mass index (BMI) was done. Statistical analysis was done in MedCalc. T-test and Wilcoxon test were used for comparing groups, dependent on data distribution.

**Results:** COPD patients with FEV1% < 50 did not have a statistically significant difference from patients with FEV1% ≥ 50 for all indices: AIP (-0.18 ± 0.26 vs. -0.04 ± 0.30; P = 0.055); AC (2.49 ± 0.95 vs. 2.98 ± 1.04; P = 0.054); CRI-I (3.49 ± 0.95 vs. 3.98 ±

CRP (2,94 (1,50 - 6,90) vs. 3,50 (1,41 - 5,09) mg/L;  $P = 0,616$ ) i BMI ( $24,7 \pm 4,2$  vs.  $26,9 \pm 4,9$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>;  $P = 0,084$ ).

**Zaključak:** Bolesnici s težim stadijima KOPB-i nemaju veći kardiovaskularni rizik od bolesnika s blagom ili umjerenom bolešću. Ipak, postoji potreba za procjenom kardiovaskularnog rizika kod svakog pojedinog bolesnika sa KOPB-i zbog učestalosti ovog komorbiditeta.

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1.04;  $P = 0.054$ ); CRI-II ( $1.95 \pm 0.84$  vs.  $2.21 \pm 0.81$ ;  $P = 0.217$ ) and also not for hsCRP (2.94 (1.50 - 6.90) vs. 3.50 (1.41 - 5.09) mg/L;  $P = 0.616$ ) and BMI ( $24.7 \pm 4.2$  vs.  $26.9 \pm 4.9$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>;  $P = 0.084$ ).

**Conclusion:** Patients with more severe stages of COPD do not have a higher cardiovascular risk than patients with mild or moderate disease stage. Still there is a need to assess cardiovascular risk in every individual COPD patient due to this frequent comorbidity.

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#### K-5 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Kolesterol ester transfer protein, lecitin kolesterol aciltransferaza, veličina lipoproteina niske gustoće i zadebljanje intime medije kod pacijenata s koronarnom srčanom bolešću

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**Uvod:** Kolesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) olakšava recipročni prijenos kolesterol-estera i triglicerida između lipoproteinskih čestica. Lecitin kolesterol aciltransferaza (LCAT) je ključni enzim za esterifikaciju slobodnog kolesterola u kolesterol-estere. CETP i LCAT imaju važnu ulogu u metabolizmu lipoproteina, remodeliranju i reverznom prijenosu kolesterola. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati povezanost između koncentracije CETP i LCAT s veličinom lipoproteina niske gustoće (LDL) i njihovu povezanost s debljinom intime medije (IMT) kod pacijenata s koronarnom srčanom bolešću.

**Materijali i metode:** Lipidni parametri, CETP i LCAT, veličina LDL čestica te IMT određeni su u 100 zdravih dobrovoljaca (kontrolna skupina) te kod 100 pacijenata s koronarnom srčanom bolesti, u dobi od 43 do 77 godina. Za određivanje koncentracije CETP i LCAT korištene su ELISA metode. Subklase LDL razdvojene su nenedenaturirajućom poliakrilamidnom elektroforezom na 31%-tnom gradijentnom gelu.

#### K-5 (Oral presentation)

### Cholesteryl ester transfer protein, lecithin cholesterol acyltransferase, low density lipoprotein particle size and intima media thickness in patients with coronary heart disease

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**Introduction:** Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) facilitates the reciprocal transfer of cholesteryl esters and triglycerides between lipoproteins. Lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT) is the key enzyme responsible for esterification of free cholesterol to cholesteryl esters. CETP and LCAT play a major role in lipoprotein metabolism, remodeling and reverse cholesterol transport. The aim of our study was to determine the potential relationship between the concentration of CETP and LCAT and low density lipoprotein (LDL) particle size and their association with intima media thickness (IMT) in patients with CHD.

**Materials and methods:** Lipid parameters, CETP and LCAT concentration, LDL particle size and IMT were determined in 100 healthy subjects (control group) and in 100 patients with CHD, aged 43 to 77 years. ELISA method was used for determination of plasma CETP and LCAT concentrations. LDL subclasses were separated by nondenaturing polyacrylamide 3-31% gradient gel electrophoresis.

**Rezultati:** Koncentracija CETP bila je viđaša kod pacijenata u odnosu na kontrolnu skupinu ( $P < 0,01$ ). Za koncentraciju LCAT nije utvrđena statistički značajna razlika između ispitivanih skupina ( $P > 0,05$ ). Srednja veličina LDL čestica (nm) bila je niža kod pacijenata u odnosu na kontrole ( $P < 0,001$ ). Nije utvrđena korelacija između veličine LDL čestica i koncentracije CETP, odnosno LCAT ( $P = 0,072$ ,  $P = 0,093$ ). Dob, dijastolički krvni tlak, koncentracija CETP i veličina LDL čestica bili su neovisni pokazatelji za određivanje IMT metodom multiple linearne regresije. Njihov doprinos u varijabilnosti IMT iznosio je 35,2%.

**Zaključak:** CETP bi mogao imati ulogu u određivanju raspodjele lipoproteina, ali nije jedini čimebnik koji utječe na stvaranje malih LDL čestica.

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**Results:** CETP concentration was higher in patients compared to controls ( $P < 0.01$ ). There was no difference in LCAT concentration among two groups ( $P > 0.05$ ). Mean LDL particle size (nm) was significantly smaller in patients compared to controls ( $P < 0.001$ ). There was no relation between LDL particle size and CETP and LCAT concentration, respectively ( $P = 0.072$ ,  $P = 0.093$ ). Age, diastolic blood pressure, CETP concentration and LDL particle size were independent factors for determination of IMT by multiple linear regression analysis. They accounted for 35.2% of the observed variability in IMT.

**Conclusion:** CETP might play a role in determining lipoprotein distributions, but did not seem to be the sole factor in the formation of small LDL particles.

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## R – Kronične bolesti

R-1

### Slaganje omjera albumin/kreatinin i proteini/kreatinin u mokraći kod klasifikacije kronične bubrežne bolesti u dijabetesu

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**Uvod:** Pojačano izlučivanje albumina mokraćom zbog oštećenja bazalne membrane glomerula jedan je od ranih biljega poremećaja funkcije bubrega u šećernoj bolesti. Desetljećima je albuminurija preporučeni alat za probir i postavljanje dijagnoze kronične bubrežne bolesti (KBB) kod oboljelih od šećerne bolesti. Ukupna proteinurija je nedavno uključena u međunarodne smjernice Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcome (KDIGO) za procjenu rizika i stupnjevanje KBB. Cilj ove studije bio je ispitati odnos između omjera proteini/kreatinin (P/K) i albumin/kreatinin (A/K) u mokraći u klasifikaciji KBB kod oboljelih od šećerne bolesti.

## R – Chronic diseases

R-1

### Concordance of urinary albumin-to-creatinine and protein-to-creatinine ratio in classification of chronic kidney disease in diabetes

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**Introduction:** One of the early signs of kidney dysfunction in diabetes is an increased urinary albumin excretion rate due to the damaged glomerular basal membrane. Albuminuria has been a recommended tool for screening and diagnosis of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in diabetic patients for decades. More recently, total proteinuria was also incorporated into risk stratification and staging of CKD by Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcome (KDIGO) guidelines. The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between urinary protein-to-creatinine- (PCR) and albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR) in classification of CKD in diabetic patients.

**Materijali i metode:** Odabrani su laboratorijski nalazi za 202 bolesnika dijabetološke dnevne bolnice s kategorijama KBB 2 do 5. Omjeri A/K i P/K izračunati su iz koncentracije albumina, ukupnih proteina i kreatinina, izmjerenih u slučajnom uzorku mokraće imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom, metodom s pirogalol-crvenilom, odnosno, Jaffe metodom (AU680 analizator; Beckman Coulter, SAD). Na osnovu izmjerenog kreatinina u serumu, procijenjena je veličina glomerularne filtracije (eGFR) preporučenom CKD-EPI jednačjom. Poluautomatska kvalitativna analiza mokraće učinjena je test trakom (Multistix, Clinitek500 analizator; Siemens Healthineers, Njemačka). U studiju su uključeni samo nalazi bolesnika s negativnom reakcijom leukocitne esteraze. Stupnjevanje KBB obavljeno je prema kriterijima smjernica KDIGO-2012. Statistička analiza izrađena je pomoću MedCalc 9.4.2.0. statističkog programa (MedCalc, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Između rezultata A/K i P/K pronađena je izvrsna usporedivost ( $P/K = 11,15 + 1,39 \times A/K$ ;  $R^2 = 0,95$ ), no analiza pouzdanosti slaganja dvaju testova pokazala je samo umjerenu međusobnu suglasnost u stupnjevanju KBB u šećernoj bolesti (kappa 0,61). U usporedbi s A/K, P/K svrstava značajno manje pacijenata u kategoriju normoalbuminurije (5 vs. 25), značajno više u kategoriju albuminurije (113 vs. 91), dok je slaganje izvrsno u skupini s izrazitom albuminurijom/proteinurijom (41 vs. 39).

**Zaključak:** Omjer proteini/kreatinin značajno precjenjuje prisustvo albuminurije u oboljelih od šećerne bolesti. Ostaje za istražiti je li uzrok ovakvim rezultatima preporučena granična vrijednost ili prisutna nedijagnosticirana tubularna proteinurija.

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## R-2 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Usporedba i varijabilnost Calex Cap epruveta za ekstrakciju fekalnog kalprotektina

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**Uvod:** Referentna metoda za pripremu ekstrakata stolice i određivanje fekalnog kalprotektina (FC) podrazumijeva vaganje stolice i dodavanje pufera, ali

**Materials and methods:** We retrospectively analyzed results from 202 selected outpatient diabetic patients with CKD stages 2-5. ACR and PCR were calculated from albumin, total protein and creatinine, measured in random urine samples with immunoturbidimetric, pyrogallol red and Jaffe methods, respectively (AU680 analyzer; Beckman Coulter, USA). Serum creatinine-based eGFR was calculated by the recommended CKD-EPI equation. Qualitative urinalysis was performed with semi-automated procedure (Multistix dipstick, Clinitek500 analyzer; Siemens Healthineers, Germany). Only patients with a negative dipstick leukocyte esterase were included in the study. CKD was staged according to KDIGO-2012 Guidelines criteria. Statistical analysis was carried out with MedCalc 9.4.2.0. statistical software (MedCalc, Belgium).

**Results:** An excellent correlation between ACR and PCR was found ( $PCR = 11.15 + 1.39 \times ACR$ ;  $R^2 = 0.95$ ), but inter-rater agreement analysis showed only a moderate agreement between them in classifying CKD in diabetic patients (weighted kappa 0,61). When compared to ACR, PCR classified less patients in the normoalbuminuric (5 vs. 25) and more in the albuminuric category (113 vs. 91), while the concordance into grossly albuminuric/proteinuric class was excellent (41 vs. 39).

**Conclusion:** PCR significantly over-estimate albuminuria in diabetic patients. Whether this is due to the recommended cut-off setup, or an un-diagnosed tubular proteinuria, remains to be established.

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## R-2 (Oral presentation)

### Comparison and variability of two Calex Cap devices for faecal calprotectin extraction

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**Introduction:** The referent stool extraction procedure for faecal calprotectin (FC) determination includes stool weighting and adding some buffer

mnogi proizvođači je zamjenjuju *ready-to-use* epruvetama. One sadržavaju pufer i dio za uzorkovanje gdje se u utorima zadržava određena količina stolice o kojoj ovisi koncentracija FC-a. Bühlmann Laboratories AG (Schönenbuch, Švicarska) nedavno je zamijenio Calex Cap sa Calex CapN epruvetama sa ciljem smanjenja odstupanja u odnosu na referentnu metodu. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati odstupanje obje epruvete u odnosu na referentnu metodu te njihovu varijabilnost ekstrakcije.

**Materijali i metode:** Ukupno 40 uzoraka stolice ekstrahirano je referentnom metodom; po 20 je ekstrahirano Calex Cap i Calex CapN epruvetama. Kako bi se odredila njihova varijabilnost, ekstrakcije su rađene u duplikatu. Wilcoxon testom i Bland-Altman analizom je ispitana razlika u duplikatima mjerenja te razlika epruveta u odnosu na referentnu metodu. Sva mjerenja rađena su Bühlmann fCal Turbo testom (Bühlmann Laboratories AG) na Roche Cobas c501 analizatoru. Podaci su statistički obrađeni u programu Medcalc, verzija 14.8.1 (Ostend, Belgija). P-vrijednost < 0,05 smatrana je statistički značajnom.

**Rezultati:** Medijan (interkvartilni raspon) koncentracija FC-a (mg/kg) su: Calex Cap 223 (76 - 755), referentna metoda 174 (55 - 449); Calex CapN 182 (100 - 1151), referentna metoda 170 (88 - 961). Ne postoji statistički značajna razlika između rezultata FC-a u duplikatima ekstrakata dobivenih sa Calex CapN epruvetom ( $P = 0,54$ ) uz odstupanje od 1,4% (95% CI: - 10,3 do 13,1%) dok ona postoji kod Calex Cap epruvete ( $P = 0,003$ ) uz odstupanje od 7% (95% CI: 0,99 do 13,0%). Rezultati ekstrakata iz Calex Cap i CapN epruveta statistički se značajno razlikuju u odnosu na referentnu metodu ( $P < 0,001$  odnosno  $P = 0,002$ ), uz pozitivno odstupanje od 53,2% (95% CI: 30,8 do 75,7%) za Calex Cap, odnosno 16,2% (95% CI: 7,8 do 24,7%) za Calex CapN.

**Zaključak:** Uvođenjem Calex CapN epruveta za ekstrakciju stolice smanjeno je pozitivno odstupanje koncentracije FC-a u odnosu na referentnu metodu te je varijabilnost ekstrakcije minimalna.

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which is rather inconvenient. Manufacturers are replacing it with ready-to-use devices which contain buffer and a sampling pin with grooves which withhold stool sample. Recently, Bühlmann Laboratories AG (Schönenbuch, Switzerland) has replaced 8-groove Calex Cap with new 6-groove Calex CapN device. Because of smaller stool amount in new device, the positive bias previously found between Calex Cap and referent method should be reduced. Aim of this study was to compare FC results in extracts prepared with both devices regarding the referent method and to evaluate extraction variability.

**Materials and methods:** Forty stool samples were extracted using referent method, out of which 20 with Calex Cap and 20 with Calex CapN device. To determinate devices variability, extractions were performed in duplicate. Wilcoxon test and Bland-Altman analysis were used to determinate differences between duplicate extractions and between both devices and referent method. All measurements were performed using Bühlmann fCal Turbo test on Roche Cobas c501 analyser. For statistical analysis, Medcalc software version 14.8.1 (Ostend, Belgium) was used. P-Value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** Faecal calprotectin median (interquartile range) concentrations (mg/kg) were: Calex Cap 223 (76 - 755), referent method 174 (55 - 449); Calex CapN 182 (100-1151), referent method 170 (88 - 961). No statistically significant difference was found between FC concentrations measured in duplicate with Calex CapN device ( $P = 0.54$ , bias = 1.4% (95% CI: - 10.3 to 13.1%)) while difference was found using Calex Cap ( $P = 0.003$ , bias = 7% (95% CI: 0.99 to 13.0%)). Also, there is significant positive bias for both devices regarding the referent method: Calex Cap: 53.2% (95% CI: 30.8 to 75.7%),  $P < 0.001$ ; Calex CapN: 16.2% (95% CI: 7.8 to 24.7%),  $P = 0.002$ .

**Conclusion:** With introduction of Calex CapN device for stool extraction, the difference in FC concentrations regarding referent method is reduced and extraction variability is minimal.

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R-3

### Određivanje ekspresije Toll like receptora 4 kod pacijenata s arterijskom hipertenzijom

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**Uvod:** Obitelj Toll-like receptora (TLR) ima ključnu ulogu u prirođenom imunitetu. Aktiviranje TLR-4 inducira upalni proces karakteriziran produkcijom citokina. Prethodne studije su pokazale da je prirođeni imunitet uključen u patogenezu arterijske hipertenzije. Stoga smo istražili nivo ekspresije TLR-4 kod pacijenata s arterijskom hipertenzijom. Cilj studije je bio istražiti da li postoji razlika u ekspresiji TLR-4 kod pacijenata sa dobro-reguliranom hipertenzijom u odnosu na pacijente sa ne-reguliranom hipertenzijom.

**Materijali i metode:** Mjerili smo ekspresiju TLR-4 na CD14+ monocitima u perifernoj krvi 105 pacijenata sa hipertenzijom: 53 sa dobro-reguliranim krvnim tlakom i 52 ne-regulirana. Ekspresija TLR-4 na CD14+ monocitima je određena direktnim imunofluorescentnim bojanjem sa FITC-obilježenim CD14 anti-humanim monoklonskim antitijelom (BD Biosciences) i PE-obilježenim TLR-4 specifičnim monoklonskim antitijelom (Bd Biosciences) i analizirana protočnom citometrijom (FACSCalibur, Cell Quest Pro, BD). Rezultati su izraženi kao postotak TLR-4 pozitivnih CD14+ monocita. Brojčani podatci su izraženi kao median i interkvartilni raspon (IQR). Usporedba rezultata je učinjena Mann-Whitney U testom, uz nivo značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** Skupina hipertenzivnih pacijenata sa ne-reguliranim krvnim tlakom ima veću ekspresiju TLR-4 25,6 (IQR 20,6 - 30,1) u odnosu na skupinu hipertenzivnih pacijenata sa dobro-reguliranim krvnim tlakom 21,9 (IQR 18,9 - 25,0). Postotak monocita koji izražavaju TLR-4 antigen je značajno veći kod ne-reguliranih pacijenata u odnosu na dobro-regulirane (25,6 vs 21,99;  $P = 0,011$ ).

**Zaključak:** Naša studija je pokazala važnost prirođenog imuniteta u hipertenziji preko izražaja TLR-4.

R-3

### Analysis of Toll like receptor 4 expression in patients with arterial hypertension

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**Introduction:** The family of Toll-like receptors (TLR) plays a critical role in innate immunity. Activation of TLR-4 induces inflammatory process characterized by the production of cytokines. It was recently shown that innate immunity contributes to arterial hypertension. We investigated levels of TLR-4 expression in patients with arterial hypertension. The aim of this study was to observe if there is any difference in TLR-4 expression in patients with well-controlled hypertension compared to patients with non-controlled hypertension.

**Materials and methods:** We measured expression of TLR-4 on CD14+ monocytes in peripheral blood of 105 hypertensive patients: 53 with well-controlled blood pressure and 52 non-controlled. Expression of TLR-4 on CD14+ monocytes was determined by direct immunofluorescence staining with FITC-labeling CD14 anti-human monoclonal antibody (BD Biosciences) and PE-labeling TLR-4 specific monoclonal antibody (BD Biosciences) and analyzed by flow cytometry (FACSCalibur, Cell Quest Pro, BD). Results were expressed as a percentage of TLR-4 positive CD14+ monocytes. The numerical data was described with the median and interquartile range (IQR). Comparison was made using the Mann-Whitney U test,  $P < 0.05$  was considered to be statistically significant.

**Results:** The group of non-controlled blood pressure hypertensive patients had higher expression TLR-4 25.6 (IQR 20.6 - 30.1) than the well-controlled blood pressure hypertensive patients group 21.9 (IQR 18.9 - 25.0). The percentage of monocytes expressing TLR-4 antigen was significantly higher in non-controlled patients than in well-controlled (25.6 vs 21.99;  $P = 0.011$ ).

**Conclusion:** Our study showed the importance of innate immune responses, represented by TLR-4 expression.

Pokazalo se da pacijenti sa ne-reguliranom hipertenzijom imaju veću ekspresiju TLR-4 u usporedbi sa onima koji imaju dobro-reguliranu hipertenziju.

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R-4

### Određivanje koncentracije prealbumina i albumina u dijaliziranih bolesnika

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**Uvod:** Bubrežna bolest je sve češća bolest današnjice. Debljina, visok krvni tlak i šećerna bolest, vodeći su uzročnici smanjenja funkcije bubrega te je tim bolesnicima potrebna hemodijaliza. Hemodijaliza je proces pročišćavanja krvi od otrovnih produkata u vantjelesnom optoku i vraćanje „pročišćene“ krvi bolesniku. Cilj rada je bio utvrditi jesu li vrijednosti prealbumina i albumina dobri pokazatelji pothranjenosti kod bolesnika koji se nalaze na hemodijalizi. Također, ispitali smo povezanost nutritivnih parametara: indeks tjelesne mase (BMI), albumina i prealbumina, između skupine pothranjenih i normalno uhranjenih bolesnika.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U ispitivanje je bilo uključeno 115 bolesnika koji se liječe od terminalnog zatajenja bubrega u KBC-u Rijeka, na Zavodu za dijalizu, nefrologiju i transplantaciju. Na temelju koncentracije prealbumina bolesnici su podijeljeni na skupinu pothranjenih (N = 14; 12%) i skupinu normalno uhranjenih (N = 101; 88%) pri čemu je kao kriterij podjele uzeta koncentracija prealbumina (pothranjeni: prealbumin < 0,2 mg/L; normalno uhranjeni: prealbumin > 0,2 mg/L). BMI je izračunat prema jednadžbi visina (cm)/težina(kg)<sup>2</sup>, uz referentni interval (obzirom na spol) definiran od strane SZO-e (niski BMI:  $\bar{Z} < 19,1$ , M < 20,7). Koncentracije prealbumina i albumina određene su na biokemijskom analizatoru Olympus AU480 (Beckman Coulter Biomedical KK, Higashina, Japan) metodom imunoturbidimetrije. Vrijednost P < 0,05 je prihvaćena kao razina statističke značajnosti.

**Rezultati:** Između ove dvije skupine BMI kao nutritivski parametar nije bio statistički značajan (P = 0,447),

in hypertension. The patients with non-controlled hypertension showed higher TLR-4 expression in comparison to those with controlled hypertension.

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R-4

### Determination of prealbumin and albumin concentrations in haemodialysis patients

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**Introduction:** Renal disease is more common disease. Obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes are the leading cause of renal impairment and these patients need hemodialysis. Hemodialysis is a process of blood purification that eliminates waste outside a body using a machine and then returns the 'purified' blood to a patient. The aim of the study was to determine whether prealbumin and albumin values are good indicators of malnutrition in patients with haemodialysis. We also investigated the correlation between nutritional parameters: body mass index (BMI), albumin and prealbumin, between groups of undernourished and the normally nourished patients.

**Subjects and methods:** The study included 115 patients who were treated for terminal renal failure in KBC Rijeka, at the Institute for dialysis, nephrology and transplantation. Based on the prealbumin concentrations, the patients were divided into the group of undernourished (N = 14; 12%) and the normally nourished group (N = 101; 88%), where prealbumin concentrations < 0.2 mg/L were criteria for undernourished, and prealbumin > 0.2 mg/L were for normally nourished patients. The BMI was calculated by the height (cm)/weight(kg)<sup>2</sup> equation, with the reference interval defined by the WHO (low BMI:  $W < 19.1$ , M < 20.7). Concentrations of prealbumin and albumin were determined by the biochemical analyzer Olympus AU480 (Beckman Coulter Biomedical KK, Higashin, Japan) by the immunoturbidimetry method. The value P < 0.05 is accepted as a level of statistical significance.

dok je statistička značajnost utvrđena za koncentracije albumina ( $P < 0,001$ ) i prealbumina ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Indeks tjelesne mase nije značajan kao biljeg pothranjenosti u skupini dijaliziranih bolesnika. U skupini normalno uhranjenih koncentracija albumina i prealbumina je viša nego u skupini pothranjenih, pa bi određivanje prealbumina i albumina u serumu dijaliziranih bolesnika mogli biti dobri parametri pri utvrđivanju stanja uhranjenosti.

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**Results:** Between these two groups, BMI as a nutrition parameter was not statistically significant ( $P = 0.447$ ), while statistical significance was determined for albumin concentrations ( $P < 0.001$ ) and prealbumin concentrations ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Body mass index is not significant as a sign of malnutrition in a group of patients with haemodialysis. In the group of normally nourished patients, concentrations of albumin and prealbumin were higher than in the group of undernourished group. The determination of prealbumin and albumin in serum of patients in haemodialysis could be good parameters in determining the state of nutrition.

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R-5

### Povezanost lipidnog profila s težinom bolesti u kroničnoj opstruktivskoj plućnoj bolesti

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**Uvod:** Kronična opstruktivska plućna bolest (KOPB) sistemska je upalna bolest povezana s mnogim komorbiditetima, kao što su kardiovaskularne bolesti (KVB). Cilj ovog istraživanja je bio utvrditi povezanost između lipidnog profila i težine bolesti kod bolesnika s KOPB-om.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je obuhvatilo 95 zdravih dobrovoljaca (49 muških i 46 žena, dobi 64 (46 – 83) godina) i 137 bolesnika s KOPB-om (86 muških i 51 žena, dobi 65 (44 – 86) godina). Bolesnici s KOPB-om su podijeljeni u skupine prema novim klasifikacijama težine bolesti (stupanj A-D), prema mMRC (izmijenjeni upitnik Medicinskog istraživačkog vijeća) i CAT (test procjene KOPB-a) upitnicima. FEV<sub>1</sub> i FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC su dobiveni spirometrijom. Ukupni

R-5

### Association of lipid profile with the severity of the disease in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Introduction:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a systemic inflammatory disease associated with comorbidities, such as cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Our aim was to assess the relationship between lipid profile and the severity of the disease in COPD patients.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 95 healthy subjects (49 male and 46 female; aged 64 (46 – 83) years) and 137 COPD patients (86 male and 51 female; aged 65 (44 – 86) years). COPD patients were subdivided according to new classifications by disease severity (stages A-D), using the mMRC (modified Medical Research Council) and CAT (COPD assessment test) questionnaires. FEV<sub>1</sub> and FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC were determined by spirometry. Total cholesterol,



kolesterol, trigliceridi i HDL kolesterol izmjereni su na automatskom biokemijskom analizatoru Cobas c501 (Roche Diagnostics), a LDL kolesterol dobiven je računski. Podaci su analizirani upotrebom MedCalc statističkog software-a.

**Rezultati:** Ukupni kolesterol ( $P < 0,001$ ), trigliceridi ( $P < 0,001$ ) i LDL kolesterol ( $P < 0,001$ ) su sniženi, dok je HDL kolesterol povišen kod bolesnika s KOPB-om ( $P = 0,038$ ). Prema mMRC klasifikaciji, ukupni ( $P < 0,001$ ) i LDL ( $P < 0,001$ ) kolesterol su niži u sva 4 stupnja u odnosu na zdrave, te u stupnju B u odnosu na A, a trigliceridi su sniženi u B, C i D stupnjevima u odnosu na zdrave ispitanike, te stupnjevima B i C u odnosu na A. Prema CAT klasifikaciji, ukupni ( $P < 0,001$ ) i LDL kolesterol ( $P < 0,001$ ) te trigliceridi ( $P = 0,003$ ) sniženi su u stupnju B i D u odnosu na zdrave te za LDL u B i D u odnosu na A stupanj. Nisu pronađene razlike u HDL kolesterolu prema mMRC ili CAT klasifikaciji. Ni  $FEV_1$  ni  $FEV_1/FVC$  nisu povezani s lipidnim parametrima.

**Zaključak:** Parametri lipidnog profila mogu se povezati s težinom KOPB-a, no niži su kod bolesnika s KOPB-om te nisu povezani s povećanim rizikom od KVB-a u ispitivanoj skupini.

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triglycerides and HDL cholesterol were measured by Cobas c501 (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland) automated biochemical analyser, while LDL cholesterol was calculated. Data were analysed by MedCalc statistical analysis software.

**Results:** Total cholesterol ( $P < 0.001$ ), triglycerides ( $P < 0.001$ ) and LDL cholesterol ( $P < 0.001$ ) were lower, while HDL cholesterol was higher in patients with COPD ( $P = 0.038$ ). According to mMRC classification, total ( $P < 0.001$ ) and LDL ( $P < 0.001$ ) cholesterol were lower for all 4 stages compared to healthy controls, and in stage B compared to A, while triglycerides were lower in stages B, C and D compared to healthy controls, and in stages B and C compared to stage A. According to CAT classification, total ( $P < 0.001$ ) and LDL ( $P < 0.001$ ) cholesterol, and triglycerides ( $P = 0.003$ ) were lower for stages B and D compared to healthy controls, and also in stages B and D vs. A for LDL cholesterol. No differences were found in HDL cholesterol levels according to mMRC or CAT classifications. Neither  $FEV_1$  or  $FEV_1/FVC$  were correlated with lipid parameters.

**Conclusion:** Lipid profile measurements could be associated with severity of COPD, but they are lower in COPD patients and are not associated with increased CVD risk in this group of patients.

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R-6

### Utjecaj različitih metoda za određivanje fekalnog kalprotektina na kliničku kategorizaciju rezultata

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**Uvod:** Fekalni kalprotektin (FC), osjetljiv je i neinvazivni biljeg upalne bolesti crijeva (IBD), te omogućuje razlikovanje IBD-a od sindroma iritabilnog crijeva čime se smanjuje potreba za invazivnim dijagnostičkim postupcima. Cilj ovog rada bio je usporediti dvije metode za određivanje FC-a te ispitati postoji li ra-

R-6

### Comparison of two methods for faecal calprotectin determination and its impact on clinical categorization of results

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**Introduction:** Faecal calprotectin (FC) is sensitive, non-invasive marker of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It helps to distinguish between IBD and irritable bowel syndrome, reducing the need for invasive diagnostic procedures. Aim of this study was to compare two methods for FC determination and es-

zlika u kliničkoj kategorizaciji rezultata (1. < 50 mg/kg; 2. 50 - 200 mg/kg; 3. > 200 mg/kg) ovisno o metodi.

**Materijali i metode:** Koncentracija FC-a određena je u 26 ekstrakata stolice fluoroenzimskom metodom FEIA (EliA, Phadia AB, Uppsala, Švedska) na Phadia 100 analizatoru i turbidimetrijskom metodom PETIA (Bühlmann fCal Turbo, Bühlmann Laboratories AG, Schönenbuch, Švicarska) na Roche Cobas c501 analizatoru. Ekstrakti su pripremljeni koristeći EliA Stool Extraction Kit, odnosno Bühlmann Calex CapN. Za usporedbu metoda korišteni su Wilcoxon test, Bland-Altmanova analiza i kappa test. Iz laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava (LIS) retrogradno su preuzeti rezultati FC-a (period od 1 godine), od kojih je 209 određeno FEIA, 441 PETIA metodom. Ispitana je značajnost razlike u proporcijama rezultata dobivenih različitim metodama u odnosu na 3 kategorije. Statistička obrada podataka rađena je u MedCalc 14.8.1 programu (Ostend, Belgija). P-vrijednost < 0,05 smatrana je statistički značajnom. Kriterij maksimalnog odstupanja rezultata preuzet iz Instand e.V. iznosi 36%.

**Rezultati:** Dobivena je statistički značajna razlika ( $P = 0,005$ ) PETIA-e (197,0 (96,5 - 562,0) mg/kg) u odnosu na FEIA-u (100,1 (29,0 - 449,0) mg/kg), uz odstupanje od 61,4% (95% CI: 37,2 - 85,7%) što ne zadovoljava postavljene kriterije. Kappa koeficijent od 0,48 (95% CI: 0,30 - 0,67) upućuje na umjerenu podudarnost kategoriziranih rezultata. Testom razlike proporcija dobivena je statistički značajna razlika u kliničkoj kategorizaciji rezultata preuzetih iz LIS-a za skupine 1 (razlika 17,5%; 95% CI: 9,1 - 25,6%,  $P < 0,001$ ) i 2 (razlika 11,5%; 95% CI: 4,1 - 18,3%,  $P = 0,003$ ), dok za skupinu 3 ne postoji statistički značajna razlika (razlika 6,1%; 95% CI: (- 1,1) - 12,8%,  $P = 0,110$ ).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati FC-a dobiveni PETIA metodom su značajno viši u odnosu na rezultate dobivene FEIA metodom uz posljedično značajnu razliku u kliničkoj kategorizaciji rezultata.

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time differences in clinical categorization of results (1. < 50 mg/kg; 2. 50 - 200 mg/kg; 3. > 200 mg/kg) depending on the used method.

**Materials and methods:** Fluoro-enzyme immunoassay FEIA (EliA, Phadia AB, Uppsala, Sweden) on Phadia 100, and turbidimetric PETIA method (Bühlmann fCal Turbo, Bühlmann, Schönenbuch, Switzerland) on Roche Cobas c501 analyser were compared using 26 stool extracts prepared for FC determination using EliA Stool Extraction Kit, *i.e.* Bühlmann Calex CapN device. Wilcoxon test, Bland-Altman analysis and kappa test were used to assess differences between methods. Furthermore, we retrieved one-year archival FC data from Laboratory Information System (LIS) out of which 209 FC tests were measured with FEIA, 441 with PETIA method. Differences in clinical categorization of results were tested using comparison of proportions test. Statistical evaluation was performed using MedCalc 14.8.1 software (Ostend, Belgium). P-value < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant with allowable bias set at 36% (Instand e.V.).

**Results:** There was a statistically significant difference between two methods,  $P = 0.005$ ; PETIA FC 197.0 (96.5 - 562.0) mg/kg vs. FEIA FC 100.1 (29.0 - 449.0) mg/kg. Mean bias of 61.4% (95% CI: 37.2 - 85.7%) exceeded the set criteria. Kappa coefficient of 0.48 (95% CI: 0.30 - 0.67) indicated moderate comparability of categorized results. Analysis of FC data retrieved from LIS showed significant difference between proportion of results categorized in group 1 (17.5%; 95% CI: 9.1 - 25.6%,  $P < 0.001$ ) and 2 (11.5%; 95% CI: 4.1 - 18.3%,  $P = 0.003$ ), while for group 3 difference between proportions was not significant (6.1%; 95% CI: (- 1.1) - 12.8%,  $P = 0.110$ ).

**Conclusion:** PETIA FC results were significantly higher than FEIA FC result showing a significant impact on clinical categorization of results.

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R-7

## Usporedba fruktozamina, korigiranog fruktozamina i HbA<sub>1c</sub> kod procjene stanja hiperglikemije u gestacijskom dijabetesu

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**Uvod:** Oralni test opterećenja sa 75 g glukoze (oGTT) koristi se kao standardni postupak za dijagnozu gestacijskog dijabetesa (GDM). Međutim, postoji povećani interes za analizu fruktozamina i HbA<sub>1c</sub> kao biljega kratkotrajne i dugotrajne procjene glikemijskog statusa. Za trudnice se također preporuča korekcija fruktozamina prema koncentraciji ukupnih proteina, kako zbog promjena u metabolizmu proteina, tako i dilucije plazme u trudnoći. Cilj naše studije bio je usporediti vrijednosti fruktozamina, korigiranog fruktozamina i HbA<sub>1c</sub> kod procjene stanja glikemije u trudnica s dijagnozom GDM.

**Materijali i metode:** Prikupili smo rezultate od 259 trudnica upućenih u Sveučilišnu kliniku „Vuk Vrhovac“ na redovnu prenatalnu kontrolu koja je uključivala oGTT, HbA<sub>1c</sub> i fruktozamin. Ukupni proteini su naknadno analizirani iz ostatnih uzoraka seruma. Trudnice su podijeljene u dvije grupe temeljem dijagnoze GDM, postavljene prema kriterijima IADPSG/SZO-2013.g. Fruktozamin je izmjeren automatiziranim imunokemijskom metodom (TinaQuant-Integra 400Plus, Roche Diagnostics, SAD), HbA<sub>1c</sub> metodom kapilarne elektroforeze (Minicap Flex Piercing, Sebia, Francuska), a ukupni proteini spektrofotometrijskom metodom na automatiziranom biokemijskom analizatoru (Beckman Coulter AU680, SAD). Fruktozamin je matematički korigiranu odnosu na koncentraciju ukupnih proteina. Statistička analiza izrađena je pomoću statističkog programa MedCalc (MedCalc Software, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Kod ukupno 99 od 259 trudnica (38%) postavljena je dijagnoza GDM. Vrijednosti fruktozamina i HbA<sub>1c</sub> u skupini GDM bile su značano više nego kod zdravih trudnica ( $P = 0,001$  i  $P < 0,001$ ). Srednje vrijednosti fruktozamina u GDM i ne-GDM skupini bile su:  $194 \pm 19 \mu\text{mol/L}$  i  $187 \pm 14 \mu\text{mol/L}$ , a HbA<sub>1c</sub>  $5,2 \pm 0,3\% / 33 \pm 4 \text{ mmol/mol}$  i  $5,0 \pm 0,3\% / 31 \pm 3 \text{ mmol/mol}$ . Vrijednosti korigiranog fruktozamina

R-7

## Comparison of fructosamine, corrected fructosamine and HbA<sub>1c</sub> in assessing hyperglycaemia in gestational diabetes

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**Introduction:** 75 g oral glucose tolerance test (oGTT) is a standard diagnostic procedure for gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) diagnosis, but there is also an increased interest in using fructosamine and HbA<sub>1c</sub> for a short- and long-term glycemic control, respectively. Furthermore, fructosamine correction for total protein concentration is recommended due to alterations of protein metabolism and plasma dilution in pregnancy. The aim of our study was to compare fructosamine, corrected fructosamine and HbA<sub>1c</sub> in evaluation of glycaemic status in women with GDM.

**Materials and methods:** We collected results from 259 pregnant women undergoing their prenatal checkup in University Clinic „Vuk Vrhovac“ which included oGTT, HbA<sub>1c</sub> and fructosamine. Total protein was subsequently analyzed from residual serum. Pregnant women were divided into two groups based on GDM diagnostic criteria according to IADPSG/WHO-2013. Fructosamine was measured with an automated immunoturbidimetric procedure (TinaQuant-Integra 400Plus, Roche Diagnostics, USA), HbA<sub>1c</sub> was analyzed with capillary electrophoresis (Minicap Flex Piercing, Sebia, France) and total protein concentration with spectrophotometric method on automated chemistry analyzer (Beckman Coulter AU680, USA). Fructosamine was mathematically corrected to total protein concentration. Statistical analysis was done using MedCalc statistical software (MedCalc, Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Results:** Ninety-nine of 259 pregnant women (38%) were diagnosed with GDM. Fructosamine and HbA<sub>1c</sub> revealed significantly higher values in pregnant women diagnosed with GDM ( $P = 0.001$  and  $P < 0.001$ ). Mean values in GDM and non-GDM group were  $194 \pm 19 \mu\text{mol/L}$  and  $187 \pm 14 \mu\text{mol/L}$  for fructosamine and  $5.2 \pm 0.3\% / 33 \pm 4 \text{ mmol/mol}$  and  $5.0 \pm 0.3\% / 31 \pm 3 \text{ mmol/mol}$  for HbA<sub>1c</sub>, respectively. Regarding

nisu se značajno razlikovale između dviju grupa ( $P = 0,311$ ).

**Zaključak:** Vrijednosti fruktozamina i  $HbA_{1c}$  uspješili su razgraničiti trudnice sa i bez dijagnoze gestacijskog dijabetesa. Unatoč općim preporukama za korekciju koncentracije fruktozamina prema vrijednostima ukupnih proteina, naša studija nije pokazala da ta korekcija doprinosi značajnom unapređenju procjene hiperglikemijskog statusa u GDM.

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### R-8 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Praćenje uspješnosti implementacije prvih hrvatskih nacionalnih preporuka za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku kronične bubrežne bolesti

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**Uvod:** 2015. godine zajednička Radna grupa Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu (HDMBLM) i Hrvatske komore medicinskih biokemičara (HKMB) za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku kronične bubrežne bolesti (RG-KBB) provela je anketno istraživanje među hrvatskim medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima (MBL) te utvrdila da postoji velika raznolikost u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici KBB čime se nametnula potreba za standardizacijom i harmonizacijom ovog područja laboratorijske medicine. Prvi korak u ostvarenju zadanog cilja bilo je izdavanje prvih nacionalnih preporuka za labora-

corrected fructosamine, no difference was observed between the two groups ( $P = 0.311$ ).

**Conclusion:** Both  $HbA_{1c}$  and fructosamine were able to discriminate GDM from normal glucose tolerance. Despite general recommendation for total protein correction in pregnant women, in our study fructosamine correction did not improve diagnostic utility when assessing hyperglycaemia in GDM.

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### R-8 (Oral presentation)

#### How well do Croatian laboratories adhere to CSMBLM-CCMB recommendations for laboratory diagnostics of chronic kidney disease

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On behalf of the joint working group of Croatian society of medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine and Croatian chamber of medical biochemists for laboratory diagnostics in chronic kidney disease

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**Introduction:** In 2015 the Joint Working Group (JWG) of Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM) and Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists (CCMB) for laboratory diagnostics of chronic kidney disease (CKD) have demonstrated a large heterogeneity and the need for harmonization in laboratory diagnostics of CKD in Croatia. In 2017 the JWG-CKD has published the first Croatian recommendations for laboratory diagnostics of CKD. Recommendations were distributed to all CSMBLM members. We have therefore conducted a survey to i) explore how well do Croa-

torijsku dijagnostiku KBB u 2017. godini. Preporuke su distribuirane u sve hrvatske MBL-ove. Da bi se pratio tijek uspješnosti implementacije smjernica u svakodnevni laboratorijski rad, krajem 2017. godine ponovljeno je anketno istraživanje među hrvatskim MBL-ovima. Također, cilj ankete je usporediti dobivene rezultate s inicijalnom procjenom stanja iz 2014. godine.

**Materijali i metode:** Poziv za sudjelovanjem u anketnom istraživanju poslan je u sve hrvatske MBL-ove (N = 196). Upitnik je bio sastavljen od 19 pitanja s mogućnošću višestrukih odgovora.

**Rezultati:** 98 laboratorija se odazvalo na anketno istraživanje (50.0%), većinom iz laboratorija primarne zdravstvene zaštite (46,4%). Prevladavajuća metoda za mjerenje koncentracije serumskog kreatinina je standardizirana kompenzirana Jaffé metoda (79,2%). U odnosu na inicijalno stanje iz 2014. godine, značajno se smanjio broj laboratorija koji koristi nestandardiziranu nekompensiranu Jaffé metodu; 7% odnosno 40%. Broj laboratorija koji ne izvještava rezultate eGFR uz rezultate serumskog kreatinina pao je za gotovo polovicu u odnosu na 2014. godinu (37,6% naspram 74,4%). Međutim, uspoređujući rezultate broja laboratorija koji ne vrše mjerenje albumina i/ili ukupnih proteina u uzorku mokraće (54/98), nailazimo na slične rezultate kao u 2014. godini (58/80).

**Zaključak:** Proces implementacije prvih hrvatskih preporuka za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBB je dosegao istek prve godine. Prikupljeni podaci ponovljenog anketnog istraživanja ukazuju na značajan pomak u procesu standardizacije i harmonizacije mjerenja serumskog kreatinina, kao i izvještavanja rezultata eGFR. Međutim, mjerenje koncentracije albumina i/ili ukupnih proteina u uzorku mokraće još uvijek nije implementirano širom države. Većinom se tu radi o laboratorijima primarne zdravstvene zaštite, glavninom zbog legislativnih razloga.

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tian laboratories adhere to CSMBLM-CCMB recommendations for laboratory diagnostics of CKD, and ii) to compare the adherence with the initial assessment conducted in 2014.

**Materials and methods:** An invitation to the survey was sent to all Croatian medical-biochemistry laboratories (N = 196). The questionnaire was designed in a form of 19 questions and statements, with possible multiple answers.

**Results:** The response rate was 98/196 (50.0%) with majority of answers from primary medical-biochemistry laboratories (46.4%). The predominant method for serum creatinine measurement is standardized compensated Jaffé method (79.2%). There is substantial decrease in the number of laboratories which measure creatinine with non-standardized uncompensated Jaffé method, compared with the initial assessment conducted in 2014; 7% vs 40%, respectively. The number of the laboratories that do not report eGFR values decreased almost by half compared to the initial 2014 data (37.6% vs 74.4%). However, compared to the 2014 initial assessment, similar number of laboratories (54/98 vs 58/80) do not measure urine albumin or protein.

**Conclusion:** The first Croatian recommendations for laboratory testing of CKD implementation process reached its first year. The collected data show a substantial improvement in the standardization of the serum creatinine measurement, as well as in reporting of eGFR, one of the two key prerequisites for CKD screening. However, albuminuria or proteinuria assessment is still not implemented nationwide, mainly in the primary health care laboratories due to legislative reasons.

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R-9

## Omjer neutrofila i limfocita kao biomarker upale u kroničnoj opstruktivskoj plućnoj bolesti

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**Uvod:** Kronična opstruktivska plućna bolest, jedan od vodećih uzroka morbiditeta i mortaliteta, karakterizirana je kroničnom upalom. Omjer neutrofila i limfocita (NLR) novi je i osjetljiv marker upale. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je ispitati NLR kao potencijalni dijagnostički biomarker kod bolesnika u stabilnoj fazi KOPB-a.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je obuhvatilo 95 zdravih dobrovoljaca (49 muških i 46 žena; srednja dob 64, raspon 46-83 godine; 47 pušača i 48 nepušača) i 137 bolesnika s KOPB-om (86 muških i 51 žena; srednja dob 65, raspon 44-86 godina; 10 nepušača, 90 bivših pušača, 37 pušača). Bolesnici s KOPB-om su podijeljeni u podskupine prema GOLD-u (Globalna inicijativa za KOPB). Broj neutrofila i limfocita određeni su na Sysmex XE5000 hematološkom analizatoru, a NLR je dobiven računski. Podaci su analizirani upotrebom MedCalc statističkog software-a.

**Rezultati:** Broj neutrofila ( $P < 0,001$ ) kao i NLR ( $P < 0,001$ ) bili su viši kod bolesnika s KOPB-om nego kod zdravih ispitanika, dok nije bilo razlike u broju limfocita ( $P = 0,158$ ). Broj neutrofila ovisio je o pušačkom statusu ( $P < 0,001$ ), te se nije razlikovao između zdravih pušača i bolesnika u GOLD 2 i GOLD 3 stadiju, dok NLR nije ovisio o pušačkom statusu. Granična vrijednost od 1,95 klasificirala je bolesnike s KOPB-om s dijagnostičkom specifičnošću od 68,42% i dijagnostičkom osjetljivošću od 69,34%, uz vrijednost područja ispod krivulje (AUC) od 0,72 (95% CI: 0,66 - 0,78).

**Zaključak:** NLR bi mogao služiti kao ekonomičan biomarker upale u KOPB-u, neovisan o pušačkom statusu.

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R-9

## Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio as a biomarker of inflammation in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Introduction:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, is characterized by chronic inflammation. Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) is a new sensitive marker of inflammation. The aim of this study was to assess NLR in stable COPD patients as a potential diagnostic marker.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 95 healthy subjects (49 male and 46 female; median age 64, range 46-83 years; 47 smokers and 48 non-smokers) and 137 COPD patients (86 male and 51 female; median age 65, range 44-86 years; 10 non-smokers, 90 ex-smokers, 37 smokers). COPD patients were also subdivided according to GOLD (Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease). Neutrophil and lymphocyte counts were determined by Sysmex XE 5000 hematology analyser, and NLR was calculated. Data were analysed by MedCalc statistical analysis software.

**Results:** Neutrophil count ( $P < 0.001$ ) as well as NLR ( $P < 0.001$ ) were higher in COPD patients compared to healthy subjects, while there was no difference in lymphocyte count ( $P = 0.158$ ). Neutrophil count depended on smoking status ( $P < 0.001$ ), and was not able to differentiate between healthy smokers and less severe (GOLD 2 and 3) stages, while NLR did not depend on smoking status. The cut-off value of 1.95 for NLR classified COPD patients with 68.42% specificity, 69.34% sensitivity, and area under the curve (AUC) value of 0.72 (95% CI: 0.66 - 0.78).

**Conclusion:** Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio might serve as a cost-effective biomarker of inflammation in COPD patients independent of smoking status.

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## R-10 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin kao biomarker težine kronične opstruktivske plućne bolesti

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**Uvod:** Oksidacijski stres igra važnu ulogu u kroničnoj opstruktivskoj plućnoj bolesti (KOPB). Mokraćna kiselina je dobro poznat biljeg oksidacijskog stresa. Povišena mokraćna kiselina u serumu je nedavno povezana s rizikom od ograničenja protoka zraka. Nadalje, omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin je predložen kao obećavajući čimbenik u predviđanju rizika za razvoj egzacerbacija i težine bolesti. Cilj ovog istraživanja je bio ispitati koncentraciju mokraćne kiseline te omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin kod bolesnika sa stabilnom KOPB u odnosu na težinu bolesti.

**Materijali i metode:** Dobiveni su uzorci krvi od bolesnika sa stabilnom KOPB (N = 137, 86 muških i 51 žena, srednja dob 65, raspon 44 - 86 godina) i odgovarajućih zdravih dobrovoljaca (N = 95, 49 muških i 46 žena, srednja dob 64, raspon 46 - 83 godine). Bolesnici s KOPB-om su podijeljeni u podgrupe prema GOLD-u (Globalna inicijativa za KOPB) ili novim "ABCD" klasifikacijama (iz 2017.), koristeći pritom mMRC (Izmijenjeno medicinsko istraživačko vijeće) i CAT (Test za procjenu KOPB-a) upitnike. Koncentracije mokraćne kiseline i kreatinina u serumu određene su pomoću automatskog biokemijskog analizatora Cobas 6000 (Roche Diagnostics), te je izračunat omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin. Za analizu podataka korištene su neparametrijske statističke analize upotrebom MedCalc programa.

**Rezultati:** Koncentracija mokraćne kiseline i omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin su bili značajno povećani u bolesnika s KOPB-om u usporedbi sa zdravim kontrolama [320 (269 - 399)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. 292 (249 - 348)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ,  $P = 0,028$ ; te 4,37 (3,78 - 5,15) vs. 3,88 (3,34 - 4,43),  $P < 0,001$ ], dok koncentracija kreatinina nije po-

## R-10 (Oral presentation)

### Uric acid/creatinine ratio as a biomarker of severity of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Introduction:** Oxidative stress plays an important role in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Uric acid is a well-known marker of oxidative stress. Recently, elevated serum uric acid was associated with the risk of airflow limitation. Furthermore, uric acid/creatinine ratio was suggested to be a promising factor in predicting exacerbation risk and disease severity. The aim of this study was to assess uric acid concentration and uric acid/creatinine ratio in stable COPD patients in relation to the severity of the disease.

**Materials and methods:** We obtained blood samples from stable COPD patients (N = 137; 86 male and 51 female; median age 65, range 44 - 86 years) and matched healthy volunteers (N = 95; 49 male and 46 female; median age 64, range 46 - 83 years). COPD patients were divided into subgroups according to GOLD (Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease) or new "ABCD" classifications (from 2017), by both mMRC (modified Medical Research Council) and CAT (COPD assessment test) questionnaires. Serum uric acid and creatinine concentrations were determined using the Cobas 6000 (Roche Diagnostics) automated biochemical analyzer, and uric acid/creatinine ratio was calculated. Nonparametric statistics using the MedCalc program was used for data analysis.

**Results:** Both uric acid concentration and uric acid/creatinine ratio were significantly increased in COPD patients compared to healthy controls [320 (269 - 399)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. 292 (249 - 348)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ,  $P = 0.028$ ; and 4.37 (3.78 - 5.15) vs. 3.88 (3.34 - 4.43),  $P < 0.001$ ; respectively], while creatinine concentration showed

kazala statistički značajne razlike [72 (60 - 84)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. 79 (67 - 88)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ,  $P = 0,062$ ]. Štoviše, omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin povećan je u svih bolesnika s KOPB-om u usporedbi sa zdravim kontrolama bez obzira na spol ( $P < 0,001$ ). Konačno, omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin je pokazao porast ovisno o težini bolesti u skladu s GOLD-om i novim "ABCD" klasifikacijama (prema mMRC i CAT upitnicima).

**Zaključak:** Omjer mokraćna kiselina/kreatinin mogao bi biti jednostavan, ekonomičan biomarker težine bolesti kod novodijagnosticiranih bolesnika s KOPB-om.

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no statistical differences [72 (60 - 84)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. 79 (67 - 88)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ,  $P = 0.062$ ]. Moreover, uric acid/creatinine ratio was increased in all COPD patients compared to healthy controls regardless of sex ( $P < 0.001$ ). Finally, uric acid/creatinine ratio showed an increase with the severity of the disease according to both GOLD and new "ABCD" classifications (by mMRC and CAT questionnaires).

**Conclusion:** Uric acid/creatinine ratio might be a simple, cost-effective biomarker of severity in newly diagnosed COPD patients.

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## M – Molekularna dijagnostika

### M-1

#### Ispitivanje učestalosti genotipova inhibitora plazminogen aktivatora 1 4G/5G polimorfizma kod ispitanica s uputnom dijagnozom neplodnosti

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**Uvod:** Inhibitor plazminogen aktivatora 1 (PAI-1), glavni inhibitor fibrinolitičke aktivnosti je povećane ekspresije u patologiji trudnoće i PAI-1 vrijednosti su povišene u krvi, što može doprinijeti ranom gubitku fetusa, lošem ishodu trudnoće kao i neplodnosti. Cilj nam je bio ispitati učestalost genotipova PAI-1 4G/5G polimorfizma, osobito rizičnog 4G/4G, kod ispitanica s dijagnozom ženske neplodnosti poslanih na određivanje PAI-1 4G/5G polimorfizma u odjelu za molekularnu dijagnostiku Hrvatskog zavoda za transfuzijsku medicinu (HZTM) u periodu od 2011. do kraja 2017.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Od ukupno 2220 žena upućenih na genotipizaciju PAI-1 polimorfizma u HZTM, skupinu ispitanica činilo je 1088 žena s dijagnozom neplodnosti, a kontrolnu 1132 žene bez dijagnoze neplodnosti. DNA svih ispitanica izolirana je pomoću kolona sa silika gel membranom na uređaju QIAcube koristeći QIAamp DNA Blood Mini QIAcube Kit (Qi-

## M – Molecular diagnostics

### M-1

#### Assessment of plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 4G/5G polymorphism genotype detection in women with initial diagnosis of infertility

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**Introduction:** Plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 (PAI-1), the main inhibitor of fibrinolytic activity, is highly expressed in pathology of pregnancy and PAI-1 values are elevated in the blood, which could contribute to early fetal loss, poor pregnancy outcome, and infertility. Objective of study was to investigate the incidence of genotypes of PAI-1 4G/5G polymorphisms, particularly risk genotype 4G/4G, in women with infertility diagnosis sent to Croatian Institute of Transfusion Medicine (CITM) from 2011 to the end of 2017.

**Subjects and methods:** Out of a total 2220 women sent to genotype detection of PAI-1 polymorphisms, 1088 women were initial diagnosed as infertility, and 1132 women were control group without infertility diagnosis. The DNA was extracted on QIAcube platform using the QIAamp DNA Blood Mini QIAcube Kit (Qiagen, Germany). PAI-1 4G/5G polymorphisms ge-



agen, Njemačka). Genotipizacija polimorfizma PAI-1 4G/5G ispitana je pomoću RT-PCR metode uz alelnu diskriminaciju pomoću CustomTaqMan SNP Genotyping Assay-a na uređaju ABI 7500system (Applied Biosystems, SAD). Statistička usporedba dviju skupina ispitanica učinjena je pomoću omjera izgleda (OR) za genotip 4G/4G i  $\chi^2$ -testa uz razinu značajnosti  $P < 0,05$  (MedCalc softver, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** U skupini žena s dijagnozom neplodnosti, 330 (30,3%) je imalo PAI-1 4G/4G genotip, 527 (48,5%) je imalo 4G/5G, a 231 (21,2%) 5G/5G. U kontrolnoj skupini 309 (27,3%) ispitanica imalo je genotip 4G/4G, 572 (50,5%) genotip 4G/5G te 251 (22,2%) 5G/5G. Statističkom usporedbom rezultata dvije skupine utvrđen je OR 0,99 (95% CI: 0,83 - 1,19),  $P = 0,93$  i  $\chi^2 = 2,492$  uz  $P = 0,287$ , odnosno genotip 4G/4G u skupini ispitanica sa uputnom dijagnozom neplodnosti ne povećava omjer izgleda za uputnu dijagnozu u odnosu na kontrolnu skupinu tj. ne postoji značajna razlika u razdiobi genotipova između ispitanice i kontrolne skupine.

**Zaključak:** Ovim istraživanjem nije utvrđeno da određivanje PAI-1 4G/5G polimorfizma značajno doprinosi dijagnostici patologije kod žena s dijagnozom neplodnosti.

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otyping was tested by RT-PCR method with allelic discrimination using the Custom TaqMan SNP Genotyping Assay on ABI 7500 real-time PCR system (Applied Biosystems, USA). The statistical comparison of two groups was made by using Odds ratio (OR) for 4G/4G genotype and the  $\chi^2$ -test at the  $P < 0.05$  significance level (MedCalc software, Belgium).

**Results:** In the group of women with infertility diagnosis, 330 (30.3%) had PAI-1 4G/4G genotype, 527 (48.5%) had 4G/5G and 231 (21.2%) 5G/5G. In the control group, 309 (27.3%) had 4G/4G genotype, 572 (50.5%) 4G/5G genotype and 251 (22.2%) 5G/5G genotype. Statistical analysis of two groups resulted in OR 0.99 (95% CI: 0.83 - 1.19),  $P = 0.93$  and  $\chi^2 = 2.429$  with  $P = 0.287$ , respectively 4G/4G genotype in the group of subjects with infertility diagnosis does not increase the likelihood of initial diagnosis in relation to the control group ie there is no significant difference in genotype distribution between the examined and the control group.

**Conclusion:** This research has not established that the determination of PAI-1 4G/5G polymorphism significantly contributes to the diagnosis of pathology in women with infertility diagnosis.

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## M-2

### Povezanost polimorfizma monoamino oksidaze A sa shizofrenijom

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**Uvod:** Shizofrenija je psihijatrijski poremećaj za koji se smatra da nastaje kao posljedica prefrontalne hipodopaminergije i subkortikalne hiperdopaminergije. Regulacija koncentracije dopamina vrši se složenim djelovanjem transportera i enzima te djelovanjem serotoninskog sustava. Monoamino-oksidaza A (MAOA) je enzim koji sudjeluje u metabolizmu neurotransmitera dopamina i serotoninina čime se

## M-2

### Association of monoamine oxidase A polymorphism and schizophrenia

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**Introduction:** Schizophrenia is psychiatric disorder caused probably due to prefrontal hypodopaminergia, and subcortical hyperdopaminergia. Dopamine level is regulated by complex action of transporters, enzymes and serotonin system. Monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) is an enzyme involved in metabolism of dopamine and serotonin by which it regulates action of those two neurotransmitters. MAOA gene

regulira njihovo djelovanje. Gen za MAOA nalazi se na kratkom kraku kromosoma X, zbog čega muškarci mogu biti nositelji samo jednog alela. MAOA-uVNTR (engl. *upstream variable number tandem repeats*) polimorfizam povezuje se sa smanjenom ekspresijom enzima. Motiv od 30 pb u ponavljanju od 3 ili 5 puta ima manju ekspresiju od motiva sa 3.5 ili 4 ponavljanja. Hipoteza ovog istraživanja je moguća povezanost polimorfizma MAOA sa shizofrenijom. Cilj istraživanja je ispitati postoji li razlika u distribuciji genotipa MAOA-uVNTR polimorfizma između zdravih i ispitanika sa shizofrenijom.

**Materijali i metode:** U ovo istraživanje uključeno je 302 zdrava ispitanika i 297 ispitanika sa shizofrenijom. Aleli su podijeljeni na one niske aktivnosti - Low (3 ponavljanja) te alele visoke aktivnosti - High (4 ponavljanja). Genotipizacija je provedena na temelju veličine fragmenata koristeći metodu PCR (engl. *polymerase chain reaction*). Umnoženi fragmenti detektirani su elektroforezom na 1,8% gelu.

**Rezultati:** U skupini zdravih muških ispitanika, genotipizirano je 114 (74,0%) ispitanika sa High alelom i 40 (26,0%) sa Low alelom. U skupini muških ispitanika sa shizofrenijom, dobiveno je: High: 131 (61,6%) i Low: 85 (39,4%). Uočena je statistički značajna razlika ( $P = 0,010$ ). U ženskoj zdravoj populaciji dobiveno je sljedeće: High/High: 64 (43,2%), High/Low: 58 (39,2%) i Low/Low: 26 (17,6%). U skupini ispitanica sa shizofrenijom redom je dobiveno: 35 (43,2%), 38 (46,9%) i 8 (9,9%). Nije utvrđena statistički značajna razlika.

**Zaključak:** Uočena je statistički značajna razlika u distribuciji genotipa MAOA-uVNTR polimorfizma u muškoj populaciji. Naši rezultati idu u prilog ranijim istraživanjima u kojima je utvrđena povezanost ovog polimorfizma sa shizofrenijom.

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is located on short arm of X chromosome, which makes men to be carriers of only one allele. MAOA-uVNTR polymorphism (upstream variable number tandem repeats) is associated with lower expression of enzyme. Allele with 30 base pairs repeated 3 or 5 times has lower expression compared to alleles with 3.5 or 4 repeats. Hypothesis of this research is that MAOA-uVNTR polymorphism might be associated with schizophrenia. The aim of this study is to assess if there is a difference in distribution of this polymorphism between healthy general population and patients with schizophrenia.

**Materials and methods:** Three hundred and two healthy individuals and 297 patients with schizophrenia were included in this study. Alleles were categorized in those with low activity (3 repeats) and alleles with high activity (4 repeats). Genotyping was performed using PCR (polymerase chain reaction), and fragments were detected by gel electrophoresis on 1.8% gel.

**Results:** In healthy male group we found 114 (74.0%) individuals with High allele and 40 (26.0%) genotyped as Low allele. In male group with schizophrenia we found 131 (61.6%) and 85 (39.4%) respectively. There was statistically significant difference between this two groups ( $P = 0.010$ ). In female population we found High/High: 64 (43.2%), High/Low: 58 (39.2%) and Low/Low: 26 (17.6%). In group of female patients with schizophrenia: 35 (43.2%), 38 (46.9%) and 8 (9.9%) respectively. There was no statistically significant difference.

**Conclusion:** We found statistically significant difference in distribution of MAOA-uVNTR polymorphism in male population. Our results support results of previous research where association of MAOA-uVNTR polymorphism and schizophrenia was found.

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M-3

### Molekularna dijagnostika monogenetskog dijabetesa u Hrvatskoj - preliminarni rezultati

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**Uvod:** Monogenetski dijabetes je karakteriziran autosomno-dominantnim načinom nasljeđivanja, ranim nastupom bolesti (često prije 25. godine života) te progresivnim propadanjem funkcije  $\beta$ -stanica gušterače, što je posljedica nemogućnosti prikladnog povećanja inzulinske sekrecije u odgovoru na hiperglikemiju. Genske patogene varijante vezane su uz disfunkciju  $\beta$ -stanica pankreasa i mikrovaskularne komplikacije (retinopatija, nefropatija, neuropatija), te kardio-cerebrovaskularne bolesti. Do danas je identificirano 13 različitih gena odgovornih za fenotip monogenetskog dijabetesa, a najčešće su to geni koji kodiraju enzim glukokinazu (gen *GCK*) ili jedan od faktora transkripcije (geni *HNF-1A*, *HNF-4A*, *HNF-1B* i *IPF-1*). Sekvencioniranjem gena utvrđuju se podtipovi monogenetskog dijabetesa, što je ključno za točnu dijagnozu i terapiju inzulinom (gen *HNF1B*) ili niskom dozom sulfonilureje. Cilj ovog preliminarnog istraživanja je prikazati važnost molekularne dijagnostike za postavljanje rane dijagnoze monogenetskog dijabetesa.

**Materijali i metode:** Genotipizacija je provedena metodom sekvencioniranja koristeći komplet reagenasa BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) na uređaju za kapilarnu elektroforezu Genetic Analyser 3130 xl (Applied Biosystems) za pacijente s kliničkom sumnjom na monogenetski dijabetes, podtipove *HNF-1A*, *HNF-4A* i *HNF-1B*.

**Rezultati:** Analizirana su četiri pacijenta, a dijagnoza monogenetskog dijabetesa potvrđena je kod jednog pacijenta, za podtip *HNF1A* - p.pro291fsx316.

M-3

### Molecular diagnostics of monogenic diabetes in Croatia - preliminary results

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**Introduction:** Monogenic diabetes is characterized by early-onset diabetes inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern (often before 25 years of age) and progressive decay of pancreatic beta-cell function, resulting from the inability to adequately increase insulin secretion in response to hyperglycaemia. Pathogenic variants are associated with pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell dysfunction and microvascular complications (retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy), and cardio-cerebrovascular disease. To date, 13 different genes responsible for the monogenic diabetes phenotype have been identified, most often the genes encoding the enzyme glucokinase (*GCK*) or one of the transcription factors (*HNF-1A*, *HNF-4A*, *HNF-1B* and *IPF-1*). By sequencing the genes, subtypes of monogenic diabetes are determined, which is crucial for accurate diagnosis and insulin therapy (*HNF1B*) or low dose of sulfonylureas. The aim of this preliminary study is to demonstrate the importance of molecular diagnostics for establishing early diagnosis of monogenic diabetes.

**Subjects and methods:** Genotyping was performed by using the sequencing method and BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) by capillary electrophoresis on Genetic Analyser 3130 xl (Applied Biosystems) for patients with clinically suspected monogenic diabetes, subtypes *HNF-1A*, *HNF-4A* and *HNF-1B*.

**Results:** Four patients were analyzed, and diagnosis of monogenic diabetes was confirmed in one patient for subtype *HNF1A* - p.pro291fsx316.

**Conclusion:** Reaching the correct diagnosis is of great importance since normoglycemia in a lar-

**Zaključak:** Postavljanje ispravne dijagnoze od velike je važnosti, s obzirom da se normoglikemija kod značajnog broja takvih pacijenata može postići primjenom oralnih antidijabetika iz skupine sulfonilureja, što za određene pacijente omogućava prekid terapije inzulinom. Monogeniski dijabetes se može pogrešno dijagnosticirati kao dijabetes tipa 1 ili 2. S obzirom da se radi o monogenском tipu dijabetesa s dominantnim načinom nasljeđivanja, točna dijagnoza omogućava pravilnu i pravovremenu terapijsku intervenciju kod ostalih članova obitelji. Precizna klasifikacija dijabetesa, probir i liječenje na temelju genotipa dio su precizne medicine u razvijenom svijetu.

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#### M-4 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Validacija metode za genotipizaciju polimorfizama S290N, V599L i T715P u genu za P-selektin primjenom metode PCR-HRM

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**Uvod:** P-selektin (PSEL) je adhezijska molekula trombocitne membrane koja ima ključnu ulogu u agregaciji i pokretanju trombocita prema mjestu vaskularne ozljede. Polimorfizmi S290N, V599L i T715P u genu *PSEL* mogu biti uzrok hiperkoagulabilnosti. Do sada smo za analizu ovih polimorfizama primjenjivali vremenski zahtjevan alel-specifičan PCR (PCR-SSP) u kojem se koristi 150 ng kalupa DNA i elektroforeza umnoženih produkata na agaroznom gelu. Svrha ovog istraživanja bila je validacija nove brže metode za genotipizaciju zasnovane na PCR-u u stvarnom vremenu analizom krivulje taljenja visoke razlučivosti (PCR-HRM) koja zahtijeva svega 10 ng kalupa DNA.

**Materijali i metode:** DNA je izolirana iz uzoraka krvi ispitanika prikupljenih u sklopu projekta HRZZ IP-2014-09-2047 metodom izoliranja. Početna ge-

ge number of monogenic diabetes patients can be achieved by using oral antidiabetics from the group of sulfonylureas, which allows certain patients to discontinue insulin therapy. Monogenic diabetes may be misdiagnosed as type 1 or type 2 diabetes. As monogenic type of diabetes is distinguished by dominant inheritance pattern, accurate diagnosis provides adequate and prompt therapeutic intervention for other family members. Precise classification of diabetes, screening and genotype-based treatment are all constituents of precision medicine in the developed world.

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#### M-4 (Oral presentation)

### Method validation for genotyping of P-selectin gene polymorphisms S290N, V599L and T715P using PCR-HRM

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**Introduction:** P-selectin (PSEL) is an adhesion molecule in the platelet membrane that has a key role in aggregation and migration of platelets towards the site of vascular injury. Polymorphisms S290N, V599L and T715P in the *PSEL* gene can cause thrombophilia. Until recently, time-consuming allele-specific PCR (PCR-SSP) that uses 150ng of DNA and electrophoresis of the amplified product on agarose gel were used in our laboratory. The aim of this study was validation of a new faster method for genotyping based on real-time PCR and high resolution melting analysis (PCR-HRM) that uses only 10ng of DNA.

**Materials and methods:** DNA extraction was performed from blood samples collected as part of project HRZZ IP-2014-09-2047 using the salting out method. Initial genotyping of polymorphisms PSEL

notipizacija polimorfizama S290N, V599L i T715P u genu *PSEL* učinjena je metodom PCR-SSP te je poslužila kao referentna metoda u određivanju analitičke osjetljivosti. Genotipizacija primjenom metode PCR-HRM izvedena je na uređaju LightCycler 480 (Roche, Njemačka) pomoću početnica za polimorfizam T715P iz literature, a za preostale polimorfizme konstruiranih pomoću alata Primer-BLAST. Ponovljivost i međupreciznost određene su za svaki polimorfizam odabirom triju uzoraka različitih genotipova. Za određivanje točnosti, analitičke osjetljivosti i specifičnosti odabrano je za svaki polimorfizam po 20 uzoraka divljeg tipa, 10 uzoraka heterozigota i 10 uzoraka homozigota. Svi rezultati izraženi su kao postotak slaganja uz kriterij prihvatljivosti  $\geq 95\%$ .

**Rezultati:** 100-postotno slaganje rezultata dobiveno je prilikom ispitivanja ponovljivosti, međupreciznosti, točnosti i analitičke specifičnosti za sva tri polimorfizma te za određivanje analitičke osjetljivosti za polimorfizam S290N. Slaganje rezultata za ispitivanje analitičke osjetljivosti za polimorfizme V599L i T715P iznosilo je 90 %, ali je ponovljenom analizom provedenom objema metodama utvrđena pogrešna početna genotipizacija pomoću metode PCR-SSP, odnosno ispravnost genotipizacije metodom PCR-HRM.

**Zaključak:** Validacijom PCR-HRM za genotipizaciju polimorfizama S290N, V599L i T715P u genu *PSEL* utvrđeno je da je metoda precizna, točna i specifična te brža i osjetljivija od PCR-SSP.

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S290N, V599L and T715P was performed using PCR-SSP and was applied as a reference method for determination of analytical sensitivity. Genotyping by PCR-HRM was performed on LightCycler 480 (Roche, Germany) with primers for T715P from literature, while primers for remaining polymorphisms were designed using Primer-BLAST tool. Precision testing (repeatability and day-to-day) for each polymorphism was performed using three samples with different genotypes. For accuracy, analytical sensitivity and specificity testing, 20 wild type, 10 heterozygous and 10 homozygous samples were chosen for each polymorphism. Results were expressed as percentage of concordance, with acceptability criterion  $\geq 95\%$ .

**Results:** 100% correspondence of results was obtained for precision, accuracy and analytical specificity for all polymorphisms, and for analytical sensitivity for S290N polymorphism. Correspondence of results for analytical sensitivity testing for V599L and T715P polymorphisms was 90%, but repeated analysis using both methods revealed an error in initial genotyping by PCR-SSP and correct genotyping by PCR-HRM.

**Conclusion:** The validation confirmed PCR-HRM as a precise, accurate and specific method for genotyping *PSEL* S290N, V599L and T715P polymorphisms, and also faster and more sensitive than PCR-SSP.

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## M-5

### Molekularna dijagnostika u laboratorijima u RH: istraživanje Radne grupe za molekularnu dijagnostiku HDMBLM-a

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## M-5

### Molecular diagnostics in Croatian laboratories: Survey of the Working group for molecular diagnostics CSMBLM

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je ispitati praksu u cjelokupnom laboratorijskom procesu izvođenja pretraga molekularne dijagnostike u Hrvatskoj.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U anketiranje je bilo uključeno 25 laboratorija koji izvode pretrage molekularne dijagnostike. Upitnik je upućen putem servisa SurveyMonkey, a sadržavao je pitanja o prijeanalitičkoj, analitičkoj i poslijeanalitičkoj fazi te podatke o obrazovanju osoblja koje uvodi nove metode, izrađuje pretrage i potpisuje nalaze.

**Rezultati:** Na upitnik je odgovorilo 18/25 laboratorija. Nove analize uvode visokoobrazovani stručnjaci u području medicinske biokemije (12/18), molekularne biologije (7/18), medicine (6/18), biologije (3/18), biotehnologije (3/18) i kemije (1/18). U izvođenju analiza sudjeluju prvostupnici medicinsko laboratorijske dijagnostike (11/18), zdravstveni tehničari (9/18) i kemijski tehničari (3/18). Nalaze izdaju medicinski biokemičari (13/18), liječnici (6/18), molekularni biolozi (5/18), biolozi (1/18), biotehnolozi (1/18) i prvostupnici medicinsko laboratorijske dijagnostike (1/18). U 7/18 laboratorija procesi su odvojeni u 3 zasebne prostorije, u 8/18 procesi su odvojeni u pre- i post-PCR, dok se u 3/18 laboratorija procesi odvijaju u istom prostoru. Kao mjeru zaštite od kontaminacije 13/18 laboratorija koristi zaštitne PCR kabinete i UV lampe, dok 7/18 koristi i/ili druge načine zaštite. Ispravnost opreme provjerava se godišnjim umjeravanjem (16/19), unutarnjom kontrolom kvalitete (13/18), usporedbom s drugim sustavom (4/18) i pomoću vanjske kontrole kvalitete (2/18). Najzastupljeniji uzorak za analizu je puna krv uz EDTA (15/18), arhivska tkiva uklopljena u parafin (9/18), plazma (6/18), bris bukalne sluznice i solidno tkivo (5/18) te ostale vrste uzoraka (4/18). Za izdvajanje DNA najčešće se koristi manualna metoda s komercijalnim test kompletima na kolonama (12/18) i bez kolona (9/18). Uzorci se čuvaju više od godinu dana (DNA (16/16), RNA (6/6) i cDNA (4/6)). Prema ISO 15189 akreditirano

**Introduction:** The aim of the study was to investigate practices in total testing cycle in the molecular diagnostics laboratories in Croatia.

**Subjects and methods:** The self-reported questionnaire included 95 questions about preanalytical, analytical and postanalytical phase and the data on educational background of the laboratory personnel. The questionnaire was sent to 25 laboratories via SurveyMonkey platform.

**Results:** Total number of respondents was 18. Medical biochemists (12/18), molecular biologists (7/18), physicians (6/18), biologists (3/18), chemists (3/18) and biotechnologists (3/18) are implementing new methods, while medical technologists (11/18), laboratory technicians (9/18) and chemical technicians (3/18) are performing analysis. Reports validation are done by medical biochemists (13/18), physicians (6/18), molecular biologists (5/18), biologists (1/18), biotechnologists (1/18) and medical technologists (1/18). In 7/18 laboratories processes are separated in 3 rooms, in 8/18 are divided on pre- and post-PCR, while 3/18 laboratories do not have separated processes. PCR cabinets and UV lamps are used in 13/18 and 7/18 laboratories use other methods of protection from contamination. Instrument conformity assessment is checking by yearly preventive maintenance (16/19), internal quality control (13/18), comparison with another system (4/18) and external quality assessment (2/18). Mostly used samples are whole blood (15/18), paraffin-embedded fixed tissue (9/18), plasma (6/18), buccal swab and solid tissue (5/18) and other sample types (4/18). For DNA isolation, laboratories are using manual methods with column based commercial kits (12/18) and commercial kits without columns (9/18). Samples are archiving for more than a year (DNA (16/16), RNA (6/6) and cDNA (4/6)). ISO 15189 accreditation have 7 out of 17 laboratories. Internal quality control is performing in

je 7/17 laboratorija. Unutarnju kontrolu kvalitete uz svaku seriju uzoraka provodi 17/17 laboratorija, dok u neovisnom programu vanjske procjene kvalitete sudjeluje 14/17 anketiranih.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati istraživanja pokazuju ujednačenost individualnih praksi u cjelokupnom laboratorijskom procesu izvođenja pretraga molekularne dijagnostike.

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every run (17/17), while 14/17 participate in external quality assessment schemes.

**Conclusion:** Results of the investigation have shown uniformity of practices in total testing cycle among molecular diagnostics laboratories in Croatia.

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## M-6 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Utjecaj broja leukocita na koncentraciju i čistoću izolirane DNA

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**Uvod:** Izolacija DNA je ključni korak koji prethodi brojnim analizama u molekularnoj dijagnostici. Izlacija DNA iz leukocita izoliranjem (po Milleru ili Qiagen test paketom) temelji se na odvajanju staničnih proteina povećanjem koncentracije soli i centrifugiranjem, nakon čega se DNA taloži apsolutnim etanolom. Cilj istraživanja je ispitati utjecaj broja leukocita na koncentraciju i čistoću izolirane DNA.

**Materijali i metode:** Broj leukocita određen je neposredno nakon uzorkovanja na hematološkom brojaču. Uzorci pune krvi pomiješani s antikoagulansom EDTA su pohranjeni na - 20° C do izolacije DNA. DNA je izolirana metodom po Milleru (N = 227; 92 zdrava ispitanika i 135 ispitanika s kroničnom opstrukcijskom plućnom bolesti) i primjenom komercijalnog kita tvrtke Qiagen (N = 173; 98 zdravih ispitanika i 75 ispitanika na hemodijalizi). Apsorbancije na 280 i 260 nm izmjerene su na DeNovix DS-11 spektrofotometru visoke osjetljivosti. Statistička analiza provedena je korištenjem MedCalc statističkog programa.

## M-6 (Oral presentation)

### The impact of number of leukocytes on concentration and purity of isolated DNA

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**Introduction:** Isolation of DNA is a key step that precedes various analysis in molecular diagnostics. Extracting DNA from leukocytes by salting out method (by Miller or with Qiagen purification kit) is based on increasing salt concentration which separates proteins and cellular debris from the DNA fraction. After centrifugation of the mixture, DNA molecules are precipitated by absolute ethanol. Purpose of this research is to examine the impact of number of leukocytes on concentration and purity of isolated DNA.

**Materials and methods:** Number of leukocytes was determined on automated hematology analyser immediately after sampling of blood. Whole blood samples taken on anticoagulant EDTA were stored on - 20° C until DNA extraction. DNA was isolated by Miller method (N = 227; 92 healthy subjects and 135 subjects with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and Qiagen commercial kit (N = 173; 98 healthy subjects and 75 patients undertaking hemodialysis). Apsorbances at 260 and 280 were measured on De-

**Rezultati:** Millerovom metodom izoliranja u odnosu na Qiagen test paket dobivene su veće koncentracije DNA [138,6 (123,1 - 151,7 vs 57,0 (48,0 - 76,5) ng/ $\mu$ L;  $P < 0,001$ ] i čistoće [1,7 (1,7 - 1,7) vs 1,3 (1,3 - 1,5);  $P < 0,001$ ]. Broj leukocita se značajno razlikovao u uzorcima korištenim za dvije različite metode izolacije. Pronađena je slaba korelacija između broja leukocita i koncentracije DNA ( $r = 0,27$ ;  $P < 0,001$  i  $r = 0,43$ ;  $P < 0,001$ ) i između broja leukocita i čistoće DNA ( $r = 0,38$ ;  $P < 0,001$  i  $r = 0,27$ ;  $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Ovisno o korištenoj metodi broj leukocita je utjecao na koncentraciju i čistoću izolirane DNA, međutim uočena korelacija iako značajna je vrlo slaba. Svakako treba uzeti u obzir da su uzorci prije izolacije zamrznuti, što je moglo utjecati na dobivene rezultate.

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Novix DS-11 highly sensitive spectrophotometer. Statistical analysis was done by MedCalc statistic program.

**Results:** Higher DNA concentrations were isolated by Miller method compared to the Qiagen commercial kit method [138.6 (123.1 - 151.7) vs 57.0 (48.0 - 76.5) ng/ $\mu$ L;  $P < 0.001$  and purity [1.7 (1.7 - 1.7) vs 1.3 (1.3 - 1.5);  $P < 0.001$ ]. Number of leukocytes in samples used for two methods of isolation was significantly different. We observe weak correlation between number of leukocytes and DNA concentration ( $r = 0.27$ ;  $P < 0.001$  and  $r = 0.43$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ) and between number of leukocytes and DNA purity ( $r = 0.38$ ;  $P < 0.001$  and  $r = 0.27$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Depending on method, number of leukocytes showed significant but weak impact on extracted DNA concentration and purity. However, it is very important to know that before isolation all samples were frozen, which could have an effect on the obtained results.

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## M-7

### Mogu li parametri kompletne krvne slike pomoći u predviđanju vrste mutacije kod bolesnika s esencijalnom trombocitozom?

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**Uvod:** Esencijalna trombocitoza (ET) rijetka je hematološka bolest s pojavnošću od 0,5 – 2,2 bolesnika na 100,000 ljudi. Bolesnici s ET imaju visoki broj trombocita u krvi. Za potvrđivanje dijagnoze potrebno je dokazati mutaciju V617F u genu za JAK2 koja je pozitivna u 50 – 60% bolesnika ili mutacije u genu za KALRETIKULIN koje su prisutne u 15 – 24% bolesnika. Ove dvije vrste mutacija mogu predvidjeti različite faktore poput nastanka tromboze, krvarenja ili

## M-7

### Can parameters of complete blood count help to distinguish mutation type in diagnosis of essential thrombocythemia?

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**Introduction:** Essential thrombocythemia (ET) is a rare hematological disease with incidence of 0.5 - 2.2 patients *per* 100,000. ET patients have high platelet count. Diagnosis is confirmed by detection of mutation V617F in the JAK2 gene which is positive in 50 - 60% of patients, or of mutations in CALRETICULIN gene which are found in 15 - 24% of patients. These two types of mutations are predictive for several risk factors such are thrombosis, bleeding and



transformacije bolesti u policitemiju veru, primarnu mijelofibrozu ili akutnu mijeloičnu leukemiju. Cilj je bio otkriti postoje li razlike u parametrima krvne slike između bolesnika s JAK2 V617F u odnosu na one s mutacijom u genu za KALRETIKULIN.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U istraživanje je uključeno 38 bolesnika podijeljenih u dvije jednake skupine ovisno o vrsti dokazane mutacije. U svakoj skupini bilo je 11 žena i 8 muškaraca iste dobi. Medijan dobi u obje skupine prilikom postavljanja dijagnoze bio je 63 godine. Otkrivanje JAK2 V617F izvedeno je alel-specifičnom polimeraznom lančanom reakcijom (PCR) prema Baxteru i sur., dok je analiza mutacija u genu za KALRETIKULIN napravljena PCR metodom praćenom fragmentarnom analizom prema Jones i sur. Parametri krvne slike određeni su na hematološkom brojaču Beckman Coulter DxH 800. Mann-Whitneyjev test korišten je za usporedbu podataka.

**Rezultati:** Bolesnici s JAK2 V617F imali su statistički bitno viši broj eritrocita, veću koncentraciju hemoglobina, veći relativni udio granulocita, te niži relativni udio limfocita ( $P = 0,008$ ,  $P = 0,006$ ,  $P = 0,031$ , odnosno  $P = 0,043$ ) u usporedbi s bolesnicima s mutacijom u genu za KALRETIKULIN. Nije nađena statistički važna razlika u broju leukocita i trombocita između dvije ispitivane skupine.

**Zaključak:** Bolesnici s ET, osim visokog broja trombocita, imaju i različite vrijednosti parametara krvne slike ovisno o vrsti mutacije koju nose, što može pomoći prilikom predviđanja vrste mutacije i posljedično procjene rizičnih faktora te tijeka bolesti.

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further progression of disease to polycythemia vera, primary myelofibrosis or acute myeloid leukemia. Aim was to find out if there are any differences in blood count parameters between patients who harbor the JAK2 V617F in comparison to those with mutation in the CALRETICULIN gene.

**Subjects and methods:** The study included 38 patients divided into two equal groups depending on the type of detected mutation. Each group comprised 11 females and 8 males of the same age. Median age at diagnosis was 63 years in both groups. Detection of the JAK2 V617F was done by allele-specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) according to Baxter *et al*, and CALRETICULIN mutations were detected by PCR and fragment analysis introduced by Jones *et al*. Blood counts were done on Beckman Coulter DxH 800 haematologic analyzer. Mann-Whitney test was used for data comparison.

**Results:** Patients positive for the JAK2 V617F had statistically significantly higher numbers of erythrocytes, higher haemoglobin concentration, higher granulocyte proportion and lower lymphocyte proportion ( $P = 0.008$ ,  $P = 0.006$ ,  $P = 0.031$  and  $P = 0.043$ , respectively) in comparison to CALRETICULIN positive patients. There was no statistically significant difference in the number of leukocytes and platelets between these two groups.

**Conclusion:** Patients with ET, except for high platelet count, display differences in other blood count parameters, which can help to predict type of mutation and consequently risk factors and course of disease.

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## M-8

### Molekularna ekstenzijska analiza mikrodelecija kromosoma Y u neplodnih muških ispitanika u Kliničkom bolničkom centru Zagreb

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## M-8

### Molecular extension analysis of Y chromosome microdeletions in infertile male subjects in University hospital centre Zagreb

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**Uvod:** Muška neplodnost povezana s delecijama područja AZF (engl. *azoospermia factor*) u kromosomu Y karakterizirana je azoospermijom ili različito izraženim stupnjem oligozoospermije. Muškarci s delecijama kromosoma Y obično nemaju očito izražene kliničke simptome, no one su prisutne u 5 - 13% pacijenata s dokazanom azoospermijom ili oligozoospermijom kod kojih su isključeni ostali uzroci neplodnosti. Osim osnovne analize kojom se utvrđuju delecije područja AZFa, AZFb ili AZFc u kromosomu Y, preporuka je organizacija za vanjsku procjenu kvalitete uz nju provesti i ekstenzijsku analizu s dodatnim molekularnim biljezima kako bi se točnije utvrdio doseg, odnosno tip delecije.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Ekstenzijska analiza provedena je na 36 uzoraka DNA koji su prethodno bili ispitani za osnovne biljege mikrodelecija u područjima AZF kromosoma Y. Analiza je izvedena koristeći multiplex PCR i elektroforezu na agaroznom gelu.

**Rezultati:** U dva ispitanika s prethodno utvrđenom delecijom područja AZFc, ekstenzijskom analizom potvrđena je kompletna delecija tog područja (tip b2/b4). U jednog ispitanika s delecijom AZFbc ekstenzijska analiza ukazala je na potpunu deleciju tog područja. Niti kod jednog od tri navedena ispitanika nije utvrđena delecija heterokromatina. Ekstenzijska analiza 33 ispitanika bez prethodno utvrđenih delecija, u jednog ispitanika pokazala je prisustvo parcijalne delecije područja AZFc (delecija gr/gr), u jednog prisustvo delecije tipa b2/b3 koja se smatra polimorfnom varijantom u populaciji, a u ostalih ispitanika dala je negativni rezultat.

**Zaključak:** Molekularna ekstenzijska analiza mikrodelecija kromosoma Y u neplodnih muškaraca pruža mogućnost preciznijeg određivanja tipa delecije što može imati prognostičku vrijednost za pacijenta u smislu isplativosti izvođenja postupka potpomognute oplodnje.

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**Introduction:** Male infertility associated with AZF (azoospermia factor) region microdeletions in Y chromosome is characterized by azoospermia or variably severe oligozoospermia. Men with Y chromosome deletions usually do not express conspicuous clinical symptoms, although the deletions are present in 5 - 13% of patients with diagnosis of azoospermia or oligozoospermia where other causes of infertility have been excluded. Besides the basic analysis which is used to characterize deletions in AZFa, AZFb or AZFc region in Y chromosome, external quality assessment organizations recommend performing extension analysis with additional molecular markers, in order to more correctly specify the type of deletion.

**Subjects and methods:** Extension analysis was conducted on 36 DNA samples previously tested for basic microdeletion markers in AZF regions of Y chromosome. Analysis was performed using multiplex PCR and agarose gel electrophoresis.

**Results:** In two subjects with previously detected deletion in AZFc region, extension analysis confirmed the presence of complete deletion of this region (b2/b4 type). In one subject with deletion in AZFbc region, extension analysis also confirmed the presence of complete deletion of this region. In all three subjects heterochromatine deletion was excluded. Extension analysis of 33 subjects with no previously detected microdeletions, showed the presence of partial AZFc deletion (gr/gr deletion) in one subject, the presence of b2/b3 deletion, which is qualified as a polymorphic variant also in one subject, and negative result for deletions in other subjects.

**Conclusion:** Molecular extension analysis of Y chromosome microdeletions in infertile male subjects provides the opportunity of specifying the type of deletion more correctly, which can have a prognostic value for the patient in the process of assisted fertility treatment.

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## M-9

**Molekularna dijagnostika sindroma MEN1 i MEN2 u Kliničkom bolničkom centru Zagreb**

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**Uvod:** Multipla endokrina neoplazija tipa 1 (MEN1) je autosomno dominantni sindrom uzrokovan mutacijama u genu *MEN1*. Karakteriziran je razvojem tumora endokrinih žlijezda, najčešće paratiroidnih žlijezda, gušterače i hipofize. Multipla endokrina neoplazija tipa 2 (MEN2) je nasljedni sindrom uzrokovan mutacijama u protoonkogenu *RET*. Klasificiran je u tri autosomno dominantna podtipa (MEN2A, MEN2B i FMTC) koji uključuju visok rizik razvoja medularnog karcinoma štitnjače. Cilj rada je bio utvrditi mutacije u genima *MEN1* i *RET* kod bolesnika sa sumnjom na sindrom MEN1 i MEN2.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Analizirano je 33 uzorka DNA na sindrom MEN1 i 34 uzorka DNA na sindrom MEN2. Sekvenciranje gena *MEN1* uključivalo je cijelu kodirajuću regiju gena, dok su u genu *RET* analizirani samo eksoni 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 i 16. Za identifikaciju mutacija u kodirajućoj regiji gena korišten je uređaj Applied Biosystems 3130xl Genetic analyzer i reagens BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit. Patogenost utvrđenih mutacija provjerena je u referentnim bazama podataka za mutacije povezane sa sindromima MEN1 i MEN2.

**Rezultati:** Heterozigotne mutacije u genu *MEN1* (p.Arg415\*; p.Lys120del; p.Gln393\*; p.Asp418Asn; p.Glu408\*; p.Asp70Thrfs\*49; p.Arg218Arg; p.Gln192\*) utvrđene su u 10 bolesnika. Za mutacije p.Lys120del i p.Arg218Arg (splice-site mutacija) je potvrđeno da su nasljeđene jer su nađene kod dva člana iste obitelji. Heterozigotne mutacije u genu *RET* (p.Met918Thr; p.Cys620Arg; p.Asn777Ser) utvrđene su u pet bolesnika. Mutacija p.Cys620Arg je nađena u tri od ukupno pet analiziranih članova iste obitelji.

**Zaključak:** Molekularna dijagnostika MEN2 je važna zbog postojanja genotip-fenotip korelacije kojom

## M-9

**Molecular diagnostics of MEN1 and MEN2 syndrome in University Hospital Centre Zagreb**

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**Introduction:** Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) is an autosomal dominant syndrome caused by mutations in *MEN1* gene. It is characterised by development of endocrine tumours, especially tumours of parathyroid glands, pancreas and pituitary glands. Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (MEN2) is a hereditary syndrome caused by mutations in *RET* protooncogene. It is classified in three autosomal dominant subtypes (MEN2A, MEN2B and FMTC) that involve high risk for development of medullary thyroid cancer. The aim of the study was to determine mutations in *MEN1* and *RET* genes in patients suspected of having MEN1 or MEN2 syndrome.

**Subjects and methods:** Thirty-three DNA samples were analysed for *MEN1* and 34 for *MEN2*. Sequencing of *MEN1* gene included the whole coding region of the gene, while for *RET* gene only exons 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 were analysed. For identification of mutations in coding region of these genes, Applied Biosystems 3130xl Genetic analyser and BigDye® Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit were used. Pathogenicity of identified mutations was verified in reference databases for mutations related with MEN1 and MEN2 syndrome.

**Results:** Heterozygous mutations in *MEN1* gene (p.Arg415\*; p.Lys120del; p.Gln393\*; p.Asp418Asn; p.Glu408\*; p.Asp70Thrfs\*49; p.Arg218Arg; p.Gln192\*) were found in 10 patients. Mutations p.Lys120del and p.Arg218Arg (splice-site mutation) were confirmed to be inherited because they were determined in two members of the same family. In 5 patients with MEN2, heterozygous mutations were found (p.Met918Thr; p.Cys620Arg; p.Asn777Ser). Mutation p.Cys620Arg was found in three out of five analysed members of the same family.

se utvrđuje rizik za razvoj agresivnog medularnog karcinoma štitnjače. Nasuprot tome, kod sindroma MEN1 nije utvrđena genotip-fenotip korelacija, ali molekularna dijagnostika MEN1 je bitna zbog identifikacije potencijalnih članova obitelji koji imaju rizik za razvoj bolesti.

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**Conclusion:** Molecular diagnostics of MEN2 is important because of the existence of a genotype-phenotype correlation by which the risk for development of aggressive medullary thyroid cancer is determined. On the contrary, in MEN1 syndrome there is no genotype-phenotype correlation present, but molecular diagnostics is important due to the identification of potential at-risk family members.

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## M-10

### HDMBLM-Radna grupa za molekularnu dijagnostiku: preliminarni podaci o molekularnoj dijagnostici medicinskih laboratorija u Hrvatskoj

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**Uvod:** Cilj ove ankete je bio istražiti koji laboratoriji u Hrvatskoj imaju molekularnu dijagnostiku u katalogu svojih pretraga te izdaju nalaze i to među medicinsko-biokemijskim i drugim odgovarajućim laboratorijima. Upitnik je napravljen sa svrhom prikupljanja podataka o laboratorijima kojima će se uputiti detaljna glavna anketa o cjelokupnom dijagnostičkom postupku u praksi.

## M-10

### CSMBLM Working group for molecular diagnostics: preliminary survey data on molecular diagnostics among medical laboratories in Croatia

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**Introduction:** The aim of the survey was to identify Croatian laboratories which perform molecular diagnostics (MD) among medical-biochemistry laboratories and other relevant laboratories, as a preliminary survey which should obtain subjects to whom the main survey on molecular diagnostics in practice should be addressed.

**Materijali i metode:** Upitnik je odrađen uvrštavanjem pitanja u aplikaciju SurveyMonkey (SurveyMonkey Inc. Palo Alto, California, USA). Za kontakte s medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima korišten je registar sudionika HDMBLM-CROQALM (Hrvatski centar za vrednovanje kvalitete u laboratorijskoj medicini) (N = 192). Dodatno je pozvano još 15 laboratorija kliničkih instituta, znanstvenih instituta i privatnih poliklinika koji nisu sudionici CROQALM-a zbog spoznaje da se u tim laboratorijima provodi molekularna dijagnostika poligenih, monogenih, hematoloških, onkoloških i farmakogenetičkih pretraga te izdaju nalazi za iste. Upitnik je sadržavao 10 pitanja pomoću kojih su prikupljene informacije o podacima za kontakt, ustanovi i vrsti laboratorija, HDMBLM-podružnici te o tome izvode li samostalno analize molekularne dijagnostike ili se uzorci šalju u suradne institucije.

**Rezultati:** Ukupno 109 laboratorija je odgovorilo na anketu. Dvadeset i šest laboratorija izdaje nalaze molekularne dijagnostike. Sedamnaest laboratorija u kliničkim bolničkim centrima, kliničkim bolnicama i znanstveno-istraživačkim institutima samostalno izvodi analize. Sedam znanstveno-istraživačkih laboratorija djelomično, a 2 privatna laboratorija isključivo šalju svoje uzorke u druge institucije. Ako se isključi 11 znanstveno-istraživačkih laboratorija, laboratoriji unutar zdravstvenih ustanova koji izdaju nalaze molekularne dijagnostike su medicinsko-biokemijski (N = 8) i laboratoriji u sklopu klinika/odjela za patologiju (N = 3), onkologiju (N = 2) i transfuzijsku medicinu (N = 2). Rezultati molekularne dijagnostike izdaju se pacijentu ili liječniku kao originalan nalaz one institucije koja je napravila samu analizu.

**Zaključak:** Ovim upitnikom utvrdili smo da ćemo surađivati s 24 laboratorija u prikupljanju podataka o molekularnoj dijagnostici u praksi.

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**Materials and methods:** The questionnaire was performed using SurveyMonkey platform (SurveyMonkey Inc. Palo Alto, California, USA). The registry of CSMBLM-CROQALM (Croatian Centre for Quality Assessment in Laboratory Medicine) was used for contact information (N=192). Additionally, clinical institute laboratories, science institute and private laboratories which do not participate in CROQALM (N=15) were asked to take part in the survey if they perform molecular diagnostics of polygenic, monogenic, oncological and haematological disorders as well as pharmacogenetics. The survey included 10 questions related to contact data on institution and type of laboratory, CSMBLM branch, performing molecular diagnostics analysis in their laboratories or in collaboration with external laboratories.

**Results:** We have received 109 answers. Twenty-six laboratories perform MD. Laboratories that are part of laboratory diagnostics departments in clinical hospital centres and clinical hospitals or academic/research institutes perform MD on their own (N=17). Seven laboratories from academic/research institutes send samples to the other institutions partially, while 2 private laboratories exclusively send the samples to the other institutions for the analyses. If we exclude 11 academic/research laboratories, speciality of healthcare institution laboratories that perform molecular diagnostics are medical biochemistry (N = 8), pathology (N = 3), oncology (N = 2) and transfusion medicine (N = 2). The results of molecular diagnostic analyses are always presented to the patients and/or medical doctor as an original report validated by institution that made the analyses.

**Conclusion:** With this survey we have identified 24 laboratories to which we should address the main survey on molecular diagnostics in practice.

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## M-11

**Učestalost tipa mutacija u genu za nukleofosmin**Margareta Radic Antolic<sup>1</sup>, Ivana Horvat<sup>1</sup>, Renata Zadro<sup>1,2</sup><sup>1</sup>Klinički zavod za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, Klinički bolnički centar Zagreb, Zagreb, Hrvatska<sup>2</sup>Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Farmaceutsko-biokemijski fakultet, Zagreb, Hrvatska

**Uvod:** Akutne mijeloične leukemije (AML) heterogene su skupina bolesti, a poseban izazov u molekularnoj dijagnostici predstavljaju citogenetički normalne AML (CN-AML). Dokazivanje malih molekularnih promjena, kao što su mutacije u genu za nukleofosmin (*NPM1*), izravno utječe na procjenu rizika bolesti te individualizira terapijski pristup. Mutacije u genu *NPM1* male su insercije u eksonu 12, postoji nekoliko vrsta mutacija od kojih su najčešće: mutacija A (c.863\_864insTCTG), mutacija B (c.863\_864insCATG) te mutacija D (c.863\_864insCCTG). Cilj je bio utvrditi učestalost tipa mutacija u genu *NPM1* u CN-AML.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U istraživanje su bila uključena 34 bolesnika s AML kojima je iz dijagnostičkog uzorka koštane srži izdvojena DNK (MagNA Pure, Roche) te dokazana mutacija genu *NPM1* fragmentarnom analizom. Sekvenciranje gena *NPM1* iz uzorka DNK izvedeno je prema Sangeru na uređaju 3130 Genetic Analyser (ThermoFisher Scientific, SAD).

**Rezultati:** Fragmentarnom analizom utvrđena je insercija kod 33 bolesnika te delecija u uzorku jednog bolesnika. Sekvenciranjem je utvrđena mutacija A (c.863\_864insTCTG) kod 28 bolesnika, mutacija B (c.863\_864insCATG) kod tri bolesnika, mutacija D (c.863\_864insCCTG) kod jednog bolesnika te mutacija H (c.863\_864ins CTTG) kod jedne bolesnice. U uzorku bolesnika kojem je fragmentarnom analizom utvrđena delecija tri bazna para, sekvenciranjem gena utvrđena je delecija TTT u intronskoj regiji koja ne rezultira translacijskom promjenom.

**Zaključak:** Za dokazivanje mutacija u genu za *NPM1* potrebno je slijediti protokol koji uključuje fragmentarnu analizu za dokazivanje mutacije te sekvenciranje gena za utvrđivanje tipa mutacije, što je nužno za pravilnu interpretaciju molekularne analize.

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## M-11

**Frequency of different types of mutations in nucleophosmin 1 gene**Margareta Radic Antolic<sup>1</sup>, Ivana Horvat<sup>1</sup>, Renata Zadro<sup>1,2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia<sup>2</sup>University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Zagreb, Croatia

**Introduction:** Acute myeloid leukemias (AML) are heterogeneous diseases, and AML that are cytogenetically normal (CN-AML) present a challenge for molecular diagnostics. Detection of small molecular changes, like mutations in nucleophosmin 1 (*NPM1*) gene, has direct influence on assessing the risk for disease and individual therapy approach. *NPM1* gene mutations are small insertions in exon 12. There are several types of mutations and the most common are mutation A (c.863\_864insTCTG), mutation B (c.863\_864insCATG) and mutation D (c.863\_864insCCTG). The aim was to establish the frequency of mutation types in *NPM1* gene in CN-AML.

**Subjects and methods:** This study included 34 AML patients; DNA (MagNA Pure, Roche) was extracted from diagnostic bone marrow samples and mutations in *NPM1* gene were detected by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and fragment analysis. DNA sequencing of *NPM1* gene was done using the Sanger method on 3130 Genetic Analyser (ThermoFisher Scientific, USA).

**Results:** Fragment analysis revealed insertion in 33 samples and deletions in one sample. Mutation A (c.863\_864insTCTG) was determined by sequencing according to Sanger in 28 patients, mutation B (c.863\_864insCATG) in three patients, mutation D (c.863\_864insCCTG) in one patient, and mutation H (c.863\_864ins CTTG) in one patient. In the sample with deletion of three base pairs, gene sequencing detected the TTT deletion in the intron region which did not result in translation change.

**Conclusion:** For detection of *NPM1* gene mutations, it is important to have the protocol which includes fragment analysis for detection of mutations and gene sequencing to identify the type of mutation in order to ensure accurate interpretation of results.

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## M-12

**Učestalost tipova fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR/ABL1* u bolesnika KBC-a Zagreb koji boluju od kronične mijeloične leukemije**Margareta Radic Antolic<sup>1</sup>, Ivana Horvat<sup>1</sup>, Renata Zadro<sup>1,2</sup><sup>1</sup>Klinički zavod za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, Klinički bolnički centar Zagreb, Zagreb, Hrvatska<sup>2</sup>Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Farmaceutsko-biokemijski fakultet, Zagreb, Hrvatska

**Uvod:** Kroničnu mijeloičnu leukemiju (KML) karakterizira prisutnost fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR/ABL1*. Veličina fuzijskog prijepisa ovisi o broju fuzioniranih eksona obaju gena. Najčešći je tip prijepisa major(M-bcr) koji kodira protein p210, a produkt je fuzije eksona 13 ili 14 gena *BCR* i eksona 2 ili 3 gena *ABL1*. Podtipovi prijepisa M-bcr jesu b2a2 i b3a2 te rijetki slučajevi prijepisa b2a3 i b3a3. U malom broju slučajeva javlja se i tip prijepisa minor(m-bcr) koji kodira protein p190, a nastaje spajanjem eksona 1 gena *BCR* i eksona 2 gena *ABL1*. Cilj je bio utvrditi učestalost tipova fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR/ABL1* u bolesnika s KML ovisno o spolu i dobi kod dijagnoze.

**Materijali i metode:** Od 2002. do 2017. u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBC-a Zagreb dokazan je fuzijski prijepis *BCR/ABL1* kod 296 bolesnika s KML (174 M i 122 Ž) standardiziranim protokolom BIOMED-1 (Van Dongen i sur.) te je analizom rezultata za svakog bolesnika utvrđen tip fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR/ABL1* (b2a2, b3a2, b2a3, b3a3 ili m-bcr).

**Rezultati:** Od ukupno 296 KML bolesnika 59% je muškaraca, a 41% žena. M-bcr je dokazan kod 295 bolesnika (174 M i 121 Ž) dok je jednoj bolesnici dokazan m-bcr. U 98% bolesnika s prijepisom M-bcr dokazano je 56% b3a2 (N = 166, 97 M i 69 Ž) te 42% b2a3 (N = 123, 71 M i 52 Ž), a preostalih 2% čine b2a3 (5 M) i b3a3 (1 M). U trenutku postavljanja dijagnoze dob većine bolesnika (65%) bila je od 40 do 70 godina, 23% činili su oni mlađi od 40 godina, a 12% oni stariji od 70 godina, neovisno o tipu prijepisa i spolu.

**Zaključak:** Bolesnici s KML češće su muškarci, većini je dokazan M-bcr neovisno o spolu i dobi. Najčešće obolijevaju osobe između 40. i 70. godine života. Rijetki tipovi prijepisa M-bcr u našem slučaju nađeni su isključivo kod muškaraca.

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## M-12

**The frequency of *BCR/ABL1* transcript types in chronic myeloid leukaemia patients in University Hospital Center Zagreb**Margareta Radic Antolic<sup>1</sup>, Ivana Horvat<sup>1</sup>, Renata Zadro<sup>1,2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia<sup>2</sup>University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Zagreb, Croatia

**Introduction:** Chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) is characterized by the presence of fusion transcript *BCR/ABL1*. The most common *BCR/ABL1* fusion transcript is the major (M-bcr) type which codes p210 protein and is a fusion product of *BCR* gene exon 13 or 14 and *ABL1* gene exon 2 or 3. Subtypes of M-bcr transcripts are b2a2 and b3a2, but there are rare cases with b2a3 and b3a3 transcript. Occasionally a minor (m-bcr) type of fusion transcript can be detected in CML which encodes protein p190, a product of *BCR* gene exon 1 fusion with *ABL1* gene exon 2. Aim was to determine the frequency of *BCR/ABL1* transcript types in chronic myeloid leukaemia depending on sex and age at diagnosis.

**Materials and methods:** From 2002 to 2017, a *BCR/ABL1* fusion transcript analysis was performed in 296 CML patients (174 M and 122 F) by standardized BIOMED-1 protocol (according to Van Dongen *et al.*) and the type of *BCR/ABL1* fusion transcript was determined for each patient.

**Results:** Of 296 CML patients (59% M and 41% F), M-bcr was confirmed in 295 patients (174 M and 121 F) while one female patient had m-bcr. In 98% of patients with M-bcr transcripts, 56% were b3a2 (N = 166, 97 M and 69 F), 42% were b2a3 (N = 123, 71 M and 52 F) and the remaining 2% were b2a3 (5 M) and b3a3 (1M). At the time of diagnosis, the age of most patients (65%) was 40 to 70 years, 23% were under 40 years, and 12% were older than 70 years, regardless of transcript type and sex.

**Conclusion:** CML patients are more often men, and most patients have M-bcr transcript type regardless of sex and age. The diagnosis is mostly set between 40 and 70 years of age. Rare types of M-bcr transcripts in our cases were found exclusively in men.

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M-13

## Citogenetske promjene u *de novo* akutnim leukemijama

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**Uvod:** Akutne leukemije su bolesti krvotvornog sustava prouzročene zloćudnom preobrazbom matične stanice. Promjene koje nastaju u genomu matične stanice dovode do nekontrolirane proliferacije klona te potiskivanja zdravih stanica u koštanoj srži. Razvojem molekularnih metoda došlo je do boljeg razumijevanja promjena u akutnim leukemijama te je stoga 2008. godine Svjetska zdravstvena organizacija (SZO) uvela novu višedisciplinarnu klasifikaciju akutnih leukemija. Cilj ovog rada bio je dobiti uvid u citogenetske promjene pacijenata KBC-a Zagreb u razdoblju od 2016. do 2018. kojima je dijagnosticirana *de novo* akutna leukemija.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitanici su bili pacijenti KBC-a Zagreb kod kojih je u 2016. i 2017. godini otkrivena *de novo* akutna leukemija. Podatke o citomorfološkoj klasifikaciji leukemija dobili smo iz citološkog nalaza punktata koštane srži. Nalaz kariotipa bolesnika dobili smo kultiviranjem stanica koštane srži uobičajenom metodom kultiviranja i GTG pruganjem. Za otkrivanje promjena genoma koristili smo se fluorescentnom *in situ* hibridizacijom (FISH). Interfaznim FISH-om obradili smo najčešće promjene koje se pojavljuju kod akutnih mijeloidnih/limfatičnih leukemija kao što su t (8;21), t (15;17), preuredba gena MLL (11q23), inverzija kromosoma 16, t(9;22), t(12;21) i del 9p21.

**Rezultati:** Pacijente smo obrađivali prema podrijetlu klona leukemijskih stanica (mijeloidnog/ limfatičnog podrijetla) kao pacijente s akutnom mijeloidnom leukemijom (AML) i akutnom limfatičnom leukemijom (ALL). Od 31 pacijenta s *de novo* AML, njih je 14 (45,2%) imalo normalan kariotip pri dijagnozi, dok ih je 17 (54,8%) imalo jednu ili više promjena u kariotipu pri dijagnozi. Od 36 pacijenata s *de novo* ALL, njih 12 (33,3%) imalo je normalan kariotip pri dijagnozi, dok ih je 24 (66,7%) imalo jednu ili više promjena u kariotipu pri dijagnozi.

**Zaključak:** Ako se nađe promjena u kariotipu, ona postaje biljeg za praćenje uspješnosti terapije. Stoga

M-13

## Cytogenetic changes in *de novo* acute leukaemias

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**Introduction:** Acute leukaemia is a haematopoietic system disease caused by a malignant stem cell transformation. Changes result in an uncontrolled clone proliferation and the suppression of healthy cells in the bone marrow. Development of molecular methods has enabled better understanding of changes in acute leukemia. It was the reason why the World Health Organization (WHO) introduced in year 2008 a new multidisciplinary classification of acute leukemia. The aim of this study was to gain insight in cytogenetic changes of patients in University Hospital Centre Zagreb in the 2016-2018 period who were diagnosed with *de novo* acute leukaemia.

**Materials and methods:** Subjects were UHC Zagreb patients who were diagnosed with *de novo* acute leukaemia in 2016/2017. Data regarding cytomorphological classification were acquired from cytologic analysis of bone marrow aspiration smears. Patient karyotype was obtained by the usual cultivation method of bone marrow cells and G-banding of chromosomes. Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) was used for detection of the most frequent genome changes. Changes like t (8;21), t (15;17), rearrangement of MLL genes (11q23), inversion of chromosome 16, t(9;22), t(12;21), and del 9p21 were processed by interphase FISH technique.

**Results:** Patients were managed based on the origin of leukemic cell clones (myeloid/ lymphatic origin), *i.e.* as patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and acute lymphatic leukemia (ALL). Out of 31 patients diagnosed with *de novo* AML, 14 of them (45.2%) had normal karyotype, while 17 (54.8%) had one or more changes in karyotype. Out of 36 *de novo* ALL patients, 12 of them (33.3%) had normal karyotype, while 24 (66.7%) had one or more changes in karyotype.

**Conclusion:** If a change in karyotype is detected during diagnosis, it becomes a marker for monitoring therapy outcome. Patient karyotype is therefore



je kariotip pri dijagnozi pacijenta od iznimne važnosti jer se prema njemu bolesnici mogu svrstavati u različite prognostičke skupine i sukladno tome započinje odgovarajuća terapija.

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re of extreme importance because patients, based on their karyotype, can be assigned to different risk groups and obtain appropriate therapy.

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## N – Novi biomarkeri

### N-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Diferencirajući čimbenik rasta 15 – novi biljeg procjene kardiovaskularnog rizika

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**Uvod:** Kardiovaskularne bolesti jedan su od najčešćih uzroka smrtnosti u općoj populaciji. Postoje matematički modeli pomoću kojih se na temelju anamnestičkih podataka (dob, spol, vrijednosti krvnog tlaka, pušenje) i koncentracija ukupnog i HDL kolesterola može izračunati desetogodišnji rizik za nastup kardiovaskularnih događaja. Iako su modeli izračuna rizika uključeni u smjernice njihova vrijednost u kliničkoj praksi nije u potpunosti dokazana te je potraga za novim biljezima sve intenzivnija. Cilj rada je procijeniti vrijednost diferencirajućeg čimbenika rasta 15 (engl. *growth differentiation factor 15*, GDF 15) kao novog biljega procjene kardiovaskularnog rizika u usporedbi s dva matematička modela.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku Kliničkog bolničkog centra Rijeka. U istraživanju je sudjevalo 60 zdravih ispitanika (24 muškarca, 36 žena), medijan dobi 50 (27 - 78) godina. Svim ispitanicima uzeti su uzorci venske krvi za mjerenje koncentracija kolesterola, HDL kolesterola i GDF 15 u spremnike bez antikoagulansa te anamnestički podaci (dob, spol, vrijednosti krvnog tlaka, pušenje). Desetogodišnji kardiovaskularni rizik izračunat je prema dva matematička modela: Framingham Risk Score (FRS) i New Pooled

## N – New biomarkers

### N-1 (Oral presentation)

#### Growth differentiation factor 15 – a new biomarker of cardiovascular risk assessment

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**Introduction:** Cardiovascular diseases are leading cause of mortality in the general population. There are mathematical models that calculate a 10-year risk for cardiovascular events based on anamnestic data (age, gender, blood pressure, smoking) and total and HDL cholesterol concentrations. Although risk models are included in current guidelines, their value in clinical practice is not fully demonstrated and there is a need for a new biomarker. The aim of this study was to evaluate the value of Growth differentiation factor 15 (GDF 15) as a new biomarker of cardiovascular disease compared to two risk models.

**Subjects and methods:** The study was conducted in the Department of laboratory diagnostics, Clinical Hospital Centre Rijeka. In this study 60 healthy subjects participated (24 men, 36 women), median age 50 (27 - 78) years. The samples for cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and GDF 15 measurement were taken in vacutainers without anticoagulant. For each subject following data were collected: age, gender, blood pressure and smoking. The 10-year cardiovascular risk was calculated according to two mathematical models: Framingham Risk Score (FRS) and New Pooled Cohort Equation (NPCE) with calculators available on the internet. Cholesterol and HDL cho-

Cohort Equation (NPCE). Za izračun su korišteni kalkulatori dostupni na internetu. Koncentracije kolesterola i HDL kolesterola izmjerene su na biokemijskom analizatoru AU5800 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD). Koncentracija GDF 15 određena je komercijalnim ELISA reagensom: Human GDF-15/MIC-1 ELISA (Biovendor, Brno, Republika Češka). Povezanost matematičkih modela i GDF 15 ispitana je Spearmanovim koeficijentom korelacije (razina značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** Izračunom desetogodišnjeg rizika u zdravih ispitanika dobiveni su slijedeći rezultati: FRS (median 4,3%; interkvartilni raspon 2,4 - 10,8 %) i NPCE (median 1,8%; interkvartilni raspon 0,8 - 4,4%). Srednja vrijednost koncentracije GDF 15 bila je  $1331 \pm 616$  pg/mL. GDF 15 dobro korelira s izračunatim rizikom prema FRS ( $r = 0,540$ ;  $P < 0,001$ ) i NPCE matematičkom modelu ( $r = 0,576$ ;  $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Diferencirajući čimbenik rasta 15 dobro korelira sa ustaljenim matematičkim modelima te bi mogao biti novi biljeg za procjenu kardiovaskularnog rizika u općoj populaciji.

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## N-2

### Tumorski biljezi CA125 i HE4, te ROMA indeks u benignim ginekološkim bolestima

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**Uvod:** Noviji tumorski biljeg karcinoma jajnika HE4 koristi se u praćenju progresije bolesti u žena s epitelnim tumorom jajnika, te uz CA125 u procjeni rizika epitelnog malignog tumora jajnika u žena kod kojih je dokazana nepoznata masa u zdjelici (ROMA indeks). Jedna od poželjnih osobina tumorskog biljega je dijagnostička specifičnost. Cilj ovog rada je istražiti distribuciju vrijednosti HE4, ROMA indeksa i CA125 u žena s urednim ginekološkim nalazom i žena s prisutnim benignim ginekološkim bolestima.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U 91 žene koje su bile u Poliklinici Sunce na preventivnom ginekološkom pregledu, učinjena je dodatna obrada određivanjem HE4, CA125 i izračunom ROMA indeksa (Roche Diagnostics, Švicarska). Ultrazvučnim i ginekološkim pregle-

lesterol were measured on a biochemistry analyzer AU5800 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). GDF 15 was assayed by commercial ELISA kit: Human GDF-15/MIC-1 ELISA (Biovendor, Brno, Czech Republic). The correlation between mathematical models and GDF 15 was calculated with Spearman's correlation coefficient (significance level  $P < 0.05$ ).

**Results:** The following results were obtained: FRS (median 4.3%, interquartile range 2.4 - 10.8%) and NPCE (median 1.8%, interquartile range 0.8 - 4.4%). The mean GDF 15 concentration was  $1331 \pm 616$  pg/mL. Correlations of GDF 15 with calculated risk were: FRS ( $r = 0.540$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ); NPCE ( $r = 0.576$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Growth differentiation factor 15 shows a good correlation with existing mathematical models and may be a new prospective biomarker of cardiovascular disease.

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## N-2

### Tumor markers CA125, HE4, and ROMA index in benign gynecological diseases

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**Introduction:** A newer tumor marker of ovarian cancer, HE4, is used to monitor progression of the disease in women with epithelial ovarian cancer and with CA125 in assessing the risk of epithelial malignant ovarian tumor in women with unknown pelvic mass (ROMA index). One of the desirable characteristics of the tumor marker is diagnostic specificity. The aim of this paper is to investigate the distribution of HE4, ROMA index and CA125 in women with neat gynecological findings and women with present benign gynecological diseases.

**Materials and methods:** In 91 women who were at the Polyclinic Sunce on a preventive gynecological examination, additional treatment was performed by determining HE4, CA125 and calculating the

dom u 17 ispitanica (18,7%) nije nađena patologija jajnika i organa u maloj zdjelici, dok je kod 74 žene (81,3%) nađena cistična tvorba jajnika (58), miom (13) ili endometriozna (3).

**Rezultati:** Koncentracija CA 125 u žena s benignom bolesti bila je 12,0 kIU/L (10,0 - 13,0) i nije se razlikovala od one u skupini zdravih žena, 10,1 kIU/L (6,8 - 12,1);  $P = 0,098$ . Nije bilo razlike ( $P = 0,370$ ) niti u koncentracijama HE4 u skupini žena s benignom ginekološkom patologijom, 57,6 pmol/L (52,4 - 61,6), u odnosu na zdrave žene, 53,5 pmol/L (48,2 - 57,4). Sveukupno 6 žena (6,6 %) imalo je povišeni CA 125 ( $> 35$  kIU/L), dok su sve žene imale HE4  $\leq 140$  pmol/L. U žena u postmenopauzi nije bilo lažno-povišenih vrijednosti ROMA indeksa ( $\geq 29,9$  %), dok je povišen ROMA indeks ( $\geq 11,4$  %) nađen u 2 premenopausalne žene (22%) s urednim ginekološkim nalazima, te u 15 premenopausalnih žena s benignim tvorbama (34%), bez statistički značajne razlike u pojavnosti povišenog ROMA indeksa između ove dvije skupine ( $P = 0,701$ ).

**Zaključak:** Dijagnostička specifičnost tumorskog biljega HE4 je bolja u odnosu na CA 125, a za ROMA indeks značajno manja u premenopausalnih žena.

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ROMA index (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland). Ultrasound and gynecologic examination in 17 subjects (18.7%) did not detect ovarian and organ pathology in pelvic, while in 74 women (81.3%) cystic ovarian (58), myoma (13) or endometriosis (3) was detected.

**Results:** Concentration of CA125 in women with benign disease was 12.0 kIU/L (10.0 - 13.0) and did not differ from those in the group of healthy women, 10.1 kIU/L (6.8 - 12.1);  $P = 0.098$ . As well, there was no difference ( $P = 0.370$ ) at HE4 concentrations in the group of women with benign gynecological pathology, 57.6 pmol/L (52.4 - 61.6), compared to healthy women, 53.5 pmol/L (48.2 - 57.4). Overall, 6 women (6.6%) had elevated CA 125 ( $> 35$  kIU/L), while all women had HE4  $\leq 140$  pmol/L. In postmenopausal women there were no false-elevated values of the ROMA index ( $\geq 29.9\%$ ), while the ROMA index increased ( $\geq 11.4\%$ ) was in 2 premenopausal women (22%) with neat gynecological findings and 15 premenopausal women with benign tumors (34%), without statistically significant differences in the occurrence of elevated ROMA index between these two groups ( $P = 0.701$ ).

**Conclusion:** Diagnostic specificity of tumor marker HE4 is better than CA125 and for ROMA index is significantly lower in premenopausal women.

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### N-3 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Određivanje koncentracije serumskog tumorskog markera inhibina B u pacijentica s tumorom granulosa stanica

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**Uvod:** Inhibin B je dimerni hormone koji se sastoji od alfa i beta B podjedinica. Slobodne alfa podjedinice obično nemaju fiziološki učinak i samo su dimerni

### N-3 (Oral presentation)

#### Assessment of serum tumor marker inhibin B concentrations in patients with granulosa cell tumors

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**Introduction:** Inhibin B is a dimeric hormone that is composed of alpha and beta B subunits. The free alpha subunits usually do not have any physiological

oblici inhibina biološki aktivni. Inhibini su proteinski hormone koje sekretiraju granulosa stanice ovarija u žena i Sertolijeve stanice testisa u muškaraca. Evaluirali smo kliničku učinkovitost inhibina B kao tumorskog markera kod pacijenata s tumorom granulosa stanica odraslog tipa (TGS).

**Materijali i metode:** Mjerenje inhibina B rađeno je ELISA metodom (DRG Instruments GmbH, Njemačka). Inhibin B ELISA je kvantitativna sendvič metoda u tri koraka. Koncentracija inhibina B mjerena je u serumu 20 zdravih ispitanica i 38 histološki potvrđenih TGS. Medijan godina žena s TGS bio je 29 godina (raspon 21-39 godina).

**Rezultati:** Koeficijent varijacije (KV) iz dana u dan za ELISA metodu iznosio je 3,9% za koncentracijsku razinu od 68 pg/ml i 4,4% za 121,5 pg/mL. KV u seriji iznosio je 5,5% za koncentracijsku razinu od 99,3 pg/mL i 5,0% za 308,1 pg/mL. Medijan koncentracije inhibina B bio je značajno viši kod pacijentica s TGS u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom (34,3 i 81,2 pg/mL,  $P < 0,001$ ). Serumske koncentracije inhibina B bile su povišene kod 74% (23/31) pacijentica s TGS.

**Zaključak:** Prikazani rezultati dobiveni ELISA metodom za određivanje koncentracije humanog inhibina B u serumu pokazali su zadovoljavajuću preciznost. Serumski inhibin B je posebno povišen u pacijentica s TGS.

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effect, and only dimeric forms of inhibins are biologically active. Inhibins are protein hormones secreted by granulosa cells of the ovary in the female and Sertoli cells of the testis in males. We evaluated the clinical usefulness of inhibin B as a tumor marker in patients with adult-type granulosa cell tumors (AGCTs).

**Materials and methods:** Measurements of inhibin B were performed by ELISA method (DRG Instruments GmbH, Germany). The inhibin B ELISA is a quantitative three-step sandwich type immunoassay. Inhibin B levels were measured in serums obtained from 20 healthy subjects and 38 patients with histologically confirmed AGCTs. Median age of the women with AGCTs was 29 year (range 21 - 39 years).

**Results:** The inter-assay coefficient of variation (CV) for ELISA assay was 3.9% and 4.4% at 68 pg/mL and 121.5 pg/mL and the intra-assay CV was 5.5% and 5.0% at 99.3 pg/mL and 308.1 pg/mL, respectively. Median inhibin B values were significantly higher in patients with AGCT compared to the control group (34.3 vs. 81.2 pg/mL,  $P < 0.001$ ). Serum inhibin B concentrations were elevated in 74% (23/31) AGCTs patients.

**Conclusion:** The presented results performed by ELISA method for determination of human inhibin B in serum showed an acceptable precision. Serum inhibin B concentrations were specifically elevated in AGCTs patients.

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#### N-4

### Značaj određivanja fekalnog kalprotektina kod obrade pacijenata s upalnim crijevnim bolestima

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**Uvod:** Fekalni kalprotektin (FC) osjetljiv je biljeg ko-ristan pri razlikovanju simptoma iritabilnog kolona (engl. *irritable bowel syndrome*, IBS) i upalnih crijevnih bolesti (engl. *inflammatory bowel disease* (IBD)),

#### N-4

### The impact of faecal calprotectin on the management of patients with inflammatory bowel disease

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**Introduction:** Faecal calprotectin (FC) is sensitive marker useful for distinguishing the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) from inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), for IBD monitoring, evaluation

za praćenje IBD-a, evaluaciju aktivnosti bolesti, predviđanje rizika pojave relapsa i odgovora na terapiju. Granična vrijednost za FC je 50 µg/g stolice iako se "sivom zonom" smatraju vrijednosti do 200 µg/g stolice. Vrijednosti iznad 200 µg/g stolice ukazuju na IBD. Cilj ovog rada je ocijeniti značaj određivanja FC kod obrade pacijenata s IBD.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitanici (N = 45) su bili pacijenti s dijagnozom IBD-a ili pacijenti za koje su kliničari određivanje FC procijenili klinički značajnim pri dijagnostičkoj obradi. Pacijenti su bili podijeljeni u tri grupe: pacijenti s Chronovom bolesti (N = 16), ulceroznim kolitisom (N = 9) i s nepoznatom dijagnozom (N = 20). Uzorci stolice ekstrahirani su uporabom CALEX Cap pribora (BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Switzerland), a FC određen testom fCAL turboimnoturbidimetrijskom metodom (BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Švicarska) na analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU680. Verifikacija metode provedena je u skladu s CLSI EP15-A2 protokolom te su dobiveni koeficijenti varijacije za ponovljivost (5,6%, 2,9%), međupreciznost (3,4%, 1,7%) i ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost (5,7%, 2,9%). Dodatna potvrda kvalitete metode osigurana je sudjelovanjem u programu vanjske kontrole kvalitete (Labquality).

**Rezultati:** Svi pacijenti imali su vrijednosti FC > 100 µg/g stolice. Kliničari su uz vrijednosti FC pri obradi pacijenta koristili i nalaze dijagnostičkih postupaka poput endoskopije, enterografije magnetskom rezonancom i histoloških testova. U prvoj grupi pacijenata (Chronova bolest) terapija je modificirana za 8 pacijenata, a kod 10 pacijenata endoskopski je potvrđena aktivna bolest. U drugoj grupi pacijenata (ulcerozni colitis) terapija je modificirana za 7 pacijenata te je kod 6 pacijenata endoskopski potvrđena aktivna bolest, a za dvoje faza remisije. U trećoj grupi pacijenata unatoč povišenim vrijednostima FC nije potvrđena dijagnoza IBD-a.

**Zaključak:** FC je osjetljiv, točan i neinvazivan biljeg koji u kombinaciji s drugim dijagnostičkim postupcima pomaže kliničarima pri dijagnozi, praćenju i modifikaciji terapije pacijenata s IBD-om.

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of disease activity, predicting risk of relapse and response to treatment. Cut off value for FC is 50 µg/g stool but "grey zone" is up to 200 µg/g stool. Values above 200 µg/g stool indicate IBD. Aim of this study was to grade the impact of FC on the management of patients with IBD.

**Materials and methods:** Patients (N = 45) with known IBD or whom the physician identified that FC would be clinically useful for diagnostic processing were recruited. Patients were divided in three groups: patients with Crohn's disease (N = 16), with ulcerative colitis (N = 9) and with unknown diagnosis (N = 20). Samples of stool were extracted using CALEX cap device (BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Switzerland) and FC was determined with fCAL™ turbo-immunoturbidimetric fecal calprotectin assay (BÜHLMANN Laboratories AG, Switzerland) on Beckman Coulter AU680 analyzer. Method verification was performed according to CLSI EP15-A2 protocol and showed coefficient of correlation (CV) for repeatability (5.6%, 2.9%), within-run (3.4%, 1.7%) and within-laboratory precision (5.7%, 2.9%). Also quality confirmation of method was provided by participating in EQA - external quality assurance programme (Labquality).

**Results:** All patients had FC result > 100 µg/g stool. For further treatment of patients, physicians used results of FC and other diagnostic procedures, as endoscopy, magnetic resonance enterography and histological tests. In first group (Crohn's disease) for 8 patients therapy was modified, for 10 patients endoscopy confirmed active disease. In second group (ulcerative colitis) for 7 patients therapy was modified, for 6 patients endoscopy confirmed active disease and for 2 patients disease remission. In third group of patients, despite the elevated results of FC, no diagnosis of IBD disease has been confirmed.

**Conclusion:** FC is sensitive, accurate and noninvasive marker which used in combination with other diagnostic procedures help physicians in diagnosing, monitoring and treatment patients with IBD.

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## N-5 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Ispitivanje optimalne granične vrijednosti za HE4, CA125 i ROMA indeksa kod sumnje na malignu bolest

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**Uvod:** Rano otkrivanje karcinoma je ograničeno zbog nedovoljne osjetljivosti i specifičnosti tumorskih biljega. Odgovarajući izbor granične vrijednosti bi pomogao u boljem razgraničenju maligne od benignih bolesti. Cilj ove studije je bio pronaći optimalnu graničnu vrijednost za tumorske biljege HE4 i CA125, te ROMA indeks prema menopauzalnom statusu žena, kako bi bolje razlikovali maligne od benignih bolesti jajnika.

**Materijali i metode:** U studiju je bilo uključeno ukupno 284 ispitanica. Podijeljene su u dvije skupine: predmenopauza (N = 102) i postmenopauza (N = 182). Dobna granica razgraničenja menopauzalnog statusa je bila 51 godina. 14% ispitanica u predmenopauzi i 29% u postmenopauzi su bolovale od maligne ginekološke bolesti. U uzorcima seruma izmjerili smo koncentraciju HE4 i CA125, te izračunali ROMA indeks. Optimalnu graničnu vrijednost uz najbolju osjetljivost i specifičnost za sva tri parametra odredili smo pomoću ROC krivulje koristeći se statističkim programom MedCalc 12.7.0.0 statistical software (Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** Kod ispitanica u predmenopauzi dobili smo za CA125 optimalnu graničnu vrijednost 110,3 kU/L uz osjetljivost 57,1% i specifičnost 94,3%, za HE4 497,3 pmol/L (50%, 94,3%), te za ROMA indeks visokorizičnih bolesnika 19,2 (85,7%, 76,1%). Kod ispitanica u postmenopauzi dobili smo za CA 125 optimalnu graničnu vrijednost 76,7 kU/L (75%, 97,7%), za HE4 122,3 pmol/L (73,1%, 93,1%), te ROMA indeks visokorizičnih bolesnika 26,2 (96,2%, 85,4%).

**Zaključak:** Uz nove optimalne granične vrijednosti ROMA indeksa dobili smo veću osjetljivost i specifičnost za žene u postmenopauzi u odnosu na žene upredmenopauzi. U obje skupne povišena vrijednost ROMA indeksa značila bi veću vjerojatnost prisustva maligne bolesti. HE4 i CA125 su pokazali višu osjetljivost u postmenopauzi u odnosu na predmenopauzu. Dakle, kod žena u postmenopauzi poviše-

## N-5 (Oral presentation)

### Testing optimal cutoff value for HE4, CA125 and ROMA index when suspected malignant disease exist

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**Introduction:** Tumor markers do not have sufficient diagnostic sensitivity and specificity, so early detection of cancer is limited. In order to differentiate between malignant and benign diseases, the appropriate cutoff value should be chosen. The aim of this study was to find the optimal cutoff value of HE4, CA125 and ROMA algorithm in differentiation of malignant and benign gynecological disease, depending on the status of menopause.

**Materials and methods:** A total of 284 women were included in the study. They were divided into two groups: premenopausal (N = 102) and postmenopausal (N = 182). Menopausal status was limited with aged 51 years. 14% of premenopausal and 29% of postmenopausal women had malignant gynecological diseases. Serum concentrations of CA125, HE4 were measured and calculated ROMA index, for all women. We used ROC analysis to calculate the optimal cutoff values. It was performed by MedCalc 12.7.0.0 statistical software (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Results:** In the premenopausal group, the best cutoff values for CA125, HE4 and ROMA index were 110.3 kU/L; 97.3 pmol/L and 19.2, respectively. Sensitivity and specificity for CA125 were 57.1% and 94.3%, for HE4 50% and 94.3%, for ROMA index 85.7% and 76.1%, for the new optimal cutoff values. In the postmenopausal group, the best cutoff values for CA125, HE4 and ROMA index were 76.7 kU/L; 122.3 pmol/L and 26.2, respectively. Sensitivity and specificity for CA125 were 75% and 97.7%, for HE4 73.1% and 93.1%, for ROMA index 96.2% and 85.4%, for the new optimal cutoff values.

**Conclusion:** Our results showed higher sensitivity and specificity in postmenopausal compared to premenopausal women, for the new optimal cutoff values of ROMA index. In both group, increased value ROMA index showed high risk of malignant gynecologic disease. Tumor markers HE4 and CA125 showed

na vrijednost HE4 i CA125 bi značila i veću vjerojatnost prisustva maligne bolesti jajnika. Specifičnost za sva tri parametra u obje skupine je visoka, što bi značilo za koncentracije ispod optimalne granične vrijednosti postoji velika vjerojatnost da maligna bolest nije prisutna.

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higher sensitivity for postmenopausal than for premenopausal women. Postmenopausal women had higher probability that the abnormal concentration of HE4 and CA125 were found in malignant gynecological diseases. In both group, specificity for all parameters was similar and high. When concentrations of these parameters are lower than cutoff value, there is a high probability that malignancy is absent.

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## N-6 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Dijagnostička vrijednost tumorskog biljega HE4

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**Uvod:** HE4 se smatra obećavajućim tumorskim biljgom u procjeni rizika epitelnih karcinoma jajnika. Cilj ispitivanja je bio procijeniti dijagnostičku vrijednost biljega HE4, odnosno ispitati koliko dobro može pomoći istovremeno određivanje tumorskih biljega HE4 i CA125 u razlikovanju malignih od benignih ginekoloških bolesti.

**Materijali i metode:** Odredili smo koncentraciju CA125 i HE4 kod ukupno 284 žena, starosne dobi 17 - 92 godine (median = 57), koje su upućene na vađenje krvi u Klinički zavod za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, kliničkog bolničkog centra Rijeka. Studija je uključivala 100 zdravih ispitanica, 118 ispitanica s benignim (endometrijoza, miomi, ciste, kronično bubrežno zatajenje, druge benigne bolesti), te 66 bolesnica s malignim bolestima (zloćudna novotvorina jajnika, maternice, retroperitoneje, peritoneje, cerviksa, dojke). Granična vrijednost CA125 bila je 35 kIU/L, za HE4 ovisno o dobi žena (ispod 40 g. < 60,5; 40 - 49 g. < 76,2; 50 - 59 g. < 74, 3; 60 - 69 g. < 82,9; iznad 70 g. < 104 pmol/L). Koristili smo statistički program MedCalc Software (Mariakerke, Belgium).

## N-6 (Oral presentation)

### The diagnostic value of tumor marker HE4

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**Introduction:** HE4 is promising tumor marker to estimation of the risk of epithelial ovarian cancer. The aim of study was to examine the diagnostic value of tumor marker HE4. We wanted to investigate could the combination tumor markers HE4 and CA125 help to distinguish malignant versus benign gynecological diseases.

**Materials and methods:** We measured concentration of CA125 and HE4 in a total of 284 women (median = 57, range 17 - 92 years), who came to blood sampling in Clinical Institute for Laboratory Diagnosis, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka. The study included 100 healthy subjects, 118 patients with benign (endometriosis, myomas, ovarian cysts, chronic kidney disease, other benign diseases), and 66 patients with malignant diseases (malignant neoplasms, uterus, retroperitoneal, peritoneum, cervix, breast). Cutoff value for CA125 was 35 kIU/L, and cutoff for HE4 was depending on the age of women (< 40 years < 60.5; 40 -49 y. < 76.2; 50 - 59 y. < 74.3; 60 - 69 y. < 82.9; > 70 y. < 104 pmol/L). We used MedCalc statistical Software (Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** Median koncentracije CA125 kod zdravih ispitanica bio je 13,4 kIU/L, kod bolesnica s benignim bolestima bio je 18,5 kIU/L, kod malignih je bio 187 kIU/L. Medijan koncentracije HE4 kod zdravih ispitanica bio je 53,4 pmol/L, kod benignih bolesti 83,8 pmol/L, kod malignih je bio 176,1 pmol/L. Površina ispod ROC krivulje za CA125 (AUC = 0,90) je bila nešto veća od površine za HE4 (AUC = 0,87), međutim razlika nije bila statistički značajna (P = 0,290). Za odabranu graničnu vrijednost CA125 dobili smo osjetljivost 80,3% uz specifičnost 82,3%, dok za HE4 osjetljivost je bila 87,9% uz specifičnost 56,8%.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati su pokazali veću osjetljivost kod tumorskog biljega HE4 u odnosu na CA125 koji je imao veću specifičnost. U ovom ispitivanju smo dobili nižu specifičnost za HE4 zbog graničnih vrijednosti odabranih prema starosnoj dobi, što je dovelo do većeg broja lažno povišenih nalaza. Zadovoljavajuća dijagnostička vrijednost, odnosno bolja osjetljivost i specifičnost se postiže zajedničkim mjerenjem koncentracije HE4 i CA125, što može pomoći u boljem razlikovanju malignih od benignih ginekoloških bolesti.

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**Results:** The median serum concentrations for CA125 in healthy subjects was 13.4 kIU/L, in patients with benign diseases was 18.5 kIU/L and in malignant disease was 187 kIU/L. The median serum concentrations for HE4 in healthy women was 53.4 pmol/L, with benign diseases was 83.8 pmol/L and in malignant diseases was 176.1 pmol/L. The area under the ROC curve for CA125 (AUC = 0.90) was slightly larger than the area under the ROC curve for HE4 (AUC = 0.87), but the difference in AUCs was not statistically significant (P = 0.290). Tumor marker sensitivity was 80.3% for CA125, 87.9% for HE4, and specificity was 82.3% for CA125, 56.8% for HE4, with the selected cutoff value.

**Conclusion:** Our results showed higher sensitivity for HE4 in comparison to CA125 who had a higher specificity. We obtained a lower specificity for HE4 in comparison to CA125, due to the age-related cutoff values, and that caused a greater number of false elevated results. The combination of CA125 and HE4 was achieved better sensitivity and specificity, and this could help to distinguish malignant versus benign gynecological diseases.

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## N-7 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Uloga [-2]proPSA i indeksa zdravlja prostate kod ranog otkrivanja karcinoma prostate

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**Uvod:** PSA je rasprostranjeni test probira za otkrivanje karcinoma prostate. S obzirom na njegovu ograničenu specifičnost, potreban je precizniji biomarker za rano otkrivanje karcinoma prostate. Mje-

## N-7 (Oral presentation)

### Use of serum isoform [-2]proPSA and Prostate Health Index for early prostate cancer detection

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**Introduction:** The PSA test is a widely used screening test for prostate cancer (PCa) detection. However, a more precise tool is needed, given its relatively limited specificity for cancer. It has been sug-



renjem [-2]proPSA (p2PSA), PSA izoforme koji se pokazao 2,5 puta specifičnijim u otkrivanju raka prostate od ukupnog PSA, i Prostate Health Index-a (PHI) može se poboljšati otkrivanje karcinoma prostate kod muškaraca s graničnom koncentracijom ukupnog PSA između 2 i 10 ng / mL. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je procijeniti specifičnost, osjetljivost i površinu ispod krivulje (AUC) p2PSA i PHI indeksa u usporedbi s tPSA i fPSA.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci seruma 27 pacijenata koji su primljeni na Zavod za urologiju u Kliničkom bolničkom centru Osijek korišteni su za određivanje koncentracije PSA, slobodnog PSA i p2PSA pomoću Beckman Coulter UniCel Dxl 600 Immunoassay analizatora (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA) za izračun Beckman Coulter Prostate Health Index-a (PHI). Pacijenti uključeni u ovu studiju bili su podvrgnuti digitorektalnom pregledu i nakon biopsije prostate klasificirani u dvije skupine (11 ispitanika s karcinomom prostate i 16 s benignom hiperplazijom prostate). PHI indeks računat je pomoću formule  $(p2PSA / fPSA) \times \overline{PSA}$ .

**Rezultati:** Vrijednosti p2PSA bile su znatno više u skupini bolesnika s karcinomom prostate. Naši rezultati pokazuju da %p2PSA i PHI indeks posjeduju veću površinu ispod ROC krivulje (AUC) u usporedbi s tPSA i fPSA. AUC za %p2PSA (0,849,  $P < 0,001$ ) i PHI (0,767,  $P = 0,008$ ) bili su znatno veći od %fPSA (0,676) i tPSA (0,494).

**Zaključak:** Vrijednost PHI indeksa i p2PSA nadmašuju vrijednosti pojedinačnih komponenata sadržanih u matematičkoj formuli; tPSA i fPSA te se čini kako najbolje predviđaju karcinom prostate kod bolesnika s ukupnim PSA između 2 i 10 ng/mL. Naši rezultati sugeriraju kako bi upotreba p2PSA i PHI indeksa mogla biti korisna za značajno smanjenje nepotrebnih biopsija i predviđanja agresivnosti karcinoma prostate u usporedbi s tPSA i fPSA.

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gested that measurement of [-2]proPSA (p2PSA), the PSA serum isoform, and Prostate Health Index (PHI) might improve PCa detection in men with a borderline total PSA level between 2 and 10 ng/mL – the so-called diagnostic grey zone. The aim of this study was to estimate specificity, sensitivity and area under the curve (AUC) of p2PSA and PHI index compared to total and free PSA.

**Materials and methods:** Serum samples from 27 patients who were submitted to the Urology Department, University Hospital Centre Osijek, were used to determine PSA, fPSA and p2PSA concentrations using Beckman Coulter UniCel Dxl 600 Immunoassay System (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA) to calculate the Beckman Coulter Prostate Health Index (PHI). Subjects enrolled in this study all underwent digital rectal examination, and according to prostatic biopsy were classified in two groups (11 subjects with PCa and 16 with benign prostatic hyperplasia). The PHI score was calculated using the formula  $(p2PSA/fPSA) \times \overline{PSA}$ .

**Results:** Our results show that both %p2PSA and PHI index possess higher area under the ROC curve (AUC) when compared with total and free PSA. The AUC for %p2PSA (0.849,  $P < 0.001$ ) and PHI (0.767,  $P = 0.008$ ) were significantly higher than %fPSA (0.676) and tPSA (0.494), respectively.

**Conclusion:** The PHI score outperforms its individual components of total and free PSA, and appears to be better predictor of prostate cancer for patients with total PSA between 2 and 10 ng/mL. Our findings suggest that the use of both p2PSA and PHI index could be useful to significantly reduce unnecessary biopsies, and estimate the aggressiveness of prostate cancer when compared to tPSA and fPSA.

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N-8

## Rani neinvazivni probir na neoplazmu želuca procjenom omjera pepsinogena: klinička stratifikacija rizika među visokorizičnim muškarcima u Istarskoj županiji u Hrvatskoj

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**Uvod:** Zloćudne novotvorine želuca predstavljaju rastući javnozdravstveni problem u Hrvatskoj. Pravedobna primjena metoda neinvazivnog probira može značajno doprinijeti boljem kliničkom ishodu bolesnika. Pepsinogeni I i II (PGI i PGII) su propeptaze koje se stvaraju u sluznici probavnog trakta posebice u upali uzrokovanoj *Helicobacter pylori* (HP) što se može odraziti na porast koncentracije pepsinogena u serumu uz istodobno smanjenje omjera PGI/PGII (oko 1% secerniranog pepsinogena izlučuje se u krvni optok). Atrofija želučane sluznice uzrokovana učestalim upalama želučane sluznice odnosno prekancerozni atrofijski gastritis mogu rezultirati smanjenjem koncentracije PGI odnosno omjera PGI/PGII. Pepsinogen I odnosno omjer PGI/PGII stoga slove kao opće prihvaćeni klinički pokazatelji rizika razvoja novotvorine želuca s obzirom na postavljene kriterije pepsinogenog probira. Cilj ovog rada je bila procjena dijagnostičke učinkovitosti probira u otkrivanju novotvorine želuca te evaluacija prijelomnih vrijednosti za probir u visokorizičnih muškaraca u Istarskoj županiji u Hrvatskoj.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U istraživanje je uključeno 69 muškaraca koji su zaprimljeni u bolnicu s izrazitom kliničkom sumnjom na novotvorinu želuca urazdoblju od 30. ožujka 2016. do 31. prosinca 2017. godine. Predmetno prospektivno kohortno istraživanje je dio većeg kliničkog projekta koji je odobren od Etičkog povjerenstva Opće bolnice Pula. Potvrдна dijagnoza novotvorine želuca učinjena je zlatnim standardom (PHD nalazom izuzetog tkiva tijekom endoskopije). Statistička obrada prikupljenih podataka učinjena je u MedCalcu (Ostend, Belgija) uz odabranu odrednicu statističke značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** Pokazatelji dijagnostičke točnosti prikazani su kao medijan i 95%-interval pouzdanosti (95% IP) za omjer PGI/PGII su iznosili: površina ispod ROC krivulje (AUC) = 0,68 (95% IP = 0,56 - 0,79;  $P < 0,018$ );

N-8

## Gastric cancer noninvasive early screening by the pepsinogens ratio estimation: clinical stratification among the high-risk men in Istria in Croatia

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**Introduction:** Gastric cancer represents a growing public health problem in Croatia. Prompt implementation of noninvasive screening tests could have a great benefit on the patient clinical outcome. Pepsinogens I and II (PGI and PGII) are propeptases which are produced in gastrointestinal mucosa and 1% of their secretion leaking into the blood stream. Inflammation caused by *Helicobacter pylori* (HP) can cause increase serum pepsinogens with concomitant decrease of PGI/PGII ratio. Furthermore, gastric mucosal atrophy and precancerous atrophic gastritis result with decrease of PGI and concomitant decrease of PGI/PGII ratio. Therefore, PGI and PGI/PGII ratio (in regards to proclaimed Pepsinogen screening criteria) are widely adopted clinical parameters that have been used in risk assessment of gastric cancer. The aim of this study was to evaluate diagnostic accuracy and cut-off limits of PGI/PGII ratio in gastric cancer risk assessment among the high-risk men in Istria in Croatia.

**Subjects and methods:** The study enrolled 69 men hospitalized between March 30, 2016 to December 31, 2017 with high gastric cancer suspicion. This prospective cohort study has been a part of master clinical trial which was approved by The Ethics Committee of General Hospital Pula. Gastric cancer diagnose was confirmed by a gold standard (histopathological examination of an excised tissue). Statistic evaluation was performed using Medcalc (Ostend, Belgium) software ( $P$  value  $< 0.05$  was considered as statistical significant).

**Results:** Diagnostic accuracy parameters of PGI/PGII ratio were found as statistical significant and these parameters were showed as mean and 95% confidence interval, as follows: Area under the ROC curve (AUC) = 0.68 (95% CI = 0.56 - 0.79;  $P < 0.018$ ); PGI/PGII cut-off was 3.7 with accompanied diagnostic sen-

granica odluke PGI/PGII = 3,7 uz pripadnu dijagnostičku osjetljivost = 62,5% (95% IP = 43,4 - 87,4) odnosno specifičnost = 66,0% (95% IP = 51,2 - 78,8).

**Zaključak:** Određivanje pepsinogena (PGI I PGII) odnosno protutijela na HP u visokorizičnih muškaraca, uz istodobnu primjenu algoritma probira, je preporučeno u ranoj kliničkoj stratifikaciji rizika razvoja novotvorine želuca te može doprinijeti prepoznavanju bolesnika sa povećanom sklonošću razvoja novotvorine želuca.

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### N-9 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Ima li određivanje hsTnI i T u dijalizatu kliničko značenje?

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**Uvod:** Visoko osjetljivi troponin I i T (hsTnI/T) su markeri izbora kod srčanog oštećenja. Njihove vrijednosti u plazmi povećavaju se nakon akutnog infarkta miokarda (engl. *acute myocardial infarction*; AMI) i ostaju povišene nekoliko dana eliminirajući se prvenstveno pomoću bubrega. Nedavna istraživanja usredotočena su se na koncentracije hsTnI/T kod pacijenata koji boluju od hipertenzije, što je najčešće uzrokovano bubrežnom disfunkcijom i može se odraziti na koncentracije hsTnI/T u mokraći. Stoga je cilj istraživanja bio utvrditi koncentracije hsTnI/T u dijalizatu pacijenata s bubrežnom disfunkcijom u usporedbi s grupama pacijenata bez hipertenzije i hipertenzijom bez bubrežne disfunkcije.

**Materijali i metode:** Analizirani su uzorci plazme i dijalizata AMI asimptomatskih pacijenata s bubrežnom disfunkcijom. Koncentracije hsTnI u plazmi i dijalizatu izmjerene su na Abbott Architect i1000SR i

sitivity = 62.5 (95% CI = 43.4 - 87.4) and diagnostic specificity = 66.0 (95% CI = 51.2 - 78.8).

**Conclusion:** Proposed screening algorithm, with determination of pepsinogens and HP antibody, is recommended in the early clinical gastric cancer risk stratification that can contribute in recognition of high-risk patients.

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### N-9 (Oral presentation)

#### Does determination of hsTnI and T in dialysate have clinical significance?

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**Introduction:** High sensitive troponin I and T (hsTnI/T) are preferred markers of cardiac damage. Its values in plasma increases after an acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and remains elevated for days with kidneys being the main organ of its elimination. Recent studies have been focusing on hsTnI/T concentrations among patients suffering from hypertension, which is most commonly caused by renal disease and could be reflected in concentrations of hsTnI/T in urine. Therefore, the aim of the study was to determine dialysate hsTnI/T concentrations in patients with renal dysfunction in comparison with non-hypertensive and hypertensive patients without renal dysfunction.

**Materials and methods:** Plasma and dialysate samples from AMI asymptomatic patients with renal dysfunction were analysed. Concentrations of hsTnI in plasma and dialysate were measured on Abbott Ar-

hsTnT na Roche cobas e411, akreditiranim prema ISO 15189. Granica kvantifikacije za hsTnI (4,7 ng/L) i hsTnT (6,4 ng/L) određena je prema CLSI EP17-A protokolu.

**Rezultati:** Medijan (min-max) za hsTnI u plazmi (N = 47) bio je 16,3 (0,7 - 427,6) ng/L, a za hsTnT (N = 27) medijan je iznosio 73,2 (10,5 - 298,4) ng/L. Određeni medijan za hsTnI u uzorcima dijalizata bio je 0,0 (0,0 - 1,4), a za hsTnT 11,9 (10,7 - 16,8) ng/L. U našem prethodnom istraživanju koncentracije hsTnI u uzorcima mokraće ne-hipertenzivnih pacijenata bile su 14,9 (3,3 - 29,3) te 26,6 (3,3 - 56,6) ng/L u hipertenzivnih pacijenata bez bubrežne disfunkcije.

**Zaključak:** Interpretacija povišenih vrijednosti troponina u plazmi kod pacijenata s bubrežnom disfunkcijom, osobito onih bez simptoma AMI je izazovna. U ovoj studiji ispitanici su bili pacijenti bez ikakvih simptoma AMI i njihove koncentracije hsTnI/T u mokraći su vrlo niske i slične koncentracijama hsTnI u mokraći zdrave kontrolne skupine, što upućuje na to da koncentracije hsTnI/T u mokraći možda bolje koreliraju s kliničkim stanjem pacijenata. Upotrebu mokraće kao manje invazivnog uzorka treba dodatno ispitati na većem broju ispitanika i pacijenata sa simptomima AMI.

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chitect i1000SR and hsTnT on Roche cobas e411, both accredited according to ISO 15189. The limit of quantification for hsTnI (4,7 ng/L) and hsTnT (6,4 ng/L) was determined according to CLSI EP17-A protocol.

**Results:** Plasma hsTnI (N = 47) median (min-max) concentration was 16.3 (0.7 - 427.6) and hsTnT (N = 27) was 73.2 (10.5 - 298.4) ng/L. Determined hsTnI median concentration in dialysates was 0.0 (0.0 - 1.4) and hsTnT was 11.9 (10.7 - 16.8) ng/L. In our previous studies hsTnI concentrations in urine samples of non-hypertensive patients were 14.9 (3.3 - 29.3) and 26.6 (3.3 - 56.6) in hypertensive patients without renal dysfunction.

**Conclusion:** Interpretation of elevated plasma troponin values in patients with renal dysfunction, especially those without symptoms of AMI, is challenging. In this study examined patients are patients without any symptoms of AMI and their urine hsTnI/T concentrations are very low and similar to healthy control patients' hsTnI urine concentrations which suggest that hsTnI/T urine concentrations could perhaps correlate better with patients' clinical condition and usage of urine, as less invasive sample, should be examined on a larger number of patients and patients with AMI symptoms.

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## N-10

### Serumska koncentracija adropina i parametri metabolizma glukoze u pretilo djece i adolescenata

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**Uvod:** Adropin je peptidni hormon koji se pokazao kao jedan od čimbenika u održavanju energetske homeostaze i patofiziologiji inzulinske rezistencije.

## N-10

### Serum concentration of adropin and glucose metabolism parameters in obese children and adolescents

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**Introduction:** Adropin has proved to be one of the factors in maintaining energy homeostasis and the pathophysiology of insulin resistance. Previous stud-

Dosadašnja istraživanja povezuju snižene koncentracije adropina sa stanjima kao što su pretilost, dijabetes, kardiovaskularne bolesti i arterijska hipertenzija. Cilj istraživanja bio je utvrditi razlike među serumskim koncentracijama adropina i parametara metabolizma glukoze u pretilo djece i adolescenata i kontrolnih ispitanika. Očekujemo da će serumske koncentracije adropina biti značajno niže u pretilo djece i adolescenata u odnosu na kontrolnu skupinu.

**Ispitanici i metode:** U istraživanje je uključeno 40-ero djece i adolescenata (dob  $13,81 \pm 2,71$  god) u ispitivanoj i 40-ero djece (dob  $13,45 \pm 2,38$  god) u kontrolnoj skupini. Svim ispitanicima uključenima u istraživanje napravljen je klinički pregled od strane pedijatra-endokrinologa, izvršena su mjerenja antropometrijskih značajki, te uzorkovana krv za određivanje serumske koncentracije adropina i parametara metabolizma glukoze. Serumska koncentracija adropina određena je ELISA kitom (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals Inc., Burlingame, SAD), dok su parametri metabolizma glukoze određeni standardnim laboratorijskim metodama. Usporedba istraživanih parametara napravljena je koristeći t-test za nezavisne uzorke, uz postavljenu statističku značajnost  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** Pronađene su statistički značajno niže vrijednosti serumske razine adropina u ispitivanoj skupini u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom ispitanika ( $7,62 \pm 1,89$  vs.  $9,14 \pm 2,58$  ng/mL,  $P = 0,004$ ). Nadalje, pronađene su značajno niže vrijednosti plazmatske koncentracije glukoze natašte ( $4,52 \pm 0,49$  vs.  $5,11 \pm 0,39$  mmol/L,  $P < 0,001$ ), značajno više vrijednosti plazmatske koncentracije inzulina ( $15,93 \pm 8,91$  vs.  $9,72 \pm 4,39$  uIU/mL,  $P < 0,001$ ) i indeksa inzulinske rezistencije u ispitivanoj u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom ispitanika ( $3,29 \pm 2,03$  vs.  $2,23 \pm 1,04$ ,  $P = 0,004$ ). Nije pronađena statistički značajna korelacija među serumskim koncentracijama adropina i glukoze natašte ( $r = 0,194$ ,  $P = 0,085$ ), koncentracije inzulina ( $r = -0,093$ ,  $P = 0,411$ ) i indeksa inzulinske rezistencije ( $r = -0,051$ ,  $P = 0,653$ ).

**Zaključak:** U pretilo djece i adolescenata su pronađene statistički značajno niže serumske koncentracije adropina, ali nije pronađena značajna povezanost koncentracije adropina s parametrima metabolizma glukoze. Potrebna su daljnja istraživanja koja bi razjasnila ulogu adropina u patofiziologiji pretilosti i poremećaja metabolizma glukoze.

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ies have linked low concentrations of adropin to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and arterial hypertension. The aim of this study was to determine the differences between serum concentrations of adropin and glucose metabolism parameters in obese children and adolescents and control subjects. We expect the serum concentrations of adropin to be significantly lower in obese children and adolescents in comparison with control group.

**Subjects and methods:** Study included 40 subjects (age  $13.81 \pm 2.71$  years) in the experimental and 40 subjects (age  $13.45 \pm 2.38$  years) in the control group. All subjects had anthropometric features measured, blood samples taken and underwent a clinical examination by a pediatric endocrinologist. The serum concentration of adropin was determined by ELISA kit (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals Inc., Burlingame, USA), while the glucose metabolism parameters were determined by standard laboratory methods. T-test for independent samples was used for comparison of the investigated parameters, statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ .

**Results:** Significantly lower serum concentration of adropin was found in the study group compared to the control group ( $7.62 \pm 1.89$  vs.  $9.14 \pm 2.58$  ng/mL,  $P = 0.004$ ). Significantly lower plasma concentration of fasting glucose ( $4.52 \pm 0.49$  vs.  $5.11 \pm 0.39$  mmol/L,  $P < 0.001$ ), higher plasma insulin concentration ( $15.93 \pm 8.91$  vs.  $9.72 \pm 4.39$  uIU/mL,  $P < 0.001$ ) and the insulin resistance index were found in the study group ( $3.29 \pm 2.03$  vs.  $2.23 \pm 1.04$ ,  $P = 0.004$ ). No significant correlation was found between serum concentrations of adropin and fasting glucose ( $r = 0.194$ ,  $P = 0.085$ ), insulin concentrations ( $r = -0.093$ ,  $P = 0.411$ ) or insulin resistance index ( $r = -0.051$ ,  $P = 0.653$ ).

**Conclusion:** In obese children and adolescents, significantly lower serum concentrations of adropin were found, but there was no significant association of adropin concentrations with glucose metabolism parameters. Further research is needed to clarify the role of adropin in the pathophysiology of obesity and glucose metabolism disorders.

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**O – Ostalo**

O-1

**Značaj automatizacije u standardizaciji kvalitativne analize mokraće**Rinea Barbir, Sonja Perkov, Ida Taradi

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**Uvod:** Zahvaljujući brzom razvoju tehnologije, kvalitativna analiza mokraće je danas u svim segmentima u potpunosti automatizirana, što omogućava standardizaciju cjelokupnog analitičkog postupka. Cilj ispitivanja bio je provjeriti analitičke karakteristike analizatora Siemens Atellica UAS 800 uspoređujući rezultate s analizatorom Roche Cobas u701 i referentnom metodom mikroskopske analize sedimenta mokraće sa supravitalnim bojenjem.

**Materijali i metode:** Usporedba dvaju analizatora provedena je na 155 uzoraka mokraće, korištenjem Passing Bablok regresijske i Bland Altman analize za eritrocite i leukocite. Ista statistička analiza korištena je za usporedbu Atellice i mikroskopske analize sedimenta mokraće na 79 uzoraka pacijenata. Referentna metoda mikroskopske analize sedimenta mokraće akreditirana je prema normi ISO15189 i sudjeluje u vanjskoj kontroli kvalitete-Labquality.

**Rezultati:** Passing Bablok regresijskom analizom između Atellice i Rochea dobivene su regresijske jednadžbe  $y = -0,11 (-0,21 \text{ do } -0,04) + 1,27 (1,10 \text{ do } 1,51) x$  za eritrocite i  $y = -0,46 (-0,59 \text{ do } -0,33) + 1,22 (1,14 \text{ do } 1,31) x$  za leukocite. Usporedbom Atellice i mikroskopske analize sedimenta dobivena je regresijska jednadžba  $y = 0,39 (-0,07 \text{ do } 0,62) + 0,67 (0,42 \text{ do } 1,18) x$  za eritrocite, a za leukocite  $y = 0,48 (0,10 \text{ do } 0,72) + 0,43 (0,34 \text{ do } 0,53) x$ . Bland Altman analizom nije ustanovljena statistički značajna razlika između Rochea i Atellice za rezultate eritrocita i leukocita, dok je usporedbom Atellice i mikroskopa dobiveno da analizator daje za 43,9% više vrijednosti leukocita, dok za eritrocite ne postoji statistički značajna razlika.

**Zaključak:** Atellica je pokazala izuzetno dobre analitičke karakteristike s mogućnosti analize do 240 uzoraka po satu što značajno smanjuje TAT (engl. *Turnaround Time*). Usporedbom Rochea i Atellice uočena je dobra korelacija rezultata za eritrocite i leukocite.

**O – Other**

O-1

**Significance of automation in standardization of qualitative urinalysis**Rinea Barbir, Sonja Perkov, Ida Taradi

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**Introduction:** With the rapid development of technology, qualitative urinalysis is nowadays in all segments fully automated, enabling standardization of the entire analytical procedure. The aim of our study was to evaluate analytical characteristics of the Siemens Atellica UAS 800 analyzer by comparing the results with Roche Cobas u701 analyzer and the reference method microscopic urine sediment analysis with supravital staining.

**Materials and methods:** Comparison of two analyzers was performed on 155 urine samples using Passing Bablok regression and Bland Altman analysis for erythrocytes and leukocytes. The same statistical analysis was used to compare Atellica and microscope on 79 samples. The reference method microscopic urine sediment analysis is accredited according to ISO15189 and participates in the external quality control-Labquality.

**Results:** Passing Bablok analysis between Atellica and Roche yielded regression equations  $y = -0.11 (-0.21 \text{ to } -0.04) + 1.27 (1.10 \text{ to } 1.51) x$  for erythrocytes and  $y = -0.46 (-0.59 \text{ to } -0.33) + 1.22 (1.14 \text{ to } 1.31) x$  for leukocytes. Comparing Atellica and microscopic analysis equations  $y = 0.39 (-0.07 \text{ to } 0.62) + 0.67 (0.42 \text{ to } 1.18) x$  for erythrocytes and  $y = 0.48 (0.10 \text{ to } 0.72) + 0.43 (0.34 \text{ to } 0.53) x$  for leukocytes were obtained. Bland Altman analysis showed no statistically significant difference between Roche and Atellica for erythrocytes and leukocytes, while comparing Atellica and microscope there was no statistically significant difference for erythrocytes but it showed bias of -43.9% for leukocytes.

**Conclusion:** Atellica showed excellent analytical characteristics with the ability to analyze up to 240 samples per hour, which significantly reduces Turnaround Time. Comparison of Roche and Atellica showed good correlation of results for erythrocytes and leukocytes. Although there is a statistically sig-

Iako postoji statistički značajna razlika u vrijednostima leukocita, rezultati ukazuju na dobru korelaciju između automatizirane analize sedimenta mokraće na analizatoru Atellica i mikroskopske analize sedimenta mokraće, zbog mogućnosti manualnog pregleda slika i korekcije dobivenih rezultata od strane osposobljenog laboratorijskog osoblja. Međutim, upotreba referentne metode mikroskopske analize sedimenta mokraće ne smije se zanemariti posebno kod jako замуćenih uzoraka, uzoraka mokraće koji sadrže dismorfne eritrocite te kod određivanja vrsta kristala u sedimentu koje analizator ne može pouzdano analizirati.

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## O-2 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Određivanje referentnih intervala S-adenozilmetionina i S-adenozilhomocisteina u plazmi na tandemskom spektrometru masa

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**Uvod:** S-adenozilmetionin (SAM) i S-adenozilhomocistein (SAH) su metaboliti metioninskog ciklusa u kojem se metionin razgrađuje do SAM, SAH i homocisteina, pri čemu dolazi do metilacije raznih makromolekula. Povećane koncentracije SAH i snižen omjer SAM/SAH povezani su s brojnim patološkim stanjima kao što su: kardiovaskularne bolesti, kongenitalne abnormalnosti, pojedini maligniteti i neurološki poremećaji. Kako bi ustanovili vlastite referentne vrijednosti SAM, SAH i SAM/SAH omjera, odredili smo koncentracije SAM i SAH te SAM/SAH omjera u 50 odraslih volontera bez navedenih patoloških stanja (32 žene i 18 muškarca).

**Materijali i metode:** Koncentracije S-adenozilmetionina i S-adenozilhomocisteina određivane su na UPLC-MS/MS (Shimadzu Nexera 8050) modificira-

nificant difference in the values of leukocytes, the results indicate a good correlation between automated analysis on Atellica and microscopic analysis due to the possibility of manually correcting the obtained results by trained laboratory personnel. However, the use of the reference method microscopic urine sediment analysis should not be neglected, particularly in highly blurred samples, urine samples containing dysmorphic erythrocytes and in determining the type of crystals in sediment which can't be reliably analyzed by the analyzer.

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## O-2 (Oral presentation)

### Establishing reference value of S-adenosylmethionine and S-adenosylhomocysteine in plasma using tandem mass spectrometry

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**Introduction:** S-adenosylmethionine (AdoMet) and S-adenosylhomocysteine (AdoHcy) are part of methionine cycle in which methionine degrades to AdoMet and AdoHcy in purpose of donating methyl group to variety of macromolecules. Increased levels of AdoHcy and lower AdoMet/AdoHcy ratio are related to many pathological conditions such as: cardiovascular disease, congenital abnormalities, certain malignancies, neurological disorders. In order to establish our own reference values of AdoMet, AdoHcy and AdoMet/AdoHcy ratio we have determined concentrations of those analytes in 50 adult volunteers without respective diseases (32 women and 18 men).

**Materials and methods:** Measurement was performed by high performance liquid chromatography coupled with electrospray negative ionization

nom metodom Gellekink *et al.*: LC-ESI-MS/MS Measurement of AdoMet and AdoHcy. Odgovarajuće pripremljeni uzorci i obilježeni interni standardi pročišćeni su pomoću kolona za ekstrakciju čvrsto-tekuće (engl. SPE extraction) i injektirani u UPLC-MS/MS.

**Rezultati:** U 50 odraslih volontera (32 žene i 18 muškaraca) određene su koncentracije SAM i SAH te su prikazane kao srednja vrijednost  $\pm$  standardna devijacija (SD). Srednja vrijednost  $\pm$  SD za žene iznosila je: za SAM  $60,3 \pm 11,9$  nmol/L, za SAH  $29,4 \pm 6,2$  nmol/L, a za SAM/SAH omjer  $2,1 \pm 0,6$  nmol/L. Srednja vrijednost  $\pm$  SD za muškarce iznosila je: za SAM  $76,4 \pm 29,3$  nmol/L, za SAH  $39,5 \pm 15,2$  nmol/L, a za SAM/SAH omjer  $2,0 \pm 0,6$  nmol/L.

**Zaključak:** Kako bismo utvrdili klinički relevantne referentne intervale vlastitom metodom za SAM, SAH i SAM/SAH omjer potrebno ih je odrediti na većem broju zdravih ispitanika različitih dobnih skupina bez kardiovaskularnih bolesti, kongenitalnih abnormalnosti, pojedinih maligniteta i neuroloških poremećaja. Literaturni podaci iz tog područja su oskudni i nisu primijenjivi u kliničkoj praksi.

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tandem mass spectrometry (Shimadzu Nexera 8050) using method according to Gellekink *et al.*: LC-ESI-MS/MS Measurement of AdoMet and AdoHcy. Samples were prepared by mixing EDTA plasma and acetic acid, then adding internal standards in each sample. Prepared samples and standards were separated on solid phase extraction columns, collected in clean tubes and injected to the LCMS.

**Results:** In 50 adult volunteers (32 women, 18 men) we have established mean values, as well as standard deviations (SD). For women mean value  $\pm$  SD for AdoMet is  $60.3 \pm 11.9$  nmol/L, for AdoHcy is  $29.4 \pm 6.2$  nmol/L, and AdoMet/AdoHcy ratio is  $2.1 \pm 0.6$  nmol/L. For men mean value  $\pm$  SD for AdoMet is  $76.4 \pm 29.3$  nmol/L for AdoHcy is  $39.5 \pm 15.2$  nmol/L and AdoMet/AdoHcy ratio is  $2.0 \pm 0.6$  nmol/L.

**Conclusion:** Next step is to determine AdoMet and AdoHcy values on a larger number of healthy adult volunteers, without respective diseases, in order to establish reference values for our population. Since there is only a limited number of data publications regarding reference values, it would be advisable to analyse Adomet and Adohcy in different age groups, such as newborn population.

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### O-3

#### Određivanje referentnog intervala cistatina C za djecu

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**Uvod:** Cistatin C je inhibitor cistein proteinaze niske molekulske mase. Stvara se u gotovo svim stanicama s jezgrom i nalazi u različitim tjelesnim tekućinama, uključujući serum. Povišena koncentracija cistatina C smatra se ranim biljekom oštećenja bubrega. Budući da proizvođač testa nije ponudio referentni interval cistatina C za djecu, isti je određen u ovom radu.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Analizirano je 235 uzoraka seruma djece u dobi 0-18 godina preostalih nakon rutin-

### O-3

#### The determination of Cistatin C reference interval for children

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**Introduction:** Cystatin C is low molecular weight cystein proteinase inhibitor. It is created in almost all core cells and is found in body fluids, including serum. The elevated concentration of cystatin C is considered to be the earliest marker of kidney damage. Since the test manufacturer did not offer a reference cystatin C interval for children, the same is determined in this paper.



ske laboratorijske obrade. Kriteriji za uključivanje bili su odsutnost bubrežne bolesti i vrijednosti serumskog kreatinina unutar referentnog intervala. Koncentracija cistatina C je određivana imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom (originalni reagens proizvođača Roche Diagnostics, Njemačka) na biokemijskom analizatoru Cobas c501 istog proizvođača. Statistička analiza provedena je prema CLSI C28-A3 smjernicama. Podjele prema godinama i spolu određene su vizualnim pregledom grafa raspodjele i testirane Harris i Boyd-ovim testom. Turkey test korišten je za identifikaciju netipičnih vrijednosti koje su isključene iz daljnje analize. Za izračun referentnih intervala u skupini  $s \geq 120$  ispitanika korištena je neparametrijska percentilna metoda, dok je u skupini  $s < 120$  ispitanika korištena metoda prema Horn i Pesce-u.

**Rezultati:** Statističkom analizom rezultata utvrđene su dvije dobne skupine djece koje se razlikuju u vrijednostima cistatina C: skupina od 0-1 godine i skupina od 1-18 godina. Referentni interval cistatina C za djecu u dobi od 1-18 godina ( $N = 204$ , medijan 8 godina) iznosi od 0,61 mg/L (90% CI 0,53 - 0,64) do 1,08 mg/L (90% CI 1,07-1,14). Nisu dokazane statistički značajne razlike po spolu. Za djecu u dobi od 0-1 godine ( $N = 29$ , medijan 5 mjeseci) dobiven je referentni interval od 0,60 mg/L (90% CI 0,49 - 0,63) do 1,49 mg/L (90% CI 1,36 - 1,62). Za utvrđivanje razlike prema spolu broj uzoraka u ovoj skupini bio je premalen.

**Zaključak:** Utvrđen je referentni interval cistatina C za djecu u dvije dobne skupine. Nisu dokazane razlike prema spolu. Referentni intervali primjenjivi su na Cobas c501 analizatoru, koristeći reagens proizvođača Roche.

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**Subjects and methods:** 235 serum samples of children aged 0-18 years, remaining after routine laboratory treatment were analyzed. Inclusion criteria were the absence of renal disease and serum creatinine values within the reference interval. Cystatin C concentration was determined by the immunoturbidimetric method (Roche Diagnostics, Germany) on the biochemical analyzer Cobas c501 of the same manufacturer. The statistical analysis was carried out according to CLSI C28-A3 guidelines. Age and gender differentials were tested by Harris and Boyd test. For the calculation of reference intervals in a group of  $\geq 120$ , a nonparametric percentile method was used, while in the group of  $< 120$  subjects a method according to Horn and Pesce was used.

**Results:** Statistical analysis of the results established two age groups of children that differ in the values of cystatin C. The cystatin C reference interval for children aging 1-18 ( $N = 204$ , mean 8 years) is 0.61 mg/L (90% CI 0.53 - 0.64) to 1.08 mg/L (90% CI 1.07 - 1.14). No statistically significant gender differences have been demonstrated. A reference interval of 0.60 mg/L (90% CI 0.49 - 0.63) to 1.49 mg/L (90% CI 1.36 - 1.62) was obtained for children aged 0 - 1 years ( $N = 29$ , median 5 months). The number of samples in this group was too low for the determination of gender differences.

**Conclusion:** The cystatin C reference intervals for children of two age groups were determined. Gender differences have not been confirmed. The reference intervals are applicable to the Cobas c501 analyzer, using Roche reagent.

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**O-4 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Koliko je dosljedna raspodjela kategorija različitim koncentracijama parametara na urinskim test trakama u Hrvatskoj?**

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**Uvod:** Hrvatska komora medicinskih biokemičara (HKMB) je preporučila broj kategorija za izdavanje rezultata kvalitativne analize urina test trakama. Ipak, nedostaju univerzalne smjernice za dodjeljivanje koncentracijskih raspona kategorijama i svaki laboratorij treba odrediti granične koncentracije za svaku kategoriju. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je odrediti: a) u kojoj mjeri su hrvatski laboratoriji prihvatili HKMB preporuke i b) razliku koncentracija dodijeljenih svakoj kategoriji među različitim laboratorijima.

**Materijali i metode:** Anketa je poslana u sve hrvatske laboratorije preko provoditelja nacionalne vanjske kontrole kvalitete. Laboratoriji su upitani da definiraju izdaju li svoje rezultate kvantitativno ili arbitrarno, koliko kategorija koriste za svaki parametar test traka i koje koncentracije su dodijelili svakoj kategoriji. Koncentracije iznad gornje granice referentnog intervala koje su definirane kao normalne ili u tragu su smatrane lažno negativnima. Učestalost lažno negativnih rezultata je određena za ketone, leukocite i glukozu. Rezultati su prikazani kao brojevi i postoci.

**Rezultati:** Primljeno je 139/195 odgovora (71%). 71% (98/139) laboratorija se ne pridržava HKMB preporuka, tj. laboratoriji koriste veći (77/139) ili manji (2/139) broj kategorija za izdavanje rezultata urinske analize, ili izdaju rezultate kao određene koncentracije ili raspone koncentracija (19/139). Glukoza je najkritičniji

**O-4 (Oral presentation)****How consistent is the assignment of reporting categories to various concentrations of urine test strip parameters in Croatia?**

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**Introduction:** Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists (CCMB) has provided recommendation for the number of categories to be used for reporting of urine dipstick analysis. Nevertheless, guidance on the universal way of assigning concentration ranges to categories is lacking and it is up to each laboratory to identify its own cut-off concentrations for each category. Our aim was to assess: i) how well have Croatian laboratories accepted the CCMB recommendation for reporting urine dipstick analysis, and ii) the difference in concentrations assigned to each category between laboratories.

**Materials and methods:** A questionnaire was sent to all Croatian laboratories through national EQA provider. Laboratories were asked to declare whether they report their results as quantitative or categorical, how many categories they use for each parameter and which concentrations have they assigned to each category. Normal and trace categories assigned to concentrations above the upper reference range limit were considered as false negative. False negative prevalence was assessed for ketones, leukocytes and glucose. Results were presented as numbers and percentages.

**Results:** Response rate was 71% (139/195). 71% (98/139) of laboratories don't comply with CCMB recommendation, i.e. they use greater (77/139) or lower (2/139) number of categories to report urine

parametar. Koncentracijski rasponi (mmol/L) glukoze dodijeljeni u različitim laboratorijima bili su: 1,4-5,6 kao trag, 2,8-15 za 1+, 3,9-60 za 2+, 11-111 za 3+ i 28-111 za 4+. Značajan udio laboratorija izdaje lažno negativne rezultate za ketone (42%), leukocite (30%) i glukozu (21%).

**Zaključak:** U Hrvatskoj su kategorije preporučene od HKMB za izdavanje rezultata urinske analize test trakama loše prihvaćene. Rezultati analize urina test trakama mogu se bitno razlikovati među laboratorijima zbog velike neujednačenosti broja kategorija i odgovarajućih koncentracija dodijeljenih pojedinim kategorijama.

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## O-5

### Korisnost određivanja superoksid dismutaze u procjeni težine operacije karcinoma kolona

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**Uvod:** Operativni zahvati, uključujući operacije kolorektalnog karcinoma (CRC), povećavaju stvaranje slobodnih radikala koji dodatno pojačavaju traumu i oštećenje tkiva koje primarno uzrokuje operacija. Cilj ove studije je ispitati aktivnost enzima superoksid dismutaze (SOD) u ranom postoperativnom periodu i utvrditi odražavaju li te promjene kompleksnost operativnog zahvata mjereći vrijeme trajanja operacije i vrijeme koje je kolon bio otvoren tijekom operacije (eng. open colon time, OCT).

**Ispitanici i metode:** Studija je uključivala 20 bolesnika podvrgnutih operaciji karcinoma kolona. Mjerena je aktivnost SOD u lizatima eritrocita (Randox laboratories, Crumlin, United Kingdom) na AU 2700 plus analizatoru (Beckman Coulter, Tokyo, Japan) dan prije operacije (T0), 24 sata (T1), 48 sati (T2) i 7 dana na-

dipstick results, or report results by providing respective concentrations or concentration ranges (19/139). Glucose was the most critical parameter. Concentration ranges (mmol/L) assigned by different laboratories for glucose were: 1.4-5.6 for trace, 2.8-15 for 1+, 3.9-60 for 2+, 11-111 for 3+ and 28-111 for 4+. Substantial proportion of laboratories report false negative results for ketones (42%), leukocytes (30%) and glucose (21%).

**Conclusion:** There is low acceptance of the CCMB recommendation for categories used for reporting urine dipstick analysis in Croatia. Urine dipstick results may substantially differ between laboratories because of the large inconsistency in concentrations assigned to various categories by Croatian laboratories.

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## O-5

### Usefulness of superoxide dismutase in assessing the severity of colorectal cancer surgery

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**Introduction:** Surgical procedures, including colorectal cancer (CRC) surgery, increase the free radicals production that can intensify trauma and tissue damage primarily induced by the surgery. The aim of our study was to investigate the activity of antioxidant enzyme superoxide dismutase (SOD) in postoperative period and if these changes reflect the complexity of the surgery estimated with measuring the duration of the surgery and the time that the colon has been open during the surgery, open colon time (OCT).

**Subjects and methods:** The study included 20 patients who underwent CRC surgery. We measured the activity of SOD in erythrocytes lysate (Randox laboratories, Crumlin, United Kingdom) on AU 2700 plus analyser (Beckman Coulter, Tokyo, Japan) one day

kon operacije (T3). Testirali smo korelaciju SOD aktivnosti s trajanjem operacije (131 min [100 – 275 min]) i OCT-om (12,5 min [0 – 70,0 min]). Za statističku obradu korišten je MedCalc Statistical Software (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** Izračunati medijani i 95% CI aktivnosti SOD bili su: T0- 161,0 (141,0 - 178,5); T1- 132,5 (112,9 - 152,7), T2- 134,0 (123,5 - 152,8), T3- 147,0 (131,0 - 157,0). Friedmanovim testom s post hoc analizom utvrđeno je da je SOD aktivnost značajno viša u T0 naspram T1, T2 i T3 ( $P \leq 0,001$ ). Nije utvrđena statistički značajna korelacija između SOD aktivnosti i trajanja operacije kao ni OCT-a.

**Zaključak:** Ova studija utvrdila je da se aktivnost SOD smanjuje u poslijeoperativnom periodu ali da promjene ne ovise o trajanju operacije i OCT-u. Kako sam operativni zahvat dovodi do stvaranja slobodnih radikala i smanjenja antioksidativnog statusa, bilo bi korisno testirati povezanost tog smanjenja s povećanjem obima traume i oštećenjem tkiva u ranom poslijeoperativnom periodu kao i pratiti potpuni oporavak antioksidativne ravnoteže nakon operacije.

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prior to surgery (T0), 24-hours (T1), 48-hours (T2) and 7 days after the surgery (T3). We tested correlation of SOD activity with the surgery duration (131 min [100 – 275 min]) and OCT (12.5 min [0 – 70.0 min]). MedCalc Statistical Software (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium) was used for statistical analysis.

**Results:** Medians and 95% CI of SOD activities were as follows: T0- 161.0 (141.0 - 178.5); T1- 132.5 (112.9 - 152.7), T2- 134.0 (123.5 - 152.8), T3- 147.0 (131.0 - 157.0). Friedman test with post hoc analysis showed that SOD activity was significantly higher in T0 than in T1, T2 and T3 ( $P \leq 0.001$ ). No statistically significant correlation was found between the SOD activity and surgery duration as well as OCT.

**Conclusion:** Our study confirmed that SOD activity decreases in postoperative period but the changes do not depend on the surgery duration and OCT. As surgical procedure generates free radicals and decreases antioxidant status, it would be useful to test the connection of that decrease with trauma progress and tissue damage in early postoperative period as well as to monitor the full recovery of antioxidant balance after the surgery.

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## O-6 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Parametri oksidacijskog stresa u cervikalnoj intraepitelnoj neoplaziji

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**Uvod:** Cervikalna intraepitelna neoplazija (CIN) označava intraepitelni predstadij raka vrata materice. Koja će premaligna lezija napredovati do malignog stadija ili krenuti u smjeru regresije pitanje je na koje znanost nije dala jasan odgovor. HPV infekcija zajedno s drugim kofaktorima, uključujući pove-

## O-6 (Oral presentation)

### Parameters of oxidation stress in cervical intraepithelial neoplasm

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**Introduction:** Cervical intraepithelial neoplasm (CIN) is characterized as cervical premalignant lesion and which of these lesions will progress to malignant stage or regress completely, is still subject of investigation. HPV infection together with other co-factors including increased oxidative stress contrib-

ćani oksidacijski stres, pridonosi zloćudnoj progresiji. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je utvrditi parametre oksidacijskog stresa, koncentracije malondialdehida, tiolnih skupina i glutationa u bolesnika s CIN-om.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje uključuje 62 žene s patohistološki potvrđenim CIN-om i 112 kontrolnih ispitanica. Grupa pacijentica podijeljena je u podskupine; 19 žena s promjenama niskog rizika (LG; CIN I) i 42 žene s promjenama visokog rizika (HG; CIN II, CIN III prema WHO klasifikaciji). Koncentracija tiolnih skupina i glutationa određena je Ellmanovim reagensom dok je koncentracija malondialdehida (MDA) određena tiobarbiturnom kiselinama u prisutnosti antioksidansa butiril hidroksi tiolena. Statistička analiza provedena je korištenjem SigmaStat za Windows 3.0.

**Rezultati:** Koncentracija slobodnih tiola ne razlikuje se između ispitivanih skupina [(0,36 (0,33 - 0,38) vs 0,36 (0,31 - 0,41) mmol/L, P = 0,898]. Koncentracija MDA je niža [0,76 (0,58 - 1,18) vs 0,40 (0,27 - 0,68)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0,001], a GSH viša [51,7 (34,4 - 134,5) vs 111,4 (67,1 - 132,7)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0,001] u bolesnika s CIN-om u usporedbi prema kontrolnoj skupini. Koncentraciju MDA je značajno viša u kontrolnoj skupini u usporedbi s podskupinom s HG promjenama [0,76 (0,58 - 1,18) vs 0,36 (0,24 - 0,52)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , P < 0,001]. Nadalje, podskupina s LG promjenama ima veću koncentraciju MDA od podskupine s HG promjenama [0,68 (0,39 - 0,93) vs 0,36 (0,24 - 0,52)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , P < 0,001]. Koncentracija GSH je niža u kontrolnih ispitanica u usporedbi s podskupinom s LG promjenama [51,6 (34,4 - 134,5) vs 120,0 (64,0 - 144,7)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0,001], kao i s HG promjenama [51,6 (34,4 - 134,5) vs 111,7 (68,8 - 126,5)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0,001].

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati ukazuju na mogućnost aktivacije antioksidacijskog mehanizma koji sprječava lipidnu peroksidaciju bolesnica s CIN-om.

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ute to malignant progression. The aim of this study was to determine parameters of oxidation stress, concentration of malondialdehyde, tiol groups and glutathione in patients with CIN.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 62 women with pathohistological confirmed CIN and 112 healthy women. The group of patients was divided in the subgroups of 19 women with *low grade* lesions (LG; classified by WHO as CIN I) and 42 women with high grade lesions (HG; CIN II, CIN III). Concentration of tiol groups and glutathione were determined by Ellman reagent while concentration of malondialdehyde (MDA) was determined by tiobarbituric acids in presence of antioxidant butiril hydroxy tholuene. Statistical analysis was performed using SigmaStat for Windows, version 3.0.

**Results:** Concentration of free thiols did not differ between the study groups [(0.36 (0.33 - 0.38) vs 0.36 (0.31 - 0.41) mmol/L; P = 0.898]. Concentration of MDA was lower [0.76 (0.58 - 1.18) vs 0.40 (0.27 - 0.68)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0.001] while GSH were higher [51.7 (34.4 - 134.5) vs 111.4 (67.1 - 132.7)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0.001] in CIN patients. Control subjects had higher concentration of MDA compared to the subgroup with HG lesion [0.76 (0.58 - 1.18) vs 0.36 (0.24 - 0.52)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , P < 0.001]. Furthermore, subgroup of patients with LG lesion had higher MDA concentrations than subgroup with HG lesion [0.68 (0.39 - 0.93) vs 0.36 (0.24 - 0.52)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , P < 0.001]. GSH concentration was lower in control subjects compared to subgroup of patients with LG [51.6 (34.4 - 134.5) vs 120.0 (64.0 - 144.7)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0.001] as well as with HG lesion [51.6 (34.4 - 134.5) vs 111.7 (68.8 - 126.5)  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ; P < 0.001].

**Conclusion:** Our results indicate the possibility of activation of antioxidation mechanisms which prevent lipid peroxidation in CIN patients.

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O-7

## Ispitivanje prikladnosti K<sub>3</sub>EDTA plazme za odabrane opće biokemijske pretrage

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**Uvod:** Serum je uzorak izbora za izvođenje općih biokemijskih pretraga. Ponekad je zbog nepristupačnih i teško vidljivih vena, pacijentima teško uzorkovati nekoliko različitih epruveta. Cilj rada je ispitati prikladnost hematološkog uzorka EDTA-plazme za analizu odabranih općih biokemijskih pretraga. Hipoteza rada jest da nema razlike u rezultatima ispitanih biokemijskih parametara između dvije vrste epruveta.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Ispitivanje se odvijalo u Medicinsko-biokemijskom laboratoriju Sveti Ivan Zelina, Doma zdravlja Zagrebačke županije i uključivalo je 20 pacijenata. Korišteni su ostadni uzorci krvi uzorkovane za potrebe rutinske kontrole u epruvete Vacuette serum i Vacuette K<sub>3</sub>EDTA. Na uređaju Dimension Xpand plus analizirani su rezultati glukoze, kolesterola, triglicerida, ukupnog bilirubina, ureje, kreatinina, ukupnih proteina, urata, AST-a, ALT-a, GGT-a i amilaze. Statistička značajnost razlike u rezultatima analiza ispitana je neparametrijskim Wilcoxon parnim testom u programu MedCalc. Određeno je odstupanje rezultata izmjerenih u K<sub>3</sub>EDTA epruvetama od rezultata izmjerenih u serumskih epruveta te uspoređeno s dopuštenom ukupnom pogreškom (TEa) prema Westgard kriterijima (URL: <https://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm>). Odabrana razina značajnosti je  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** Medijani rezultata u serumu i K<sub>3</sub>EDTA-plazmi, P-vrijednosti dobivene Wilcoxon testom i odstupanja (%) su: glukoza: 6,2 mmol/L; 6,2 mmol/L;  $P = 0,229$ ; 0%, ureja: 5,5 mmol/L; 5,6 mmol/L;  $P = 0,110$ ; 1,8%, kreatinin: 78,5  $\mu$ mol/L; 77,5  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P = 0,119$ ; - 1,27%, urati: 327,5  $\mu$ mol/L; 331,0  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P = 0,464$ ; 1,07%, ukupni bilirubin: 11,0  $\mu$ mol/L; 10,0  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P < 0,001$ ; - 9,09%, AST: 21,5 U/L; 22,0 U/L;  $P = 0,561$ ; 2,33%, ALT: 29,5 U/L; 31,5 U/L;  $P = 0,052$ ; 6,78%, amilaza: 49,5 U/L; 46,0 U/L;  $P < 0,001$ ; - 7,07%, GGT: 35,0 U/L; 32,5 U/L;  $P = 0,003$ ; - 7,14%, trigliceridi: 1,28 mmol/L; 1,26 mmol/L;  $P = 0,030$ ; - 1,56%, kolesterol: 5,3 mmol/L; 5,1 mmol/L;  $P < 0,001$ ; - 3,77%, ukupni proteini: 73,6 g/L; 73,7 g/L;  $P = 0,001$ ; 0,14%.

O-7

## Assesment of the K<sub>3</sub>EDTA plasma sample adequacy for selected biochemistry tests

Aida Hadži-Egrić

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**Introduction:** Serum is a sample of choice for biochemistry testing. Drawing blood into several different tubes can be difficult due to hardly visible and inaccessible veins. The aim of this study is to investigate the suitability of the hematological EDTA-plasma samples for the analysis of the selected biochemistry tests. The hypothesis of this study is that there is no difference in the results of the selected biochemistry tests measured in two different sample types.

**Subjects and methods:** This study was conducted in the Medical-biochemistry laboratory Sveti Ivan Zelina, Zagrebačka County Health Center. Residual blood samples from 20 patients drawn into Vacuette serum and Vacuette K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes for the purposes of routine check-up were used. Glucose, cholesterol, triglycerides, total bilirubin, urea, creatinine, total protein, urates, AST, ALT, GGT and amylase were measured on Dimension Xpand plus device. Statistical significance of the difference between results was tested using nonparametric Wilcoxon test in the MedCalc v18 software. Bias of the results measured in K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes from the results measured in serum tubes was calculated and compared with total allowed error (TEa) according to Westgard criteria (URL: <https://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm>). The level of significance  $p < 0.05$  was selected.

**Results:** Medians of the results measured in serum and K<sub>3</sub>EDTA-plasma, p-values obtained using Wilcoxon test and bias (%) are: glucose: 6.2 mmol/L; 6.2 mmol/L;  $P = 0.229$ ; 0%, urea: 5.5 mmol/L; 5.6 mmol/L;  $P = 0.110$ ; 1.8%, creatinine: 78.5  $\mu$ mol/L; 77.5  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P = 0.119$ ; - 1.27%, urates: 327.5  $\mu$ mol/L; 331.0  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P = 0.464$ ; 1.07%, total bilirubin: 11.0  $\mu$ mol/L; 10.0  $\mu$ mol/L;  $P < 0.001$ ; - 9.09%, AST: 21.5 U/L; 22.0 U/L;  $P = 0.561$ ; 2.33%, ALT: 29.5 U/L; 31.5 U/L;  $P = 0.052$ ; 6.78%, amylase: 49.5 U/L; 46.0 U/L;  $P < 0.001$ ; - 7.07%, GGT: 35.0 U/L; 32.5 U/L;  $P = 0.003$ ; - 7.14%, triglycerides: 1.28 mmol/L; 1.26 mmol/L;  $P = 0.030$ ; - 1.56%, cholesterol: 5.3 mmol/L; 5.1 mmol/L;  $P <$

**Zaključak:** Dokazano je postojanje statistički značajne razlike u rezultatima ukupnog bilirubina, amilaze, GGT-a, triglicerida, kolesterola i ukupnih proteina izmjenjenima u dvjema vrstama epruveta. Usporedbom odstupanja rezultata izmjerenih u K<sub>3</sub>EDTA-plazmi u odnosu na serum s Westgard kriterijima utvrđeno je kako navedene razlike nisu klinički značajne te se obje vrste epruveta mogu koristiti naizmjenično za praćenje zdravstvenog stanja pacijenta.

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0.001; - 3.77%, total protein: 73.6 g/L; 73.7 g/L; P = 0.001; 0.14%.

**Conclusion:** Statistically significant difference between the results of total bilirubin, amylase, GGT, tryglycerides, cholesterol and total protein measured in serum and K<sub>3</sub>EDTA-plasma was found. Comparing the calculated bias with the Westgard criteria showed that the differences were not clinically significant and two sample types can be used interchangeably for the patient's health status monitoring.

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## O-8 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### **CROQALM: Kvaliteta rada medicinsko-biokemijskih laboratorija u Republici Hrvatskoj – usporedba rezultata nacionalnog programa vanjske kontrole kvalitete u 2015. i 2017. godini**

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**Uvod:** Optimalna skrb za pacijenta, s obzirom na rezultate laboratorijskih nalaza, postiže se kada su rezultati određivanja jednog analita istovjetni neo-

## O-8 (Oral presentation)

### **CROQALM: Performance quality of Medical Biochemistry Laboratories in Croatia - Comparison of results of the National Quality Control Program in 2015 and 2017**

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**Introduction:** Optimum patient care could be reached when the results of laboratory tests are identical regardless of the analytical system or the

visno o korištenom analitičkom sustavu ili laboratoriju. Nacionalni program vanjske kontrole kvalitete (CROQALM) omogućava praćenje kvalitete rada medicinsko-biokemijskih laboratorija (MBL) u Hrvatskoj. Cilj ovog rada je usporediti kvalitetu rada (usporedivost rezultata) MBL-a u Hrvatskoj 2015. i 2017. godine.

**Materijali i metode:** 2015. godine u CROQALM-u sudjelovalo je 193 laboratorija, a 2017. godine od 192-194 laboratorija. Program je proveden kroz 12 (11) različitih modula i 3 godišnja ciklusa. Svi rezultati su ocijenjeni prema unaprijed postavljenim kriterijima prihvatljivosti korištenjem inlab2\*QALM programske podrške (2011, IN2GroupLtd, Zagreb, Hrvatska). Obrada rezultata obuhvaća izračun aritmetičke sredine, standardne devijacije i koeficijenta varijacije za dvije skupine (skupina I-neovisno o metodi; skupina II-prema metodi). Ocjena kvalitete rada i usporedba MBL-a provedena je temeljem ukupne prolaznosti dobivene statističkom obradom rezultata: >90% (izvrsno), 80-90% (vrlo dobro), 70-80% (dobro) i <70% (loše).

**Rezultati:** 2015. godine u sva tri ciklusa u skupini I prosječno je 62,3 % MBL-a imalo prolaznost višu od 90%, dok je 2017. godine prosječno 49,8 % MBL-a pokazalo izvrsnu prolaznost. U skupini II, 2015. godine prosječno je 84,8 % MBL-a imalo izvrsnu prolaznost, dok je 2017. godine izvrsnu prolaznost imalo 75,4 % MBL-a. 2017. godine 3,9 % MBL-a u skupini II imalo je lošu prolaznost, dok 2015. godine niti jedan MBL nije imao lošu prolaznost.

**Zaključak:** Iako je 2017. godine manje MBL-a imalo izvrsnu prolaznost u obje skupine one su rezultat promjena u načinu ocjenjivanja modula s obzirom da se koeficijenti varijacije rezultata za obje godine ne razlikuju značajno. 2017. godine izmjenjena su dozvoljena odstupanja (uvedena su i apsolutna dozvoljena odstupanja za niže koncentracijske razine i aktivnosti analita), a broj laboratorija koji se ocjenjuje u skupini II snižen je sa sedam na pet što je uzrokom lošije prolaznosti laboratorija u skupini II.

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laboratory in which determination was performed. The National Quality Control Program (CROQALM) enables performance quality monitoring of Medical Biochemistry Laboratories (MBLs) in Croatia. The aim of this paper is to compare the performance quality (comparability of analyte results) of MBLs in Croatia in year 2015 and 2017.

**Materials and methods:** In 2015 193, and in 2017 192-194 MBLs participated in CROQALM. The program was implemented through 12 (11) different modules and 3 annual cycles. All results were evaluated according to the pre-set acceptance limits using inlab2\*QALM program support (2011, IN2GroupLtd, Zagreb, Croatia). The evaluation of results includes calculation of arithmetic mean, standard deviation and coefficient of variation for two groups (group I-independent of method, group II-regarding method). Performance assessment and comparison of MBLs was obtained by statistical analysis of acceptable results: >90% (excellent), 80-90% (very good), 70-80% (good) and <70% (poor).

**Results:** 2015 in group I 62.3% of MBLs had excellent performance while in 2017 49.8% of MBLs showed excellent performance. In group II, 2015 84.8% of MBLs had excellent performance, and in 2017 excellent performance had 75.4% of MBLs. In 2017 3.9% of MBLs in group II had poor performance whereas in 2015 none of MBLs had poor performance.

**Conclusion:** While in 2017 fewer MBLs had excellent performance in both groups, they are the result of changes in the module evaluation, since the coefficients of variation for both years do not differ significantly. In 2017 acceptance limits were changed (different acceptance limits for lower concentration levels were also introduced), and the number of MBLs evaluated in group II was reduced from seven to five, which is the cause of lower laboratory performance in group II.

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O-9

### Mjerenje everolimusa u punoj krvi imunokemijskim testom za sirolimus: naša iskustva i usporedba dvaju komercijalnih testova

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**Uvod:** Terapijsko praćenje koncentracije (TDM) everolimusa preporučeno je zbog uske terapijske širine. Za TDM lijekova često se primjenjuju imunokemijski testovi koji najčešće imaju nedovoljnu specifičnost. Moguće je, zbog slične strukture, imunokemijskim testom za sirolimus određivati koncentraciju everolimusa koristeći se križnom reakcijom. Cilj rada bio je ispitati mogućnost određivanja koncentracije everolimusa testom za sirolimus proizvođača Siemens (ACMIA) i usporediti rezultate s koncentracijama everolimusa izmjerenih testom za sirolimus tvrtke Abbott (CMIA) za koje postoje certifikati vanjske procjene kvalitete (RfB).

**Materijali i metode:** Koncentracije everolimusa određene su u 32 uzorka pune krvi metodama CMIA i ACMIA. Metoda ACMIA uključuje automatsku pripremu uzorka, dok metoda CMIA zahtijeva ručnu pripremu uzorka. Usporedba metoda učinjena je Passing-Bablokovom regresijskom analizom dok su razlike srednjih vrijednosti ovih dviju metoda određene Bland-Altmanovom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Koncentracije everolimusa bile su u rasponu od 1,8 do 15,5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $x = 4,4$ ;  $SD = 2,723$ ). Usporedbom ovih dviju metoda dobiven je koeficijent korelacije  $r = 0,945$  ( $P < 0,001$ ), Passing-Bablokova regresijska analiza dala je sljedeće rezultate:  $y = - 1,302 + 1,543 x$  (95% CI za odsječak na osi  $y - 2,350$  do  $- 0,612$ , 95% CI za koeficijent pravca 1,378 do 1,809). Cusum test linearnosti pokazao je da nema znatnog odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P = 0,19$ ). Bland-Altmanovom analizom dobivena je prosječna sustavna pogreška (engl. *bias*) od 21,4 %.

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati ukazuju na stalnu i proporcionalnu razliku između ovih dviju metoda, a dobivena sustavna pogreška viša je od dopuštenih granica izvedbe koje propisuje Australско društvo kliničkih biokemičara. Testom za sirolimus može se, uz primjenu metode ACMIA, određivati i everolimus, ali

O-9

### Whole blood everolimus determination by using immunochemistry test for sirolimus: our experience and comparison of two commercial tests

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**Introduction:** Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of everolimus is recommended due to its narrow therapeutic range. For TDM, immunochemistry tests commonly applied frequently have insufficient specificity. Due to this inadequacy, it is possible to use immunochemistry test for sirolimus and apply cross reaction to determine the concentration of everolimus as they are structurally similar. The aim of the study was to investigate the possibility of determining everolimus concentration by using sirolimus test produced by Siemens (ACMIA), and compare results with everolimus levels measured by sirolimus test produced by Abbott (CMIA) for which external quality assessment certificates (RfB) are available.

**Materials and methods:** Everolimus concentrations were determined in 32 whole blood samples by using CMIA and ACMIA methods. ACMIA method includes automated, whereas CMIA method requires manual sample preparation. Method comparison was carried out using Passing-Bablok regression analysis, and the mean differences between two methods were calculated using Bland-Altman analysis.

**Results:** Everolimus levels ranged from 1.8 to 15.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $x = 4.4$ ;  $SD = 2.723$ ). Comparison of the two methods yielded the coefficient of correlation  $r = 0.945$  ( $P < 0.001$ ), and the results of Passing-Bablok regression analysis were as follows:  $y = - 1.302 + 1.543 x$  (95% CI for intercept  $- 2.350$  to  $- 0.612$ , 95% CI for slope 1.378 to 1.809). Cusum linearity test showed no significant deviation from linearity ( $P=0.19$ ). Bland-Altman analysis yielded a mean bias of 21.4%.

**Conclusion:** Our results point to a constant and proportional difference between the two methods, and the bias exceeds the allowable limits of performance defined by the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists. By using the ACMIA method, sirolimus

svakako uz napomenu pri izdavanju nalaza. Rezultati everolimusa dobiveni metodom ACMIA viši su za oko 20% od rezultata dobivenih metodom CMIA i o tome je, u slučaju prelaska na ovu metodu, potrebno obavijestiti kliničare.

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test can be applied to determine everolimus, yet with a mandatory note in test result. Everolimus results obtained by using the ACMIA method are 20% higher than those obtained by the CMIA method, and clinicians should be notified if the former method is to be introduced.

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## O-10

### Usporedba parametara acidobazične ravnoteže u uzorcima arterijske krvi i centralne vene

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**Uvod:** Arterijski uzorak predstavlja uzorak izbora za acidobazičnu ravnotežu (ABS). Uzorkovanje arterijske krvi u odnosu na vensku zahtjevnije je, bolnije i potencijalno opasno za bolesnika. Cilj je bio ispitati odnos pH,  $p\text{CO}_2$  i  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  u arterijskoj i venskoj krvi bolesnika jedinice intenzivnog liječenja i mogućnost procjene arterijskih parametara iz venskih.

**Materijali i metode:** Retrospektivno su prikupljeni podaci 55 bolesnika s istovremeno određenim ABS-om iz 103 uzoraka arterije (ABS-A) i centralne vene (ABS-V), na Rapidlabu 348 (Siemens, Njemačka). Odnos arterijskih i venskih parametara ispitan je Bland-Altmanovom i Passing-Bablokovom analizom, prema kriterijima CROQALM-a. Bolesnici su podijeljeni u podskupine ovisno o vrsti uzorka i vrijednostima ABS-a, te uspoređeni kappa ( $\kappa$ ) testom.

**Rezultati:** Srednje apsolutne razlike (uz 95% CI) arterijske i venske krvi iznosile su: pH 0,034 (0,031 do 0,041),  $p\text{CO}_2$  - 0,80 kPa (- 0,90 do - 0,70) i  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  - 2 mmol/L (- 2 do - 1). Prema Bland-Altmanu dobiveno je konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje za sva tri parametra, a 95%-tne granice srednjih razlika bile su: pH -0,01 do 0,08,  $p\text{CO}_2$  -1,90 do 0,20 kPa i  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  - 5 do 2 mmol/L. Klinički značajno konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje između arterijskog i venskog uzorka prema Passing-Bablokovoju analizi utvrđeno je samo za  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $p\text{CO}_2\text{A} = - 0,33$  (- 0,62 do - 0,03) + 0,92 (0,87 do 0,98) x  $p\text{CO}_2\text{V}$ ). Usporedbom podskupina podijeljenih temeljem parametara ABS-A i ABS-V

## O-10

### Comparison of blood gas parameters in arterial and central venous blood

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**Introduction:** Arterial is the preferred sample for blood gas analysis (BGA). Arterial sampling is more difficult, painful, and bears more risk than venous sampling. We aimed to compare the pH,  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  in arterial and venous blood of intensive care unit patients and the ability to estimate arterial from venous parameters.

**Materials and methods:** Data from simultaneous arterial (A) and central vein (V) BGA was retrospectively collected (in total 103 pairs) from 55 patients. BGA was measured on Rapidlab 348 (Siemens, Germany). The relationship between arterial and venous parameters was investigated by Bland-Altman and Passing-Bablok analysis, according to CROQALM criteria. Patients divided into subgroups depending on sample type and BGA results were compared with the kappa test.

**Results:** Mean differences (95% CI) between A and V for pH,  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  were 0.034 (0.031 to 0.041), -0.80 (-0.90 to -0.70) kPa and -2 (-2 to -1) mmol / L, respectively. According to Bland-Altman, constant and proportional difference was obtained for all three parameters, with 95% CI for mean differences of - 0.01 to 0.08, - 1.90 to 0.20 kPa and - 5 to 2 mmol/L for pH,  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , respectively. A clinically significant constant and proportional difference between A and V according to Passing-Bablok was found only for  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $p\text{CO}_2\text{A} = - 0.33$  (- 0.62 to - 0.03) + 0.92 (0.87 to 0.98) x  $p\text{CO}_2\text{V}$ ). When subgroups divided ac-

dobivena je slaba podudarnost ( $\kappa = 0,29$ ; 95% CI: 0,14 - 0,44), dok je usporedbom podskupina podijeljenih temeljem ABS-A i regresijskog modela za ABS-A izvedenog iz ABS-V dobivena dobra podudarnost ( $\kappa = 0,70$ ; 95% CI: 0,57 - 0,82).

**Zaključak:** Srednje razlike između arterijskog i venskog uzorka u skladu su s razlikama, referentnih intervala za sve ispitivane parametre, osim  $pCO_2$ . 95%-tne granice podudaranja srednjih razlika svih ispitivanih parametara vrlo su široke. Iako je primjenom modela za procjenu arterijskog ABS-a iz venskog uzorka dobivena dobra podudarnost između podskupina bolesnika podijeljenih ovisno o poremećaju ABS-a, prethodno njegovoj rutinskoj primjeni potrebno ga je opsežno validirati.

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ording to BGA-A and BGA-V were compared, poor agreement ( $\kappa = 0.29$ ; 95% CI: 0.14 - 0.44) was obtained. Comparison of subgroups divided by BGA-A and BGA-V regression model yielded good agreement ( $\kappa = 0.70$ ; 95% CI: 0.57 - 0.82).

**Conclusion:** Mean differences between A and V are consistent with differences in reference intervals for the corresponding parameters, except  $pCO_2$ . The mean differences limits are very wide for all tested parameters. Although the model estimating BGA-A from BGA-V yielded good agreement between patients divided according to BGA disorder, prior to possible routine use it should be validated extensively.

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## O-11

### Prognostički značaj određivanja laktata iz arterijske krvi tijekom transplantacije jetre na post-transplantacijski ishod

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**Uvod:** Tijekom transplantacije jetre (TJ), koncentracija laktata u arterijskoj krvi pada nakon početnog porasta, a maksimalne vrijednosti dosižu se nakon revascularizacije presatka. Cilj istraživanja bio je odrediti da li su vrijednosti laktata u arterijskoj krvi određene tijekom TJ povezane s post-transplantacijskim ishodom.

**Materijali i metode:** Ovim retrospektivnim istraživanjem obuhvaćeni su bolesnici s TJ u Kliničkoj bolnici Merkur od srpnja 2014. do srpnja 2016. Izabrano je posljednjih 31 bolesnika koji su imali uredan post-transplantacijski tijek i preživljenje presatka više od 2 godine (preživjeli) i posljednjih 31 bolesnika koji su imali disfunkciju presatka, definiranu kao smrt pacijenta ili retransplantacija unutar 3 mjeseca od

## O-11

### The prognostic relevance of the arterial blood lactate on the post-liver transplantation outcome

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**Introduction:** During liver transplantation (LT), arterial lactate concentrations (ALC) decreased after an initial increase, with the maximal level occurring after revascularization of the graft. The aim of this study was to determine if the perioperative ALC is associated with the post-liver transplantation outcome.

**Materials and methods:** This study was a retrospective analysis of all patients undergoing LT at the Merkur University Hospital from July 2014 to July 2016. The 31 latest patients who underwent a successful transplant and survived more than 2 years (survivors) and 31 latest patients who had graft failure (GF), defined as patient death or retransplantation within 3 months of LT (nonsurvivors) were selec-

TJ. Koncentracije laktata u arterijskoj krvi određene su tijekom TJ amperometrijskom metodom akreditiranom prema ISO15189 normi. Koncentracija laktata u arterijskoj krvi na početku i kraju transplantacije, kao i pik laktata tijekom TJ u preživjelih i pacijenta s disfunkcijom presatka analizirani su pomoću ROC (engl. *receiver operating characteristics*) krivulje i određivanjem površine ispod krivulje (AUC), u svrhu predikcije ishoda nakon TJ.

**Rezultati:** Medijan koncentracije laktata u arterijskoj krvi u pacijenata s disfunkcijom presatka bio je značajno viši u odnosu na preživjele na početku: 1,20 vs 0,90 mmol/L ( $P = 0,035$ ) i na kraju TJ: 2,20 vs 1,50 mmol/L ( $P = 0,005$ ). Pik laktata nije se statistički značajno razlikovao između istraživanih skupina. Optimalne granične vrijednosti laktata za predikciju disfunkcije presatka iznosile su 0,9 mmol/L (osjetljivost 71,0%, specifičnost 58,1%) na početku i 1,4 mmol/L (osjetljivost 83,9%, specifičnost 48,4%) na kraju TJ. Analiza AUC pokazala je da su za predikciju ishoda vrijednosti laktata na kraju bolje od vrijednosti laktata na početku TJ: AUC (95% CI): 0,71 (0,58 – 0,82) vs 0,66 (0,53 – 0,77).

**Zaključak:** Mnogo različitih čimbenika može utjecati na ishod transplantacijskog liječenja. Koncentracija laktata na kraju TJ smatra se korisnim indikatorom metaboličkog oporavka presatka i može se koristiti kao prediktivni čimbenik post-transplantacijskog ishoda kod bolesnika s transplantiranom jetrom.

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O-12

### Verifikacija enzimske metode za određivanje hemoglobina A1c na Architect c4000 biokemijskom analizatoru

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**Uvod:** Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) odražava prosječnu koncentraciju glukoze u cirkulaciji tijekom životnog vijeka eritrocita (2-3 mjeseca). Ima važnu ulogu za dijagnozu i praćenje šećerne bolesti. Postupak verifikacije prilikom uvođenja metode sastavni je dio

ted. ALC was measured during LT with the amperometric method accredited according to ISO15189 norm. The ALC at the beginning and the end of LT, and peak of ALC in survivors and nonsurvivors were analyzed by generation of receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curves to determine the area of the ROC curve (AUC), as predictive factor of post-liver transplantation outcome.

**Results:** The median of the ALC were significantly higher in nonsurvivors compared to survivors: at the beginning 1.20 vs 0.90 mmol/L ( $P = 0.035$ ) and at the end of the LT 2.20 vs 1.50 mmol/L ( $P = 0.005$ ). There was no significant differences in the peak of ALC. The optimum cut-off value ALC predicting GF at the beginning and the end of the LT was 0.9 mmol/L (sensitivity 71.0%, specificity 58.1%) and 1.4 mmol/L (sensitivity 83.9%, specificity 48.4%), respectively. Analysis of AUC demonstrated that lactate at the end of LT was superior to initial lactate, with AUC (95% CI): 0.71 (0.58 – 0.82) vs. 0.66 (0.53 – 0.77).

**Conclusion:** Many different factors can affect outcomes after LT. ALC at the end of the LT appears to be a useful indicator of hepatic metabolic recovery and can be used as predictive factor of post-liver transplantation outcome.

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O-12

### Evaluation of the direct enzymatic HbA1c assay on the Architect c4000 chemistry system

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**Introduction:** Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) reflects the average concentration of glucose in the circulation during the lifetime of the erythrocyte (2-3 months). It plays an important role in diagnosing and monitoring diabetes mellitus. The method of verification

radnog procesa laboratorija. Ispitali smo analitičke značajke enzimске metode za određivanje HbA1c u punoj krvi na Abbott Architect c4000 analizatoru (Abbott\_HbA1c) i usporedili je s prethodno korištenom Beckman Coulter turbidimetrijsko-imunoinhibicijskom metodom za određivanje HbA1c u hemolizatu na AU400 analizatoru (BC\_HbA1c).

**Materijali i metode:** Ponovljivost, međupreciznost, ukupna laboratorijska nepreciznost i istinitost ispitani su korištenjem komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka. Koeficijenti varijacije (CVSr, CVSb i CVSI) i bias izračunati su (L1, L2, N = 15) i uspoređeni s kriterijima prihvatljivosti deklariranim od strane proizvođača. Dodatno istinitost je ispitana usporedbom rezultata dobivenih mjerenjem ispitivanom metodom Abbott\_HbA1c s rezultatima dobivenim usporednom metodom mjerenja BC\_HbA1c korištenjem uzoraka pacijenata (N = 40, HbA1c u rasponu od 5,3 do 14,6%). Rezultati su statistički obrađeni u MedCalc programu, Passing-Bablok analizom.

**Rezultati:** Zadovoljavajući rezultati su dobiveni za nepreciznost: CVSr, CVSb i CVSI kod razine HbA1c od 6,4% iznose 0,5%, 0,4%, 0,6% i 0,7%, 0,3%, 0,6% kod razine HbA1c od 9,8%. Odstupanje od deklarirane vrijednosti HbA1c u kontrolnom uzorku pokazalo je zadovoljavajuću točnost: bias kod razine HbA1c od 6,4% i 9,8% iznosi 2,7% i - 0,6% (Kriterij prihvatljivosti proizvođača za HbA1c izražen u %:  $CV < 2,0\%$ ,  $bias < 3,0\%$ ). Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza pokazala je da ne postoji konstantno niti proporcionalno odstupanje između metoda:  $y$  (Abbott\_HbA1c) = - 0,05 (- 0,36 do 0,12) + 1,00 (0,98 do 1,04) x (BC\_HbA1c). Cusumov test pokazao je da nema značajnog odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P = 0,530$ ). Pojedinačna odstupanja između mjerenja iznosila su do 0,5%.

**Zaključak:** Enzimska metoda za određivanje HbA1c na Architect c4000 analizatoru pouzdana je, točna i precizna. Pokazuje dobru usporedbu sa do tada korištenom Beckman Coulter turbidimetrijsko-imunoinhibicijskom metodom za određivanje HbA1c u hemolizatu i može se koristiti u rutinskom laboratorijskom radu.

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when introducing the method is an integral part of the work process of the laboratory. We evaluated the analytical performance of the Direct Enzymatic HbA1c Assay in whole blood samples on the Abbott Architect c4000 Analyzer (Abbott\_HbA1c) and compared it to the previously used Beckman Coulter turbidimetric-immunoinhibition method for determining HbA1c in hemolysate on the AU400 Analyzer (BC\_HbA1c).

**Materials and methods:** Repeatability, between run, within-laboratory precision and trueness were determined using the commercial control samples. The coefficients of variation (CVSr, CVSb and CVSI) and bias were calculated (L1, L2, N = 15) and compared to the acceptance criteria declared by the manufacturer. Additionally, trueness was determined by comparing the results obtained by measuring the Abbott\_HbA1c assay with the results obtained by the BC\_HbA1c comparative measurement method using patient samples (N = 40, HbA1c ranging from 5.3 to 14.6%). The results are statistically processed in the MedCalc program (v.17.9.2) by Passing-Bablok analysis.

**Results:** Satisfactory results were obtained for precision: CVSr, CVSb, and CVSI at HbA1c levels of 6.4% are 0.5%, 0.4%, 0.6% and 0.7%, 0.3%, 0.6% at HbA1c levels of 9.8%. The deviation from the declared value of HbA1c in the control sample showed satisfactory accuracy: bias at HbA1c levels of 6.4% and 9.8% is 2.7% and -0.6% (Acceptance criteria declared by the manufacturer for HbA1c expressed in %:  $CV < 2.0\%$ ,  $bias < 3.0\%$ ). Passing-Bablok regression analysis showed that there is no constant or proportional deviation between the method:  $y$  (Abbott\_HbA1c) = -0.05 (- 0.36 to 0.12) + 1.00 (0.98 to 1.04) x (BC\_HbA1c). Cusum's test showed no significant deviation from linearity ( $P = 0.530$ ). Individual deviations between measurements were up to 0.5%.

**Conclusion:** The Direct Enzymatic HbA1c Assay on the Architect c4000 Analyzer is reliable, accurate and precise. It shows a good comparison with the previously used Beckman Coulter turbidimetric-immunoinhibition method for determining HbA1c in hemolysate and can be used in routine laboratory work.

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**O-13 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Makroprolaktin – racionalna upotreba probirnog testa u dijagnostici hiperprolaktinemije**

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**Uvod:** Određivanje koncentracije prolaktina u serumu ima najveći klinički značaj u diferencijalnoj dijagnostici hiperprolaktinemije. Jedan od glavnih analitičkih interferenata prilikom određivanja serumske koncentracije prolaktina je povećana prisutnost polimernog oblika, makroprolaktina. Ciljevi ovog rada bili su ispitati: (I) možemo li uspostaviti racionalniji pristup u probiru na makroprolaktin podizanjem granične vrijednosti na 700 mIU/L, odnosno 1000 mIU/L i (II) postoji li statistički značajna razlika u testu iskorištenja (engl. *recovery*) kod ispitanika kojima se opetovano izvodi probir na makroprolaktin nakon godinu dana?

**Ispitanici i metode:** Ispitivanje je provedeno na 1270 uzoraka seruma odraslih pacijenata prikupljenih u razdoblju od siječnja 2016. do rujna 2017., kojima su koncentracije prolaktina bile iznad gornje granice referentnog intervala (muškarci 381 mIU/L, žene 496 mIU/L). Uzorci su podvrgnuti taloženju polietilenglikolom, a koncentracije prolaktina prije i nakon taloženja izmjerene elektrokemiluminiscentnom metodom na analizatoru Cobas e601 (Roche, Mannheim, Germany). Koncentracije prolaktina koje su unutar referentnog intervala nakon taloženja (muškarci 63 - 245 mIU/L, žene 75 - 381 mIU/L) smatraju se lažnim hiperprolaktinemijama. Wilcoxonov parni test ( $\alpha = 0,05$ ) korišten je za ispitivanje razlike između ponovljenih mjerenja.

**Rezultati:** Primjenom uobičajenih graničnih vrijednosti koje odgovaraju koncentracijama prolaktina iznad gornje granice referentnog intervala, otkriveno je 40 bolesnika s lažnom hiperprolaktinemijom od ukupnog broja od 1270 bolesnika. Pomicanjem graničnih vrijednosti na 700 mIU/L otkriveno je 18 pacijenata s makroprolaktinemijom od ukupno 515, a pri graničnoj vrijednosti od 1000 mIU/L 7 od 267. Wilcoxonovim

**O-13 (Oral presentation)****Macroprolactin – rational use of screening test**

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**Introduction:** Determination of serum prolactin concentration has the highest clinical relevance in the differential diagnosis of hyperprolactinemia. Macroprolactin, a polymeric form of prolactin is the major cause of falsely increased prolactin. Our aims were: (I) to establish a more rational approach to macroprolactin screening by raising cut-off values to 700 mIU/L or 1000 mIU/L, (II) to determine whether there is a statistically significant difference in recovery test in subjects who are repeatedly screening macroprolactin after one year.

**Subjects and methods:** The study was conducted on 1270 adult patients' sera samples which were collected from January 2016 to September 2017. All samples had prolactin above corresponding upper reference limit (male 381 mIU/L, female 496 mIU/L). Measurements before and after PEG-precipitation were performed with electrochemiluminescence method on Cobas e601 analyzer (Roche, Mannheim, Germany). Post-PEG prolactin concentrations that fall within corresponding reference interval (male 63 - 245 mIU/L, female 75 - 381 mIU/L) are considered false hyperprolactinemia. Wilcoxon paired test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) was used to determine if there is a statistically significant difference in repeated measurements.

**Results:** Using upper reference limit values as cut-off values showed that 40 out of total 1270 patients had false hyperprolactinemia. Increasing the cut-off value to 700 mIU/L shows that 18 patients out of total 515 had macroprolactinemia. Furthermore, raising the upper cut-off value even more, up to 1000 mIU/L, decreased the number of patients with false hyperprolactinemia to 7 out of total 267. Wilcoxon paired test ( $P < 0.001$ ) showed a statistically significant difference between repeated measurements.

parnim testom ( $P < 0,001$ ) utvrđena je statistički značajna razlika između ponavljanih mjerenja.

**Zaključak:** Prema dobivenim rezultatima, možemo donijeti sljedeće zaključke: (I) racionalniji pristup uz podizanje graničnih vrijednosti nije se pokazao smislenim jer bi se na taj način propustio znatan broj pacijenata s lažnom hiperprolaktinijom. (II) dosadašnji postupak ponovljenog taloženja, koji se primjenjuje na bolesnike koji opetovano dolaze kontrolirati hiperprolaktinijom, pokazao se opravdanim budući da postoji statistički značajna razlika u izmjenjenim koncentracijama prolaktina.

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#### O-14 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Slobodni hemoglobin kao uzrok lažno pozitivnog nalaza M-proteina

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**Uvod:** Elektroforeza proteina u serumu (SPE) je laboratorijska tehnika koja čini prvi i najvažniji korak u dijagnostici i praćenju bolesnika s multiplim mijelomom i monoklonskom gamopatijom neutvrđenog značenja (MGNZ). Automatizirani analitički sustavi temeljeni na kapilarnoj zonskoj elektroforezi (CZE) bez čvrstog nosača omogućuju razdvajanje proteina seruma visokom rezolucijskom moći. Prikazujemo elferogram s uskim vrškom slobodnog hemoglobina (Hb) u beta-1 regiji koji se može pogrešno očitati kao M-protein. Cilj je istražiti koja koncentracija Hb čini klinički značajnu razliku u rezultatima elektroforeze.

**Materijali i metode:** Pripremljena je otopina hemolizata koncentracije Hb = 24 g/L korištenjem 50  $\mu$ L ispranih eritrocita i 250  $\mu$ L otopine digitonina. Dodajući hemolizat u normalan uzorak seruma 16-godišnjeg pacijenta (H = 5) pripremljena su različita razrjeđenja. CZE je učinjena u svim razrjeđenjima na uređaju Capillarys 2 Sebia, polukvantitativna procjena LIH indeksa na Roche Cobas 6000cee, a koncentracija hemoglobina određena je na Sysmex XN-550. Klinička važnost interferencije hemoglobina procijenjena je prema laboratorijskoj vrijednosti RCV i na temelju vizualnog pregleda elferograma.

**Conclusion:** Based on the obtained results, conclusions are: (I) suggested cut-off values left out a significant number of patients with false hyperprolactinemia. (II) the usual protocol for repeated PEG-precipitation which is applied to patients who repeatedly control hyperprolactinemia has proved to be justified.

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#### O-14 (Oral presentation)

### Free haemoglobin as a cause of false positive M-protein

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**Introduction:** Serum protein electrophoresis (SPE) is laboratory technique which is the first and most important step in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with multiple myeloma and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS). Automated analytical systems based on capillary zone electrophoresis (CZE) without solid matrix enable high resolution separation of serum proteins. We present an electrophoresis pattern with a narrow spike of free haemoglobin (Hb) in beta-1 region which implicates the presence of M-protein. The aim was to investigate the concentration of Hb which makes clinically significant difference in SPE results.

**Materials and methods:** Haemolysed solution with Hb = 24 g/L was prepared using 50  $\mu$ L of washed erythrocytes and 250  $\mu$ L of digitonine solution. Different dilutions were done by adding the Hb solution to normal serum of a 16-year-old patient (H = 5). CZE was performed in all dilutions on Capillarys 2 Sebia, semiquantitative evaluation of LIH by Roche Cobas 6000cee, and haemoglobin concentration was measured on Sysmex XN-550. Clinical significance of haemoglobin interference was estimated

**Rezultati:** Koncentracije Hb u pet pripremljenih razrjeđenja bile su 2-12 g/L, a H-indeks 250-1381. Beta frakcija u svim je razrjeđenjima bila viša (13,5 - 28,3%) nego u nativnom uzorku seruma (10,7%). Utjecaj interferencije izračunat je kao odstupanje (%) u beta frakciji (26,2 - 164,5). U elferogramima s 12 (H = 1381) i 8 g/L (H = 958) Hb visoki uski vršak u beta-1 regiji bez sumnje se prikazuje kao M-protein. Također, elferogram uzorka s 4 g/L (H = 469) Hb suspektan je na prisutnost M-proteina. Odstupanje u beta-frakciji od 31,8 % u uzorku s H-indeksom 469 iznad je RCV 30,5 %.

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati pokazuju kako se slobodni hemoglobin u uzorcima s indeksom hemolize iznad 469 može prikazivati kao M-protein u CZE pojavljujući se kao uski vršak u području beta-1. Ovaj vršak može biti uočen samo ako su na nalazu prikazani i brojni i grafički rezultati elektroforeze proteina u serumu.

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according to laboratory RCV and visual inspection of electrophoresis patterns.

**Results:** Haemoglobin concentrations in five different serum dilutions were 2 - 12 g/L and H-index was 250 - 1381. Beta fraction in all dilutions was higher (13.5 - 28.3%) than in native serum (10.7%). The interference was calculated as deviation (%) in beta fraction. The calculated deviations were 26.2-164.5. In electrophoresis patterns with 12 (H = 1381) and 8 g/L (H = 958) Hb, a high narrow spike in beta-1 region with no doubt mimics the presence of M-protein in serum. Also, the presence of M-protein was suspected in electrophoresis pattern of the sample with 4g/L (H = 469) Hb. Beta fraction deviation of 31.8% in sample with H-index 469 was above RCV 30.5%.

**Conclusion:** Our results show that free haemoglobin in samples with hemolytic index above 469 can mimic the presence of M-protein in CZE appearing as a narrow peak in beta-1 region. This spike can be detected only if numerical and graphical results are reported.

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## OV – Ostalo verifikacije

### OV-1

#### Kratka verifikacija komercijalnog HPLC testa za određivanje koncentracije 25-hidroksi vitamina D u serumu

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**Uvod:** U kliničkoj praksi koncentracija 25-hidroksi vitamina D (25-OH VITD) pokazatelj je statusa vitamina D u organizmu. Cilj ovog rada bio je provođenje i procjena rezultata skraćene verifikacije 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3 (Recipe, Munchen, Njemačka) komercijalnog HPLC (tekućinska kromatografija visoke djelotvornosti) testa za određivanje koncentracije vitamina D u serumu.

**Materijali i metode:** Testirali smo ClinRep Complete Kit za 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3 u serumu s analitičkom kolonom i predkolonom (Recipe, Munchen, Njemačka) na modularnom ultra HPLC instrumentu

## OV – Other verifications

### OV-1

#### Short verification of commercial HPLC kit for serum 25-hydroxy vitamin D measurement

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**Introduction:** In routine clinical practice serum concentration of 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D (25-OH VITD) is a biomarker of Vitamin D status in the organism. The aim of this study was conducting and results assessment of short verification of 25-OH VITD (Recipe, Munich, Germany) commercial HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography) kit for serum VITD measurement.

**Materials and methods:** The ClinRep Complete Kit for serum 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3 was tested on the NexeraX2 UHPLC instrument (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) with 25-OH Vitamin D analytical column and



NexeraX2 (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) sastavljenom od pumpe LC-30AD, autosamplera SIL-30AD, pećnice CTO-20AC i SPD-M30 detektora. Za procjenu preciznosti 25-OH VITD3 korišteni su komercijalni kontrolni uzorci ClinChek Serum Control (CCSC) razina L1 i L2 (Recipe, Munchen, Njemačka). Koncentraciju 25-OH VITD3 odredili smo tijekom 5 dana u triplikatu (ukupno 30 mjerenja). Verifikacija je obuhvatila preciznost u seriji (KVp) i međupreciznost iz dana u dan (KVm). Usporedivost metoda ispitana je mjerenjem koncentracije 25-OH VITD u 20 uzoraka seruma. U njima je predhodno određena koncentracija 25-OH VITD elektrokemiluminiscentom metodom na analizatoru Cobas e601 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Njemačka) s Roche-ovim reagensom Vitamin D Total. **Rezultati:** Preciznost u seriji (KVp) 25-OH VITD3 je bila 2,2% za CCSC L1 te 3,7% za CCSC L2. Preciznost iz dana u dan (KVm) za CCSC L1 bila je 4,5% dok je za CCSC L2 iznosila 4,0%. Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom ispitali smo usporedivost metoda. Dobivena je jednačba  $y = 0,97x + 10,2$  (95% CI 2,9 - 18,7 za odsječak; 95% CI 0,8 - 1,2 za nagib pravca) uz  $P=0,720$  za Cusum test linearnosti.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivani komercijalni HPLC kit reagensa pokazuje prihvatljivu preciznost u seriji i iz dana u dan jer sudobiveni koeficijenti varijacije manji od 5% što je sukladno tvrdnji proizvođača. Usporedivost metoda ukazuje na sustavnu pogrešku u smislu viših koncentracija HPLC metodom u odnosu na imunokemijsku metodubez značajnog odstupanja od linearnosti.

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## OV-2

### Verifikacija testova za određivanje anti-tTG IgA i anti-DGP IgG antitijela na analizatoru IDS iSYS

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**Uvod:** Iako je biopsija sluznice tankog crijeva zlatni standard, laboratorijsko određivanje specifičnih antitijela ima važnu ulogu u dijagnostici i praćenju pacijenata s celijakijom. Cilj nam je bio ispitati analitičke

precolumn (Recipe, Munich, Germany). It was assembled of a LC-30AD pump, SIL-30AD autosampler, CTO-20AC oven and SPD-M30 detector. Commercial quality controls ClinChek Serum Control (CCSC) level L1 i L2 (Recipe, Munich, Germany) were used for precision assessments of 25-OH VITD3 in triplicates for five days (30 assays in total). Precision was reported as intra assay ( $CV_{intra\ assay}$ ) and inter assay ( $CV_{inter\ assay}$ ) coefficient of variation. The method comparison was tested in 20 serum samples previously assayed by electrochemiluminescence immunoassay on the Cobas instrument e601 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany).

**Results:** For CCSC L1 and CCSC L2  $CV_{intra\ assay}$  were found 2.2% and 3.7% while  $CV_{inter\ assay}$  for CCSC L1 and CCSC L2 were 4.5% and 4.0%, respectively. Passing-Bablok regression analysis was used for the method comparison study. Its results showed  $y = 0.97x + 10.2$  (95% CI 2.9 – 18.7 for the intercept; 95% CI 0.8 – 1.2 for slope) with  $P = 0.720$  for Cusum linearity test.

**Conclusion:** According to the manufacturer's statement the ClinRep Complete Kit for serum 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3 showed inter and intra assays coefficients of variation below 5% and our study proved it for 25-OH VITD3. Method comparison analysis found a systematic difference in tendency to higher 25-OH VITD concentrations by HPLC method in comparison to immunoassay with no significant deviation from linearity.

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## OV-2

### Verification of assays for measurement of anti-tTG IgA and anti-DGP IgG antibodies on IDS iSYS analyzer

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**Introduction:** Although small intestinal biopsy is a gold standard, serological tests play an important role in diagnosis and management of patients with celiac disease. Our aim was to examine the analytical

karakteristike testova za određivanje anti-tTG IgA i anti-DGP IgG antitijela prije uvođenja u rutinski rad.

**Materijali i metode:** U svrhu uvođenja novih kvantitativnih, potpuno automatiziranih kemiluminiscentnih testova za određivanje tTG IgA i DGP IgG antitijela (ZENIT RA tTG IgA i ZENIT RA Deamidated Gliadin IgG, A. Menarini Diagnostics) na analizatoru IDS iSYS provedena je verifikacija metoda. Verifikacija je obuhvatila procjenu preciznosti u seriji, procjenu međupreciznosti i usporedbu s drugim metodama (kvalitativnim ELISA testovima QUANTA Lite tTG IgA i QUANTA Lite Gliadin IgG II; INOVA, San Diego, CA). Preciznost u seriji određena je analiziranjem tri slabo pozitivna i četiri jako pozitivna uzorka u triplicatu. Međupreciznost je određena analiziranjem jednog slabo pozitivnog i dva jako pozitivna uzorka tijekom tri dana. Usporedba metoda provedena je na 30 uzoraka pacijenata za tTG IgA i 28 uzorka za DGP IgG. Podudarnost rezultata usporedbe metoda ispitana je pomoću kappa koeficijenta primjenom Graph Pad programa.

**Rezultati:** Koeficijent varijacije za preciznost u seriji za tTG IgA kretao se od 0,57 do 6,47 %, a za DGP IgG od 0,31 do 6,35 %. KV za međupreciznost iznosio je za tTG IgA od 1,53 do 4,87 %, a za DGP IgG od 1,36 do 3,04 %. Kappa koeficijent za tTG IgA od 0,86 (95% CI 0,68 – 1,00) i za DGP IgG 0,90 (95% CI 0,71 – 0,10) što ukazuju na dobru usporedivost metoda.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivani testovi su pokazali prihvatljivu preciznost i usporedivost mjerenja. Zadovoljavajući rezultati verifikacije te povoljne karakteristike metode pridonijele su uvođenju ovih testova u rutinski rad.

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characteristics of anti-tTG IgA and anti-DGP IgG assays prior to implementation in routine work.

**Materials and methods:** For the purpose of introducing new quantitative, fully automated chemiluminescent assays for the measurement of anti-tTG IgA and anti-DGP IgG antibodies (ZENIT RA tTG IgA and ZENIT RA Deamidated Gliadin IgG, A. Menarini Diagnostics) on IDS iSYS analyzer, method verification was performed. Verification consisted of precision assessment and comparison with another method (qualitative ELISA tests QUANTA Lite tTG IgA and QUANTA Lite Gliadin IgG II, INOVA, San Diego, CA). Within-run precision was determined by analyzing three low positive and four high positive samples in triplicate. Between-run precision was determined by analysing one low positive and two high positive samples for three days. Method comparison was performed on 30 samples for tTG IgA and on 28 samples for DGP IgG. Method agreement was determined by calculating kappa coefficient using the Graph Pad program.

**Results:** Coefficient of variation for within-run precision ranged for tTG IgA from 0.57 to 6.47% and for DGP IgG from 0.31 to 6.35%. CV for between-run precision ranged for tTG IgA from 1.53 to 4.87% and for DGP IgG from 1.36 to 3.04%. Kappa coefficient of 0.86 (95% CI 0.68 - 1.00) for tTG IgA and 0.90 (95% CI 0.71 – 0.10) for DGP IgG indicated very good comparability between methods.

**Conclusion:** Tests showed acceptable precision and comparability of the measurements. Satisfying verification results and favourable method properties contributed to the introduction of these tests into routine work.

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### OV-3 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Kratka verifikacija metode za mjerenje interleukina-6 na analizatoru ADVIA Centaur-XP

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**Uvod:** Interleukin 6 (IL-6) je plejotropni citokin koji sudjeluje u raznim fiziološkim i patološkim procesima kao što su: diferencijacija T-limfocita, upala, sinteza proteina akutne faze i hematopoeza. Proizvode ga različite vrste stanica (imunološke stanice, keratinociti, adipociti, stanice karcinoma), a glavnu ulogu ima u patogenezi mnogobrojnih akutnih i kroničnih upalnih bolesti poput sepse, infekcije, reumatoidnog artritisa, dijabetesa tipa 2, upalnih bolesti crijeva, ishemijske bolesti srca i karcinoma. Nekoliko istraživanja je pokazalo da bi IL-6 mogao biti potencijalni prognostički i prediktivni biomarker ovih bolesti. Međutim, da bi se počeo primjenjivati u rutinskom radu potrebni su standardizirani analitički postupci visoke učinkovitosti. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je procjena analitičke izvedbe nove automatizirane imunokemijske metode za mjerenje IL-6 na ADVIA Centaur-XP analitičkom sustavu.

**Materijali i metode:** Analiza IL-6 na ADVIA Centaur analitičkom sustavu temelji se na principu metode direktne imuno-kemiluminiscencije, standardizirane prema internom standardu sljedivom do prvog internacionalnog standarda Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije (SZO) (NIBSC kod 89/548). Analitička verifikacija provedena je prema CLSI protokolu E15-A3. Za ispitivanje preciznosti korištene su dvije koncentracijske razine komercijalnog kontrolnog materijala proizvođača sa srednjim vrijednostima od 8,3 i 190,3 pg/mL. Kriteriji prihvatljivosti proizvođača su bili koeficijenti varijacije (KV) do 12% i do 9% kod koncentracija IL-6 nižih, odnosno viših od 8 pg/mL.

**Rezultati:** Procjenom preciznosti dobiveni su sljedeći rezultati: za kontrolni uzorak razine 1, dobivena je srednja vrijednost od 8,9 pg/mL, a KV za ponovljivost, međupreciznost i ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost iznosili su 5,7%, 9,4% i 10,5%; za kontrolni uzorak razine 2, srednja vrijednost je bila 193,8 pg/mL s KV od 3,9%, 2,3% i 3,9%.

### OV-3 (Oral presentation)

#### Short verification of interleukin-6 procedure on the ADVIA Centaur-XP analytical system

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**Introduction:** Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pleiotropic cytokin, with multiple roles in both physiological and pathological processes such as T-cell differentiation, inflammation, acute phase protein production and hematopoiesis. It is produced by a variety of cell types (immunological cells, keratinocytes, adipocytes, cancer cells) and plays a major role in the pathogenesis of many acute and chronic inflammatory diseases such as sepsis, infection, rheumatoid arthritis, type 2 diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, ischemic heart disease and cancer. Several studies showed IL-6 may be potential prognostic and predictive biomarker of these diseases. High-throughput standardized analytical procedure(s) are needed to implement the use of IL-6 in daily practice. The aim of this study was to evaluate analytical performance of a novel IL-6 automated immunoassay on the ADVIA Centaur-XP analytical system (Siemens Healthineers, USA).

**Materials and methods:** ADVIA Centaur IL-6 procedure is a one-step direct immunoassay using chemiluminescent technology, standardized to an internal standard traceable to the World Health Organization (WHO) 1<sup>st</sup> International Standard (NIBSC code 89/548). Analytical verification was carried out according to CLSI protocol E15-A3. The precision was examined using two control samples (ADVIA Centaur IL-6 Quality Control Material 1 and 2) with 8.3 pg/mL as low mean value and 190.3 pg/mL as high mean value. Manufacturer's acceptability criteria were: coefficients of variation (CV)  $\leq 12\%$  and  $\leq 9\%$  at IL-6 concentrations below and above 8 pg/mL, respectively.

**Results:** In the evaluation of precision the following results were obtained: for control sample level 1, mean value was 8.9 pg/mL and CV for repeatability, interprecision and overall laboratory precision

**Zaključak:** Metoda za mjerenje interleukina-6 zadovoljava specifikacije preciznosti proizvođača i spremna je za rutinsku uporabu na ADVIA Centaur-XP analitičkom sustavu.

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#### OV-4

### Analitička procjena brzog imunokemijskog testa za određivanje topljivog ST2

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**Uvod:** Topljivi ST2 je prognostički biljeg u bolesnika s poremećajem popuštanja srčane funkcije. Za razliku od ostalih srčanih biljega koji ukazuju na nekrozu i rastezanje srčanog mišića, ST2 neovisno o ostalim fiziološkim čimbenicima ukazuje na početak fibroze i remodelacije srčanog tkiva. ST2 je izrazito osjetljiv pokazatelj koji dobro korelira sa stanjem pacijenta. Cilj ovog rada bila je analitička procjena i provjera novog, brzog imunokemijskog testa Aspect-Plus ST2 testa i AspectReadera (CriticalDiagnosticsLimited, Irska, distribuirana Maritim d.o.o, Ljubljana, Slovenija) za kvantitativno određivanje topljivog ST2 srčanog biljega.

**Materijali i metode:** Mjerenja ST2 testa provedena su prema uputama proizvođača. Analitička procjena provedena je prema CLSI/NCCLS EP15-A2 protokolu pri čemu je određena preciznost (ponovljivost, međupreciznost i ukupna laboratorijska preciznost) u triplikatu tijekom pet dana za dvije koncentracijske razine kontrolnih uzoraka: kontrolna razina 1 (19 - 37 ng/mL) i kontrolna razina 2 (58 - 93 ng/mL). Preciznost unutar serije utvrđena je u 5 seruma bolesnika s 10 uzastopnih mjerenja unutar normalnog koncentracijskog područja. Dobivene vrijednosti iskazane su standardnim odstupanjem (SD) i koeficijentom varijacije (KV). Linearnost je određena provođenjem serije razrjeđivanja pool-a uzoraka pacijenata niske i visoke koncentracije. Statistička obrada prikupljenih podata učinjena je uporabom Excell 2016 programske verzije (Microsoft Office professional Plus 2016).

were 5.7%, 9.4% and 10.5%; control sample level 2 showed mean value of 193.8 pg/mL and CV of 3.9%, 2.3%, and 3.9%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Interleukin-6 assay fulfills the manufacturer's precision specifications and is ready for routine use on the ADVIA Centaur-XP analytical system.

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#### OV-4

### Analytical evaluation of a rapid immunoassay for measurement of soluble ST2

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**Introduction:** Heart failure progresses primarily through fibrosis and adverse modelling as a result of cardiac injury or stress. ST2 is a biomarker that, unlike natriuretic peptides or troponin, uniquely reflects this pathway. ST2 changes rapidly with the patient's underlying condition. The aim of this study was to perform analytical evaluation and verification of the novel rapid lateral flow immunoassay for the quantitative measurements of Aspect-Plus ST2 test with the Aspect Reader (CriticalDiagnosticsLimited, Ireland, distributed by Maritim d.o.o, Ljubljana, Slovenija).

**Materials and methods:** The measurements of an ST2 test were performed following the manufacturer's instruction. Intra-assay, inter-assay, and total precision were calculated for each specimen tested according to the protocol EP15-A2. Control level 1 (19 - 37 ng/mL) and control level 2 (58 - 93 ng/mL) were measured for five days in triplicate. Precision within the series was determined in 5 patients serum samples by 10 consecutive repetitions of measurements at normal concentration levels. The linearity was determined by conducting a dilution series with low and high-concentration patient sample pools. Obtained data were analyzed with Excell 2016 software version (Microsoft Office professional Plus 2016).

**Results:** Intra-assay CV for the low control level of a test was 25.6% and 15.0% for the high control level. Inter-assay CV data within series of patients serum

**Rezultati:** Ukupna laboratorijska preciznost za nisku razinu kontrolnih uzoraka bila je 25,6% i 15,0% za visoku razinu kontrolnih uzoraka. Odstupanje od očekivanih vrijednosti iznosilo je 23,64%. Rezultati ispitivanja linearnosti pokazali su linearnost metode kroz provedeni mjerni raspon (jednadžba linearnosti bila je  $y = 0,99x + 2,51$ , a  $R^2 = 0,997$ ).

**Zaključak:** Unatoč nešto višim rezultatima ukupne analitičke nepreciznosti od onih koje je navodi proizvođač (14,2%), novi Aspect-Plus ST2 test i analizator AspectReader pokazali su granično prihvatljive analitičke performanse obzirom da se radi o testu iz skupine POCT testova.

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#### OV-5 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Verifikacija preciznosti između serija EP-15 verifikacijskim protokolom za TSH, TT4, FT4, FT3, anti-TPO, anti-Tg na Abbott Architect i2000<sub>SR</sub> imunoanalizatoru

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**Uvod:** Architect imunoanalize TSH, ukupni T4, slobodni T4, slobodni T3, anti-TPO i anti-Tg proizvedene su s ciljem da imaju preciznost  $\leq 10\%$ . Cilj studije je bio odrediti preciznost između serija EP-15 protokolom i provjeriti prihvatljivost naših podataka o preciznosti prema kriteriju proizvođača.

**Materijali i metode:** Imunoanalize naziva Architect TSH, Total T4, Free T4, Free T3, anti-TPO i anti-Tg (Abbott Ireland, Diagnostic Division Lisnamuck, Longford, Ireland) su verificirane na Architect i2000<sub>SR</sub> uređaju (Abbott, Ireland) u lipnju, 2016. Kontrolni uzorci (BIO-RAD Iyochek Immunoassay Plus Control (BIO-RAD, USA), LOT 40420 u sve tri razine su upotrebljeni za izvođenje studije. Provedena su tri mjerenja svakog od pet uzastopnih dana za svaki analit na sve tri koncentracijske razine da bismo sakupili podatke za verifikacijski protokol NCCLS (engl. *National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards*) EP-15.

**Rezultati:** Mjerenjem TSH dobivene su CV vrijednosti 3,7%, 2,2% i 1,7% (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje

was 23.64 %. The assay was linear across its measurement range with the linear equation  $y = 0.99x + 2.51$  and  $R^2$  value was 0.997.

**Conclusion:** Despite greater results of the total analytical imprecision than those described by manufacturer (14.2%), the novel Aspect-Plus ST2 test and the Aspect Reader analyser showed boundary satisfying performances considering that this is a point-of-care assay.

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#### OV-5 (Oral presentation)

### Verification of interassay precision for TSH, TT4, FT4, FT3, anti-TPO, anti-Tg on Abbott Architect i2000<sub>SR</sub> immunoanalyser by EP-15 verification protocol

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**Introduction:** The Architect TSH, Total T4, Free T4, Free T3, anti-TPO and anti-Tg immunoassays were designed to have an assay precision of  $\leq 10\%$  CV. Study aim was to assess interassay precision using EP-15 precision protocol and to check whether our precision data fulfil manufacturer's criteria for allowable precision.

**Materials and methods:** Architect TSH, Total T4, Free T4, Free T3, anti-TPO and anti-Tg (Abbott Ireland, Diagnostic Division Lisnamuck, Longford, Ireland) were verified on Architect i2000<sub>SR</sub> analyser (Abbott, Ireland) in June 2016. Control material were three levels of BIO-RAD Iyochek Immunoassay Plus Control (BIO-RAD, USA), LOT 40420. Three measurements in five consecutive days were performed for each immunoassay in three control levels to obtain data for National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards EP-15 verification protocol.

**Results:** The TSH measurement revealed CV values 3.7%, 2.2% and 1.7% for grand mean values

vrijednosti (engl. *grand mean*) 0,34 mIU/L, 4,6 mIU/L i 27,8 mIU/L). Mjerenjem ukupnog T4 dobivene su CV vrijednosti 3,0%, 2,1% i 5,3% (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje vrijednosti 59,2 nmol/L; 128,4 nmol/L and 228,4 nmol/L). Mjerenjem slobodnog T4 dobivene su CV vrijednosti 1,9%, 2,3% i 3,4% (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje vrijednosti 10,6 pmol/L; 24,5 pmol/L i 39,5 pmol/L). Mjerenjem slobodnog T3 dobivene su CV vrijednosti 5,7%, 2,9% i 3,6% (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje vrijednosti 3,4 pmol/L, 9,2 pmol/L and 17,2 pmol/L). Mjerenjem anti-TPO dobivene su CV vrijednosti 2,9%, 3,5% i 2,6 (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje vrijednosti 37,4 IU/mL; 37,7 IU/mL i 29,6 IU/mL). Mjerenjem anti-Tg dobivene su CV vrijednosti 4,0%, 3,1% i 2,8% (odgovarajuće ukupne srednje vrijednosti 22,9 IU/mL; 53,2 IU/mL i 26,0 IU/mL).

**Zaključak:** Podaci o preciznosti prema NCCLS EP-15 verifikacijskom protokolu za imunoanalize Architect TSH, ukupni T4, slobodni T4, slobodni T3, anti-TPO i anti-Tg pokazali su da su sve pojedinačne vrijednosti CV < 6% za tri koncentracijske razine što izvrsno zadovoljava kriterij proizvođača, CV ≤ 10%.

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#### OV-6 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Usporedba dviju imunokemijskih metoda za određivanje troponina I na analizatoru Beckman Coulter UniCel Dxl600

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**Uvod:** Troponin I visoke osjetljivosti (hsTnI) je srčani marker koji služi u ranom otkrivanju infarkta miokarda. Cilj rada je prikazati usporedbu metode za visoko osjetljivi troponin I (Access hsTnI) s metodom u rutinskoj upotrebi (Access AccuTnI+3 Beckman Coulter, CA, USA) na analizatoru UniCel Dxl 600, te ispitati koeficijent varijacije (KV) na granici kvantifikacije (LoQ) deklariranoj od proizvođača.

**Materijali i metode:** Usporedba je provedena na ostatnim uzorcima seruma 63 pacijenta koji su imali zatraženu pretragu troponin I. Ispitano je područje gotovo cijelog koncentracijskog raspona za Access

0.34 mIU/L, 4.6 mIU/L and 27.8 mIU/L, respectively. Total T4 measurement revealed CV values 3.0%, 2.1% and 5.3% for grand mean values 59.2 nmol/L; 128.4 nmol/L and 228.4 nmol/L, respectively. Free T4 measurement revealed CV values 1.9%, 2.3% and 3.4% for grand mean values 10.6 pmol/L; 24.5 pmol/L and 39.5 pmol/L, respectively. Free T3 measurement revealed CV values 5.7%, 2.9% and 3.6% for grand mean values 3.4 pmol/L; 9.2 pmol/L and 17.2 pmol/L, respectively. The anti-TPO measurement revealed CV values 2.9%, 3.5% and 2.6% for grand mean values 37.4 IU/mL; 37.7 IU/mL and 29.6 IU/mL, respectively. The anti-Tg measurement revealed CV values 4.0%, 3.1% and 2.8% for grand mean values 22.9 IU/mL; 53.2 IU/mL and 26.0 IU/mL, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The precision data obtained according to NCCLS EP-15 verification protocol for Architect TSH, Total T4, Free T4, Free T3, anti-TPO and anti-Tg immunoassays at three concentration levels (all CVs < 6%) were highly acceptable in comparison with allowable manufacturer's criteria of less than 10% CV.

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#### OV-6 (Oral presentation)

### Comparison of two immunochemical methods for troponin I determination on the Beckman Coulter UniCel Dxl 600 analyser

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**Introduction:** High-sensitivity troponin I is a cardiac marker, used in early detection of myocardial infarction. The aim of the study is to compare the method for the high-sensitivity troponin I (Access hsTnI) with the daily routine method (Access AccuTnI+3 Beckman Coulter, CA, USA) used on the UniCel Dxl 600 analyser, and to examine the coefficient of variation (CV) on the limit of quantification (LoQ) declared by the manufacturer.

**Materials and methods:** A comparison was carried out on residual serum samples from 63 patients for whom troponin I testing was requested. Almost the

hsTnI (5,6 – 27,027 ng/L). KV na LoQ ispitan je uzastopnim testiranjem (N = 20) pool-a ostalih seruma zdravih ispitanika; koncentracije 5,66 ng/L. Rezultati Access hsTnI u ng/L preračunati su u µg/L zbog obrade podataka. S obzirom na nenormalnu raspodjelu rezultata, statistički su obrađeni Passing-Bablokovom regresijom i Bland-Altmanovim prikazom.

**Rezultati:** Passing-Bablokovom analizom dobiven je regresijski pravac  $y = -0,019 + 1,096 x$  (95% interval pouzdanosti (CI) za odsječak A iznosi - 0,02925 do - 0,01277, a za nagib B 1,0419 do 1,1249). Bland-Altman analiza pokazala je prosječan BIAS od 4,2%, što zadovoljava kriterije prema RiliBAK-u (20%). Uzorci s rezultatima izvan linearnosti metode Access hsTnI isključeni su iz statističke analize. Dobiveni KV na LoQ (15,8%) nije zadovoljio KV od 10% na koncentraciji 5,6 ng/L kako je deklarirano od proizvođača.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati usporedbe između dviju metoda ukazuju na konstantnu i proporcionalnu pogrešku bez kliničkog značaja. Iako su dobiveni rezultati za preciznost i točnost zadovoljili kriterije prihvatljivosti prema RiliBAK-u (20%), za potpunu verifikaciju preostaje potvrditi KV od 10% na 99.percentili, referentne intervale za oba spola i linearnost. Za pretpostaviti je da će KV na 99.percentili postići 10% ako je na LoQ 15,8%.

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entire range of the concentration range for Access hsTnI (5.6 – 27.027 ng/L) was examined. CV at LoQ was tested by repeated testing (N = 20) of the healthy respondents serum pool; concentration 5.66 ng/L. Access hsTnI results in ng/L were converted to µg/L, because of data analysis. Due to abnormal distribution, the results were statistically analysed using Passing-Bablok regression analysis and Bland-Altman plot.

**Results:** Passing-Bablok analysis showed regression line  $y = -0.019 + 1.096 x$  (95% confidence interval (CI) for intercept A is - 0.02925 do - 0.01277, and for slope B 1.0419 do 1.249). Bland-Altman analysis showed an average BIAS of 4.2%, which meets the RiliBAK criteria (20%). All the samples outside the linearity of the method Access hsTnI were excluded from the statistical analysis. CV at LoQ was 15.8%, which doesn't meet manufacturer criteria for CV (10%) at the concentration of 5.6 ng/L.

**Conclusion:** The comparison results between the two methods indicate a constant and proportional error, but without clinical relevance. Although the results for trueness and precision meet the criteria (20%), for the full verification CV = 10% at the 99th percentile, reference intervals and linearity are yet to be confirmed. It can be assumed that CV at the 99th percentile will achieve 10% if CV on LoQ is 15.8%.

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## OV-7 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Specifičnost i osjetljivost dva imunoblot testa za potvrdu antitijela na virus hepatitisa C u dobrovoljnih davatelja Republike Hrvatske, od 2013. do 2015. godine

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**Uvod:** Testiranje uzoraka krvi dobrovoljnih davatelja krvi (DDK) u Republici Hrvatskoj (RH) je obvezno i na antitijela na virus hepatitisa C (anti-HCV) imunoke-

## OV-7 (Oral presentation)

### Specificity and sensitivity of two Hepatitis C virus antibodies confirmatory immunoblot assays in Croatian blood donors, 2013-2015

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**Introduction:** Anti-HCV screening of blood donors (BD) is mandatory in Croatia. Non-specific or false biological reactivities, despite excellent sensi-

mijskim (IK) testovima. Unatoč odličnoj osjetljivosti i specifičnosti IK testova, javljaju se nespecifične ili tzv. lažne biološke reaktivnosti. Potvrdni algoritam je potreban, uključujući i imunoblot test/testove (IB), kako bi se razjasnile IK reaktivnosti. U tu svrhu analizirali smo dva potvrdna IB testa za anti-HCV, *recomLine* HCV IgG i INNO-LIA HCV Score kako bi utvrdili njihovu specifičnost i osjetljivost.

**Materijali i metode:** U RH je 2013. godine testirano 183072, 2014. 183410 i 2015. 195534 uzoraka krvi donacija DDK. Testovi pretraživanja su uglavnom Abbott anti-HCV testovi, Prism i Architect. Svaka inicijalna reaktivnost se retestira u duplikatu istim testom i opetovano reaktivan (RR) rezultat/uzorak krvi, šalje se u HZTM na potvrdno testiranje. Ukupna specifičnost anti-HCV testova bila je za sve tri godine jednaka, 99,91%. Za potvrdno testiranje dobili smo 2013. godine 181 uzorka krvi donacije DDK + 155 uzorka krvi kontrolnih uzoraka; 2014. 164 + 88, i 2015. 190 + 101 uzorak krvi. Korišteni IK testovi u potvrdnom algoritmu su: Bio-Rad Anti-HCV v.2, Bio-Rad Monolisa HCV Ag-Ab Ultra i Vidas anti-HCV, i IB testovi: *recomLine* HCV IgG (Mikrogen GmbH, Neuried, Germany), izvođen na DynaBlot, i INNO-LIA HCV Score (Fujirebio Europe N.V., Belgium), izvođen na Auto-LIA 48 analizatoru.

**Rezultati:** Potvrđeno pozitivnih HCV infekcija u DDK bilo je 2013. godine 14, 2014. 7 i 2015. 7. Nađena specifičnost viša je za *recomLine* HCV IgG test, i iznosi 78,7%, a 59,6% za INNO-LIA HCV Score test. Osjetljivost za *recomLine* HCV IgG test je 79,0%, a za INNO-LIA HCV Score test 75,8%.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ove studije upućuju da potvrdni IB test *recomLine* HCV IgG ima bolju specifičnost od INNO-LIA HCV Score testa, uz sličnu osjetljivost. Dobra specifičnost imunoblot testa obvezna je kako bi se utvrdile lažne biološke reaktivnosti i omogućilo ponovno davanje krvi DDK.

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vity and specificity of anti-HCV (immunoassays, IAs) assays, are present. A confirmation testing algorithm is required, including immunoblot (IB) assay/s, to clarify IA's reactivity. We analysed two different confirmatory IB anti-HCV assays, *recomLine* HCV IgG and INNO-LIA HCV Score, to determine their sensitivity and specificity.

**Materials and methods:** From 2013 to 2015 in Croatia were tested 183.072, 183.410 and 195.534 blood donations - per year, respectively. Screening anti-HCV tests used are mainly Abbott's IAs, Prism and Architect. Each initially reactive result is retested in duplicate and repeatedly reactive (RR) results/samples are sent to CITM for confirmatory testing. Overall specificity of anti-HCV for each year was equal, 99.91%. For confirmation testing we got 181, 164 and 190 BD's donation RR samples and 155, 88 and 101 BD's control samples, per year respectively. Used were IAs: Bio-Rad Anti-HCV v.2, Bio-Rad Monolisa HCV Ag-Ab Ultra and Vidas anti-HCV, and IBs: *recomLine* HCV IgG (Mikrogen GmbH, Neuried, Germany), which was performed on DynaBlot, and INNO-LIA HCV Score (Fujirebio Europe N.V., Belgium), performed on Auto-LIA 48 analyzer. All of the testing was done according to the producer's instructions.

**Results:** Confirmed positive were 14, 7 and 7 BD in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. Specificity found was significantly higher for *recomLine* HCV IgG, 78.7%, and 59.6% for INNO-LIA HCV Score. Sensitivity found for *recomLine* HCV IgG was 79.0% and for INNO-LIA HCV Score test 75.8%.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study indicate that IB *recomLine* HCV IgG has better specificity than INNO-LIA HCV Score test, with similar sensitivity. Good specificity of the IB test is mandatory to determine false positive reactivities in the screening and reentry of blood donors.

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## OV-8

### Evaluacija acidobaznog analizatora Radiometer ABL800 FLEX

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**Uvod:** Određivanje acidobaznog statusa jedna je od pretraga u hitnoj dijagnostici koja zahtjeva vrlo kratak TAT (engl. *turn-around time*) i mogućnost određivanja unutar 24 sata. Ukoliko laboratorij koristi više analizatora za određivanje acidobaznog statusa, mora osigurati njihovu usporedivost. Cilj rada je usporediti vrijednosti parametara acidobaznog statusa na analizatorima RADIOMETER ABL800FLEX (Radiometer) i RAPIDLAB1265 (Siemens).

**Materijali i metode:** Za određivanje preciznosti iz dana u dan i preciznosti u seriji analizatora ABL800 Flex korištene su komercijalne kontrole proizvođača u dvije razine. Kontrole su analizirane u triplikatu bez vremenske odgode i u različito vrijeme tijekom dana. Evaluacija je provedena kroz 5 dana. Za provjeru usporedivosti metoda analizirano je 37 uzoraka arterijske krvi uzorkovane u špricu s Li-heparinom. Metoda određivanja pH i pCO<sub>2</sub> je potenciometrija, pO<sub>2</sub> amperometrija, dok je CHCO<sub>3</sub> i višak baza (BE) računski parametri. Preciznost je prikazana kao koeficijent varijacije mjerenja, a rezultati mjerenja na dva analizatora uspoređeni su testom Passing-Bablok regresije.

**Rezultati:** Preciznost u seriji i preciznost iz dana u dan za pH manja je od 0,4% te manja od 2,6% za CHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> i BE, dok za pCO<sub>2</sub> i pO<sub>2</sub> ona doseže i 12%, odnosno 20%. Passing-Bablok regresija pokazala je da su analizatori usporedivi za parametre pCO<sub>2</sub>, CHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> i BE. Za parametar pH jednadžba regresijske analize je  $y = 0,3132$  (95% CI: 0,0162 do 0,8090) +  $0,9549 x$  (95% CI: 0,8881 do 0,9949). Međutim, razlika između medijana mjerenja nije klinički značajna (7,41 i 7,39 uz RCV = 0,62%). Za parametar pO<sub>2</sub> jednadžba regresijske analize je  $y = 0,0426$  (95% CI: - 0,1994 do 0,2566) +  $0,9542 x$  (95% CI: 0,9263 do 0,9811).

**Zaključak:** Usporedba dva acidobazna analizatora zadovoljavajuća je za sve parametre osim pO<sub>2</sub>. S obzirom na osjetljivost analiziranih uzoraka na kontakt sa zrakom, ovakvi rezultati su očekivani i literaturno opisani. U svrhu zahtjeva hitne laboratorijske dijagnostike, acidobazni analizator ABL800 FLEX pokazuje zadovoljavajuće analitičke performanse i TAT.

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## OV-8

### Evaluation of acidobase analyzer Radiometer ABL800 FLEX

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**Introduction:** Determination of acid-base status is a urgent diagnostic tests that require very short Turn-around-time (TAT) and the determination ability within 24 hours. If the laboratory uses more than one analyzer, it must ensure of their comparability. The aim of this paper is to compare acid-status parameters on the RADIOMETER ABL800FLEX (Radiometer) and RAPIDLAB1265 (Siemens) analyzers.

**Materials and methods:** Two-level commercial controls were used to determine day-to-day accuracy and precision in the ABL800 Flex analyzer. The controls were analyzed in triplicate without time delay and at different times during the day. Evaluation was carried out for 5 days. To test the comparability of the method, 37 samples of arterial blood were sampled in Li-heparin syringe. The pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> determination method is potentiometry, pO<sub>2</sub> amperometry, while CHCO<sub>3</sub> and excess bases (BE) are computational parameters. Precision is presented as a measurement variation coefficient, and the measurement results on two analyzers were compared with the Passing-Bablok regression test.

**Results:** Repeatability and day-to-day precision for pH, CHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, BE, pCO<sub>2</sub>, pO<sub>2</sub> is respectively: < 0.4 %, < 2.6%, < 2.6%, 12% and 20%. Passing-Bablok regression shows the comparability of pCO<sub>2</sub>, CHCO<sub>3</sub> and BE between analyzers. The regression equation for pH is  $y = 0.3132$  (95% CI: 0.0162 to 0.8090) +  $0.9549 x$  (95% CI: 0.8881 to 0.9949). However, the difference between median measurement is not clinically significant (7.41 and 7.39 with RCV = 0.62%). The regression equation for pO<sub>2</sub> is  $y = 0.0426$  (95% CI: - 0.1994 to 0.2566) +  $0.9542 x$  (95% CI: 0.9263 to 0.9811).

**Conclusion:** The comparison of two acid-base analyzers is satisfactory for all parameters except pO<sub>2</sub>. Considering the sensitivity of analyzed samples to air contact, such results are expected and described literally. For the purpose of urgent laboratory diagnostics, the acid-base analyzer ABL800 FLEX demonstrates satisfactory analytical performance and TAT.

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## OV-9

### Usporedivost dvije metode pri određivanju ukupnog i slobodnog PSA

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**Uvod:** Cilj našeg istraživanja bio je istražiti učinkovitost određivanja tumorskih markera TPSA i FPSA na Cobas e 601 (Roche) u poređenju sa trenutno dostupnim TPSA i FPSA testovima na ARCHITECT i2000SR (Abbott).

**Materijali i metode:** Prospektivna studija je uključivala 160 pacijenata. U uzorcima pacijenata je analiziran TPSA a, pri rezultatima TPSA višim od 4,0 µg/L je određen FPSA. Cutt off vrijednost za tumorski marker TPSA je 0- 4,0 µg/L.

**Rezultati:** Istražili smo usporedbu između ARCHITECT i2000SR i Cobas E601 pri određivanju TPSA i FPSA u serumu bolesnika. ARCHITECT i2000SR bila je uporedna metoda za uzorke TPSA i FPSA. TPSA uzorci su imali nagib 0,9321 do 0,9355 (95% CI) i odsječak na y-osi u rasponu od -0,036 do 0,039 µg / L. (95% CI). Koeficijent korelacije je iznosio 0,9988 do 0,9999. Razlika između metoda je statistički značajna  $P < 0,001$ . Rezultati za FPSA uzorke su imali nagib u rasponu od 0,8500 do 0,8515, odsječak na y-osi u od -0,0076 do -0,0093 ng/mL retrospektivno za ARCHITECT i2000SR i Cobas E601 metode. Prema rezultatima t-testa, razlika između metoda je statistički značajna ( $P < 0,001$ ). Za FPSA koeficijent korelacije je bio u rasponu od 0,9652 do 0,9875. Razlika (bias) između ARCHITECT i2000SR i Cobas E601 za TPSA iznosila je 0,8 µg/L i konstantna je u gotovo svim određenim koncentracijama izuzev vrlo visokih vrijednosti. Za FPSA razlika (bias) između ARCHITECT i2000SR i Cobas E601 iznosila je 0,14 µg/L.

**Zaključak:** Studija ukazuje na dobru usporedivost postojećih metoda za određivanje TPSA i FPSA. Bolesnike bi trebalo pratiti na jednoj metodi da bi se izbjegle razlike u rezultatima. Različite tehnologije za određivanje TPSA i FPSA u humanom serumu koriste različite metode što dovodi do različitih rezultata.

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## OV-9

### Comparison of two methods for total and free PSA measurement

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**Introduction:** The aim of our study was to investigate the performance of the Cobas e 601 tumor markers TPSA and FPSA (Roche) compared with currently available TPSA and FPSA test at Architect and SR 2000 (Abbott).

**Materials and methods:** The prospective study included 160 male patients. Patients' samples were initially analyzed for TPSA and results of TPSA of more than 4.0 µg/L were further analyzed for FPSA. Cut off for tumor markers TPSA is off 0- 4.0µg/L.

**Results:** We investigated comparison between ARCHITECT i2000SR and Cobas E601 for determination TPSA and FPSA in patients serum. The ARCHITECT i2000SR was method of comparison for TPSA and FPSA samplers. The TPSA samplers showed a slope from 0.9321 to 0.9355 (95% CI) and y-intercept ranging from -0.036 to 0.039 µg/L. (95% CI). A correlation coefficient was from 0.9988 to 0.9999. The difference between the methods was statistically significant  $p < 0.0001$ . Results for FPSA have slopes ranged from 0.8500 to 0.8515 and y-intercepts ranged from -0.0076 to -0.0093 ng/mL for the ARCHITECT i2000SR and Cobas E601 methods, respectively. According to the t-test results, the difference between the methods was statistically significant ( $P < 0.001$ ). A correlation coefficients ranging from 0.9652 to 0.9875 was observed for FPSA. The bias (mean difference) between ARCHITECT i2000SR and Cobas E601 for TSA samplers was 0.8 µg/L which was almost constant for all the measured concentrations, with the exception of very high values. The bias (main difference) between ARCHITECT i2000SR and Cobas E601 for FPSA was 0.14 µg/L.

**Conclusion:** The study shows that it was good agreement in using those methods for detection of TPSA and FPSA. The patients should be monitored on a single method to avoid differences in the results. Different techniques for TPSA and FPSA detection in human serum using different methods which leads to different results.

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## OV-10 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Usporedba koncentracija aminokiselina fenilalanina i tirozina na dva tandemski spektrometra masa iz uzoraka pacijenata s fenilketonurijom

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**Uvod:** Fenilketonurija (PKU) je autosomno recesivna aminoacidopatija uzrokovana manjkom enzima fenilalanin hidroksilaze koji prevodi fenilalanin (Phe) u tirozin (Tyr). Posljedično nakupljanje Phe u organizmu uzrokuje zaostajanje u rastu i razvoju te progresivnu mentalnu retardaciju već od dojenačke dobi. Program nacionalnog novorođenačkog probira omogućuje ranu dijagnozu i pravovremeno uvođenje terapije kojom se preveniraju teške ireverzibilne posljedice bolesti. Cilj ovog rada je analizirati usporedivost koncentracija aminokiselina Phe i Tyr na dvama različitim tandemskim spektrometrima masa kod pacijenata s potvrđenom dijagnozom PKU.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzastopno su analizirana 34 uzorka suhe kapi krvi na filter papiru (Whatman 903<sup>TM</sup>) potvrđenih PKU pacijenata na tandemskim spektrometrima masa UPLC Nexera-API3200 (Shimadzu; Sciex) i UPLC Nexera-MS8050 (Shimadzu) korištenjem reagens kompleta ClinSpot LC-MS/MS Complete Kits (Recipe). Odnos dobivenih koncentracija Phe i Tyr uspoređen je Passing-Bablok regresijom.

**Rezultati:** Vrijednost intervala pouzdanosti od 95% za odsječak na osi y utvrđena Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom iznosi: za Phe = 3,4545 (od - 2,4124 do 6,0262); za Tyr = -0,6257 (od - 5,4439 do 3,4113). Vrijednost intervala pouzdanosti od 95% za nagib pravca iznosi: za Phe = 0,8936 (od 0,8499 do 1,0007); za Tyr = 0,9691 (od 0,9147 do 1,0471). Cusum (engl. *cumulative sum*) test linearnosti pokazao je da nema značajnijeg odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P > 0,10$ ) za obje aminokiseline.

**Zaključak:** Iz dobivenih podataka vidljivo je da su rezultati usporedbe dobro usklađeni i slijede jednaku linearnost, iako su neke vrijednosti Phe u koncen-

## OV-10 (Oral presentation)

### Concentration comparison of phenylalanine and tyrosine on two tandem mass spectrometers from phenylketonuria patient's samples

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**Introduction:** Phenylketonuria (PKU) is an autosomal recessive aminoacidopathy caused by deficiency of enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase that catalyses conversion of phenylalanine (Phe) into tyrosine (Tyr). Accumulation of Phe in organism causes failure to thrive, development delay and progressive mental retardation since early infancy. National newborn screening program allows early diagnosis and timely introduction of therapy that prevents serious irreversible consequences of the disease. The aim of this work is to compare Phe and Tyr concentrations on two different tandem mass spectrometers in patients with confirmed PKU diagnosis.

**Materials and methods:** 34 dried blood spot samples on filter paper (Whatman 903<sup>TM</sup>) from confirmed PKU patients have been repeatedly analyzed on tandem mass spectrometers UPLC Nexera-API3200 (Shimadzu; Sciex) and UPLC Nexera-MS8050 (Shimadzu) using the reagent kit ClinSpot LC-MS/MS Complete Kits (Recipe). Correlation of obtained Phe and Tyr concentrations has been compared using Passing-Bablok regression.

**Results:** The intercept value with 95% confidence interval determined by Passing-Bablok regression analysis is: for Phe = 3,4545 (from -2,4124 to 6,0262); for Tyr = -0,6257 (from -5,4439 to 3,4113). The slope value with 95% confidence interval is: for Phe = 0,8936 (from 0,8499 to 1,0007); for Tyr = 0,9691 (from 0,9147 to 1,0471). Cusum (*cumulative sum*) linearity test has showed that there is no significant deviation from linearity ( $P > 0,10$ ) for both amino acids.

**Conclusion:** Collected data clearly show well coordinated comparison results, although some Phe values are in the concentration range above 1000  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Intercept and slope for both amino acids

tracijskom području iznad 1000  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Odsječak i nagib na osi y za obje aminokiseline obuhvaćaju 0, odnosno 1, što znači kako ne postoje konstantna ni proporcionalna razlika između dviju metoda. Stoga se metode na oba tandemska spektrometra masa mogu primjeniti za mjerenje koncentracije Phe i Tyr u novorođenačkom probiru u svrhu postavljanja dijagnostičke sumnje na PKU, kao i za praćenje uspješnosti liječenja već dijagnosticiranih pacijenata.

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### OV-11 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Točnost i preciznost uređaja Modular PRO (Eschweiler) za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže

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**Uvod:** Modular PRO (Eschweiler, Njemačka) je uređaj za analizu acidobazične ravnoteže, nedavno predstavljen na hrvatskom tržištu. Cilj nam je bio ispitati njegovu točnost i preciznost.

**Materijali i metode:** Točnost Modular PRO analizatora određena je na 201 uzoraka krvi (29 venskih i 172 arterijskih), usporedbom  $\text{pO}_2$ ,  $\text{pCO}_2$ , pH,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  i  $\text{Cl}^-$  s ABL800 FLEX (Radiometer, Danska), kao referentnim uređajem. Odstupanje je procijenjeno Passing-Bablok analizom. Preciznost unutar istog dana je ispitivana mjerenjem tri razine kontrole, u triplikatu, u pet serija (30 minuta razmak između serija). Preciznost iz dana u dan je ispitivana mjerenjem tri razine kontrole u triplikatu, tijekom pet uzastopnih dana. Kriteriji nacionalnog provoditelja vanjske kontrole kvalitete (Hrvatski centar za vrednovanje kvalitete u laboratorijskoj medicini) korišteni su kao kriteriji za prihvatljivu točnost i preciznost.

**Rezultati:** Zbog stvaranja mjehurića zraka tijekom aspiracije uzorka, dio uzoraka (33/201,16%) analiziranih na Modular PRO analizatoru bio je kontaminiran kisikom. Vrijednosti  $\text{pO}_2$  ovih uzoraka odstupale su za  $\geq 5$  kPa od srednje vrijednosti ostalih mjerenja te su isključeni iz daljnje analize kao ekstremne vrijednosti. Passing-Bablok analiza ostatka uzoraka

include 0 and 1 respectively, which means that there is no systematic nor proportional difference between two methods. Therefore, concentrations of Phe and Tyr measured by both methods on two tandem mass spectrometers can be used for setting a diagnostic suspicion of PKU, as well as for treatment monitoring in patients with confirmed diagnoses.

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### OV-11 (Oral presentation)

#### Accuracy and precision of Modular PRO (Eschweiler) blood gas analyzer

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**Introduction:** Modular PRO (Eschweiler, Germany) blood gas analyzer was recently introduced in Croatia. We aimed to assess the accuracy and precision of this analyzer.

**Materials and methods:** Accuracy of Modular PRO analyzer was determined on a series of 201 samples (29 venous and 172 arterial), by comparison of  $\text{pO}_2$ ,  $\text{pCO}_2$ , pH,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  with ABL800 FLEX (Radiometer, Denmark), as a reference instrument. Bias was estimated by Passing-Bablok analysis. Within-day precision was tested by triplicate measurements at 3 control levels, for five consecutive series (0.5 hour interval between series). Between-day precision was tested by triplicate measurements at 3 control levels, for five consecutive days. Criteria for allowable accuracy and precision proposed by national EQA provider (Croatian Center for Quality Assessment in Laboratory Medicine) were used.

**Results:** A proportion of samples (33/201,16%) analyzed on Modular PRO analyzer was contaminated with oxygen as a result of creation of air bubbles during sample aspiration. These samples had deviations in  $\text{pO}_2$  pressure  $\geq 5$  kPa and were excluded from further analysis as outliers. Passing-Bablok analysis for the rest of samples (N = 168), showed

(N=168) pokazala je konstantno odstupanje za pCO<sub>2</sub> (odsječak = - 0,42; 95% CI = - 0,69 do - 0,15), konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje za pO<sub>2</sub> (odsječak = - 0,56; 95% CI = - 1,09 do -0,10; nagib = 1,11; 95% CI = 1,06 - 1,17), pH (odsječak = 0,55; 95% CI = 0,33 - 0,78; nagib = 0,93; 95% CI = 0,90 - 0,96), K<sup>+</sup> (odsječak = - 0,36; 95% CI = - 0,62 to - 0,11; nagib = 1,13; 95% CI = 1,06 - 1,20) i Ca<sup>2+</sup> (odsječak = - 0,41; 95% CI = - 0,57 do - 0,32; nagib = 1,36; 95% CI = 1,27 - 1,50). Preciznost na sve tri razine kontrole je bila unutar prihvatljivih kriterija za sve parametre osim za plinove (iz dana u dan CV1(pO<sub>2</sub>) = 8,53%, CV1(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8,65%, CV3(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8,55%; unutar dana CV1(pO<sub>2</sub>) = 11,02%, CV1(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8,70%, CV2(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8,66%, CV3(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 9,07%).

**Zaključak:** Točnost i preciznost Modular PRO analizatora tvrtke Eschweiler prihvatljivi su za sve parametre, osim za pO<sub>2</sub> i pCO<sub>2</sub>. Mogući nedostatak ovog uređaja je stvaranje mjehurića zraka prilikom aspiracije uzoraka. Preporuča se pažljivo rukovanje uzorcima za izbjegavanje rizika od kontaminacije kisikom.

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only constant bias for pCO<sub>2</sub> (intercept = - 0.42; 95% CI = - 0.69 to - 0.15) and both constant and proportional bias for pO<sub>2</sub> (intercept = - 0.56; 95% CI = - 1.09 to - 0.10; slope = 1.11; 95% CI = 1.06 - 1.17), pH (intercept = 0.55; 95% CI = 0.33 - 0.78; slope = 0.93; 95% CI = 0.90 - 0.96), K<sup>+</sup> (intercept = - 0.36; 95% CI = - 0.62 to - 0.11; slope = 1.13; 95% CI = 1.06 - 1.20), and Ca<sup>2+</sup> (intercept = - 0.41; 95% CI = - 0.57 to - 0.32; slope = 1.36; 95% CI = 1.27 - 1.50). Precision for all 3 control levels were within allowable criteria for all parameters except for gases (between-day CV1(pO<sub>2</sub>) = 8.53%, CV1(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8.65%, CV3(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8.55%; within-day CV1(pO<sub>2</sub>) = 11.02%, CV1(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8.70%, CV2(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 8.66%, CV3(pCO<sub>2</sub>) = 9.07%).

**Conclusion:** Accuracy and precision of ESCHWEILER modular PRO analyzer are acceptable for all parameters, except for pO<sub>2</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub>. Air bubble generation during sample aspiration is a possible shortcoming of this instrument. Careful sample handling is warranted to avoid the risk of sample contamination with oxygen.

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## OV-12 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Verifikacija metode za određivanje kalprotektina u ekstraktu stolice na automatskom analizatoru Olympus AU2700Plus

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**Uvod:** Fekalni kalprotektin je proteinski marker u neinvazivnoj dijagnostici i praćenju terapije upalnih bolesti crijeva. Cilj ovog sažetka je prikazati verifikaciju metode (imunoturbidimetrija) za određivanje kalprotektina u ekstraktu stolice na automatskom analizatoru Olympus AU2700 Plus (Beckman Coulter Inc., Tokyo, Japan).

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacija metode provedena je prema CLSI protokolu EP 15-A. Korišteni su uzorci komercijalnih kontrola u niskoj (L1) i visokoj (L2) koncentracijskoj razini (fCAL turbo, Bühlmann Laboratories AG, Švicarska). Preciznost (koeficijent varijacije)

## OV-12 (Oral presentation)

### Verification of the method for calprotectin determination in a stool extract on the Olympus AU2700Plus automatic analyzer

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**Introduction:** Faecal calprotectin is a non-invasive biomarker of the inflammatory bowel disease diagnostics. The aim of this study was to verify the method (immunoturbidimetry) for calprotectin determination in a stool extract on the Olympus AU-2700Plus automatic analyzer (Beckman Coulter Inc., Tokyo, Japan).

**Materials and methods:** Verification was performed according to CLSI EP 15-A2 protocol. Commercial control samples at low (L1) and high (L2) levels (fCAL turbo, Bühlmann Laboratories AG, Switzerland) were used. The precision (CVp) and trueness

i istinitost (BIAS) interpretirane su prema kriterijima proizvođača (20%). Usporedba s metodom ELISA (fCAL ELISA, Bühlmann Laboratories AG, Schönenbuch, Švicarska) na analizatoru BEP 2000 Advance (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Njemačka) provedena je na uzorku od 33 pacijenta. Rezultati su analizirani regresijom Passing-Bablok i prikazom Bland-Altman. Linearnost je ispitana serijskim razrjeđenjima (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, 0%) u duplikatu.

**Rezultati:** Dobivene vrijednosti za preciznost su 6,3% (L1 s ciljnom vrijednosti 73,5 µg/g) i 2,0% (L2 s ciljnom vrijednosti 245,5 µg/g) sa srednjom vrijednosti 4,2%. Vrijednosti za istinitost su - 4,1% (L1) i -1,9% (L2) uz srednju vrijednost 3,0%. Passing-Bablok analizom dobiven je regresijski pravac  $Y = - 8,3083 + 0,9888 X$  (95% interval pouzdanosti (CI) za odsječak iznosi - 26,6455 do - 1,4489, a za nagib 0,9213 do 1,0523), što pokazuje da postoji konstantna pogreška u usporedbi rezultata dobivenih metodama imunoturbidimetrije i ELISA. Prikazom Bland-Altman uočen je prosječan BIAS od 14,7%, što zadovoljava kriterije proizvođača. Test linearnosti unutar je dozvoljenog odstupanja za svaku očekivanu vrijednost u seriji razrjeđenja.

**Zaključak:** Određivanje fekalnog kalprotektina metodom imunoturbidimetrije na analizatoru Olympus AU2700Plus zadovoljava postavljene kriterije za preciznost i istinitost. Rezultati usporedbe između dviju metoda ukazuju na konstantnu pogrešku bez kliničkog značaja, s obzirom da se imunokemijske i imunološke metode ne mogu uspoređivati. Zaključno, metoda imunoturbidimetrije smatra se prihvatljivom za rutinsku primjenu. Osim jednostavnosti izvedbe za laboratorijsko osoblje, metoda omogućuje kliničaru dobivanje informacije u realnom vremenu, bez odgode ispitivanja radi laboratorijske racionalizacije.

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(BIAS) were interpreted according to manufacturer's criteria (20%). 33 examiner's samples were used to compare immunoturbidimetry with ELISA method (fCAL ELISA, Bühlmann Laboratories AG, Schönenbuch, Switzerland) on the BEP 2000 Advance analyzer (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Germany). The results were analyzed by Passing-Bablok regression and Bland-Altman plot. Linearity was tested by serial dilutions (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, 0%) in duplicate.

**Results:** The obtained CVs were 6.3% (L1; target value 73.5 µg/g), 2.0% (L2; target value 245.5 µg/g) with mean CV of 4.2%. Trueness values were - 4.1% (L1), - 1.9% (L2) with mean BIAS of 3.0%. Passing-Bablok analysis yields the regression line  $Y = - 8.3083 + 0.9888X$  (95% CI for the y-intercept - 26.6455 to - 1.4489 and for slope 0.9213 to 1.0523). Bland-Altman plot showed the average BIAS of 14.7%, which meets manufacturer's criteria. The linearity test is within allowed deviation for each of the expected values in the dilution series.

**Conclusion:** Determination of fecal calprotectin by the immunoturbidimetric method on the Olympus AU2700Plus analyzer meets the criteria for precision and trueness. The results of the comparison between the two methods indicate a constant error with no clinical significance, since immunochemical and immunological methods cannot be compared. Finally, the immunoturbidimetry is considered as acceptable method for routine application. The simple performance of the proposed method allows the clinician to obtain real-time information without testing delay caused by laboratory rationalization.

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### OV-13 (Usmeno izlaganje)

## Analitička verifikacija 12 najčešće korištenih urinskih trakica u Hrvatskoj: usporedivost, reproducibilnost i točnost

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**Uvod:** Analiza urinskim test trakicama značajno se razlikuje od proizvođača do proizvođača. Takve razlike povećavaju vjerojatnost za dijagnostičke pogreške i mogu dovesti do neprikladnih kliničkih odluka. Naš cilj je bio a) odrediti usporedivost između 12 najčešće korištenih urinskih trakica u Hrvatskoj, b) provjeriti njihovu točnost za glukozu i proteine i c) ispitati njihovu reproducibilnost.

**Materijali i metode:** Usporedivost i točnost 12 vrsti urinskih trakica (Combur 10 TestM, ChoiceLine 10, Combur 10 TestUX, ComboStik 10M, ComboStik 11M, CombiScreen 11SYS, CombiScreen 10SL, Combina 13, Combina 11S, Combina 10M, UriGnost 11, Multistix 10SG) ispitane su na 75 uzoraka pacijenata. Podudarnost između trakica izražena je kao kappa koeficijent (dozvoljena  $\kappa \geq 0.8$ ) pri čemu je Combur 10 TestM bila korištena kao referentna trakica. Točnost (osjetljivost i specifičnost) za glukozu i proteine ispitana je usporedbom rezultata urinskih trakica s kvantitativnim mjerjenjima na tri analizatora: AU400 (Beckman Coulter, USA), Cobas 6000 c501 (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland), Architect plus ci4100 (Abbott, USA). Reproducibilnost je određena na 20 ponavljanja. Kriterij prihvatljivosti za preciznost je bio 90% slaganja ponovljenih mjerenja (18/20). MedCalc je korišten za statističku analizu.

### OV-13 (Oral presentation)

## Analytical verification of 12 most commonly used dipsticks in Croatia: comparability, reproducibility and accuracy

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**Introduction:** Urine dipstick testing suffers from a substantial variability due to differences between manufacturers. This increases the probability of diagnostic errors and may lead to inappropriate clinical decisions. Our aim was to a) determine the level of agreement between 12 most commonly used urine dipsticks in Croatia, b) examine their accuracy for glucose and proteins and c) test their reproducibility.

**Materials and methods:** Comparability and accuracy of 12 brands of dipsticks (Combur 10 TestM, ChoiceLine 10, Combur 10 TestUX, ComboStik 10M, ComboStik 11M, CombiScreen 11SYS, CombiScreen 10SL, Combina 13, Combina 11S, Combina 10M, UriGnost 11, Multistix 10SG) were evaluated using 75 patient samples. Level of agreement between dipsticks was expressed as kappa coefficient (acceptable  $\kappa \geq 0.8$ ) with Combur 10 TestM as a reference. Accuracy (sensitivity and specificity) for glucose and proteins was tested by comparing dipstick results with quantitative measurements on three analyzers: AU400 (Beckman Coulter, USA), Cobas 6000 c501 (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland), Architect plus ci4100 (Abbott, USA). Reproducibility was assessed on 20 replicates. Acceptable criteria for precision was 90% agreement of repeated measurements (18/20). MedCalc was used for statistical analysis.

**Rezultati:** Najveća podudarnost trakica utvrđena je za glukozu, proteine i nitrite (11/11,  $\kappa \geq 0.8$ ), a najlošija za bilirubin (11/11,  $\kappa < 0.6$ ), specifičnu težinu (SG) (9/11,  $\kappa < 0.8$ ) i pH (7/11,  $\kappa < 0.8$ ). Točnost za glukozu i proteine razlikovala se između proizvođača trakica. Osjetljivost i specifičnost za proteine bile su u rasponu 41 - 75% (AU400), dok su osjetljivosti s obzirom na Cobas i Architect bile 56 - 92% i specifičnosti 41 - 72%. Osjetljivost i specifičnost za glukozu bile su 68-98% za sve trakice. Reproducibilnost je bila prihvatljiva za sve parametre i trakice, osim za pH (3/12, < 90%), ketone, SG, leukocite i bilirubin (1/12, < 90%).

**Zaključak:** 12 najčešće korištenih urinskih trakica usporedivo je za sve klinički značajne parametre (glukozu, proteine i nitrite), ali ne i za bilirubin, pH i SG. Točnost i preciznost trakica značajno se razlikuju između različitih proizvođača.

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**Results:** The best agreement between dipsticks was observed for glucose, proteins and nitrite (11/11,  $\kappa \geq 0.8$ ) and the lowest for bilirubin (11/11,  $\kappa < 0.6$ ), specific gravity (SG) (9/11,  $\kappa < 0.8$ ) and pH (7/11,  $\kappa < 0.8$ ). Accuracy for glucose and proteins differed between dipstick manufacturers. Sensitivity and specificity for proteins were 41 - 75% (AU400), while sensitivities for Cobas and Architect were 56 - 92% and specificities 41 - 72%. Sensitivity and specificity for glucose were 68 - 98% for all dipsticks. Reproducibility was acceptable for all parameters and dipsticks, except for pH (3/12, <90%), ketones, SG, leukocytes and bilirubin (1/12, <90%).

**Conclusion:** 12 most commonly used urine dipsticks are comparable for all clinically significant parameters (glucose, proteins and nitrite), but not for bilirubin, pH and SG. Dipsticks accuracy and precision show considerable variability between different manufacturers.

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## P – Prikaz slučaja

### P-1

#### Farmakogenomika hipolipemika: ABCG2 kao mogući prediktor hepatotoksičnosti

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**Uvod:** Protein ABCG2 je aktivni prijenosnik lijekova preko različitih barijera i stoga ima značajnu ulogu u farmakokinetici. Lokaliziran je na membranama polariziranih intestinalnih stanica, bubrežnog i jetrenog epitela, omogućuje jednosmjerni prijenos supstrata na luminalnu stranu organa te djeluje kao izlazna pumpa. Poznat je velik broj lijekova-supstrata/inhibitora ABCG2 te je prepoznat kao bitan čimbenik razvoja interakcija i nuspojava lijekova. Gen ABCG2 ima

## P – Case report

### P-1

#### The pharmacogenomics of hypolipemics: ABCG2 as a potential predictor of hepatotoxicity

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**Introduction:** The ABCG2 protein is an active drug transporter across biological barriers, playing an important role in pharmacokinetics. Located on the intestinal, kidney and hepatic epithelial cells membranes, it enables substrate transport to the organ's luminal side, acting as an efflux pump. Many drugs, known to be substrates/inhibitors of ABCG2, are recognized to be a relevant factor for the development of drug interactions and adverse events. The ABCG2



visok stupanj polimorfности, te varijanta 421C>A, s posljedičnom niskom aktivnosti proteina prijenosnika, ima učestalost ~15% u bjelačkoj populaciji.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Prikazan je slučaj pacijenta (starost 51 godina) koji je zbog dislipidemije, nakon perkutane koronarne intervencije, liječen atorvastatinom, nebivololom i acetilsalicilnom kiselinom. Nakon zamjene atorvastatina (zbog nedostatne djelotvornosti) rosuvastatinom i ezetimibom, poslije godinu dana nastaje jetrena lezija (ALT 200U/L, AST 100U/L, GGT 190U/L) te se rosuvastatin ukida.

**Rezultati:** Prema analizi provedenoj metodom PCR u stvarnom vremenu pacijent je imao intermedijarni metabolički fenotip CYP2C19\*2/\*17, intermedijarnu transportnu aktivnost OATP1B1 (SLCO1B1 521T/C) i nisku transportnu aktivnost ABCG2 421A/A. Atorvastatin i rosuvastatin su supstrati ABCG2, dok je ezetimib i supstrat i inhibitor ABCG2. Zbog toga, mogući patomehanizam razvoja hepatotoksičnosti svakako uključuje farmakogenetičku predispoziciju za sva tri primijenjena hipolipemika. Zbog niske aktivnosti ABCG2 olakšan je prijenos ovih lijekova na membrani enterocita, ali je i usporen njihov prijenos na barijeri jetra-žuč što rezultira značajno produljenom bioraspoloživosti hipolipemika. Inhibitorski potencijal ezetimiba prema ABCG2 dodatno može produljiti bioraspoloživost hipolipemika, a time i povećati rizik razvoja njihovih toksičnih učinaka prvenstveno u jetri jer se sva tri lijeka većim dijelom eliminiraju putem žuči. Osim toga intermedijarna aktivnost CYP2C19, koji je manjim dijelom odgovoran za metabolizam rosuvastatina, također pridonosi produljenoj bioraspoloživosti lijeka.

**Zaključak:** Prikazani slučaj ukazuje na važnu ulogu farmakogenetičke predispozicije prvenstveno zbog smanjene transportne aktivnosti putem ABCG2 za razvoj jetrene lezije kao nuspojave primjene hipolipemika s naglaskom na njihovu primjenu u politerapiji. Stoga genotipizacija ABCG2 može pomoći u procjeni povećanog rizika razvoja nuspojave hipolipemika.

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gene is polymorphic and its variant 421C>A, responsible for low activity, is present in ~15% of Caucasians.

**Case report:** We present the case of a 51 year old male patient with dyslipidaemia, post-PCI, treated with atorvastatin, nebivolol and acetylsalicylic acid. One year after switching from atorvastatin to rosuvastatin and ezetimibe (due to lack of efficacy), the patient had elevated liver enzymes (ALT 200U/L, AST 100U/L, GGT 190U/L) and rosuvastatin was withdrawn.

**Results:** Analyses performed by a real-time PCR-based method, indicated that the patient possess an intermediate metabolic phenotype CYP2C19\*2/\*17, intermediate activity OATP1B1 (SLCO1B1 521T/C) and low activity ABCG2 421A/A. Atorvastatin and rosuvastatin are ABCG2 substrates, while ezetimibe is both its substrate and inhibitor, indicating that pharmacogenetic predisposition was involved in the development of hepatotoxicity. Low activity of the ABCG2 transporter facilitates transfer of drugs through enterocyte membranes but impedes transfer at the liver-bile barrier, causing prolonged bioavailability. The inhibitory potential of ezetimibe further prolongs disposition of drugs, increasing the risk for hepatotoxicity. Furthermore, the intermediate activity of CYP2C19, which is partly involved in rosuvastatin metabolism, also contributes to its prolonged bioavailability.

**Conclusion:** The presented case indicates the important role of pharmacogenetic predisposition in the development of hepatotoxicity as an adverse event of the use of hypolipemics (with emphasis on polytherapy) primarily due to decreased transport activity of ABCG2. In conclusion, genotyping of ABCG2 may be crucial for the determination of potential adverse events linked to hypolipemics use.

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**P-2 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Hilurija – prikaz slučaja**Katarina Čepić

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**Uvod:** Prikazan je slučaj pojave limfe u mokraći (mliječna mokraća, hilurija), nastale uslijed fizičke traume. Cilj je prikazati rezultate laboratorijskih analiza koje upućuju na gubitak gastrointestinalne limfe mokraćom zbog smetnji u njenom normalnom protjecanju. Zbog prisutne proteinurije postoji i sumnja na nefrotski sindrom.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Ispitanik je star 17 godina, bijelac, sportaš, četiri mjeseca pred prijem na treningu je zadobio udarac u leđa, u području desnog bubrega. Kod prijema ne osjeća bolove, ali teže započinje mokriti i mokraća je mliječna. Laboratorijska obrada uključila je određivanje rutinskih biokemijskih i hematoloških pretraga te analizu mokraće.

**Rezultati:** Biokemijske analize: serumski proteini 47 g/L (referentni interval, RI, 66-81), albumin 25g/L (RI, 41,6 - 50,8). Hematološke analize: leukociti  $4,6 \times 10^9/L$  (RI, 4,4 - 11,6), limfocita 11,4% (RI, 19 - 52). Analiza mokraće (slučajni uzorak): izgled zamućen, boja žuto-bijela, pH 7,0, specifična težina 1,025 glukoza +/-, proteini 3+, eritrociti/hemoglobin 3+, u nativnom sedimentu 0-1 leukocit na vidnom polju (x400), dosta eritrocita i masa sitnih čestica sličnih bakterijama. U mokraći su uočeni i mliječno bijeli ugrušci. Koncentracija triglicerida u porciji mokraće iznosila je 10,8 mmol/L. Daljnjom obradom u serumu su određeni IgG 3,59 g/L (RI, 6,5 - 16), feritin 16 ng/mL (RI, 30 - 400) te trigliceridi 1,6 mmol/L (preporuka < 1,7). U 24h mokraći (V = 2550 mL) određeni su ukupni proteini 14568 mg/dU (RI, < 150), albuminurija 8341 mg/dU (RI, < 30) te trigliceridi u alikvotu 24h mokraće 6,3 mmol/L. Nakon dužeg stajanja u uzorku mokraće uočena su 3 sloja, najgornji sloj hilomikrona, srednji sloj bogat proteinima, a na dnu ugrušci i stanice. Ekstrakcijom mliječne mokraće kloroformom uzorak se razbistrio (gornji sloj), a trigliceridima bogata masna emulzija je u donjem sloju.

**Zaključak:** Laboratorijskom dijagnostikom u opisanog ispitanika utvrđena je prisutnost limfe u mokraći (hilurija) uslijed zadobivenog udarca sa stvaranjem desnostrane pijelo-limfatične komunikacije. Važno je prepoznati da se radi o limfi jer imamo sliku nefrotske proteinurije koja je, u našem slučaju, zapravo postnephronska.

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**P-2 (Oral presentation)****Milky white urine – case presentation**Katarina Čepić

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**Introduction:** We observed a case of patient with milky white urine in which the laboratory findings led to chyluria.

**Case report:** A 17-year old man, white, athlete, admitted to hospital because he had cloudy white urine. Four month before admission, he got kicked in the back, in the right kidney. He felt no pain, but his urine had been milky since that. Laboratory treatment included routine biochemical and hematological analysis and urinalysis.

**Results:** Laboratory data included: serum total proteins 47g/L (reference interval, RI, 66-81), serum albumine 25g/L (RI,41.6-50.8). White blood cell count  $4.6 \times 10^9/L$  (RI,4.4-11.6), 11.4% lymphocytes (RI,19-52). Urinalysis showed milky urine with clots, 7.0 pH, 1.025 specific gravity, +/- glucose, 3+ protein, 3+ blood. Microscopic examination of sediment showed many red blood cells, 0-1 leukocytes per high-power field (x400) and mass of small particles similar as bacteria. Urine trygliceride concentration was 10.8 mmol/L. Further investigations has shown serum IgG level 3.59 g/L (RI,6.5 -16), feritin 16 ng/mL (RI,30-400) and trygliceride concentration 1.6 mmol/L (recommended < 1.7). A 24h urine (V = 2550 mL) collection yielded 14568 mg/dU of proteine (RI,< 150), 8341 mg/dU of albumine (RI,< 30) and 6.3 mmol/L of trygliceride in analiquete of 24h urine. Chloroform extraction of milky urine was performed. Cloudy urine was clear (upperlayer) and fat globules were in the bottom chloroform layer.

**Conclusion:** Laboratory diagnosis of the described subject showed the presence of lymph in the urine (chyluria) due to the condition caused by formation of the right side pielo-lymphatic communication. In case of our patient it was posttraumatic chyluria. It is important to recognize that this is a lymph because we have a picture of nephrotic proteinuria, which is, in our case, postnephron.

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P-3

### Prikaz otkrivanja dvije rijetke nasljedne bolesti u dojenčeta – značaj određivanja fekalne elastaze

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**Uvod:** Shwachman-Diamond sindrom je rijetka nasljedna bolest pankreasa, drugi najčešći uzrok pankreasne insuficijencije u djece. Kliničku sliku obilježava niski rast, egzokrina pankreasna hipoplazija, neutropenija i promjene na kosturu. Najčešće se očituje u dojenačkoj dobi, a glavni simptomi su nenaštedovanje i steatoreja. Cilj rada bio je pokazati svrhu određivanja fekalne elastaze u uzorku stolice, u prvim mjesecima života, kod svakog djeteta sa sumnjom na poremećaj pankreasne funkcije.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Muško dojenče u dobi od sedam mjeseci premješta se iz OB Virovitica u Jedinicu intenzivnog liječenja, Klinike za dječje bolesti, Zagreb. Razlog prijema je sumnja na poremećaj koagulacije (hematom desne ruke - edem od ramena do šake nakon venepunkcije; ulazno mjesto ne krvari, ali izleže kožu u pregibu lakta cijedi se plazma). Anamneza otkriva obradom utvrđeno slabije nashtedovanje djeteta na tjelesnoj težini, od petog mjeseca života, uz povišene vrijednosti transaminaza. Započinje šira dijagnostička obrada u dva smjera: ispitivanje poremećaja koagulacije (sumnja na hemofiliju) / ispitivanje funkcije jetre i egzokrinog pankreasa zbog malapsorpcije (sumnja na cističnu fibrozu). Od laboratorijskih pretraga rađeni su VK (po Duke-u), VZ (na satnom staklu), osnovni koagulacijski testovi (PV, APTV, fibrinogen, TV, AT) na Sysmex CS-2500 koagulometru, (Siemens), jetreni enzimi (ALT, AST) na biokemijskom analizatoru (Abbott Architect, ci 4100), fekalna elastaza ELISA metodom sa monoklonskim antitijelima (ScheBo), faktori VIII i IX (KBC Sestre milosrdnice).

**Rezultati:** uredan acidobazni status, anemija, neutropenija; VK/VZ = 420/1440 s; APTV 1,2,3 = 50,7; 64,5; 97,8 s; ALT/AST = 141/92 U/L; Fekalna elastaza 1,2 = < 15 µg/g; faktori IX = 41% aktivnosti; VIII < 5% aktivnosti. Premještaj u KBC Zagreb (Referentni centar za hemofiliju) gdje je nastavljena obrada u smjeru hemofilije A, potom na odjel gastroenterologije gdje je daljnjom obradom isključena cistična fibroza,

P-3

### A review of two rare hereditary diseases in infants - the importance of fecal elastase determination

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**Introduction:** Shwachman - Diamond syndrome is a rare congenital disorder characterized by exocrine pancreatic hypoplasia, low growth, neutropenia and skeleton changes. It is considered the second most common cause of pancreatic insufficiency in children. Main symptoms are growth failure and steatorrhea, most commonly presented in infancy. Aim was to demonstrate the significance of determining fecal elastase in a stool sample of each child with suspected pancreatic function disorder occurring in the first months of life.

**Case report:** Seven months old male infant transferred from the Virovitica Hospital to Intensive Care Unit of Children's Hospital Zagreb. Reason for admission was suspected coagulation disorder (right arm hematoma, post-venipuncture shoulder to hand edema, absence of bleeding but puncture site plasma release). Child's medical history revealed growth restriction, since five months old, as well as elevated transaminase values. Diagnostic work-up went in two different directions: coagulation disorder investigations (suspected hemophilia) and liver/exocrine pancreas function tests due to malabsorption (suspected cystic fibrosis). Laboratory tests included bleeding time (Duke method), clotting time, basic coagulation tests (PT, APTT, fibrinogen, TT, AT) using commercially available coagulation methods on CS-2500 analyzer (Siemens), liver enzymes (ALT, AST) on chemistry analyzer (Abbott Architect, ci4100), fecal elastase ELISA method with monoclonal antibody (ScheBo), activities of factors VIII and IX (University Hospital Centre Sestre Milosrdnice).

**Results:** Normal acid-base status, anemia, neutropenia, bleeding/clotting time = 420/1440 s; APTT 1,2,3 = 50,7; 64,5; 97,8 s; ALT/AST = 141/92 U/L; faecal elastase 1,2 = < 15 µg/g; reduced FIX activity of 41% and FVIII activity < 5%. Patient was transferred to Hemophilia Reference Centre at University Hospital Centre Zagreb for additional testing. Also, following

a genotipizacijom potvrđen Shwachman-Diamond sindrom.

**Zaključak:** Interakcija suradnih ustanova i multidisciplinarni pristup ranog otkrivanja poremećaja egzokrinog pankreasa pokazala je nezaobilaznu ulogu dostupnosti analize fekalne elastaze - brze, reproduibilne i relativno jeftine dijagnostičke pretrage.

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work-up excluded cystic fibrosis and confirmed Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome by genetic testing.

**Conclusion:** Multidisciplinary approach and collaborative institutions cooperation has demonstrated a importance of fecal elastase analysis - fast, reproducible and relatively inexpensive diagnostic test and its availability as a key role in early detection of pancreatic insufficiency.

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#### P-4

### Prikaz slučaja: OLD CRAB mnemonika i test razrjeđenja plazme kao screening za prisustvo monoklonskih proteina

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**Uvod:** Monoklonske gamopatije su često obilježene karakteristikama za koje se u Engleskom jeziku koristi mnemonika *old crab*, *old* zbog starije dobi pacijenata, *C* (calcium) zbog povišenog kalcija, *R* (renal) zbog renalne insuficijencije, *A* zbog prisutne anemije i *B* (bone) zbog nalaza litičkih lezija u koštanom tkivu. Cilj ovog prikaza slučaja je pokazati primjenu jednostavnog screeninga za prisutnost monoklonskih proteina serijskim razrjeđenjem uzorka vodom.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Muškarac, 63 godine zaprima se u hitnu službu zbog slabosti i umora. Liječnik opće medicine upućuje ga u hitnu službu zbog pancitopenije. Krv za biokemijske pretrage prikupljena je u 4 mL epruvete Vacuette sa Li-heparinom, a krv za hematološke pretrage prikupljena je u 3 mL epruvete Vacuette sa K<sub>3</sub>EDTA (Greiner Bio-One, Austrija). Biokemijske pretrage napravljene su na analizatoru Roche Cobas c501 (Roche, USA). Hematološke pretrage napravljene su na analizatoru Sysmex XN1000i (Sysmex, Japan). Test razrjeđenja vodom napravljen je sa deioniziranim vodom kao serija razrjeđenja 1:2, 1:5 i 1:10. Zamućenje je očitano vizualnom procjenom.

#### P-4

### Case study: OLD CRAB mnemonics and plasma dilution test as a screening tool for detection of monoclonal proteins

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**Introduction:** Monoclonal gammopathies are often marked with the symptoms for which mnemonic *CRAB* is used, *old* stands for older patients, *C* (calcium) stands for elevated calcium, *R* (renal) stands for renal insufficiency, *A* stands for anemia and *B* (bone) stands for lithic lesions in bone tissue. The aim of this case study is to demonstrate the application of a simple screening test for the presence of monoclonal protein by performing serial dilution of the sample with water.

**Case report:** 63 years old male, who was admitted to hospital emergency ward due to general weakness and fatigue. General practitioner sent him to hospital because of pancytopenia. Blood for biochemistry tests was collected in a 4 mL Vacuette tube with Li-heparin, and blood for haematology testing was collected in a 3 mL Vacuette tube with K<sub>3</sub>EDTA (Greiner Bio-One, Austria). Biochemistry tests were performed on the Roche Cobas c501 (Roche, USA) analyser. Hematology tests were performed on the Sysmex XN1000i analyser (Sysmex, Japan). The water dilution test was performed with deionized water as series of dilutions 1: 2, 1: 5 and 1:10. The presence of turbidity was estimated visually.

**Rezultati:** Pacijent pri prijemu u hitnu službu od simptoma navodi opću slabost unatrag 5 mjeseci i bolove u kralježnici. Pacijentu je napravljena krvna slika u kojoj su izmjereni eritrociti  $2,47 \times 10^{12}/L$ , hemoglobin 85 g/L. U plazmi su izmjerene vrijednosti kreatinina 184  $\mu\text{mol}/L$ . Uzorak plazme pacijenta nije bio turbidan. Pacijentu je dodatno izmjeren kalcij čija je vrijednost bila 2,71  $\text{mmol}/L$ . Uzorak plazme pacijenta je razrijeđen vodom u seriji i kod razrjeđenja 1:5 i 1:10 vizualno je uočena pojava turbidnosti. Pacijentu je napravljena radiološka obrada nađene su litičke lezije u humerusu. Daljnjom citološkom i laboratorijskom obradom potvrđen je multipli mijelom lakih kapa lanaca tipa ISS 3.

**Zaključak:** Kod pacijenta sa dijagnozom multiplog mijeloma kod testa razrjeđenja plazme sa vodom došlo je do stvaranja turbidnosti u razrjeđenjima zbog precipitacije monoklonskih proteina.

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**Results:** Upon admittance to emergency ward patient reports general weakness and pain in the spine which lasts for 5 months. Laboratory results show following results in complete blood count: erythrocytes  $2.47 \times 10^{12}/L$ , hemoglobin 85 g/L. In plasma, creatinine value was 184  $\mu\text{mol}/L$ . The patient's plasma sample was not turbid. Additionally calcium was ordered and the result was 2.71  $\text{mmol}/L$ . The patient's plasma sample was diluted with water in and formation of turbidity was observed in dilutions 1: 5 and 1:10. A radiological test showed lithic lesions in the humerus bone. Further cytology and laboratory tests confirmed the diagnosis of kappa light chain multiple myeloma ISS 3 type.

**Conclusion:** In a patient with multiple myeloma diagnosis, a plasma dilution test with water resulted in the formation of turbidity in dilutions due to the precipitation of monoclonal proteins.

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P-5

### Sekretorni biomarkeri u dijagnostici feokromocitoma: prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Feokromocitom je tumor kromafinih stanica srži nadbubrežne žlijezde koje u svojim sekretornim vezikulama i citoplazmi sintetiziraju i metaboliziraju kateholamine. Nastanak 60% feokromocitoma najčešće je posljedica genetskih mutacija. Ovisno o prisutnoj mutaciji, sadržaj se kateholamina i njihov metabolizam unutar kromafinih stanica razlikuje, što pridonosi sekretornoj heterogenosti feokromocitoma. Mjerenje koncentracije sekretornih biomarkera preporučeno je kod dijagnosticiranja ove rijetke bolesti.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Četrdesetogodišnji pacijent kroz duže vrijeme ima sporadično visoki tlak, tahikardiju, pojačano znojenje i glavobolju. Nakon naglog povi-

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### Secretory biomarkers in pheochromocytoma diagnosis: a case report

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**Introduction:** Pheochromocytoma is a neoplasm of the adrenal medulla chromaffin cells which in their secretory vesicles and cytoplasm synthesize and metabolize catecholamines. The origin of 60% of pheochromocytoma cases is a result of the several gene mutations. Depending on the mutation, catecholamine content and their metabolism within chromaffin cells differ and lead to the secretory heterogeneity of pheochromocytoma. Secretory biomarkers measurement is recommended for this rare disease diagnostic work-up.

**Case report:** A 48 year old male patient encountered sporadic high blood pressure, tachycardia, excessive sweating and headache. After the abrupt

šenja krvnog tlaka na 240/120 mmHg pacijent doživljava srčani udar. Ultrazvuk abdomena ukazuje na uvećanu desnu nadbubrežnu žlijezdu i postavlja se sumnja na feokromocitom. U sklopu laboratorijske obrade provedena su mjerenja koncentracije slobodnog metanefrina i normetanefrina u plazmi (LC-MS/MS) i ukupnog metanefrina, normetanefrina i kateholamina u 24h-urinu (HPLC-ECD). Također su mjerene koncentracije kromogranina A (ELISA) i NSE (ECLIA) u serumu.

**Rezultati:** Izmjerena plazmatska koncentracija slobodnog normetanefrina iznosi 0,74 nmol/L (ref. interval 0,12 - 0,69), dok je koncentracija slobodnog metanefrina od 3,26 nmol/L (ref. interval 0,03 - 0,32) klinički značajno povišena. Izmjerene koncentracije analita u 24h-urinu (metanefrin 26,20  $\mu$ mol/dU (ref. interval < 1,62) i normetanefrin 5,21  $\mu$ mol/dU (ref. interval < 2,13) prate povišene plazmatske koncentracije, dok su koncentracije kateholamina unutar referentnog intervala. Koncentracije kromogranina A od 500  $\mu$ g/L (ref. interval < 100) i NSE od 18,5 ng/mL (ref. interval < 16,3) su sukladne s dijagnozom feokromocitoma. Prisutnost feokromocitoma je potvrđena i CT-om.

**Zaključak:** Postavljanje dijagnoze feokromocitoma zahtjeva multidisciplinarni pristup u kojem pravovremeno određivanje koncentracije sekretornih biomarkera ima značajnu ulogu. Ovaj slučaj prikazuje rjeđi sekretorni fenotip feokromocitoma u kojem je koncentracija metanefrina značajno povišena dok su koncentracije kateholamina unutar referentnog intervala. Povišena koncentracija metanefrina je povezana s većim rizikom pojave srčanog udara i ukazuje na značajnost određivanja proširenog panela kateholamina i njihovih metabolita.

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elevation of blood pressure to 240/120 mmHg, patient suffered a heart attack. Abdominal ultrasound revealed enlarged right adrenal gland and pheochromocytoma was suspected. As a part of the laboratory work-up, free plasma metanephrine and normethanephrine (LC-MS/MS) and daily urine total metanephrine, normethanephrine and catecholamines content (HPLC-ECD) were measured along with serum concentrations of chromogranin A (ELISA) and NSE (ECLIA).

**Results:** Concentration of plasma free normetanephrine was 0.74 nmol/L (ref. interval 0.12 - 0.69), while metanephrine was 3.26 nmol/L (ref. interval 0.03 - 0.32) representing a clinically significant elevation. Measured concentrations of biomarkers in daily urine (metanephrine 26.20  $\mu$ mol/dU (ref. interval < 1.62) and normetanephrine 5.21  $\mu$ mol/dU (ref. interval < 2.13) followed elevated plasma concentrations, while urinary catecholamines were within reference interval. Also, chromogranin A concentration of 500  $\mu$ g/L (ref. interval < 100) and NSE of 18.5 ng/mL (ref. interval < 16.3) were in accordance with the pheochromocytoma diagnosis. The presence of a neoplasm was confirmed with CT.

**Conclusion:** Establishing the pheochromocytoma diagnosis demands multidisciplinary approach in which the determination of early secretory biomarkers is crucial. This case describes an uncommon secretory pheochromocytoma phenotype with increased plasma metanephrine and normal urinary catecholamines. Increased plasma metanephrine is associated with increased risk of the heart attack showing the significance of expanded catecholamine metabolite panel application.

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## Nedefinirana interferencija pri određivanju humanog korionskog gonadotropina u serumu - prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Usprkos povećanju osjetljivosti i specifičnosti imunokemijskih testova analitičke interferencije su i dalje aktualni problem. Obracanjem pozornosti na ograničenja imunokemijskih testova moguće je izbjeći većinu neželjenih posljedica važnih i za bolesnika i za zdravstveni sustav.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentica (38) zaprimljena je na hitni bolnički prijem zbog obilnog krvarenja. Prije mjesec dana imala je spontani pobačaj u petom tjednu trudnoće. Ginekološkim pregledom primijećeni su ugrušci, maternica je povećana, veličinom odgovara dvanaestom tjednu trudnoće. Ultrazvuk je pokazao inhomogeni odjek u maternici te su tražene kompletna krvna slika (KKS) i koncentracija humanog korionskog gonadotropina (hCG) u serumu. Ordiniran je hitan operativni zahvat kojim se vakuum aspiratorom odstranio preostali sadržaj iz materijata te revirdirao kiretom. Postoperativno praćene su KKS i koncentracija hCG. KKS je određivana na hematološkom brojaču CELL-DYN Ruby (Abbott Diagnostics, Lake Forest, SAD) dok je koncentracija hCG mjerena na analizatoru Cobas e411 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Njemačka) metodom elektrokemiluminiscencije.

**Rezultati:** Predoperativno koncentracija hCG bila je povišena, hCG = 10 631 IU/L. Dan nakon operacije hCG je u padu, hCG = 6572 IU/L. Sljedećeg dana dobiveni rezultat bio je neočekivano ispod granice detekcije metode (LOD, < 0,1 IU/L). Analiza je ponovljena iz iste serumske epruvete, hCG = 0,152 IU/L. Kako je istovremeno bila uzorkovana krv za KKS čije su se vrijednosti pratile s prethodnim, hCG je ponovo analiziran, ali iz EDTA-plazme za provjeru neočekivanog serumskog rezultata. Plazmatska vrijednost odgovarala je očekivanom padu koncentracije hCG, hCG = 4224 IU/L. Zbog sumnje na interferenciju u serumu, serum je diluiran deset puta, hCG = 4464 IU/L.

**Zaključak:** Dobivene vrijednosti koncentracija hCG u serumu i plazmi upućuju na prisutnost nedefinirane interferencije u serumu, no ne i u plazmi. Inter-

P-6

## Undefined interference in human chorionic gonadotrophin determination in serum – a case report

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**Introduction:** Despite the increased sensitivity and specificity of immunoassays, analytical interferences still present a current threat. By knowing and recognizing the limitations of immunoassays, it is possible to avoid most undesired consequences important for the patient and health care system.

**Case report:** Patient (38) was admitted to the emergency room for abundant bleeding. She had a miscarriage in the fifth week of pregnancy one month before. Gynecologic examination showed clots and enlarged uterus, corresponding to twelve week of pregnancy. Ultrasound showed an inhomogeneous uterine echotexture. Complete blood count (CBC) and concentration of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) in serum were ordered. An urgent surgical procedure included vacuum aspiration and curettage. CBC and hCG concentration were monitored postoperatively. CBC was determined on the hematology analyzer CELL-DYN Ruby (Abbott Diagnostics, Lake Forest, USA) while the hCG concentration was measured on the Cobas e411 analyzer (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) by electrochemiluminescence method.

**Results:** The preoperative concentration of hCG was elevated, hCG = 10,631 IU/L. The day after the surgery hCG was decreasing, hCG = 6572 IU/L. The next day the result was unexpectedly below the limit of detection (LOD, < 0.1 IU/L), so the assay was repeated from the same serum test tube, hCG = 0.152 IU/L. Having simultaneously sampled blood for CBC, hCG was repeated from EDTA-plasma to check the unexpected serum result. The plasma value corresponded to the expected decrease of hCG, hCG = 4224 IU/L. Due to suspected interference in serum, serum was diluted ten times, hCG = 4464 IU/L.

**Conclusion:** The obtained serum and plasma concentrations of hCG indicate the presence of undefined interference in serum, but not in plasma. Diluting the serum, interference was removed and both

ferencija u serumu uklonjena je diluiranjem čime je dobivena koncentracija odgovarala onoj u plazmi. Svijest o prisutstvu velikog broja dosad definiranih i nedefiniranih interferencija preduvjet je za njihovo prepoznavanje i pronalaženje prikladne metode uklanjanja.

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## P-7

### Prikaz slučaja: Mjerenje antikoagulacijskog učinka dabigatrana kod pacijentice sa akutnim bubrežnim zatajenjem

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**Uvod:** Dabigatran je oralni antikoagulantni lijek koji djeluje kao direktni inhibitor trombina. Koristi se u prevenciji i liječenju tromboembolijskih bolesti. Oko 80% lijeka se izlučuje putem bubrega, pa je primjena lijeka kontraindicirana u bubrežnoj insuficijenciji. Iako doziranje lijeka ne zahtjeva rutinsko praćenje terapije, dosadašnja klinička iskustva upućuju na potrebu kvantitativnog određivanja koncentracije dabigatrana u određenim kliničkim situacijama. Cilj rada bio je prikazati slučaj liječenja dabigatranom u kojem je razvoj akutnog zatajenja bubrega rezultirao akumulacijom lijeka u cirkulaciji i teškim poremećajem vrijednosti standardnih koagulacijskih testova.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentica stara 83 god. liječena dabigatranom (2 x 110 mg/dan) unatrag 2 godine, primljena je na hitni prijem zbog zaduhe. Nakon učinjenih laboratorijskih pretraga (kompletna krvna slika, analiza plinova, PV, APTV, fibrinogen, D-dimeri, glukoza, urea, kreatinin, elektroliti i enzimi), bolesnica je hospitalizirana u Koronarnu jedinicu. Koncentracija dabigatrana (DTI Innovance test, Siemens) i trombinsko vrijeme (TV) određeni su u KBC Sestre milosrdnice (omogućeno projektom HRZZ-IP-2016-06-8208).

plasma and serum concentrations of hCG matched. Being aware of the possibility of numerous defined and undefined interferences is a prerequisite for their recognition which helps avoiding possible undesirable consequences and finding a suitable method for interference removal.

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## P-7

### Case report: Anticoagulant effect of dabigatran in patients with acute renal failure

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**Introduction:** Dabigatran is an oral anticoagulant that acts as a direct thrombin inhibitor. It is used in the prevention and treatment of thromboembolic diseases. About 80% of the drug is excreted via the kidneys, so drug use is contraindicated in renal insufficiency. Although the dosage of the drug does not require routine monitoring of the therapy, the current clinical experience indicates the need for quantitative determination of dabigatran concentrations in certain clinical situations. The aim of the study was to present a case of treatment with dabigatran in which the development of acute renal failure resulted in circulating drug accumulation and severe impairment of standard coagulation tests.

**Case report:** Patient aged 83 years, treated with dabigatran (2x110mg/day) for 2 years, was admitted to the emergency room with dyspnea. Laboratory tests were performed (complete blood count, gas analysis, PV, APTV, fibrinogen, D-dimer, glucose, urea, creatinine, electrolytes and enzymes) and the patient was hospitalized in the Coronary Unit. Dabigatran concentration (DTI Innovance test, Siemens) and thrombin time (TV) were determined in KBC Sestre milosrdnice (enabled by HRZZ-IP-2016-06-8208).



**Rezultati:** Laboratorijski nalazi po primitku upućivali su na akutno bubrežno zatajenje (urea 24,0 mmol/L, kreatinin 240 µmol/L) i težak poremećaj hemostatskog sustava (PV 0,04, INR 8,32; APTV 106,5s; fibrinogen < 0,3g/L; D-dimeri 0,17mg/L) što je potvrđeno i višekratnim određivanjem tijekom slijedeća 3 dana praćenja. Koncentracije dabigatana tijekom tri uzastopna dana mjerenja pokazale su izrazito visoke vrijednosti lijeka u cirkulaciji (> 500 ng/mL, u razrjeđenju 1250 ng/mL) i TV > 150s. Peti dan nakon prekida terapije dabigatranom i uz primjenu adekvatne terapije rezultati koagulacijskih pretraga se poboljšavaju (PV 0,27 ; APTV 60,7s, fibrinogen 2,5g/L)

**Zaključak:** Učinak dabigatrana na rezultate općih koagulacijskih pretraga ovisi o dozi lijeka, vremenu uzorkovanja i eliminaciji lijeka putem bubrega. U opisanom slučaju, razvoj zatajenja bubrežne funkcije rezultirao je nakupljanjem dabigatrana u cirkulaciji. Kako pacijentica nije imala znakove hemoragije, izraziti poremećaj vrijednosti standardnih koagulacijskih testova mogao bi biti posljedica interferencije lijeka na njihovo određivanje.

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**Results:** Laboratory results indicate acute kidney failure (urea 24.0mmol/L, creatinine 240 µmol/L) and severe hemostatic disorders (PV 0.04, INR 8.32, APTV 106.5 s, fibrinogen < 3g/L; D-dimer 0.17 mg/L), confirmed by repeated determination over the next 3 days of monitoring. Dabigatran concentrations over three consecutive days of measurement showed extremely high values in the circulation (> 500ng/mL, in dilution 1250 ng/mL) and TV > 150s. Five days after quitting dabigatran therapy and with the use of adequate therapy, the results of coagulation tests are improved (PV 0.27, APTV 60.7s, fibrinogen 2.5 g/L)

**Conclusion:** The effect of dabigatran on the results of general coagulation tests depends on the dose of drug, time of sampling and elimination of the drug through the kidneys. In the case described, the development of renal failure resulted in the accumulation of dabigatran in the circulation. As the patient did not have any signs of hemorrhage, the impairment of standard coagulation tests could be due to the drug interferences on the metode.

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## P-8

### Porast eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi kod pacijenta na izvantjelesnoj membranskoj oksigenaciji (ECMO) - prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Izvantjelesna membranska oksigenacija (ECMO) se koristi kao privremena potpora bolesnicima za održavanje njihove srčane i plućne funkcije na temelju umjetne vanjske cirkulacije. Pojava eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi je povezana s pojavom hipoksičnog oštećenja organizma, te nepovoljnog ishoda po pacijenta. Primijećenu povezanost porasta eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi pacijenata na ECMO uređaju s negativnim ishodom liječenja želimo prikazati kroz opis slučaja jednog od pacijenata.

## P-8

### The erythroblast count increase in peripheral blood of a patient on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) - case report

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**Introduction:** ECMO is used as temporary support for patient's cardiovascular and pulmonary function based on artificial external circulation. The presence of erythroblasts in peripheral blood is associated with the occurrence of hypoxic damage and negative patient outcome. The observed correlation between erythroblast count increase in peripheral blood of patients on ECMO with a negative outcome of treatment is to be presented through a case study of one of the patients.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijent star 55 godina zaprimljen je zbog bilateralne pneumonije, ARDS-a (akutnog respiratornog distresnog sindroma) i septičkog šoka. Rađeni su biokemijski parametri (CRP, laktat, glukoza, jetreni enzimi, urea, kreatinin, itd.) koagulacijske pretrage (PV, APTV, TV, fibrinogen) i kompletna krvna slika standardiziranim metodama na automatiziranim analizatorima. Nakon spajanja na VV-ECMO, te mehaničku ventilaciju pacijentu su dodatno uz navedene pretrage rađene pretrage slobodnog hemoglobina, te faktori II, V, VII, VII, IX i X. Tijekom liječenja napravljeno je ukupno 65 kompletnih krvnih slika.

**Rezultati:** Prije pogoršanja septičkog šoka tijekom devet dana napravljeno je 34 kompletnih krvnih slika. Količina eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi u prosjeku je bila 0,7 eritroblasta na 100 leukocita ( $0,05 \times 10^9/L$ ) bez značajnog rasta. Nakon pogoršanja napravljena je 31 kompletna krvna slika u osam dana s prosjekom od 7,1 eritroblasta na 100 leukocita ( $0,89 \times 10^9/L$ ) sa značajnim porastom iz dana u dan do maksimalne vrijednosti od 36,1 eritroblasta na 100 leukocita ( $4,48 \times 10^9/L$ ) što je ujedno i zadnja kompletna krvna slika napravljena prije smrti pacijenta.

**Zaključak:** Kako su pacijenti spojeni na ECMO u teškom stanju zatajivanja respiracijske i srčane funkcije, sama prisutnost eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi nije tako rijetka pojava. Kod prikazanog slučaja postoji povezanost između pogoršanja stanja pacijenta i porasta eritroblasta u perifernoj krvi. Kako to nije jedini takav slučaj porast eritroblasta mogao bi biti, nakon provedbe detaljnijeg istraživanja, dodatni pokazatelj za otkrivanje naglog pogoršanja stanja pacijenta na ECMO-u.

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**Case report:** The 55-year-old patient was admitted with bilateral pneumonia, ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) and septic shock. Biochemical parameters (CRP, lactate, glucose, liver enzymes, urea, creatinine, etc.), coagulation parameters (PT, APTT, TT) and complete blood count (CBC) were done with standardized methods on automated analyzers. After patient was on VV-ECMO and mechanical ventilation additional free haemoglobin tests and Factors II, V, VII, VII, IX and X were done. Total of 65 CBC were made during his treatment.

**Results:** Before the septic shock worsened during nine days 34 CBC were made. The amount of erythroblasts in the peripheral blood was on average 0.7 erythroblasts per 100 leukocytes ( $0.05 \times 10^9/L$ ) without significant increase. After exacerbation 31 CBC were made in eight days with an average of 7.1 erythroblasts per 100 leukocytes ( $0.89 \times 10^9/L$ ) with significant daily increase ending with a maximum of 36.1 erythroblasts per 100 leukocytes ( $4.48 \times 10^9/L$ ) as the last CBC taken before patient's death.

**Conclusion:** As patients on ECMO are in a severe condition of respiratory and cardiac function failure, the presence of erythroblasts in peripheral blood is not so rare. In the presented case there is a correlation between exacerbation of patient condition and erythroblast count increase. Since this is not the only such case after a more detailed research maybe it could be used as an additional indicator for sudden worsening of the patient's condition on ECMO.

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P-9

**Pagetova bolest kostiju – prikaz slučaja**Tara Rolić, Sanja Mandić, Vesna Horvat, Iva Lukić, Vatroslav Šerić

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**Uvod:** Pagetova bolest je lokalizirani poremećaj kosti koji započinje prekomjernom reapsorpcijom kosti, a potom pojačanim stvaranjem kosti. Nastaje strukturno neorganizirana kost mehanički slabija, manje kompaktna i osjetljivija na prijelome. Drugi je najčešći poremećaj kosti (nakon osteoporoze) kod starijih osoba. Točan uzrok nije poznat. Značajnu ulogu imaju obiteljska anamneza i okolišni čimbenici (npr. virus ospica).

**Prikaz slučaja:** U Kliničkom bolničkom centru Osijek primljen je pacijent u dobi 60 godina, u kolovozu 2017. godine. Žalio se na intenzivne bolove u kostima, naročito u lijevom kuku. Klinička slika upućuje na Pagetovu bolest. Scintigrafija kosti 2016. godine pokazala je patološku pregradnju kostiju donjeg dijela kralježnice, ali biopsijom nisu utvrđene promijenjene stanice. Intenzivni bolovi se nastavljaju, te su 2017. godine ponovljene scintigrafija i biopsija, idijagnosticirana je Pagetova bolest.

**Rezultati:** Laboratorijski nalazi ukazuju na povišenu aktivnost ALP u serumu (348 (60 - 142) U/L) kao i izoenzima ALP (> 120,0 (5,5 - 24,6) µg/L). Osteokalcin, paratireoidni hormon, kalcij i fosfor u serumu su unutar referentnih intervala. Koncentracija N-terminalnog propeptida (TP1NP) iznimno je povišena 355,6 (< 36,4) ng/mL, dok su koncentracije deoksipiridinolina i piridinolina iz uzorka jednokratnog urina izraženi prema vrijednosti koncentracije urinskog kreatinina 8,2 (2,3 - 5,4) nmol/mmol odnosno 34,7 (17,0 - 32,4) nmol/mmol povišeni. ALP, Ca i P analizirani su biokemijskim analizatorom Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA), BALP metodom CLIA na Liaison (DiaSorin, Saluggia, Italija) osteokalcin, TP1NP metodom ECLIA na Cobas E411 (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Njemačka), PTH metodom CLIA na UniCell Dxl 600 (Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA) a DPD/PYD metodom HPLC (Chromsystems, Gräfelfing, Njemačka).

**Rezultati:** U prikazanom slučaju vremenski tijek od pojave prvih simptoma do postavljanja dijagnoze je

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**Paget's bone disease - case report**Tara Rolić, Sanja Mandić, Vesna Horvat, Iva Lukić, Vatroslav Šerić

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**Introduction:** Paget's disease is a localized abnormal bone remodeling that begins with excessive bone resorption followed by enhanced bone formation. The result is structurally unorganized bone which is mechanically weaker, less compact and more likely to fracture. It's the second most common bone disorder (following osteoporosis) in the elderly. The exact cause is unknown.

**Case report:** A 60-year-old patient, complaining of intense bone pain, especially in the left hip, was admitted to the Clinical Hospital Osijek in August 2017. There was a suspicion on Paget's disease. Scintigraphy followed by biopsy of bone in 2016 didn't show any changes to the cells. As intense pain continued, repeated scintigraphy and biopsy confirmed Paget's disease.

**Results:** Laboratory reports indicated elevated ALP serum activity (348 (60 - 142) U/L) as well as ALP isoforms (> 120.0 (5.5 - 24.6) µg/l). Osteocalcin, parathyroid hormone, calcium and phosphorus were within the reference range. N-terminal propeptide (TP1NP), urine deoxypyridinol and pyridinol expressed as a ratio to the urinary creatinine concentration were elevated: 355.6 (< 36.4) ng/mL, 8.2 (2.3 - 5.4) nmol/mmol, 34.7 (17.0 - 32.4) nmol/mmol, respectively. ALP, Ca and P were determined using biochemical analyzer Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA); BALP with CLIA method on Liaison (DiaSorin, Saluggia, Italy); osteocalcin and TP1NP with ECLIA method on Cobas E411 (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany); PTH with CLIA method at UniCell Dxl 600 (Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA); and DPD / PYD with HPLC method (Chromsystems, Gräfelfing, Njemačka).

**Conclusion:** In this case report, time course since the appearance of the first symptoms to diagnosis Paget's disease, was 9 years. Since changes in bone remodeling can be detected much earlier than bone mass measurement, in this case report measuring

9 godina. S obzirom da se promjene markera koštane pregradnje mogu otkriti puno ranije u odnosu na promjenu koštane mase, u navedenom prikazu slučaja ranije određivanje TP1NP bi možda doprinijelo bržem postavljanju dijagnoze što u konačnici utječe na kvalitetu života ali i financijski ishod.

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#### P-10 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Interferencija monoklalnog imunoglobulina G u određivanju ukupnog i konjugiranog bilirubina – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog sažetka je prikazati slučaj pacijenta (57 god.) čija se koncentracija ukupnog i direktnog bilirubina nije mogla odrediti uslijed interferencije visokom koncentracijom ukupnih proteina pri prijemu u Hitnu internističku ambulantu KB Dubrava.

**Metode:** Sve biokemijske pretrage određivane su u serumu na analizatorima AU2700Plus i AU680 (Beckman Coulter, Japan). Ukupni bilirubin određuje se u uzorku i u slijepoj probi metodom s diazonijevom soli (DPD) u prisutnosti akceleratora (kofein), a direktni bilirubin metodom s DPD u kiselom mediju.

**Rezultati:** Rutinskom analizom dobiveni su rezultati pretraga od kojih se najvažnije ističu: ukupni proteini 156 g/L, ukupni kalcij 2,80 mmol/L te brzina sedimentacije eritrocita 119 mm/h. Ukupni bilirubin iznosio je 4,1  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , a direktni 81,0  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , dok su u automatskom razrjeđenju (1:5) rezultati bili 3,5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  te 30,6  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , što je upućivalo na daljnju prisutnost interferencije. Pregledom reakcijskih krivulja za ukupni i direktni bilirubin uočene su abnormalnosti u izgledu u oba mjerenja te rezultati nisu izdani. Pacijent je primljen na Odjel hematologije. Obradom je utvrđeno da boluje od multiplog mijeloma. U limfnim čvorovima pronađene su mijelomske stanice s infiltracijom 15% u koštanoj srži. Imunofiksacijom je dokazan monoklalni imunoglobulin G kappa tipa. Nakon toga je nekoliko puta određivan ukupni

bone turnover markers (TP1NP) could significantly contribute to a faster diagnosis Paget's disease, which ultimately affects patients life quality as well as the financial outcomes.

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#### P-10 (Oral presentation)

### Monoclonal immunoglobuline G interference on total and conjugated bilirubine measurement – a case report

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**Introduction:** The aim of this abstract is to present a patient's case report (57 years) whose total and direct bilirubin level could not be determined due to interference with high total proteins concentration at admission to the Emergency department.

**Methods:** All biochemical assays were determined in serum on AU2700Plus and AU680 (Beckman Coulter, Japan) analyzers. Total bilirubin is determined in the sample and blind probe using diazonium salt (DPD) in the presence of accelerator (caffeine) and direct bilirubin method with DPD in acid medium.

**Results:** Routine analysis showed following results: total proteins 156g/L, total calcium 2.80mmol/L and erythrocyte sedimentation 119mm/h. Total bilirubin was 4.1 $\mu\text{mol/L}$  and direct -81.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , while in automatic dilution (1:5) results were 3.5 $\mu\text{mol/L}$  and 30.6 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , indicating further presence of interference. By reviewing reaction curves for these analytes, abnormalities in both measurements were noticed. The patient was admitted to the Department of Hematology. Further tests found presence of multiple myeloma. Myeloid cells were found in the lymph nodes with 15% infiltration in the bone marrow. Immunofixation determined a monoclonal immunoglobulin G kappa type. Later, total bilirubin was determined several times, and the absence of interference in automatic dilution was confirmed

bilirubin, a odsutnost interferencije pregledom reakcijske krivulje u automatskoj diluciji dokazana je tjedan dana nakon primitka pacijenta (ukupni proteini bili su 138 g/L, a ukupni bilirubin iz razrjeđenja 8,6  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ). U određivanju direktnog bilirubina još je uvijek bila prisutna interferencija; koncentracija u razrjeđenju bila je -70,4  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ .

**Zaključak:** Interferencije monoklonalnih proteina u reakcijskim krivuljama biokemijskih pretraga teško je rutinski uočiti. Interferencije se javljaju zbog precipitacije ili agregacije proteina pri čemu se mijenjaju fizikalno-kemijska svojstva reakcijske smjese, što uzrokuje značajne promjene u mjerenju apsorbancije. Izrazito je važno obratiti pažnju na smislenost dobivenih rezultata, osobito kod slučajeva gdje se sumnja na prisutnost monoklonalnih proteina.

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P-11

### Lažno negativan nalaz kokaina određen imunokemijskom metodom: prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Kokain je prirodni alkaloid i najjači je poznati prirodni psihostimulans. Metabolizira se u pet različitih metabolita, a najvažniji su ekgonin-metil-ester-EME i benzoilekgonin-BE. Prvi nastaje djelovanjem plazmatске pseudokolinesteraze i jetrene benzoilesteraze, a drugi djelovanjem jetrene metilesteraze ili spontano pri fiziološkom pH. Studije pokazuju da se kod oralne konzumacije EME izlučuje puno više od BE. Metabolizam kokaina u djece nije poznat i nepoznato je imaju li ova dva enzima zadužena za metabolizam kokaina različite aktivnosti u odnosu na odrasle osobe.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Žensko dijete u dobi 2 godine i 5 mjeseci dovezeno je u hitnu ambulantu zbog pothlađenosti (temperatura < 35 °C). Djevojčica je na dan prijama počela gristi jezik, otac joj je gurao prst u usta. Kod prijama je bez kontakta, povremeno otvara oči, ne prati. Povremeno plače, zjenice reaktivne, oskudno povratila.

by reviewing the reaction curves one week after admission (total protein was 138g/L and total bilirubin in dilution 8.6 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ). There was still interference in the determination of direct bilirubin, with the level in dilution -70.4 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ .

**Conclusion:** The interference of monoclonal proteins in the biochemical examination curves is difficult to detect. Interferences occur due to the precipitation or aggregation of proteins by changing the physicochemical properties of the reaction mixture, which causes significant changes in the absorbance measurement. Finally, it is important to pay attention to the significance of obtained results, especially in cases where presence of monoclonal proteins is suspected.

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P-11

### False negative cocaine result determined by immunochemistry method: a case report

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**Introduction:** Cocaine is natural alkaloid and it is the strongest known natural psychostimulant. It is metabolized into five different metabolites (ecgonine methyl ester-EME and benzoylecgonine-BE are the most important). EME is produced by action of plasma pseudocholinesterase and hepatic benzoylesterase, and BE by hepatic methylesterase or spontaneously at physiological pH. Much more EME than BE is excreted after oral cocaine consumption. It is not known if these two enzymes have different activities in children as compared to adults.

**Case report:** A girl aged 2,5 years was admitted to the emergency outpatient unit due to hypothermia (< 35 °C). On the day of admission, the girl started to bite her tongue so that her father repeatedly put the finger in her mouth. On admission she was unresponsive, and only occasionally opened her eyes. She was crying at times, pupils were reactive, vomited a little.

**Rezultati:** Iz laboratorijskih nalaza vidljiva je leukoza, anemija, povećana vrijednost ureje, AST, ALT, u likvoru povišena vrijednost LDH. Sljedećeg dana zabilježen je suspektni epileptički napad. Imunokemijski test (EMIT) na kokain bio je negativan. Metodom plinske kromatografije – spektrometrije masa (GC-MS) u mokraći su nađeni kokain, EME, midazolam, lidokain i nikotin.

**Zaključak:** Imunokemijski test na kokain u mokraći negativan je jer određuje BE koji GC-MS metodom nije pronađen. Nema potvrde o kontaminaciji uzorka urina jer je prema literaturi u brisevima školskih klupa uz kokain pronađen i BE, ali ne i EME. Otac je mogao imati kokain na prstima pa ga oralnim putem unijeti u djetetov organizam. Prisutnost kokaina i njegova metabolita EME u ovom uzorku ostaje nejasna, ali je ovaj slučaj potvrdio nedostatke imunokemijskih testova na sredstva ovisnosti i potrebu za potvrdom specifičnijim metodama i poznavanjem metabolizma i načela metoda kod tumačenja nalaza.

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**Results:** Laboratory findings indicated leukocytosis, anemia, increased urea, AST, ALT levels, increased LDH concentration in CSF. Suspect epileptic seizure occurred the following day. Immunochemistry test (EMIT) for cocaine was negative. By using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry method (GC-MS), cocaine, EME, midazolam, lidocaine and nicotine were determined in urine.

**Conclusion:** Immunochemistry test for cocaine in urine was negative as it determines BE which was not found by using GC-MS method. No confirmation of urine sample contamination is possible because, according to literature, BE has been found in school desk swabs along with cocaine, while EME has not. The father could have cocaine on his fingers and administer it orally in the child's body. The presence of cocaine and its metabolite EME in this sample remains unclear, but this case confirmed the drawbacks of immunochemistry drug of abuse tests and the need for confirmation by more specific methods and by being aware of metabolism and the principles of methods when interpreting results.

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#### P-12 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Korekcija broja eritroblasta i leukocita kod pacijentice s hemoglobin E-beta talasemijom – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog sažetka je prikazati slučaj korekcije broja eritroblasta (Erb) i leukocita (Lkc) kod 32-godišnje pacijentice jugoistočno-azijskog podrijetla s dijagnozom hemoglobin E-beta talasemije koja se prati u KB Dubrava.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentica je praćena tijekom 16 mjeseci u sklopu mjesečnih pregleda u dnevnoj hematološkoj bolnici gdje je izvršeno uzorkovanje krvi u epruvetu s K<sub>3</sub>-EDTA. Svaki uzorak je analiziran na Advia 2120i (Advia), zatim je izmjeren broj Lkc protoč-

#### P-12 (Oral presentation)

### Correction of nucleated red blood cell and leukocyte count in a patient with hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia – case report

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**Introduction:** The aim of this study is to present a case of the correction of nucleated red blood cell (NRBC) and white blood cell (WBC) count in a 32-year-old woman of South Asian origin with Hemoglobin E-beta thalassemia, followed in University Hospital Dubrava.

**Case report:** The patient was followed for 16 months during regular monthly examinations in hematology clinic where her blood was collected in K3-EDTA coated tubes. Samples were first analyzed by Advia 2120i (Advia), followed by WBC count by flow cytometry

nom citometrijom (PC; CD45-ECD), a Erbsu brojani iz razmaza na 500 Lkc. Dobiveni rezultati su podijeljeni u dvije skupine: 1) broj Erb s Advie ulazi u područje linearnosti (112-295%) i 2) Erb s Advie su blizu/izvan područja linearnosti ( $\geq 295\%$ ). Unutar skupina uspo-ređeno je slaganje rezultata Lkc između PC i auto-matski korigiranih s Advie (PC/Advia) te između PC i Lkc dobivenih računskom korekcijom nekorigiranog broja Lkc s Advie s brojem Erb iz razmaza (PC/račun-ski). Podaci su prikazani kao medijan i raspon. Stati-stička značajnost razlike među skupinama ispitana je Mann-Whitney testom (razina statističke značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** U skupini 1: medijan za Lkc PC je 11(6,1-15,9), za Lkc s Advie 12,2 (9,3-16,5), za računski korigirane Lkc 10,5 (9,2-16,8) bez statistički značajne razlike (PC/Advia  $P=0,310$ ; PC/računski  $P=0,402$ ). U skupini 2: medijan za Lkc PC je 10,7(6,6-15,6), za Lkc s Advie 14,6 (11,5-19,9) i za računski korigirane Lkc 11,2 (8,9-14,6) bez statistički značajne razlike za PC/računski ( $P=0,805$ ), ali sa statistički značajnom razlikom za PC/Advia ( $P=0,026$ ).

**Zaključak:** Advia raspolaže algoritmima koji daju pouzdani broj Erb u linearnom području uz automatsku korekciju broja Lkc i dks, ali broj Erb blizu/izvan linearnog područja nije pouzdan. Broj Erb nužno je potvrditi brojanjem Erb u razmazu. Ako je broj Erb s Advie vrlo blizu ili prelazi područje linearnosti, treba izdati broj Erb i DKS iz razmaza, a prema broju Erb iz razmaza korigirati nekorigirani broj Lkc s Advie.

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(FCM;CD45-ECD) and NRBC count/500WBCs in peripheral blood (PB) smear. Results obtained were divided into two groups: 1) Advia NRBC count Advia linearity range (112-295%) and 2) Advia NRBC count close to/beyond linearity range ( $\geq 295\%$ ). Within the group we compared WBC count between FCM and Advia auto-corrected (FCM/Advia) and between FCM and WBC count obtained by mathematical correction of uncorrected WBC count from Advia with NRBC count from PB smear (FCM/calculated). Data is expressed as medians and ranges. Differences between groups were compared using non-parametric Mann-Whitney test ( $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant).

**Results:** In group 1 WBC's median (ranges): FCM 11(6,1-15,9), Advia 12,2 (9,3-16,5), calculated 10,5 (9,2-16,8), there was no statistically significant difference (FCM/Advia  $P=0,310$ ; FCM/calculated  $P=0,402$ ). In group 2 WBC's median (ranges): FCM 10,7 (6,6-15,6), Advia 14,6 (11,5-19,9), calculated 11,2 (8,9-14,6) there was no statistically significant difference for FCM/calculated ( $P=0,805$ ), but with difference being statistically significant for FCM/Advia ( $P=0,026$ ).

**Conclusion:** Advia has algorithms which give reliable number of NRBCs in linear measurement range with an automatic correction of WBC and differential count, but NRBC count is not reliable above linearity range. In this case it is necessary to confirm NRBC count in PB smear. If NRBC count from Advia is above linearity range, it is necessary to report NRBC and WBC differential counts from PB smear and according to NRBC count from PB smear correct the uncorrected WBC count from Advia.

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## P-13

### Leukemija vlasastih stanica-varijanta – važnost imunofenotipizacije u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi: prikaz slučaja

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## P-13

### Hairy cell leukemia-variant – the importance of immunophenotyping in differential diagnosis: case report

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**Uvod:** Leukemija vlasastih stanica-varijanta (HCL-V) rijetka je zrela limfoidna neoplazma koja je 2008. godine uvrštena u klasifikaciju SZO kao zasebni entitet. Varijanta ove bolesti razlikuje se od klasičnog oblika prema nekim citohematološkim obilježjima (leukocitoza periferne krvi s limfocitomom, sličan (CD19+CD103+CD11c+), ali ipak drugačiji imunofenotip (CD25-), citokemijski TRAP-. Također, HCL-V ima klinički agresivniji tijek, težu splenomegaliju i kraće preživljenje, te rezistenciju na konvencionalnu HCL terapiju, stoga zahtjeva drugačiji dijagnostički i terapijski pristup.

**Prikaz slučaja:** 68-godišnji muškarac hospitaliziran je na Kliničkom odjelu hematologije KBC-a Osijek radi pogoršanja općeg stanja. Nekoliko godina se kontrolira zbog monoklonske gamopatije neutvrđenog značaja. Pacijentu je zatražen CT abdomena i detaljna laboratorijska obrada krvi i urina koja je, između ostalog, obuhvaćala KKS, elektroforezu i imunofiksaciju serumskih proteina, obradu 24-h urina. Također je zatražena citološka obrada punktata koštane srži, a naknadno i imunofenotipizacija koštane srži i periferne krvi metodom protočne citometrije.

**Rezultati:** Analizom KKS utvrđena je leukocitoza ( $320 \times 10^9/L$ ) s limfocitomom i nalazom Gumprechtovih sjena u DKS-u, uz anemiju i trombocitopeniju. Nalaz 24-h urina potvrdio je proteinuriju. Elektroforeza i imunofiksacija serumskih proteina detektirale su monoklonski protein IgA-lambda+BJP-lambda. Citološka obrada punktata koštane srži upućuje na limfoproliferativnu bolest-KLL. Nalaz CT-a opisao je splenomegaliju i medijastinalnu limfadenopatiju. Pacijentu se uvodi terapija klorambucilom za KLL, no izostaje odgovor. Naknadno je zatražena imunofenotipizacija koštane srži i periferne krvi kojom je u oba uzorka nađena populacija od ~90 % stanica imunofenotipa: CD19+CD20+CD22+CD25-FMC7+CD11c+CD103±mIg-lambda+ koji odgovara monoklonskim lambda+B-limfocitima i upućuje na dijagnozu zrele B-limfoidne neoplazme-HCL-varijanta. Nakon toga pacijentu se ukida terapija klorambucilom, a uvodi se biološka terapija rituximabom (antiCD20).

**Zaključak:** Rana diferencijalna dijagnoza HCL-V ključna je za pravodobno uvođenje adekvatne ciljane terapije. Ovaj slučaj pokazao je kako morfologija stanica može biti atipična i nejasna, te u konačnici uputiti na krivu dijagnozu i krivi odabir terapije, a imunofenotipizacija protočnom citometrijom pokazala se kao najvažniji alat za dijagnozu ove bolesti.

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**Introduction:** Hairy cell leukemia-variant (HCL-V) is a rare mature lymphoid neoplasm which was included in the WHO classification 2008. as an individual provisional entity. HCL-V differs from classic HCL in few cytohematologic features (leukocytosis with lymphocytosis in peripheral blood, similar (CD19+CD103+CD11c+), but still different immunophenotype (CD25-), cytochemical staining TRAP-. HCL-V has a more aggressive clinical course, worse splenomegaly, shorter survival and resistance to conventional HCL therapy, therefore different diagnostic and therapeutic approach is necessary.

**Case report:** 68-year-old man was hospitalized to the Clinical Hematology Department at the Osijek University Hospital for health status deterioration. For the last few years, he was being controlled for monoclonal gammopathy of under terminated significance. Abdominal CT and extensive laboratory analysis, including CBC/diff, serum protein electrophoresis with immunofixation, 24-h urine analysis, were requested. Cytological bone marrow examination was also requested. Finally, bone marrow and peripheral blood flow cytometry immunophenotyping (FCI) were last requested.

**Results:** CBC analysis confirmed leukocytosis ( $320 \times 10^9/L$ ) with lymphocytosis and Gumprecht shadows in differential blood count, anemia and thrombocytopenia. 24-h urine analysis confirmed proteinuria. Serum protein electrophoresis and immunofixation detected monoclonal protein IgA-lambda+BJP-lambda. Cytological bone marrow examination indicated lymphoproliferative disorder-CLL. CT analysis described splenomegaly and mediastinal lymphadenopathy. Patient was introduced in chlorambucil therapy for CLL, but there was a lack of response. Afterwards, bone marrow and peripheral blood FCI were requested and the analysis showed population of ~90 % cells with immunophenotype: CD19+CD20+CD22+CD25-FMC7+CD11c+CD103±sIg-lambda+ referring to monoclonal lambda+B-lymphocytes and diagnosis of mature B-lymphoid neoplasm-HCL-variant. Subsequently, chlorambucil therapy was stopped and biological therapy rituximab (antiCD20) was administered.

**Conclusion:** Early differential diagnosis of HCL-V is crucial for prompt introduction of appropriate targeted therapy. This case shows how cell morphology can be atypical and inconclusive, ultimately leading to a wrong diagnosis and wrong choice of therapy. Consequently, FCI turns out to be the most important tool for HCL-V diagnosis.

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P-14

## Smeđa boja seruma

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**Uvod:** Promjene u boji seruma posljedica su patofizioloških promjena u organizmu, ali su često vezane i uz različite dijagnostičke i terapijske postupke kod bolesnika. Plavu boju seruma tako možemo povezati s interferencijom kontrastnog sredstva korištenog u dijagnostičke svrhe. Smeđa boja seruma može biti posljedica hemolize ili ikterije ali i prisustva neke strane substance, te je razlikovanje porijekla smeđe boje seruma izuzetno važno u kliničkom laboratoriju. U ovom radu ćemo prikazati slučaj uzorka seruma smeđe boje.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorak krvi dobiven je od 68 godina starog muškarca sa Kliničkog zavoda za hematologiju. Uzorak je centrifugiran na +17°C kroz 7 min na 3500 rpm. Serumski indeksi hemolize (IH) i ikterije (II) te biokemijske pretrage ukupni bilirubin, kalij (K), laktat dehidrogenaza (LDH) i haptoglobin izrađivani su na biokemijskom analizatoru Cobas c501 Roche Diagnostics, a slobodni hemoglobin na spektrofotometru Cam-Spec.

**Rezultati:** Vizualnim pregledom ustanovljena je izrazito smeđa boja seruma. Serumski indeks hemolize bio je 25, a procijenjeni hemoglobin od 0,25 g/L izrazito nizak za tako tamnu, smeđu boju seruma. K, LDH, haptoglobin i slobodni hemoglobin bili su u granicama normale i nisu ukazivali na intravaskularnu hemolizu. Uz indeks ikterije 5 očekivana vrijednost bilirubina bila bi 85  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  što je značajno viša vrijednosti od izmjerenih 8  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Rezultati svih parametara u ponavljanim uzorcima bili su identični. Značajna razlika između izgleda seruma, vrijednosti bilirubina i serumskih indeksa ukazivala je na postojanje interferencije strane supstance. Lijek Revolade (eltrombopage) koji je pacijent dobivao u dozi od 150 mg/dan pokazao se uzrokom izrazite smeđe boje seruma. Sam lijek je izazvao smeđu boju pri neutralnom pH, a u literaturi je opisan njegov utjecaj na boju seruma.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivanje uzroka izrazito smeđe boje seruma zahtijeva pažnju, vrijeme ali i ponavljanje uzorkovanja. Zbog toga je jako bitno nakon donesenih zaključaka uz nalaze pacijenta u opasku unijeti postojeći mogući uzrok interferencije.

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P-14

## Brown serum color

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**Introduction:** Serum color changes are a consequence of pathophysiological changes in the body but are often related to various diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in patients. Brown serum color may be a consequence of hemolysis or icteric, but also the presence of a foreign substance, and distinguishing the origin of brown serum color is extremely important in the clinical laboratory. In this paper, we will present the case of the brown serum color.

**Materials and methods:** A sample of blood was obtained from a 68 year old man. The sample was centrifuged at +17°C for 7 min at 3500 rpm. Serum indexes of hemolysis (IH) and icteric (II) and biochemical tests of total bilirubin, potassium (K), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and haptoglobin were made on the biochemical analyzer Cobas c501 Roche Diagnostics and free hemoglobin on the Cam-Spec spectrophotometer.

**Results:** Visual examination revealed a very dark serum color. The IH was 25 and the estimated hemoglobin of 0.25 g/L was extremely low for such a dark, brown serum color. K, haptoglobin and free hemoglobin were within normal range and did not indicate intravascular hemolysis. With the II 5, the expected bilirubin value would be 85  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , which is significantly higher than the measured 8  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . The results of all the parameters in the repeated samples were identical. Significant difference between serum indexes, bilirubin and other biochemical tests indicated the presence of foreign substance interference. The drug Revolade (eltrombopage) received by the patient at a dose of 150 mg/day has been the cause of a marked brown serum color. The drug itself is extremely brown in neutral pH, and its effect on serum color is described in the literature.

**Conclusion:** Testing results in a very brown serum color that requires attention, time, and repeat sampling. It is therefore very important that after the conclusions reached with the findings of the patient, the existing possible causes of interference should be introduced.

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**P-15 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Uloga medicinskog biokemičara u procesu postavljanja dijagnoze pseudohiperkalemije – prikaz slučaja**

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**Uvod:** Pseudohiperkalemija predstavlja lažno povišenu koncentraciju kalija u krvi koja se ne može povezati s *in vivo* patofiziološkim stanjem. Cilj ovog sažetka je prikazati slučaj pacijentice sa pseudohiperkalemijom te diferencijalno-dijagnostički postupak isključivanja hiperkalemije.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentica (58 god.) primljena je na Internu kliniku KB Dubrava radi obrade perzistentne hiperkalemije unazad 2 godine s vrijednostima 5,3 do 6,2 mmol/L, ali bez tipičnih simptoma. Tijekom hospitalizacije učinjena je opsežna laboratorijska obrada radi isključivanja svih etioloških čimbenika hiperkalemije.

**Rezultati:** Anamnestički podaci isključili su postojanje iatrogenog uzroka hiperkalemije jer je jedina terapija koju pacijentica uzima Euthyrox. Unos kalija hranom ograničen je restriktivnom dijetom. Utvrđena je uredna bubrežna funkcija, odsutnost neoplazme te je isključena metabolička acidoza. Synachtenskim testom isključena je Addisonova bolest uz normalnu koncentraciju inzulina, aldosterona i reninsku aktivnost. Pseudohipoaldosteronizam isključen je uslijed normalne osmolalnosti plazme i mokraće, urednog pokusa koncentriranja mokraće te stabilnog izlučivanja elektrolita. Isključeno je postojanje intra- i ekstravaskularne hemolize te leukocitoza i trombocitoza. Uzorkovanje i transport do laboratorija obavljani su skladu s važećim preporukama. Određivanje kalija u heparinskoj plazmi nakon inkubacije na različitim temperaturama (4°C, 25°C i 37°C) uz uzastopne odmake 2 i 4 sata od uzorkovanja isključuje obiteljsku pseudohiperkalemiju s obzirom da nije uočen porast kalija na nižim temperaturama. Citološkim pregledom razmaza periferne krvi nije uočena promijenjena morfologija eritrocita. Isključen je utjecaj smola i aktivatora zgrušavanja u epruvetama za serum. Međutim, istovremenim uzorkovanjem seruma, heparinske plazme i heparinirane pune krvi uočene su razlike u koncentracijama kalija veće od 0,3 - 0,4 mmol/L.

**P-15 (Oral presentation)****The role of medical biochemist in the diagnosis of pseudohyperkalemia – a case report**

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**Introduction:** Pseudohyperkalemia represents false elevated blood potassium level that can not be associated with *in vivo* pathophysiological conditions. The aim of this abstract is to present a patient's case report of pseudohyperkalemia and show the diagnostic algorithm for hyperkalemia management.

**Case report:** Patient (58) was admitted to Internal Clinic for treatment of persistent hyperkalemia during the past 2 years with values of 5.3 to 6.2 mmol/L. During hospitalization, all available laboratory diagnostic tools were used to exclude etiological factors of hyperkalemia.

**Results:** Anamnestic data excluded existence of iatrogenic causes of hyperkalemia as Euthyrox was the only therapy. Potassium intake was limited by restriction diet. Laboratory tests determined regular kidney function and absence of neoplasms and metabolic acidosis. The Synachten test, normal level of insulin, aldosterone and renin activity excluded Addison's disease. Pseudohypoaldosteronism was excluded due to normal osmolality of plasma and urine, normal urine concentration test and stable electrolyte secretion. Also, intra- and extravascular haemolysis, leukocytosis and thrombocytosis were excluded. Sampling and transport to laboratory were performed according to current recommendations. Determination of potassium in heparin plasma after incubation at different temperatures (4 °C, 25 °C and 37 °C) with intervals of 2 and 4 hours after sampling, excluded heritable pseudohyperkalemia, as no increase in potassium at lower temperatures was observed. Cytologic examination showed no changes in erythrocytes morphology. Effect of any additives in serum test tubes was excluded. However, simultaneous sampling of serum, heparin plasma and heparinized full blood showed differences in potassium level more than 0.3-0.4 mmol/L.

**Zaključak:** Uzimajući u obzir sve navedeno, etiologija stvarne hiperkalemije ostaje nedefinirana. S obzirom na opetovane razlike koncentracije kalija između uzoraka seruma, plazme i pune krvi, postavljena je dijagnoza pseudohiperkalemije u serumskoj epruveti kao posljedica otpuštanja kalija iz stanica tijekom procesa koagulacije. Ovaj slučaj je primjer uspješne i neophodne komunikacije kliničara i medicinskog biokemičara u procesu postavljanja konačne dijagnoze.

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**Conclusion:** Etiology of true hyperkalemia remains undetermined. However, differences in potassium level between serum, plasma and full blood samples confirm pseudohyperkalemia as a result of potassium release from cells during coagulation process. This case is an example of successful and necessary communication between clinicians and medical biochemists in process of establishing final diagnosis.

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## P-16

### Varijabilnost u određivanju makro TSH

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**Uvod:** Posljednjih godina postignut je značajan napredak u standardizaciji i harmonizaciji tireotropnog hormona (TSH) i postizanju usporedivosti rezultata TSH između različitih imunokemijskih metoda, uz minimiziranje utjecaja interferencija na rezultate. Od posebnog su značaja rezultati TSH i hormona štitnjače koji mogu upućivati na subkliničku hipotireozu, bez prisutnih simptoma uz neadekvatan odgovor na terapiju levotiroksinom (Euthyrox). Cilj ovog rada je prikazati slučaj pacijentice s makro TSH, odnosno kompleksom TSH i imunoglobulina (najčešće IgG), te osjetljivost 4 različite imunokemijske metode na prepoznavanje istog.

**Materijali i metode:** Vrijednost TSH pacijentice određena je na slijedećim imunokemijskim analizatorima: COBAS e 601 Roche (ECLIA), COBAS e 411 Roche (ECLIA), Architect i2000SR Abbott (CMIA), Immulite 2000xpi Siemens (CLIA), UniCel DxI 600 Beckman Coulter (CLIA). Uzorak je također tretiran s 25% polietilenglikolom (PEG) te je TSH u supernatantu izmjenjen na COBAS e 601 imunokemijskom analizatoru. Učinjena su i serijska razrjeđenja uzorka s Roche Diluent Multiassay diluentom kako bi se ispitala linearnost rezultata i moguća interferencija heterofilnih protutijela.

## P-16

### Variability in macro TSH analyzing

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**Introduction:** In recent years significant progress has been made in standardizing and harmonizing of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and achieving TSH comparability between different immunochemical methods with minimizing the impact of the interferences on results. Particularly important are the results of TSH and thyroid hormones that may indicate subclinical hypothyroidism, with no symptoms present and with inadequate response to levothyroxine therapy (Euthyrox). The aim of this paper is to present the case of a patient with macro TSH, TSH and immunoglobulin complex (most often IgG), and the sensitivity of four different immunochemical methods for its recognition.

**Materials and methods:** The value of the TSH of the patient was determined on the following immunochemical analyzers: COBAS e 601 Roche (ECLIA), COBAS e 411 Roche (ECLIA), Architect i2000SR Abbott (CMIA), Immulite 2000xpi Siemens (CLIA), UniCel DxI 600 Beckman Coulter (CLIA). The sample was also treated with 25% polyethylene glycol (PEG), and the value of TSH in the supernatant was measured on a COBAS e 601 immunochemical analyzer. Serial dilutions of the sample with Roche Diluent Multiassay diluent were also performed to investigate the

**Rezultati:** Mjerenjem različitim imunokemijskim metodama na različitim imunokemijskim analizatorima dobivene su slijedeće vrijednosti TSH (mIU/L): COBAS e 601 TSH = 25,03, COBAS e 411 TSH = 24,18, Architect i2000SR TSH = 0,1365, Immulite 2000xpi TSH = 0,23, UniCel DxI 600 TSH = 0,185. TSH u uzorku koji je tretiran s 25% PEG-om te izmjeren na COBAS e 601 iznosi 0,20 mIU/L. Rezultati dobiveni serijskim razrjeđenjima pokazali su linearnost što govori u prilog makro TSH.

**Zaključak:** Makro TSH može predstavljati neprepoznatu laboratorijsku interferenciju. U cilju prepoznavanja takvog slučaja i ispravnog liječenja kod svakog TSH s vrijednostima iznad 10 mIU/L čija vrijednost ostaje visoka unatoč povećanju terapije levotiroksinom i u odsutnosti simptoma hipotireoze potrebno je neizostavno posumnjati na postojanje interferencije pri čemu je važno spomenuti nužnost suradnje između liječnika i medicinskih biokemičara.

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linearity of the results and the possible interference of heterophilic antibodies.

**Results:** Measurement by various immunochemical methods on different immunochemical analyzers the following TSH (mIU/L) values are obtained: COBAS e 601 TSH = 25.03, COBAS e 411 TSH = 24.18, Architect i2000SR TSH = 0.1365, Immulite 2000xpi TSH = 0.23, UniCel DxI 600 TSH = 0.185. The value of TSH in the sample treated with 25% PEG and measured on COBAS e 601 is 0.20 mIU/L. The results obtained by serial dilutions have shown the linearity which speaks in support of the macro TSH.

**Conclusion:** Macro TSH may represent unrecognized laboratory interference. In order to recognize such cases and for the purpose of correct treatment, at any TSH with values above 10 mIU/L whose value remains high despite the increase in levothyroxine therapy and in the absence of hypothyroid symptoms, it is imperative to suspect the existence of interference, and to stress the necessity of co-operation between physicians and medical biochemists.

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## T – Toksikologija

### T-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Potpuno automatizirani Shimadzu CLAM-2000 modul za pripremu uzoraka za LC-MS/MS analizu – prilika za unaprjeđenje rutinskih analiza**

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**Uvod:** Klinička primjena masene spektrometrije napreduje, osiguravajući brzo dostupne i pouzdane rezultate. Ipak, priprema uzoraka korak je koji opterećuje rutinski rad, a ako je učinjena ručno, potencijalan je izvor predanalitičkih pogrešaka. Automatizirana priprema uzoraka ključan je korak u poboljšanju i ubrzanju čitavog LC-MS/MS procesa. Cilj ove studije bio je procijeniti primjenjivost potpuno automati-

## T – Toxicology

### T-1 (Oral presentation)

#### **Fully automated Shimadzu CLAM-2000 sample preparation module for LC-MS/MS analysis – window of opportunity for enhancement of routine analysis**

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**Introduction:** Clinical application of the mass spectrometric methods has been progressing, providing results promptly and accurately. Still, sample preparation is a step which burdens the routine work and, if done manually, is potential source of preanalytical errors. Automated sample preparation is a key step in improving and fastening whole LC-MS/MS process. Aim of this study was to evaluate applicability

ziranog modula pripreme uzoraka za određivanje imunosupresiva LC-MS/MS metodom.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci (hemolizati) za određivanje takrolimusa pripremljeni su potpuno automatiziranim modulom za pripremu uzorka CLAM-2000 (Shimadzu, prema vlastitom, razvijenom, protokolu) povezanim s UPLC NEXERA X2-LCMS-8040 (Shimadzu), koristeći on-line SPE LC-MS/MS metodu (RECIPE ClinMass LC-MS/MS Complete Kit for Immunosuppressants). Preciznost je procijenjena prema CLSI EP15-A2 smjernicama, koristeći Recipe ClinChek kontrole u tri koncentracijske razine. Bias je procijenjen pomoću 4 prethodno analizirana CRM uzoraka iz EQA sheme (RfB, Njemačka). Za usporedbu, 40 uzoraka pacijenata (1,9 - 11,8 µg/L) dodatno je manualno pripremljeno iz uzoraka pune krvi i analizirano. Rezultati usporednih ispitivanja statistički su obrađeni Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Evaluacija preciznosti za tri koncentracijske razine uključivala je: ponovljivost CV% 2,85, 2,62 i 2,13, međupreciznost CV% 4,35, 2,13 i 1,89, ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost CV% 4,93, 3,02 i 2,56. Proširena mjerna nesigurnost (U, k = 2) za tri koncentracijske razine iznosila je ± 5,03%, ± 4,42% i ± 3,98%. Prosječno odstupanje od ciljne vrijednosti za 4 retrospektivno analizirana uzorka EQA bilo je 1,42% (-2,54 - 1,16). Usporedba metoda pokazala je izvrsnu korelaciju između rezultata dobivenih automatiziranom pripremom u odnosu na manualnu pripremu uzoraka prema jednadžbi  $y = 0,02 (-0,31 \text{ do } 0,31) + 0,97 (0,92 \text{ do } 1,02) x$ .

**Zaključak:** Rezultati profila preciznosti unutar su zadanih ciljeva za LC-MS metode prema CLSI C62-A (CV ≤ 15%). Odstupanje od ciljne vrijednosti za EQA uzorke unutar je laboratorijske preciznosti i EQA kriterija (≤ 30%). Usporedba različitih metoda pripreme uzoraka pokazala je izvanrednu kompatibilnost, što omogućava uvođenje automatizirane pripreme uzoraka u rutinski rad i time brže, preciznije i pouzdanije rezultate.

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of fully-automated sample preparation module for immunosuppressant determination by LC-MS/MS.

**Materials and methods:** Samples (hemolysates) for tacrolimus determination were prepared by fully-automated sample preparation module CLAM-2000 (Shimadzu, with in-house developed protocol), connected to UPLC NEXERA X2-LCMS-8040 (Shimadzu), measuring concentrations by on-line SPE LC-MS/MS method (RECIPE ClinMass LC-MS/MS Complete Kit for Immunosuppressants). Precision was evaluated according to CLSI EP15-A2 guidelines, using Recipe ClinChek controls in three concentration levels. Bias was evaluated using 4 previously reported CRM samples from EQA scheme (RfB, Deuchland). In comparison, 40 patient samples (1.9 – 11.8 µg/L) were additionally manually prepared from whole blood and analysed. Statistical analysis was assessed using Passing-Bablok regression analysis.

**Results:** Precision evaluation for three concentration levels included: repeatability CV% 2.85, 2.62 and 2.13, within-run precision CV% 4.35, 2.13 and 1.89, and within-laboratory precision CV% 4.93, 3.02 and 2.56, respectively. Expanded measurement uncertainty (U, k = 2) for three concentration levels was ± 10,14%, ± 6,63% and ± 8,24%, respectively. Average deviation from target value for 4 retrospectively analysed EQA samples was - 1.42% (- 2.54 - 1.16). A method comparison showed correlation between concentrations obtained by automated preparation vs. manual preparation according to the equation  $y = 0.02 (-0.31 \text{ to } 0.31) + 0.97 (0.92 \text{ to } 1.02) x$ .

**Conclusion:** Precision profile results are within set goals for LC-MS methods according to CLSI C62-A (CV ≤ 15%). Deviation from target value for EQA samples are within laboratory precision and required EQA criteria (≤ 30%). Comparison of different sample preparation methods showed outstanding compatibility, allowing prompt introduction of automated sample preparation to routine work and thus faster, more precise and accurate results.

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**T-2 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Određivanje rezidualne koncentracije imunosupresiva nakon supstitucije lijeka – doprinos tehnologije boljitku pacijenta**

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**Uvod:** Praćenje koncentracije imunosupresiva važan je aspekt održavanja dobre kvalitete života i prevencije odbacivanja presadka nakon transplantacije jetre. Često, zbog izraženih neželjenih nuspojava ili povišenog rizika od odbacivanja, potrebno je jedan imunosupresiv zamijeniti drugim, nakon čega se prati koncentracija samo novog lijeka. Međutim, metoda tekućinske kromatografije s dvojnou spektrometrijom masa (LC-MS/MS) omogućuje nam istovremeno određivanje svih imunosupresiva prisutnih u zorku pacijenta, čak i u vrlo niskim koncentracijama. Cilj ove studije bio je procijeniti koliko je dugo lijek prisutan u krvi pacijenta nakon supstitucije te koja je najniža rezidualna koncentracija koju je moguće pouzdano izmjeriti.

**Materijali i metode:** U periodu od jedne godine, tijekom rutinskog određivanja koncentracije imunosupresiva u uzorcima pune krvi pacijenata nakon transplantacije jetre, longitudinalno je praćeno 9 pacijenata kod kojih je ciklosporin A zamijenjen takrolimusom te 4 pacijenta kod kojih je takrolimus zamijenjen ciklosporinom. Koncentracija imunosupresiva određena je na LC-MS/MS uređaju UPLC NEXERA X2 - LCMS-8040 (Shimadzu), upotrebom on-line SPE LC-MS/MS metode (RECIPE ClinMass LC-MS/MS Complete Kit for Immunosuppressants), akreditirane prema ISO 15189. Kroz period od 4 do 16 dana nakon supstitucije imali smo 2 do 6 određivanja po pacijentu.

**Rezultati:** Kao primjer, koncentracija ciklosporina prvi, treći, šesti i deveti dan nakon zadnje doze iznosila je redom 184, 13, 9 and 4 µg/L. U slučaju takrolimusa, treći, peti i sedmi dan nakon supstitucije koncentracije su bile redom 1,5, 0,7 and 0,5 µg/L. Najniža izmjerena rezidualna koncentracija ciklosporina iznosila je 1,67 µg/L (16.dan), a takrolimusa 0,18 µg/L (14.dan).

**T-2 (Oral presentation)****Determination of residual concentration of immunosuppressant after substitution – contribution of technology to patient care**

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**Introduction:** Immunosuppressants concentration monitoring is important aspect of good quality life maintenance and prevention of graft rejection after liver transplantation. Often, due to overexpressed undesirable side effects or high rejection risk, it is necessary to replace one immunosuppressant with another. Afterwards, only concentration of the new drug is monitored. However, liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) enables simultaneous measurement of all immunosuppressants present in patient sample, even in very low concentration. The aim of this study was to evaluate how long the drug was present in the patients' blood after substitution and what was the lowest residual concentration that can be reliably determined.

**Materials and methods:** In one-year period, during the routine measurements of immunosuppressants in whole blood samples of liver transplanted patients, 9 patients with cyclosporine A replaced with tacrolimus and 4 patients in which tacrolimus was replaced by cyclosporine A were monitored longitudinally. Measurement of immunosuppressants concentrations was done by LC-MS/MS platform UPLC NEXERA X2 - LCMS-8040 (Shimadzu), using on-line SPE LC-MS/MS method (RECIPE ClinMass LC-MS/MS Complete Kit for Immunosuppressants) accredited according to ISO 15189. 2 to 6 determinations per patient were done in period of 4 to 16 days from the moment when the drug was replaced.

**Results:** As an example, decrease of cyclosporine concentration one, three, six and nine days after last dose was 184, 13, 9 and 4 µg/L, respectively. In the case of tacrolimus, three, five and seven days after last dose decrease was 1.5, 0.7 and 0.5 µg/L, respectively. The lowest residual drug concentration for

**Zaključak:** Rezidualne koncentracije imunosupresiva vrlo često nisu zanemarive. Stoga je potrebno daljnje ispitivanje kliničke značajnosti izvještavanja ovih koncentracija te interpretacije dobivenih rezultata, pogotovo u kontekstu ukupne ekspozicije svim imunosupresivima.

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cyclosporine was 1.67 µg/L (16<sup>th</sup> day) and 0.18 µg/L (14<sup>th</sup> day) for tacrolimus.

**Conclusion:** Residual immunosuppressants concentrations are often in non-negligible levels. Therefore, further research on clinical significance of reporting them and interpretation of these findings is required, especially in the context of the total exposure to all immunosuppressants.

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## U – Upravljanje laboratorijem

### U-1 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Usporedba analitičke varijabilnosti između metoda primjenom karakteristične funkcije

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**Uvod:** Varijabilnost analitičke metode često se izražava kao koeficijent varijacije (KV). KV koristan je pokazatelj u usporedbi mjera varijabilnosti izraženih u različitim jedinicama, iako je usporedivost KV u različitim koncentracijskim područjima upitna. Stoga se karakteristična funkcija predlaže kao važeća alternativa. Karakteristična funkcija definirana je kao  $sd = \sqrt{a + b \times (\text{ciljna vrijednost})^2}$ , gdje su a i b koeficijenti procijenjeni nelinearnom regresijom, a sd standardna devijacija prijavljenih rezultata za seriju uzoraka u shemi vanjske procjene kvalitete. Koeficijent a opisuje dio varijabilnosti nezavisan o koncentraciji, a koeficijent b dio zavisen o koncentraciji. Ako je a značajno različit od nule, ne postoji proporcionalnost između koncentracije i standardne devijacije, i stoga KV ovisi o koncentraciji. Uvođenjem indikatorne (engl. *dummy*) varijable kao dodatka na osnovnu karakterističnu funkciju, moguće je uspoređivati varijabilnost između različitih metoda.

## U – Laboratory management

### U-1 (Oral presentation)

#### Comparing analytical variability between methods by means of the characteristic function

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**Introduction:** Variability of an analytical method is often expressed as a coefficient of variation (CV). A CV is useful for comparing different variability estimates across various units, although it is questionable whether CVs for different concentration levels are comparable. The characteristic function is proposed as a valid alternative. It's defined as  $sd = \sqrt{a + b \times (\text{assigned value})^2}$ , with a and b coefficients estimated via nonlinear regression, sd the standard deviation of the reported results in the EQA for a series of samples. The parameter a describes the concentration-independent part and parameter b describes the concentration-dependent part of the variability. If the parameter a is significantly different from zero, there is no proportionality between concentration and standard deviation and hence, the CV depends on the concentration. By means of a dummy variable (d) as an extension of the characteristic function, the variability between methods can be compared.

**Materijali i metode:** Karakteristična funkcija uz uvođenje *dummy* variable primjenjena je na rezultate kreatinina, željeza, kalija i natrija Hrvatskog centra za vrednovanje kvalitete u laboratorijskoj medicini (CROQALM), s naglaskom usporedbe rezultata dobivenih na uređajima Roche Cobas Integra I Roche Cobas c6000/8000.

**Rezultati:** Značajna odstupanja u rezultatima dobivena su za kreatinin ( $P < 0,001$  za koeficijente  $a$  i  $b$ ), dok rezultati drugih pretraga nisu pokazali značajne razlike između dva uređaja. U svim slučajevima koeficijent  $a$  značajno je različit od 0.

**Zaključak:** Karakteristična funkcija omogućava modeliranje varijabilnosti mjerenja dvjema analitičkim metodama i time obradu neovisnog dijela varijabilnosti bolje od KV. Procjena koncentracijski nezavisnog i koncentracijski zavisnog dijela varijabilnosti daje jasan uvid u razlike između metoda i upućuje na osobitosti dobivenih razlika. Primjenom karakteristične funkcije, dokazana je razlika između rezultata CROQALM-a za kreatinin dobivenih s dva različita uređaja.

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**Materials and methods:** The characteristic function is applied to the results obtained from Croatian EQA scheme (CROQALM) for creatinine, iron, potassium and sodium, with a focus on comparing Roche Cobas/Integra and Roche-Cobas c6000/8000 by means of a dummy variable.

**Results:** Differences between the two methods were significant for creatinine ( $P$ -value  $< 0.001$  for both  $a$  and  $b$ ). Other parameters did not show any significant difference between the two systems. In all cases,  $a$  was significantly different from zero.

**Conclusion:** The characteristic function allows modeling variability of measurements of analytical methods and is able to handle the concentration-independent part of variability better than a CV. Because it enables the estimate of concentration-dependent and concentration-independent part, it gives a clear overview of differences between methods and informs about the details of possible differences. Applied to data from CROQALM, it was proven that differences between the two methods do exist for selected parameters.

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## U-2

### Smjernice za ponavljanje laboratorijskih pretraga – jednogodišnji rezultati primjene u KBC-u Zagreb

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**Uvod:** Neprimjereno zadavanje laboratorijskih pretraga nepotrebno opterećuje laboratorij opsegom posla, troškovima i nastalim otpadom. Ugradnjom smjernica za smisleno ponavljanje laboratorijskih pretraga u programsko sučelje bolničkoga informacijskog sustava laboratorij bi mogao proaktivno i učinkovito upravljati svojim radom.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Tijekom 2016. godine u bolnički informacijski sustav u Kliničkome bolničkom centru Zagreb nadograđena je mogućnost provjere i upozoravanja o neprimjerenosti zahtjeva za pretragama u odnosu na unesena ograničenja (postojanje

## U-2

### Minimum retesting interval guidelines – results of one-year implementation in UHC Zagreb

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**Introduction:** Inappropriate ordering of laboratory tests generates unnecessary labour, expenses and waste. Through implementation of guidelines for minimum retesting intervals at the hospital interface level, laboratory could be able to proactively and effectively manage its workload.

**Subjects and methods:** During year 2016 the hospital information system at University Hospital Centre Zagreb was upgraded with a feature of checking and alerting to inappropriateness of a request according to entered limitations (presence of a previous result within a defined time period and of an unfi-



prethodnog rezultata unutar određenog vremena i nezavršeni zahtjev za pretragom) za pojedinog pacijenta. Smjernice za smisleno ponavljanje 65 pojedinačnih pretraga odabrane su iz stručne literature i prilagođene osobitostima zdravstvene ustanove. Za ove su pretrage obrađeni i prikazani podaci o broju zadavanja, prihvaćanju i neprihvaćanju upozorenja o kršenju smjernica na 27 klinika u 2017. godini. Izračunana je pripadajuća ušteda.

**Rezultati:** Od 560.824 zahtjeva za pretragama njih 58.328 narušilo je postavljeni kriterij opravdanosti zadavanja i generiralo upozorenja. Posljedično je 14.204 zahtjeva za pretragama odbačeno (3 % od ukupnog broja zahtjeva, 24 % zahtjeva s upozorenjem). Preostali su zahtjevi zadržani uz obrazloženje liječnika. Prihvaćanje smjernica nije bilo ujednačeno po klinikama i odjelima. Smjernice najčešće nisu bile prihvaćene u jedinicama intenzivne njege gdje je generirano 30 – 50% svih upozorenja uz vrlo mali postotak prihvaćanja upozorenja (3 %). Ukupno je tijekom 2017. godine novčana ušteda zbog primjene smjernica o smislenom vremenu za ponavljanje pretraga na temelju cjenika dijagnostičkih i terapijskih postupaka bila približno pola milijuna kuna.

**Zaključak:** Ograničavanje zadavanja laboratorijskih pretraga putem uvođenja smjernica o smislenom vremenu za njihovo ponavljanje u informacijski sustav donijelo je znatnu uštedu koja potiče daljnju primjenu ovakvoga ili sličnog oblika upravljanja. Razlike u prihvaćanju na kliničkim odjelima upozoravaju na potrebu za revizijom smjernica te edukacijom kliničara i laboratorijskih stručnjaka.

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### U-3

#### Procjena kvalitete usluge laboratorija pomoću TAT-a

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**Uvod:** Indikatori kvalitete su mjerljivi, objektivni, brožani pokazatelji djelotvornosti ključnih segmenata nekog sustava. Primjer indikatora kvalitete

nished test request) for an individual patient. The guidelines for 65 individual tests were selected from relevant literature and adjusted to specific hospital needs. Requests for those 65 laboratory tests, total and alerted, were counted for inpatients from 27 departments and the data for year 2017 are presented below. Also, consequent savings were calculated.

**Results:** Overall, 58,328 out of 560,824 test requests violated the criteria for appropriateness of testing and generated alerts. As a consequence, 14,204 requests were dismissed (3% of all requests, 24% of alerted tests). The remaining requests were retained but with justification from a clinician. Adoption of guidelines was not equally successful in all clinical wards. The guidelines were most frequently ignored by clinicians from intensive care units. They generated 30 - 50% of all alerts, with a poor rate of their acceptance (3%). Throughout the year 2017, financial saving due to implementation of guidelines and according to official Diagnostic and therapeutic procedure price list was about half a million kunas.

**Conclusion:** Restricting laboratory tests at the hospital interface level resulted in a substantial saving which encourages further implementation. Differences in acceptance of guidelines in clinical wards point to a need for guideline revision and for education of clinicians and laboratory professionals.

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### U-3

#### Quality assessment of laboratory performance using TAT

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**Introduction:** Quality indicators are measurable, objective, quantitative measures of key system elements performance. Indicator quality example of

ključnih procesa u laboratoriju je TAT (engl. *Turnaround Time*). Cilj je pratiti TAT za nekevažne hitne pretrage (kalij, INR, troponin i leukocite), periodička longitudinalna samoprocijena i usporedba s drugim laboratorijima.

**Ispitanici i metode:** TAT smo definirali kao vrijeme proteklo od primitka uzorka do izdavanja nalaza. Specificirano vrijeme od prihvata uzorka do izdavanja nalaza za kalij, INR i za troponin I iznosi 60 minuta, za leukocite 30 minuta. Prosječno vrijeme potrebno za analizu odabranih pretraga u minutama dobiveno je iz izvještajnog modula BioNET laboratorijskog informatičkog sustava a podaci za usporedbu sa drugim laboratorijima sa mrežne stranice IFCC Radne grupe Laboratorijske greške i sigurnost pacijenata ([www.ifcc-mqi.com](http://www.ifcc-mqi.com)).

**Rezultati:** U periodu od 1.1.2016.-31.12.2016. prosječno vrijeme izdavanja nalaza u našem laboratoriju za kalij, INR, leukocite i troponin iznosi redom 42, 41, 21 i 48 minuta a u periodu od 1.1.2017.- 30.6.2017. 44, 40, 21 i 47 minuta. U periodu od 1.1.2016.-31.12.2016. prosječno vrijeme izdavanja nalaza svih laboratorija unutar projekta IFCC-ovog modela indikatora kvalitete, koji su odabrali ovaj indikator za praćenje, iznosi za kalij, INR, leukocite i troponin redom 63, 48, 27 i 62 minute a u periodu od 1.1.2017.- 30.6.2017. 50, 56, 32 i 67 minuta.

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati pokazuju da je prosječno vrijeme izdavanja nalaza za odabrane pretrage unutar specificiranog vremena. Usporedba s ostalim laboratorijima ne pokazuje odstupanje. U budućnosti je potrebno nastaviti pratiti vlastite trendove i trendove na međunarodnoj razini.

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key processes in a laboratory is TAT (*Turnaround Time*). The goal is to follow TAT for some important and urgent tests (potassium, INR, troponin, leucocytes), periodic longitudinal self-assessment and comparison with other laboratories.

**Subjects and methods:** Turnaround time is defined as the usual amount of time between the time a specimen is received within the laboratory and the result is available. Specified time from sample receipt until the issuing of the test results for potassium, INR and troponin is 60 minutes, for leucocytes is 30 minutes. The average time needed to analyze the selected search in minutes was obtained from the reporting module BioNET Laboratory informatics systems and data for comparison with other laboratories from the web site of the IFCC work group Laboratory errors and patient safety ([www.ifcc-mqi.com](http://www.ifcc-mqi.com)).

**Results:** In the period from 01.01.2016. till 31.12.2016. the average time for issuing of the test results in our laboratory for potassium, INR, leucocytes and troponin were 42, 41, 21 and 48 minutes and in the period from 01.01.2017. till 30.06.2017. were 44, 40, 21 and 47 minutes. In the period from 01.01.2016. till 31.12.2016. the average time for issuing of the test results of all laboratories within the IFCC quality indicator model, which have chosen this tracking indicator are 63, 48, 27 and 62 minutes for potassium, INR, leucocytes and troponin and in the period from 01.01.2017. till 30.06.2017. are 50, 56, 32 and 67 minutes.

**Conclusion:** Our results show that the average time for issuing of the test results for selected tests are within specified time. Comparison with other laboratories does not show any deviation. In the future it is necessary to continue to keep track of our own trends and trends on the international level.

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**U-4 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Usporedba imunoturbidimetrijske i elektrokemiluminiscentne metode za određivanje prokalcitonina**

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**Uvod:** Postavljanje dijagnoze sepse u novorođenčoj populaciji predstavlja izazov, stoga je u kliničku praksu uz određivanje C-reaktivnog proteina uključeno i određivanje prokalcitonina (PCT) kao specifičnijeg biljega. Cilj ovoga rada bio je usporediti vrijednosti prokalcitonina dobivene imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom na lateks česticama s vrijednostima dobivenim elektrokemiluminiscentnom metodom (ECLIA).

**Ispitanici i metode:** Ispitivanje je obuhvatilo 32 uzorka seruma novorođenčadi, 23 uzorka u rasponu od 0,21 do 50,54 ng/mL i devet uzoraka u kojima je koncentracija PCT-a bila niža od donje granice linearnosti metode. Određivanje PCT-a provedeno je imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom na lateks česticama na biokemijskom analizatoru AU 680 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD) korištenjem Diazyme reagensa i elektrokemiluminiscentnom metodom na imunokemijskom analizatoru Cobas e411 (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Njemačka) korištenjem BRAHMS reagensa. Verifikacija obje metode provedena prema protokolu CLSI smjernica EP15-A2 zadovoljila je kriterije proizvođača. Dobiveni rezultati statistički su obrađeni MedCalc programom (Ostend, Belgija). Usporedivost metoda testirana je Passing-Bablok linearnom regresijom i Bland Altman analizom, te izračunom kappa koeficijenta prema graničnim vrijednostima ovisno o dobi novorođenčeta.

**Rezultati:** Passing-Bablok analizom dobivene vrijednosti (s pripadajućim 95% intervalima pouzdanosti) odsječka na osi y - 0,62 (- 0,82 do - 0,47), te nagiba pravca 1,03 (0,97 do 1,08), upućuju da postoji statistički značajna konstantna pogreška između ispitivanih metoda. Cusum test linearnosti pokazao je da nema značajnog odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P = 0,98$ ). Bland-Altmanova analiza pokazala je da imunoturbidimetrijska metoda podcjenjuje vrijednost prokalcitonina: prosječna razlika između imunoturbidimetrijske i elektrokemiluminiscentne metode iznosila je  $- 26,3$  (- 39,3 do - 13,2)  $\pm$  59,1%. Međutim,

**U-4 (Oral presentation)****Comparison of immunoturbidimetric and electrochemiluminescence immunoassay method for procalcitonin measurement**

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**Introduction:** Diagnosing neonatal sepsis is challenging, therefore along with C-reactive protein, procalcitonin (PCT) is often requested as a more specific marker. The aim of this study was to examine comparability of procalcitonin values determined by latex-enhanced immunoturbidimetric method and electrochemiluminescence immunoassay (ECLIA) method.

**Subjects and methods:** The study included 32 serum samples of neonates, 23 samples in the range of 0.23 to 50.54 ng/mL and nine samples with PCT concentration lower than the limit of quantification. Procalcitonin was measured by immunoturbidimetric method on latex particles on AU 680 biochemical analyzer (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA) using Diazyme reagent and electrochemiluminescence immunoassay method on Cobas e411 immunochemical analyzer (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany) using BRAHMS reagent. The verification of both methods conducted according to CLSI guideline EP15-A2 met the manufacturer's criteria. The obtained results were statistically analyzed with MedCalc statistical software (Ostend, Belgium). The comparability of the method was tested by Passing-Bablok linear regression and Bland Altman analysis, and by calculating the kappa-coefficient according to the limit values depending on the age of the neonate.

**Results:** Passing-Bablok analysis (with corresponding 95% confidence intervals) y-axis intercept - 0.62 (- 0.82 to - 0.47), slope 1.03 (0.97 to 1.08), indicated a statistically significant constant error between methods. The Cusum test showed no significant deviation from linearity ( $P = 0.98$ ). Bland-Altman analysis demonstrated that the immunoturbidimetric method underestimates PCT values: mean difference was  $- 26.3$  (- 39.3 to - 13.2)  $\pm$  59.1%. However, the obtained kappa coefficient  $\kappa = 0.87$  (0.70 to 1.00) showed strong agreement between methods.

dobiveni kappa koeficijent  $\kappa = 0,87$  (0,70 do 1,00) pokazao je snažno slaganje između ispitivanih metoda. **Zaključak:** Iako rezultati ovog istraživanja pokazuju da su metode usporedive, dokazano je postojanje konstantne razlike, odnosno rezultati dobiveni imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom niži su oko 26,3%. Preporučuje se korištenje iste metode i istog analizatora za praćenje pacijenata uz obaveznu napomenu o korištenoj metodi na nalazu.

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## U-5

### Verifikacija elektrokemiluminiscentne metode za određivanje interleukina-6 na imunoanalizatoru Roche Cobas e411

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**Uvod:** Interleukin-6 (IL-6) je pleiotropni citokin s brojnim funkcijama. Njegovo određivanje može pomoći u predviđanju tijeka akutnih i kroničnih upala u odraslih i djece. Cilj je bio evaluirati elektrokemijsku metodu (ECLIA) za određivanje IL-6 u serumu i plazmi na imunoanalizatoru Roche Cobas e411 (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany).

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacijski protokol je uključivao slijedeće parametre: izračun ponovljivosti, unutarlaboratorijske preciznosti te mjerne nesigurnosti korištenjem komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka u dvije koncentracijske razine, L1 = 40 pg/mL i L2 = 245 pg/mL u triplikatu tijekom 5 uzastopnih dana; provjeru donje granice detekcije (LoD, engl. *limit of detection*) i donje granice kvantifikacije (LoQ, engl. *limit of quantification*) deklariranih prema proizvođaču uzastopnim određivanjem IL-6 u uzorcima s vrlo niskom i niskom koncentracijom (N = 20 za LoD; N = 25 za LoQ). Provjerena je primjenjivost referentnog intervala za odrasle deklariranog prema proizvođaču na dječju populaciju dobi 6-8 godina određivanjem IL-6 u 20-oro zdrave djece.

**Conclusion:** Although the results show that methods are comparable, a constant difference was demonstrated, respectively the results obtained by the immunoturbidimetric method are lower about 26.3%. It is recommended that longitudinal patient monitoring should always be carried out using the same method on the same analyzer with a mandatory comment on the method used.

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## U-5

### Verification of interleukin-6 electrochemiluminescence method on Roche Cobas e411 immunoanalyzer

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**Introduction:** Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pleiotropic cytokine with a wide range of functions. Its determination can help in predicting the course of acute and chronic inflammation in adults and children. The aim was to evaluate the electrochemiluminescence method (ECLIA) for determination of IL-6 in serum and plasma on Roche Cobas e411 immunoanalyzer (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany).

**Materials and methods:** Verification protocol included following parameters: calculation of repeatability, intermediate precision and measurement uncertainty using commercial controls at two concentration levels (L1 = 40 pg/mL and L2 = 245 pg/mL) in triplicate for 5 consecutive days; checking for manufacturer's declared values for limit of detection (LoD) and limit of quantification (LoQ) by consecutive measurements (N = 20 for LoD; N = 25 for LoQ) in samples with very low and low concentrations of IL-6, respectively. We evaluated transferability of the expected values from adult reference range declared by the manufacturer to children population aged 6-8 years by determining of IL-6 levels in 20 healthy children.

**Rezultati:** Postignuti koeficijenti varijacije (CV%) su 2,1% (L1) i 1,6% (L2) za ponovljivost (deklarirano od proizvođača: 1,4% za obje razine); 2,1% (L1) i 2,0% (L2) za unutarlaboratorijsku preciznost (deklaracija proizvođača L1 = 2,7% i L2 = 2,9%), te 4% za mjernu nesigurnost (deklaracija proizvođača nije navedena). LoD je bila 2,6 pg/ml (deklaracija proizvođača 1,5 pg /mL), a LoQ 3,0 pg/ml (kriterij prihvatljivosti je bio totalna dozvoljena greška uz  $CV \leq 29,6\%$ ). Svih 20 određivanja koncentracije IL-6 u zdrave djece je bilo ispod referentne granice za odraslu populaciju ( $< 7\text{pg/mL}$ ), medijan 1,7 pg/mL (95%-tni interval pouzdanosti 1,50 - 2,27).

**Zaključak:** Test za određivanje koncentracije IL-6 na imunoanalizatoru Roche Cobas e411 pokazao je prihvatljive karakteristike s obzirom na unutarlaboratorijsku preciznost, dok se ponovljivost pokazala malo viša u odnosu na kriterije proizvođača. Provjera donje granice detekcije i kvantifikacije pokazala je zadovoljavajuću funkcionalnu osjetljivost testa. Rezultati su pokazali da se deklarirani referentni interval za odrasle može primijeniti i na dječju populaciju u dobi 6-8 godina.

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## U-6

### Smanjivanje potrošnje laboratorija uvođenjem računskog određivanja malih čestica LDL-kolesterola – Preliminarni rezultati

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**Uvod:** Male čestice LDL-kolesterola (sd.LDL-K) prema literaturnim navodima smatraju se glavnim indikatorom aterosklerotskih promjena na lumenu žila te time predstavljaju važan prediktivni čimbenik za štetne događaje poput moždanog udara i infarkta srca. Stoga bi rutinsko određivanje malih čestica LDL-kolesterola bilo iznimno korisno. No visoka cijena tako specifičnog testa onemogućava takav pristup određivanju. Cilj je bio ispitati ovisnost svih

**Results:** Coefficients of variation (CV%) were 2.1% (L1) and 1.6% (L2) for repeatability (manufacturer's claim: 1.4% for both levels); 2.1% (L1) and 2.0% (L2) for intermediate precision (manufacturer's claim L1 = 2.7%) and L2 = 2.9%), and 4.0% for measurement uncertainty (manufacturer's criterion is not declared). LoD was 2.60 pg/mL (manufacturer's claim 1.5 pg/mL) and LoQ was 3.0 pg/ml (criterion was total allowable error of  $CV \leq 29.6\%$ ). All the 20 measurements of IL-6 levels in healthy children were below reference limit for adult population ( $< 7\text{pg/mL}$ ) with median 1.7 pg/mL (95% confidence interval 1.50 - 2.27).

**Conclusion:** Roche Cobas e411 IL-6 assay showed acceptable performances in terms of intermediate imprecision while repeatability was slightly higher compared to the manufacturer's criteria. Checking for LoD and LoQ showed satisfactory functional sensitivity. The results showed that declared reference values for adults could also be applicable to children population aged 6-8 yrs.

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## U-6

### Reducing expenses of laboratories by introducing calculative determination of small particles of LDL cholesterol - Preliminary results

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**Introduction:** According to the literature, small particles of LDL-cholesterol (sd.LDL-K) are considered as main indicator of atherosclerotic changes in the lumen of blood vessels. Therefore it is an important predictive factor for adverse events, such as stroke or heart attack. Therefore, routine determination of small particles of LDL-cholesterol would be extremely helpful. However, high expenses of such a specific test precludes such determination approach.

parametara lipidograma teodrediti formulu za izračun sd.LDL-K *stepwise* višestrukom regresijskom analizom te provjeriti njenu primjenjivost usporedbom s analitički dobivenim vrijednostima sd.LDL-K.

**Ispitanici i metode:** Ispitivanje je provedeno na 93 ispitanika kojima su određeni kolesterol (K), trigliceridi (TG), HDL-kolesterol (HDL-K), direktni LDL-kolesterol (dir.LDL-K) i računski LDL-kolesterol (rač.LDL-K) na analizatoru AU680 BeckmanCoulter i sd.LDL-K na analizatoru AU400 BeckmanCoulter. Uzorkovanje krvi je provedeno između 7 i 10 sati ujutro uz pravilnu pripremu ispitanika. Dobivene vrijednosti su obrađene *stepwise* višestrukom regresijskom analizom, a usporedba računskih i analitički dobivenih vrijednosti sd.LDL-K Passing-Bablok i Bland-Altman analizom.

**Rezultati:** Napravljena je višestruka regresijska analiza sa sd.LDL-K kao ovisnom varijablom i ostalim određenim parametrima kao neovisnim varijablama. Identificirani su parametri kolesterol, HDL-kolesterol te računski LDL-kolesterol kao signifikantne varijable ( $P < 0,001$ ;  $R^2 = 0,734$ ) uz standardnu grešku procjene 0,210 mmol/L. Formula za izračun malih čestica LDL-kolesterola je:  $sd.LDL-K = 0,6902 \times [K] - 0,5892 \times [HDL-K] - 0,4512 \times [rač.LDL-K] - 0,5673$ . Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom potvrđena je usporedivost računskih i analitički dobivenih vrijednosti sd.LDL-K.

**Zaključak:** Računska mogućnost određivanja sd.LDL-K uvelike bi doprinjela ekonomičnosti i unaprijedila dijagnostiku lipidnog statusa pacijenata. No potrebno je ispitivanje na mnogo većem broju ispitanika.

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Objective was to examine interdependence of all lipidogram parameters and to determine calculation formula of sd.LDL-K, by using stepwise multiple regression analysis, and to verify applicability of the formula by comparing it to analytically obtained values of sd.LDL-K.

**Subjects and methods:** 93 subjects participated in the examination and following values were determined: cholesterol (K), triglycerides (TG), HDL-cholesterol (HDL-K), direct LDL-cholesterol (dir.LDL-K) and calculative LDL-cholesterol (calc.LDL-K) using analyser AU680 Beckman Coulter and sd.LDL-K using analyser AU400 Beckman Coulter. Blood sampling was carried out between 7.00 am -10.00 am after proper preparation. The obtained values were processed by stepwise multiple regression analysis. Passing-Bablok and Bland-Altman analysis were applied to compare calculative values and analytically obtained values of sd.LDL-K.

**Results:** Multiple regression analysis with sd.LDL-K as dependent variable and other determined parameters as independent variables was used. The following parameters have been identified: cholesterol, HDL-K and calc.LDL-K as significant variables ( $P < 0,001$ ;  $R^2 = 0,734$ ) with a standard error of 0,210 mmol/L. Small particles of LDL-cholesterol calculation formula is:  $sd.LDL-K = 0,6902 \times [K] - 0,5892 \times [HDL-K] - 0,4512 \times [calc.LDL-K] - 0,5673$ . Passing-Bablok regression analysis confirmed comparability of the calculative values and analytically obtained values of sd.LDL-K.

**Conclusion:** The possibility of calculative determination of sd. LDL-K would largely contribute to economy and would improve the patients' lipid status diagnostics. However, the examination would have to be carried out at much larger number of subjects.

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