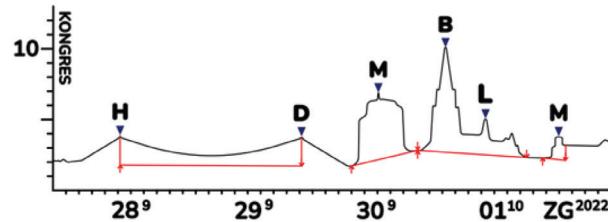


10. KONGRES  
HRVATSKOG DRUŠTVA  
ZA MEDICINSKU BIOKEMIJU  
I LABORATORIJSKU MEDICINU  
S MEĐUNARODNIM SUDJELOVANJEM



## U OVOM BROJU

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

28. rujna – 1. listopada 2022.  
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Society of Medical Biochemistry  
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with international participation

28 September – 1 October 2022  
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ABSTRACT BOOK



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

U organizaciji Podružnice Slavonije i Baranje

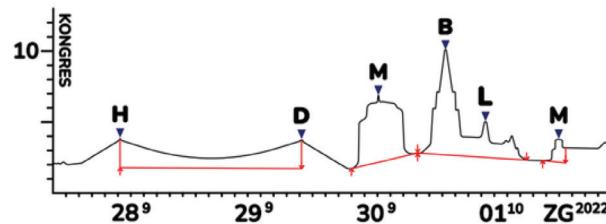
Zagreb, Hrvatska, 28. rujna – 1. listopada 2022.

## **10th Congress of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine with international participation**

Organized by Slavonija and Baranja branch

Zagreb, Croatia, 28 September – 1 October 2022

**10. KONGRES  
HRVATSKOG DRUŠTVA  
ZA MEDICINSKU BIOKEMIJU  
I LABORATORIJSKU MEDICINU  
S MEĐUNARODNIM SUDJELOVANJEM**



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PKS-1

## 10 najčešćih pogrešaka prilikom pisanja znanstvenog rada

Marijana Miler

Klinički zavod za kemiju, Klinički bolnički centar Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb, Hrvatska

Objava rezultata znanstvenog istraživanja i vidljivost široj znanstvenoj zajednici konačni su cilj svakom znanstveniku. Imati dobru temu i hipotezu te odlične rezultate istraživanja samo je dobar početak za pisanje znanstvenog članka. Nažalost, ponekad navedeno nije dovoljno kako bi se znanstveni rad objavio u željenom časopisu. Postoje općenita pravila za pisanje znanstvenog rada iz kojih proizlaze i najčešće pogreške, odnosno što treba izbjegavati prilikom pisanja, kako bi članak bio prihvativljiv urednicima, recenzentima i, na kraju, čitateljima odnosno ostalim znanstvenicima.

Gotovo svaki znanstveni časopis sadrži smjernice s ključnim informacijama za pisanje znanstvenog članka kako bi se autorima olakšalo pisanje i objava u odgovarajućem časopisu.

Urednici časopisa i recenzenti procjenjuju znanstveno istraživanje te očekuju nove, još neobjavljene rezultate i zaključke. Jedna od ključnih pogrešaka na samom početku, prilikom stvaranja ideje istraživanja i postavljanja hipoteze, je propustiti pronaći i kritički pregledati dostupnu znanstvenu literaturu sa sličnom ili istom temom, a posebice radove objavljene u posljednjih nekoliko godina.

Svako izvorno istraživanje treba slijediti strukturu znanstvenog rada. Strukturirani znanstveni rad koji ima uvod, materijale i metode, rezultate, raspravu i zaključak, lako se razumije te se može procijeniti kvaliteta istraživanja i dobivenih rezultata.

Pisanje svakog pojedinog dijela znanstvenog rada ima svoja pravila odnosno moguće pogreške koje autor treba izbjegavati želi li jednostavnije objaviti svoj članak. Uvod rada ne smije biti predugačak, bez osvrta na prethodna istraživanja i naglašavanja noviteta trenutnog istraživanja. U izvornom istraživanju u uvodu je potrebno navesti hipotezu te na kraju ciljeve istraživanja.

Istraživanje bez jasno opisanih detalja o vremenu i mjestu provedenog istraživanja, kriterija uključenja

PCS-1

## 10 most common mistakes when writing a scientific paper

Marijana Miler

Department of Clinical Chemistry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia

Publication of the scientific research results and visibility to the wider scientific community is the ultimate goal of every scientist. Having a good hypothesis and excellent research results is a good start for writing a scientific article. Unfortunately, sometimes the above is not enough for the scientific paper to be published in the desired journal. There are general rules for writing a scientific paper, from which arise the most common mistakes that should be avoided to make the scientific paper acceptable to editors, reviewers and, finally, other scientists.

Almost every scientific journal contains guidelines with key points for writing to ease the authors writing and publishing the paper in the appropriate journal.

Journal editors evaluate scientific research due to the novelty of results and hypotheses. One of the key mistakes at the start of research is the failure to find and critically review the available scientific literature on a similar topic, especially recently published articles.

Original research should follow the structure of a scientific paper. A structured scientific paper has an introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and conclusion. With all parts, the paper is easier to understand and the quality of the research and obtained results can be assessed.

Writing every part of a scientific paper has its own rules and possible mistakes that the author should avoid publishing the article. A too long introduction, without referring to previous research and emphasizing the novelty of the current research is one of the mistakes an author can do. In the original research, the hypothesis and objectives should be stated at the end of the introduction.

Research should have clearly described settings, time and place of the conducted research, all criteria for inclusion and exclusion of patients, details about methods used and statistical analysis. Otherwise, it

i isključenja ispitanika, detaljno opisanih podataka o ispitanicima, vrsti i karakteristikama metoda te korištenih statističkih metoda, nije moguće ponoviti istraživanje kao niti procijeniti relevantnost dobivenih rezultata.

Kako bi rezultati bili razumljivi, trebaju slijediti strukturu opisanu u materijalima i metodama. Potrebno je izbjegavati nepregledne tablice s previše podataka, a rezultate treba prikazati samo u jednom obliku, bez ponavljanja istih rezultata u različitim oblicima (tekstu, tablicama i slikama). Kvaliteta slika i grafova treba biti primjerena.

Uz rezultate, rasprava je ključan dio znanstvenog rada. Prilikom pisanja rasprave može se načiniti još nekoliko pogrešaka koji značajno umanjuju kvalitetu i relevantnost istraživanja. Rasprava je mjesto gdje se rezultati trenutnog istraživanja interpretiraju i komentiraju u odnosu na prethodna istraživanja. Za razliku od uvoda, rasprava ne smije biti prekratka, a ključno je obrazložiti moguća ograničenja i snage istraživanja.

Kada su svi navedeni dijelovi napisani, posebna pažnja treba se posvetiti naslovu rada i sažetku. Naslov i sažetak su prvi dio znanstvenog rada kojeg procjenjuju urednik časopisa i recenzenti. Naslov ne smije biti prekratak ili nejasan, ali predug i previše detaljan naslov također može otežati razumijevanje hipoteze, rezultata i zaključaka rada. U idealnom slučaju, naslov sažima glavnu temu rada te ključne rezultate i zaključak. Sažetak je kratki pregled znanstvenog rada sa strukturom koja slijedi znanstveni rad te ima navedene sve ključne dijelove: kratki uvod i ciljeve, korištene metode, najvažnije rezultate te zaključke koje mogu primjeniti drugi znanstvenici za svoja istraživanja.

I citiranje literature u članku može biti pogrešno. Premašilo literaturnih navoda može upućivati na nedostatno istraživanje teme prije pisanja. S druge strane, citiranjem previše već objavljenih radova, upitna je izvornost provedenog istraživanja. Potrebno je izbjegavati citiranje članaka koji su zastarjeli te je nepisano pravilo da većina (čak 85%) citata ne smije biti starija od 5 do 10 godina. Stil citiranja treba provjeriti za pojedini časopis te prema njemu ujednačiti napisanu literaturu kroz cijeli rad.

Osim navedenog, pogriješiti se može i u odabiru časopisa u koji će se napisani članak poslati.

Nedostatak popratnih dokumenata kao što su pismo uredniku, izjave o mogućem sukobu interesa, autor-

cannot be repeated or the relevance to the broader scientific community could be assessed.

To understand results, they should follow the structure of Materials and methods. Too big tables with a great number of unnecessary data should be avoided. The results should be presented only in one form, without repeating the same results in different forms (text, tables and images). The quality of images and graphs should be adequate.

Along with the results, the discussion is a key part of the scientific paper. Therefore, in the discussion several more mistakes can be made to significantly reduce the quality and relevance of the research. In the discussion, results should be interpreted according to previously published articles. Opposite to the introduction, the discussion could be longer, with clearly defined possible limitations and strengths of the research.

When all the above-mentioned requirements are fulfilled, special attention should be paid to the title of the paper and the summary. The editors and reviewers of the scientific journal firstly assessed the scientific paper by title and abstract. The title should not be too short or vague. Additionally, a too long or too detailed title can also be difficult to understand. Ideally, the title summarizes the main topic of the paper, key results and conclusion. An abstract is a summary of the scientific work and should be structured and follow all crucial parts of the article.

One of the mistakes is citing references. Too little literature refers to not enough research on the topic. On the other hand, too many references are questionable for research originality. Outdated references should be avoided. The unspoken rule is that most (even 85%) of cited literature should not be older than 5 to 10 years. Journal citation style should be checked and all references adjusted and unified. A mistake can be made in choosing the right scientific journal for the submission of a written paper.

The lack of additional documents such as a letter to the editor, declarations of possible conflict of interest or authorship statement, may not be crucial at the beginning of the article writing process, but are inevitable for submission to journal and should be carefully prepared.

Last, but not least, it is necessary to proofread the paper and check spelling, grammar and style. If necessary, consult with a native speaker. Too long sentences, a lot of typographical errors and unex-

stvu i slični, možda nisu ključni na početku procesa pisanja znanstvenog rada, ali su svakako neizbjegljivi prilikom prijave u časopis te ih je potrebno s pažnjom pripremiti.

Na samom kraju, ali ne manje važno od prethodnih pogrešaka, potrebno je pravopisno, gramatički i stilski provjeriti napisan rad te se o napisanom, po potrebi, konzultirati s izvornim govornikom ili lektorom. Rad s preugrim rečenicama, s puno pravopisnih pogrešaka ili bez objašnjenih kratica koje su korištene, može odavati dojam neurednosti i pomanjkanja truda ili neznanja autora.

U zadnjih nekoliko godina broj znanstvenih radova i časopisa bilježi neprekidan porast. U časopisima s visokim čimbenikom odjeka objavi se samo 10% od prijavljenih članaka. Prema tome, nužno je osigurati kvalitetu napisanog rada, slijediti pravila za pisanje te izbjegavati pogreške.

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plained abbreviations can be a sign of lack of effort or ignorance of the author.

In the last few years, the number of scientific papers and journals has been continuously increasing. Only 10% of submitted papers are published in journals with a high impact factor. Therefore, to publish in appropriate scientific journals, it is necessary to provide papers of high quality by following the rules and avoiding all listed mistakes.

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**PKS-2****(Zlo)upotreba statistike u znanstvenom objavljivanju**

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Statistička obrada podataka omogućuje sažimanje rezultata istraživanja, utvrđivanje stupnja povezanosti podataka ili postojanje razlike među njima i preduvjet je donošenja zaključka o ispitivanoj znanstvenoj hipotezi. Neadekvatna upotreba statističkih metoda ozbiljan je etički problem koji može dovesti do pogrešnih zaključaka, a učinak na zdravlje bolesnika te na financijsko opterećenje zdravstvenog sustava može biti poguban. Iako se većina pogrešaka događa zbog nedovoljnog poznavanja statističkih postupaka, ne može se isključiti i namjerna (zlo)upotreba neadekvatnih statističkih metoda u svrhu manipulacije dobivenim rezultatima. Objavljena su istraživanja koja su pokazala da znanstveni članci koji su prošli potpun recenzijski postupak često mogu sadržavati neku od statističkih pogreški. U današnje je vrijeme diseminacija objavljenih rezultata brza i globalna, a retrakcija članaka često ne uspije postići odgovarajući učinak. Urednici znanstvenih časopisa stoga trebaju obratiti posebnu pozornost na evaluaciju statističkih metoda pa, prepoznajući važnost ovog problema, časopisi nerijetko imaju i zasebne statističke urednike. Najčešće statističke pogreške u znanstvenim radovima mogu se svrstati u pogreške prikaza podataka, odabira statističkog testa, interpretacije rezultata statističkog testa te zaključivanja o testiranoj znanstvenoj hipotezi.

Iako se na prvi pogled čini da je pogreška prikaza podataka relativno bezazlena, neadekvatan odabir mjera središnjice i rasapa, kako za kvantitativne tako i za kvalitativne podatke, može dovesti do predmenzioniranja veličine skupina i izmjerenih veličina. Primjerice, korištenje postotaka prilikom prikaza malih skupina, prikazivanje izmjerenih veličina bez pripadajućih intervala pouzdanosti ili s većom preciznošću od one koja je prisutna tijekom mjerenja, korištenje aritmetičke sredine i standardne devijacije za prikaz podataka koji ne slijede normalnu distribuciju. Osim kod brojčanog prikaza podataka,

**PCS-2****(Mis)use of statistics in scientific publishing**

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Statistical analysis enables compression of scientific data, testing of statistically significant differences or associations and is prerequisite in concluding on scientific hypothesis. Inadequate use of statistical methods is a serious ethical issue that can lead to erroneous conclusions and reflect on patients' health, while providing enormous financial burden on the healthcare system in general. Lack of adequate knowledge causes statistical errors most commonly; however, we cannot exclude intentional data manipulation in order to skew obtained results. There is evidence in literature that statistical errors are present in published scientific articles, even though they fully completed editorial and review procedure. Nowadays, availability of published results is fast and global, thus article retraction is not accomplishing expected effect. Scientific paper editors, therefore, need to pay special attention to evaluation and assessment of statistical methods and even appoint scientific editors to the journal.

The most common statistical errors can be result of inadequate data presentation, selection of statistical test, interpretation of test results or conclusion on tested scientific hypothesis.

Errors in data presentation might seem minor, but inadequate selection of measures of central tendency and dispersion for qualitative and quantitative data can lead to overestimating of both, sample size and measured variables. Some of commonly found examples include using percentages in small samples, presenting measured variables without corresponding confidence intervals, using larger precision in data presentation than in measurement or using mean and standard deviation for presenting variables without normal distribution. Graphical presentation can also emphasize non-existing or minimal differences between measured variables.

neadekvatni grafički prikazi mogu prividno naglasiti nepostojeće ili minimalne razlike među skupinama. Statistički testovi za ispitivanje povezanosti ili razlike među skupinama imaju preduvjetne koji moraju biti zadovoljeni za njihovo korištenje. Odabir testa ovisi o broju ispitanika, broju skupina, normalnosti razdiobe, vrsti podataka, međusobnom odnosu podataka (linearnost), homogenosti varijanci i sl. Ukoliko se tijekom odabira testa zanemari neki od navedenih čimbenika, dobiveni rezultati mogu biti pogrešni (utvrđena statistički značajna razlika tamo gdje ona nije prisutna ili obratno).

Kod interpretacije rezultata statističkog testa često je moguće vidjeti da se utvrđuju statistički značajne razlike koje statističkom obradom nisu dokazane. Primjerice, postojanje statistički značajne razlike utvrđene testom za ispitivanje razlike između više od dviju skupina (ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallisov test, kvadrat test) govori samo o tome da je razlika prisutna između nekih od testiranih skupina. Utvrđivanje međusobnog odnosa testiranih skupina i statistički značajnih razlika među njima moguće je jedino upotreboom *post-hoc* testova. Dodatno, „rubni“ rezultati se često interpretiraju kao statistički značajni iako se radi o dobivenoj P vrijednosti većoj od utvrđene razine značajnosti testa. Česta je i pogreška interpretacije rezultata korelacije kada se visoki koeficijent korelacije bez statističke značajnosti interpretira kao postojanje povezanosti, kao i niski koeficijent korelacije uz utvrđenu statističku značajnost.

Pogreške zaključivanja najčešće su u poopćavanju rezultata izvan okvira testirane populacije kao i utvrđivanje kauzalne veze u istraživanjima koja nisu intervencijska. Čest je primjer i zaključivanje o postojanju razlike među prikazanim podacima bez usporedbe statističkog testa.

Posljedice pogrešne upotrebe statističkih metoda mogu biti kratkoročne i dugoročne. Osim znatnog finansijskog opterećenja zdravstvenog i znanstvenog sustava koje generira repliciranje neadekvatnih istraživanja, najveća opasnost leži u uključivanju ovih podataka u meta-analize, koje su često podloga za izradu algoritama i preporuka u sklopu medicine temeljene na dokazima. Svi sudionici uključeni u znanstveno objavljivanje, od autora, recenzentata do urednika časopisa i znanstvene javnosti trebaju stoga posvetiti posebnu pozornost u procjeni ispravne upotrebe statističkih metoda.

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Statistical tests for evaluating differences or associations have strict criteria for their usage. Test selection depends on sample size, number of groups, normality of variables, type of data, relation between data, homogeneity of variances, etc. If not all prerequisites are fulfilled, test might generate erroneous result (finding statistical difference where there is none or vice versa).

When interpreting test results, authors sometimes proclaim statistically significant differences even though statistical analysis did not confirm such results. Tests for determining differences between more than two groups of data (ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis test, chi-square test) can detect only that statistically significant difference exists somewhere between groups. *Post-hoc* test is the only method that can evaluate presence of differences between tested groups. Moreover, authors sometimes interpret borderline results as statistically significant, even though obtained P value is higher than predefined level of significance. When interpreting results of correlation analysis, authors often claim association based on high correlation coefficient alone, while there is no confirmation of statistical significance. On the other hand, statistically significant, but low correlation coefficient can inaccurately be interpreted as existence of association.

The most common mistakes in concluding are generalization of obtained results beyond the tested population and establishing of causality outside of intervention studies. Additionally, authors sometimes conclude on differences between data without any statistical testing.

Generally, usage of inadequate statistical methods can generate short-term and long-term consequences. Beside substantial financial waste generated by replicating defective studies, perhaps the main danger lies in including such results in meta-analyses that serve as foundation for evidence-based generated recommendations and algorithms. It is therefore responsibility of all stakeholders in scientific publishing, from authors, reviewers, editors to scientific community to raise awareness on proper use of statistical methods.

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**PKS-3****Kakve veze ima salama sa znanosću?**

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Istraživanja u medicinskim znanostima su temelj novih spoznaja te mogu imati izravan utjecaj na zdravlje i život čovjeka, stoga je važno sva istraživanja u medicini, i znanosti općenito, osmišljati, provoditi i izvještavati poštujući načela znanstveno-istraživačke čestitosti. Najteže povrede znanstveno-istraživačke čestitosti su prepravljanje rezultata, izmišljanje rezultata i plagiranje. Plagiranje u svojim različitim oblicima je najučestaliji oblik znanstvenog nepoštenja, a obzirom na postojeće alate za prepoznavanje plagiranja lakše se otkriva od preostala dva oblika. Međutim, svi se oblici plagiranja ne mogu jednako lako otkriti niti procijeniti. Dok se dvostrukе publikacije neupitno smatraju povredom čestitosti, oblik dvostrukе publikacije nazvan salama publikacija zahtjeva detaljniju procjenu ozbiljnosti. Naime, dvostruka publikacija je svaka publikacija koja se potpuno ili u značajnom udjelu preklapa s već objavljenom publikacijom, bez obzira radi li se o publikaciji istih autora (auto-plagijat) ili različitih autora (plagijat). Salama publikacija je slučaj kada se rezultati prikupljeni u jednom istraživanju djelomično objave u dvije ili više publikacije. Salama publikacije ne moraju imati očito preklapanje teksta ili rezultata i zbog toga se teže otkrivaju. Istraživanja učestalosti dvostrukih publikacija govore kako je od 8-14% objavljenih publikacija dvostruko ovisno o znanstvenom području. Učestalost salama publikacija vjerojatno je i veća od navedene zbog nepostojanja izravnog preklapanja sadržaja publikacija i neujednačenih stavova onih koji sudjeluju u obradi rukopisa, recenzentima i urednika. Zbog toga salama publikacije često budu neprepoznate i u konačnici odobrene publikacije. Bez obzira što salama publikacija nije najteža povreda znanstveno-istraživačke čestitosti, postoje argumentirani razlozi zašto ovakva praksa nije dozvoljena. Najvažniji razlog koji može imati ozbiljne posljedice na ljudsko zdravlje je utjecaj na iskrivljenje podataka u me-

**PCS-3****What does salami have to do with science?**

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Research is the basis for new knowledge and can have a direct impact on people's health and lives. Therefore, it is important to plan, conduct, and report research in medicine and in general science according to the principles of research integrity. The most serious violations of the research integrity are falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism. Plagiarism in its various forms is the most common form, and given the tools available to detect plagiarism, it is easier to detect. Not all forms of plagiarism are equally easy to detect or assess. While duplicate publication is undoubtedly considered a violation of integrity, a form of duplicate publication known as salami publication requires a more precise assessment of severity. Duplicate publication is any publication that overlaps completely or to a significant extent with a previously published article, regardless of whether it is a publication by the same author (autoplagiarism) or different authors (plagiarism). A salami publication occurs when the results collected in single research are partially published in two or more publications. Salami publications do not have obvious text or results overlap and are more difficult to detect. Frequency of duplicate publication, depending on the scientific field, is 8-14% of published papers. The frequency of salami publications is probably even higher than indicated because of the lack of direct content overlap and different attitudes of those involved in manuscript processing, reviewers, and editors. For this reason, salami publications are often unrecognized and approved publications. Salami publication is not the most serious violation of the research integrity, but there are reasons why this practice is not permissible. The most important reason, which may have serious consequences on human health, is the impact on data bias in meta-analyses and systematic reviews. When the same data are used twice in the calculation, it leads to an incorrect conclusion and

ta-analizi i sustavnom pregledu. Ukoliko se isti podaci dva puta uključe u izračun posljedično se dolazi do pogrešnog zaključka te izrade neodgovarajućih medicinskih smjernica i stručnih preporuka. Drugi je razlog nepotrebno opterećenje cijelokupnog uredničkog procesa zbog neopravdanih višestrukih publikacija. Urednici moraju uložiti više vremena na analizu opravdanosti ovakve publikacije i uložiti višestruke resurse za uredničku obradu. Nadalje, recenzentski postupak većinom je neplaćeni posao u kojem stručnjak ulaže svoje vrijeme i znanje kako bi pomogao široj znanstvenoj zajednici. Cjepkanjem podataka na više publikacija iskorištava se ova dobromjerena praksa. U slučaju cjepkanja rezultata na više publikacija često se izgubi šira slika cijelog istraživanja čime se gubi njegov smisao, a čitatelji su opterećeni pretraživanjem velikog broja publikacija u potrazi za konačnim odgovorom. Osim toga, druga i svaka sljedeća publikacija predstavlja i kršenje autorskih prava koja pripadaju časopisu koji je objavio prvi članak iz serije salama publikacija. Treći razlog zašto salama publikacije nisu opravdane jest nerealno povećanje broja publikacija nekog autora. Okruženje u kojem se znanstvenike potiče na što veći broj objavljenih radova dovodi do neetičnih postupaka poput cjepkanja rezultata jedinstvene studije u smislu stvaranja što većeg broja objavljivih rezultata. Na taj način salama publikacije donose nezasluženu korist autoru i prividno povećavaju njegovu produktivnost.

Salama publikaciju nije jednostavno otkriti, ali postoje neke ključne značajke koje mogu uputiti urednika, recenzenta ili čitatelja na detaljnije istraživanje u smislu razjašnjenja sumnje. Kriteriji za postavljanje sumnje na salama publikaciju su: slična znanstvena hipoteza ili cilj istraživanja, slična skupina ispitanika, ista ili slična metodologija, isto mjesto i vrijeme provođenja istraživanja ili isti projekt, isti ili djelomično podudarni rezultati, djelomično isti autori, nova publikacija ne citira već objavljenu. Svaku sumnju na salama publikaciju potrebno je dodatno istražiti jer postoje i slučajevi kada nova publikacija može biti opravdana. Primjerice, velike epidemiološke studije ponekad nije moguće jasno prikazati u jednoj publikaciji pogotovo ako su podaci relevantni za različitu populaciju čitatelja. Zatim studije koje prate kohortu pacijenata kroz duže vremensko razdoblje kada je moguće novu publikaciju objaviti dopunjениm rezultatima koji donose značajne novosti. Nadalje, stručne preporuke i smjernice moguće je objaviti u više

the production of inappropriate medical guidelines and professional recommendations. Another reason is the unnecessary burden of unwarranted multiple publications on the entire editorial process. Editors must invest more time in analysing the justification of such publication and spend resources on editorial processing. In addition, the peer review process is usually an unpaid effort in which an expert invests the time and knowledge to help the broader scientific community. Splitting data across multiple publications exploits this well-intentioned practice. When results are split across multiple publications, the big picture of the entire research is often lost, and readers must sift through many publications in search of the final answer. Also, each subsequent publication is an infringement of the journal's copyright that published the first article in the salami publication series. The third reason why salami publications are not justified is an unrealistic increase in the number of publications by an author. Scientists are encouraged to publish as many papers as possible which can lead to unethical practices such as splitting the results of a single study to obtain as many publishable results as possible. Salami publications give the author an undeserved credit and seemingly increase productivity.

A salami publication is not easy to detect, but there are some key characteristics that can lead an editor, reviewer, or reader to investigate it more closely. The criteria for suspecting a salami publication are: similar scientific hypothesis or research objective, similar subjects, same or similar methodology, same place and time of the research or the same project, same or partially consistent results, partially same authors, new publication does not cite previous one. Any suspicion of a salami publication must be investigated further because there are also cases in which a new publication may be warranted. For example, when it is not possible to present large epidemiologic studies in a single publication, especially if the data are relevant to a different readership. In follow-up studies it is possible to publish a new article with supplemented results that provide important news. Expert recommendations and guidelines can be published in multiple journals or even translated into other languages. Regardless of the justification, authors must clearly present all relevant facts and their intentions to the editors. Mere mention of previously published work in the reference section is not

časopisa ili objaviti prijevode na druge jezike. Bez obzira a opravdanost, autori moraju jasno navesti sve relevantne činjenice i svoje namjere urednicima kako bi isti mogli procijeniti opravdanost nove publikacije. Samo navođenje prethodno objavljenog rada u popisu literature nije dovoljno već je potrebno u radu jasno navesti koji su rezultati već objavljeni te istaknuti novosti koje donosi nova publikacija. Svaki slučaj salama publikacije zahtjeva individualnu projencu urednika koji nerijetko radi razjašnjenja kontaktira autora. U rješavanju spornih slučajeva urednicima su dostupne smjernice svjetskih udruga za promicanje znanstveno-istraživačke čestitosti, ali konačna odluka i odgovornost je na uredniku.

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sufficient. The paper must clearly state what results have already been published and point out the novelty that the new publication brings. Each case of salami publication requires an individual assessment by the editor, who often contacts the author for clarification. In resolving contentious cases, editors can refer to the guidelines of the worldwide associations promoting the research integrity, but the final decision and responsibility rests with the editor.

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**PKS-4****Gdje objaviti svoj rad?**

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Iako u području laboratorijske medicine postoje etablirani znanstveni časopisi u kategoriji medicinske tehnologije, zbog značajne interdisciplinarnosti često je prikladno rad objaviti u časopisu koji je opredijeljen za određeno polje medicine. Stoga je potrebno napraviti pretraživanje i selekciju časopisa prema određenim kriterijima. Vjerojatno je najlakši i najprikladniji način pronaleta časopisa popis referenci radova koje citirate ili sugestije članaka slične tematike tijekom pregleda literature u znanstvenim bazama (npr. Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, PubMed, itd.). Međutim, može se koristiti neki od online alata za prepoznavanje potencijalnih časopisa prema sažetu ili naslovu vašeg rada (npr. Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE), Elsevier Journal Finder, EndNote Match, i drugi). Neovisno što ste odlučili, prilikom pretraživanja i odabira časopisa treba imati na umu nekoliko značajki časopisa kako bi izbjegli nepotrebno trošenje resursa (bilo vremena ili financija) te da je rad u konačnici dostupan široj znanstvenoj i stručnoj zajednici, ali i kako bi pridonio vašoj većoj prepoznatljivosti.

Određene organizacije koje finansiraju istraživanja radi šire diseminacije rezultata podupiru (primjerice Hrvatska zaklada za znanost, HRZZ) ili čak uvjetuju (npr. Horizon Europe) objavu radova u časopisima s otvorenim pristupom (engl. *open access*, OA). Članci u OA časopisima više se citiraju, prvenstveno jer krajnji korisnik nema financijski trošak, ali zato autori često plaćaju vrlo visoke iznose za pripremu radova za objavu (engl. *article processing charges*, APC), osim ako časopis nema druge izvore financiranja. Iz navedenih razloga dobro je krenuti u selekciju časopisa ovisno o dostupnosti sadržaja pa tako imamo časopise sa sistemom pretplate i OA časopise, ali postoje i hibridni sistemi gdje autor odlučuje kako će njegov rad biti dostupan. Prikladna baza za tu pretragu je Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) jer provodi rigoroznu selekciju OA časopisa prije indeksiranja i u pretraživanju ima opciju filtriranja prema postojanju APC-a. U slučaju odluke o objavi u OA časopi-

**PCS-4****Where to submit my paper?**

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Although there are established scientific journals in the field of laboratory medicine in the category of medical technology, due to the significant interdisciplinary nature of this field, it is often appropriate to publish in a journal dedicated to a specific medical field. Therefore, it is necessary to perform a search and selection of journals according to certain criteria. Probably the easiest and most convenient way to find a journal is the reference list of the papers you are citing or the suggestions of similar-topic articles when browsing the scientific databases (e.g. Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, PubMed, etc.). However, one can use one of the online tools to identify journals based on the abstract or title of your paper (e.g. Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE), Elsevier Journal Finder, EndNote Match, and others). Regardless of what you decide, when searching and choosing journals, you should keep in mind a few important journals' characteristics to avoid unnecessary spending of resources (either time or finances) and that your work is ultimately available to the wider scientific and professional community, but also to contribute to your greater recognition.

Certain organizations that fund research support (i.e., the Croatian Science Foundation, HRZZ) or even consider mandatory (Horizon Europe) to publish papers in open access (OA) journals for the wider dissemination of results. Articles in OA journals are cited more, primarily because the end user does not have a financial cost, but that is why authors often pay very high article processing charges (APC) for preparing papers for publication, unless the journal has other sources of funding. For the above reasons, it is good to start selecting journals depending on the availability of content, so we have journals with a subscription system and journals with OA, but there are also hybrid systems where the author decides how his work will be available. A suitable base for this search is the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) because it carries out a rigorous selection of journals before indexing and has a filtering option

su važno je uvijek provjeriti radi li se o tzv. predator-skom časopisu jer mnogi koriste ovakav sustav publiciranja za finansijsku korist, ali u pozadini nema stvarne recenzije članaka i takvi časopisi nisu indeksirani u relevantnim bazama iako na stranicama lažno navode suprotno.

Za daljnju selekciju časopisa potrebno je provjeriti indeksiranost u relevantnim bazama, faktor utjecaja i ostale mjere citiranosti koje su autorima možda najbitnije jer mogu izravno utjecati na daljnje stručno i znanstveno napredovanje, iako često nisu dobra mjera kvalitete pojedinog objavljenog članka i mogu se donekle manipulirati. Uvriježene mjere utjecaja časopisa su faktor utjecaja baze WoS Clarivate (engl. *impact factor, IF*) koji računa godišnju citiranost za rade objavljene u prethodne dvije godine, rang časopisa po kvartilima u svojoj kategoriji u određenoj bazi i h-indeks što je broj (h) članaka časopisa koji su citirani barem h puta.

U konačnici je važno na mrežnim stranicama časopisa još jednom provjeriti opseg tema koje časopis objavljuje, način recenzije i uobičajeno vrijeme do odluke uredništva kako bi što ranije došli do odluke o ne/objavljinju poslanog rada. Također, potrebno je pažljivo pročitati upute za autore kako bi pravilno pripremili rad za odabrani časopis. Cilj sistematične provjere značajki časopisa je pronalazak časopisa koji idealno pristaje vašem radu tako da omogućuje što bolju vidljivost i doseg u znanstvenoj zajednici, a istovremeno što kraći put do objave.

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for journals without APCs. In the case of a decision to publish in an OA journal, it is important to always check whether it is a so-called predatory journal because many use this publishing system for financial gain, but in the background there is no real review of articles and such journals are not indexed in the relevant databases, even though they falsely state the opposite on their pages.

For the further selection of journals, it is necessary to check the indexing in the relevant databases, the impact factor and other citation measures, which are perhaps the most important to the authors themselves because they can directly influence further professional and scientific advancement, although they are often not a good measure of the quality of an individual published article and can be somewhat manipulated. Standard measures of journal impact are the impact factor of the WoS by Clarivate which calculates the annual citation for papers published in the previous two years, the ranking of the journal by quartiles in its category, and the h-index, which is the number (h) of journal articles that were cited at least h times.

Finally, it is important to check the scope of the journal, the review process, and the usual time until the editorial decision once again at the journals' website to get the rejection or acceptance decision for your paper as early as possible. Also, carefully read the instructions for authors to properly prepare the manuscript for submission. The goal of a systematic review of the journal's features is to find one that ideally fits your work by providing the best possible visibility and reach in the scientific community, while at the same time shortening the path to publication.

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## PKSM-1

### Personalizirana prehrana bazirana na mikrobiološkom profilu crijeva

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Pretilost je globalni zdravstveni problem koji pogađa više od 1,9 milijardi ljudi, a u posljednjem desetljeću je sve više dokaza koji pokazuju da je crijevna mikrobiota jedan od vodećih uzroka pretilosti. Naše znanje o bakterijskim vrstama i generalno o funkcionalnom sastavu crijeva ubrzano raste, s mnogobrojnim opsežnim studijama diljem svijeta. Iako vrijedne, ove su studije ograničene etičkim pitanjima i zahtijevaju znatnu finansijsku potporu, uglavnom zato što se oslanjaju na istraživanja na ljudima. Korištenje bioreaktora za generiranje ulaznih podataka umjesto oslanjanja na ljudske dobrovoljce je način koja eliminira prepreke kao što su nedostatak kontrole i etička pitanja.

Trenutačno, najistaknutiji uvidi u naše znanje o crijevima su takozvani enterotipovi koji definiraju klastere određenih vrsta bakterija. Ovi klasteri nisu specifični za državu ili kontinent. Ostaje otvoreno pitanje je li varijacija crijevne mikrobiote kod ovih "enterotipova" općenito stratificirana ili složenija - gradijentna. Koncept enterotipova uvelike je vođen sastavom, odnosno različitim vrstama bakterija, ali crijevna mikrobiota je dinamična zajednica na koju utječu brojni vanjski čimbenici, što naglašava važnost dinamičke analize mikrobioma. Stoga se nedavna istraživanja ljudskog mikrobioma kreću u smjeru modeliranja dinamike mikrobioma i izgradnje prediktivnih modela.

Iako postoji mnogo napretka u području dinamike mikrobioma, još uvijek nije postignuta potpuna i točna dinamika crijevnog mikrobioma. Unatoč tome, funkcionalni modeli mikrobioma, koji se sastoje od metaboličkih modela mikrobnih vrsta, zajedno s razmjenom metabolita, s vremenom će postati norma za modeliranje mikrobioma, a metode za učenje njihovih interakcija su već sada od velike važnosti za takve modele.

## PCS-YS-1

### Personalized diet based on the gut microbiota profile

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Obesity is a global public health problem that affects more than 1.9 billion people, and the gut microbiota has emerged as one of the leading causes of obesity in the last decade. Our knowledge of the species and function composition of the human gut microbiome is rapidly growing, with large-scale cohort studies examining sample variations worldwide. Although valuable, these studies are limited by ethical issues and require substantial financial support, mainly because they rely on human test subjects. Using a bioreactor model to generate input data instead of relying on human volunteers is an attractive opportunity that eliminates obstacles such as lack of control and ethical issues.

The current state-of-the-art list of key findings lists as one of the most prominent, identifying a limited number of robust clusters (e.g. enterotypes). These clusters are not nation-specific or continent-specific. An open question remains whether the variation of intestinal microbiota in these "enterotypes" is generally stratified or more complex - gradient-based. The concept of enterotypes is largely driven by the composition of the species, but gut microbiota is a dynamic community influenced by numerous external factors, which underscores the importance of a dynamic analysis of the microbiome. Therefore recent research on the human microbiome is moving in the direction of modeling microbiome dynamics and building predictive models.

Although there are many progresses in the field of microbiome dynamics and ecological models such as BEEM and BEEM-Static, the complete and exact dynamic of the gut microbiome is still not achieved. Nevertheless, the functional microbiome models, which are made up of genome-wide metabolic models of microbial species that make up the microbiome, coupled with the exchange of metabolites, will

Bolja kvaliteta dinamičkih modela ključna je za razvoj personalizirane prehrane za rješavanje uzroka (mikrobiote), a ne posljedice (gubljenje prekomjerne težine). Ovo je novo polje u istraživanju crijevne mikrobiote, budući da su nedavna medicinska dostignuća pokazala da na različite ljudе utječu specifični prehrambeni podražaji, a ne samo jedna dijeta koja odgovara svima. Kao rezultat toga, modulacija crijevne mikrobiote može pomoći u zadovoljavanju prehrambenih potreba i tako u borbi protiv pretilosti. Moduliranje crijevne mikrobiote kako bi se bolje iskoristila dostupna hrana i poboljšao prehrambeni status, poput izvlačenja više energije, minerala ili vitamina, ključno je za prevladavanje današnjeg izazova pretilosti. Na temelju uvida u 16S rRNA analizu crijevne mikrobiote, ne samo da možemo dobiti informacije o raznolikosti i obilju bakterija u crijevima, već i uz pravu analizu možemo izvući valjane informacije o proučalnim bakterijama i bakterijama povezanim s konzumiranjem proteina i masti. Koristeći ovo kao početnu točku i koristeći dinamički model bakterijskih interakcija, možemo dati preporuke za hranu na temelju trenutnog stanja crijevne mikrobiote, kako bi ona postala što sličnija mikrobiomu mršavog pojedinca. Već smo pokazali da intervencija prebioticima i probioticima pomiče mikrobiotu pretile osobe u smjeru mršavih pojedinača, što pokazuje da bi prave hranjive tvari u kombinaciji s probioticima i prebioticima mogle pomoći u rješavanju stvarnog uzroka pretilosti.

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eventually become the norm for microbiome modeling, and methods for learning microbial interaction networks will be of great importance for such future models.

A better quality of dynamic models is essential in order to develop a personalized diet to address the cause (microbiota) and not the consequence (losing excessive weight). This is a new field in intestinal microbiota research, as recent medical developments have shown that different human reactions to dietary stimuli can be influenced by specific and quantifiable host and microbiome characteristics, rather than a single, one-size-fits-all diet. As a result, modulating the gut microbiota can help to meet nutritional needs and thus combat malnutrition and obesity. Modulating the gut microbiota to better use available food and improve nutritional status, such as extracting more energy, minerals or vitamins, is essential to overcome today's challenge to obesity. Based on the insights of the 16S rRNA analysis of the gut microbiota, we can not only obtain information about the diversity and abundance of microbiome in the gut, but also with the right analysis, we can extract valid information about pro-inflammatory bacteria, butyric acid-producing bacteria, and bacteria associated with protein and fat consumption. By using this as a starting point, and by utilizing dynamic model of the bacterial interactions, we can make food recommendations based on the current state of the gut microbiota, in order to shift it towards the microbiota of a lean population. We have already shown that intervention with both prebiotics and probiotics shifts an obese individual's microbiota in the desired direction, which shows that the right nutrients in combination with probiotics and prebiotics could help to resolve the actual cause of obesity.

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**PKSM-2****SARS-CoV-2 pandemija i laboratorij:  
iskustvo Sveučilišne bolnice u Padovi**

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Otkriće novog koronavirusa SARS-CoV-2 i njegova identifikacija kao etiološkog uzročnika koronavirusne infekcije COVID-19 dovelo je do nezamislivih i drastičnih promjena u rutinskom laboratorijskom radu. Tijekom prvog vala pandemije svakodnevno se provodilo uzorkovanje i analiza neizmjerno velikog broja nazofaringealnih briseva u svrhu postavljanja dijagnoze COVID-19, ali i otkrivanja kontakata oboljelih. U svrhu osiguravanja točnih i brzih rezultata molekularne dijagnostike, Zavod za laboratorijsku medicinu Sveučilišne bolnice u Padovi je optimizirao proces laboratorijskog rada uvođenjem promjena u panelu za naručivanje laboratorijskih pretraga, tijek laboratorijskog procesa, organizaciji osoblja i laboratorijske opreme. Unatoč optimizaciji rada, vrijeme analize 90 uzoraka iznosilo je 6 sati. U takvoj složenoj i neočekivanoj situaciji u kojoj se svijet i zdravstveni sustav našao u 2020. godini nije neobično da se događalo kašnjenje laboratorijskih nalaza. Svako kašnjenje unutar cijelokupnog laboratorijskog procesa dovodi ne samo do odgode postavljanja dijagnoze, već predstavlja i mogući izvor dijagnostičkih pogrešaka, prvenstveno zbog lažno negativnih rezultata uzrokovanih degradacijom ribonukleinskih kiselina (RNA). U tom procesu, dodatno je ispitana utjecaj temperature i vremena pohrane uzorka na reproducibilnost rezultata. Utvrđeno je da se zadovoljavajuća ponovljivost rezultata postiže unutar 5 dana od uzorkovanja, jednako ako su uzorci pohranjeni u hladnjaku na + 4 °C ili na sobnoj temperaturi, iako se viši stupanj reproducibilnosti rezultata ispitivanja postiže pohranom uzorka na + 4 °C. Iako je tijekom 5 ispitivanih dana uočen blagi porast Ct vrijednosti, što upućuje na moguće propadanje viralnog molekularnog signala, takvo što nije uočeno tijekom prvih 48 sati od uzorkovanja. Molekularna analiza nazofaringealnih briseva zlatni je standard za dijagnostiku akutne infekcije SARS-

**PCS-YS-2****The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the laboratory:  
experience from the University-Hospital of  
Padova**

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Since the SARS-CoV-2 was isolated and identified as COVID-19 etiological agent, the traditional laboratories routine is dramatically disrupted. An enormous number of naso-pharyngeal swabs (NPS) have been tested during the first pandemic wave, every day, for diagnosing COVID-19 and contact tracing. To guarantee accurate and prompt molecular results, Department of Laboratory Medicine of Padova, first of all optimized processes, making changes in terms of test requests menu, workflow, staff and instrumentations re-allocation. Despite the process optimization, the round around time to analyse 90 samples was 6 hours. In the complex and unexpected situation that the world faced at the beginning of 2020, it is hardly surprising that some late testing occurred. Yet any delay in the total testing process not only delays diagnosis, but also represents a potential cause of diagnostic error, mainly due to false-negative results consequent to RNA degradation. Then, the impact of temperature and time of storage on results reproducibility was evaluated. Reproducible results can be obtained until the 5<sup>th</sup> day of sample taking not only when primary NPS samples are maintained at + 4 °C, but also when they are kept at room temperature, although refrigeration of the primary sample allows the highest levels of reproducibility. Although during the 5 experimental days some points showed a slight Ct increase, suggesting a potential decay of the viral molecular signal, no variation was observed in any of the studied conditions within the first 48 h.

Although the NPS molecular testing immediately appeared to be the gold standard for diagnosing acute SARS-CoV-2 infections, it requires skilled personnel to collect NPS and performing tests, dedicated instrumentation and time to release results. Furthermore, in the second half of the 2020, the high test requests severely limited availability of reagents

CoV-2 virusom, međutim, za pravilno uzorkovanje i izvođenje analiza potrebno je osposobljeno osoblje, odgovarajuća laboratorijska oprema, a sama analiza je zahtjevna i dugotrajna. Druga polovica 2020. godine donijela je nove izazove u dijagnostici COVID-19. Iznimno velik broj zahtjeva za analizama doveo je do ograničene dostupnosti potrošnog materijala za uzorkovanje briseva i reagensa za izvođenje molekularnih analiza, što je potaknulo proizvođače laboratorijske opreme i laboratorijske stručnjake da potraže nova i brža rješenja u dijagnostici. U uštедe vremena i sredstava tijekom uzorkovanja, ispitali smo primjenu sline kao alternativnog uzorka nazofaringealnom brisu, s obzirom da je sam postupak uzorkovanja korištenjem komercijalno dostupnih spremnika jednostavan, neinvazivan i namijenjen za samostalnu primjenu. Dobiveni rezultati ukazali su da je dijagnostička osjetljivost i specifičnost molekularnog i antigenskog testiranja iz sline usporediva s onima dobivenim u uzorcima nazofaringealnog brisa. Među ispitanim antigenskim testovima koji su uključili uređaje za samostalnu primjenu (engl. *point-of-care testing*, POCT) i laboratorijske imunokemijske testove, Lumipulse G-SARS-CoV-2 Ag CLEIA se pokazao kao najboljim kompromisnim rješenjem, obzirom na visoku dijagnostičku osjetljivost i specifičnost u uzorcima nazofaringealnog brisa i sline, skraćeno vrijeme analize i jednostavnost izvedbe bez potrebe za posebno osposobljenim osobljem. Na temelju ovih saznanja omogućena je značajna ušteda i uvođenje sline kao valjanog uzorka u programima sprječavanja širenja infekcije SARS-CoV-2 među skupinama kod kojih postoji visoki rizik prijenosa infekcije (npr. škole, bolnice).

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for NPS collection (e.g. transport media) and molecular testing, thus calling manufacturers and laboratories to search new and fast solutions to overcome these limitations. To save time and resources during sample collection, we tested saliva as alternative to NPS, as its collection is easy, standardized if devices commercially available were used, independently obtained and well tolerated by subjects. The results demonstrated that sensitivity and specificity of both molecular and antigen testing on saliva was comparable to those obtained in NPS. Among the antigen testing systems evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 detection (POCT and laboratory-based immunoassays), Lumipulse G-SARS-CoV-2 Ag CLEIA represented the best compromise between molecular testing and POCT, as it showed high sensitivity and specificity in NPS as well as in saliva samples, short TAT and it not required skilled personnel. These findings allow to save resources involved in sample collection and adopting saliva as eligible sample in active surveillance programs proposed as strategy to limit virus spread among populations (e.g. schools, hospitals) at a high risk of viral spread.

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**PKSM-3**

### Izazovi uvođenja proširenog novorođenačkog probira u Republici Hrvatskoj

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Novorođenački probir je sustav organiziranog tražanja za određenim prirođenim bolestima u cjeplokupnoj novorođenačkoj populaciji s ciljem njihovog prepoznavanja prije nego izazovu posljedice po zdravlje djeteta. Najčešće se novorođenački probir radi iz uzoraka suhe kapi krvi. Glavni kriteriji za uključivanje bolesti u program novorođenačkog probira danas su ograničena mogućnost ranog prepoznavanja prije nego bolest nanese štetu po zdravlje, lječivost, razmjerno velika pojavnost, postojanje odgovarajuće dovoljno specifične i osjetljive laboratorijske pretrage. Osim toga, potrebno je razmotriti etičke, medicinske i ekonomiske aspekte prije svakog novog proširenja programa.

Novorođenački probir u Republici Hrvatskoj (RH) započinje 1978. godine na fenilketonuriju, a 1985. godine na konatalnu hipotireozu. Od 1986. obavezna je mjera zdravstvene zaštite. Odlukom vlade RH 2015. godine u sklopu nacionalnog plana za rijetke bolesti usvojeno je proširenje novorođenačkog probira metodom tandem spektrometrije masa. Temeљjem ranije spomenutih kriterija donesena je odluka o proširenju probira u RH na, za sada, još šest bolesti: nedostatak acil-CoA-dehidrogenaze srednjih lanaca (MCADD), nedostatak acil-CoA-dehidrogenaze vrlo dugih lanaca (VLCADD), nedostatak 3-OH-acil-CoA-dehidrogenaze dugih lanaca (izdvojen ili kao dio manjka trifunkcionalnog proteina(LCHADD)), nedostatak karnitinskog nosača (CUD), izovaleričku aciduriju (IVA) i glutarnu aciduriju tipa I (GA-I). Pilot projekt proširenog novorođenačkog probira započinje u 2017. godini. U razdoblju od listopada 2017. do listopada 2021. godine u novorođenačkom probiru otkriveno je 14 MCADD, 8 VLCADD, 2 GA-I, 1 IVA, 70 konatalnih hipotireoza i 40 fenilketonurijsa.

Od odluke vlade RH, pa do početka proširenja novorođenačkog probira, uloženi su veliki napor da bi se osigurali analitički i organizacijski preduvjeti. To uključuje nabavu odgovarajuće opreme i reagenasa,

**PCS-YS-3**

### Challenges in introducing the expanded newborn screening in Croatia

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Newborn screening (NBS) is an organized public healthcare program aimed to identify pre-symptomatic diagnosis of various rare genetic diseases, where an early treatment is crucial for preventing severe health damage or even death. Dried blood spot (DBS) is the most common sample for NBS. Main criteria for disease inclusion in NBS programs are limited possibility of early recognitions, curability, relatively high incidence, and specific and sensitive laboratory test. Ethical, medical and economic aspects must be considered before new diseases are added to NBS program.

NBS in Croatia began in 1978 for phenylketonuria and in 1985 for congenital hypothyroidism. Since 1986, it has been a mandatory health care measure. In 2015 Government of Croatia decided to expand NBS program to include six additional diseases: medium chain acyl-CoA-dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD), very long chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (VLCADD), long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (LCHADD), carnitine uptake deficiency (CUD), isovaleric acidemia (IVA) and glutaric aciduria type 1 (GA-I). Expanded NBS pilot project has started in 2017. In a 4-year period, from October 2017 to October 2021, NBS program successfully detected 135 positive patients, including 14 MCADD, 8 VLCADD, 2 GA-I, 1 IVA, 70 congenital hypothyreosis and 40 phenylketonurias. A great effort has been made to ensure analytical and organizational requirement. This includes appropriate instruments and reagents selection, cost-effectiveness study design, staff training etc. All three phases of the NBS process (preanalytical, analytical, and postanalytical procedures after positive screening) required some kind of change or reorganization.

First pre-analytical step was to create official email address ([nprobir@kbc-zagreb.hr](mailto:nprobir@kbc-zagreb.hr)) to ensure rapid NBS information exchange with all maternity hospitals in Croatia, to improve safety level and overall quality

izradu studije isplativosti, uređenje laboratorijskog prostora, edukacija osoblja i dr. Sve tri faze procesa novorođenačkog probira (prijeanalitički postupci, analitički dio i postupci nakon pozitivnog probira) zahtijevale su neku vrstu promjene ili reorganizacije. Jedan od prvih koraka u prijeanalitičkim postupcima bio je otvaranje službene e-adrese (nprobir@kbc-zagreb.hr) za komunikaciju o novorođenačkom probiru sa svim rodilištima u RH. Cilj ovakve komunikacije je brza razmjena informacija, poboljšanje razine sigurnosti kao i ukupne kvalitete funkcioniranja nacionalnog programa. Uvođenje proširenoga probira u RH uvjetovalo je i novi izgled kartice za uzimanje uzorka. Kartice, uz osnovne podatke o majci i djetu, sadrže i dodatne informacije o djetetu koje mogu utjecati na rezultate analize, a poznavanje istih olakšava tumačenje nalaza dobivenih proširenim probirom. U svrhu poboljšanja kvalitete uzorka suhe kapi krvi, pripremljeni su edukativni plakati o pravilnom uzimanju uzorka koji su poslani u sva rodilišta RH. Informacije javnosti o novorođenačkom probiru objavljene su na službenim stranicama Kliničkog bolničkog centra Zagreb ([www.kbc-zagreb.hr/informacije-javnosti-o-novorodjenackom-probiru](http://www.kbc-zagreb.hr/informacije-javnosti-o-novorodjenackom-probiru)). U suradnji s programskim stručnjacima, dizajniran je novorođenački laboratorijski informacijski sustav (nLIS) prema našim specifičnim organizacijskim potrebama. nLIS omogućuje sljedivost uzorka, a neophodan je za provođenje analiza i pohranu podataka. Povezan je sa službenom e-adresom laboratorija, a njegovim uvođenjem postignuta je viša razina automatizacije i stvaranje jedinstvene baze podataka. Sljedeća razina je povezivanje nLIS-a sa sustavom e-novorođenče čime bi se dodatno osigurao prijeanalitički dio procesa.

Uvedena je i validirana derivatizirana semi-kvantitativna metoda za analizu aminokiselina i acilkarnitina iz isječaka suhe kapi krvi. Za osiguranje i poboljšanje kvalitete rada odabrano je nekoliko međunarodnih programa vanjske procjene kontrole kvalitete. Za svaku pojedinu bolest uvrštenu u program probira odabrani su primarni i sekundarni biljezi te su izračunate granične vrijednosti biljega kako bi se sprječila mogućnost lažno negativnih rezultata i istovremeno maksimalno smanjio broj lažno pozitivnih rezultata probira na pojedinu bolest. Pripremljeni su postupnici o probiru za svaku bolest koji omogućuju standardizirani pristup izmjeranim analitima. Kao dodatni kriterij u postupnike su uvršteni rezultati dobiveni

regarding the entire process. A collection card for DBS sampling was re-designed. Apart from the personal information about the mother and child, DBS cards also contain additional information about the child that can be helpful while interpreting NBS results. To ensure good quality of DBS cards, educational posters about correct dried blood spot sampling were prepared and sent to all maternity hospitals in Croatia. General information about NBS program in Croatia is published on the official Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb website ([www.kbc-zagreb.hr/informacije-javnosti-o-novorodjenackom-probiru](http://www.kbc-zagreb.hr/informacije-javnosti-o-novorodjenackom-probiru)). In cooperation with software engineers due to our specific organizational tasks, neonatal laboratory information system (nLIS) was developed and directly linked with our official laboratory e-mail to provide higher level of automatization. This program enables traceability of samples, data analysis and storage. The next step would be to pair laboratory information software with newborn software which would help us improve preanalytical part of NBS process.

Derivatized semi-quantitative method for aminoacids and acylcarnitines from DBS was implemented and validated. To ensure the quality of analytical part of the process, our laboratory has been participating in several external quality control schemes for laboratory testing from the beginning of expanded NBS program in Croatia. For every disease included in expanded NBS, primary and secondary markers were selected. For those markers, cut-off values have been calculated to prevent the possibility of false positive and false negative NBS results. Specific algorithms with precise procedures after positive NBS results for each disease included in NBS, were made, and are constantly updated and revised. As an additional helpful tool in algorithms, results obtained with specialized software for statistical analysis (Collaborative Laboratory Integrated Reports, CLIR, Mayo Clinic, USA) were implemented. CLIR software creates an integrated database of clinical and laboratory data, enables adjustments of patients results by covariate such as birth weight and age at collection and compares them to continuous moving percentiles, rather than cut-off values.

To confirm or discard possible diagnosis after positive newborn screening results, confirmative tests were implemented. Genetic panel, one of the confirmative tests for diseases in NBS program is in prepa-

specijaliziranim multivariantnim programom za statističku analizu izmjerene vrijednosti analita (engl. *Collaborative Laboratory Integrated Reports*, CLIR, Mayo Clinic, USA), koji uz koncentracije analita, uzima u obzir i brojne druge parametre kako bi sa što većom statističkom vjerojatnošću utvrdio pripada li izmjerena vrijednost u normalne vrijednosti populacije ili se može klasificirati kao patološka.

Kako testovi probira nisu dijagnostički testovi, već samo upućuju na novorođenčad koja mogu imati određen metabolički poremećaj kao i na onu koje te poremećaje vjerojatno nemaju, svaku postavljenu sumnju na određenu bolest u probiru treba potvrditi odgovarajućim potvrđnim testovima. U tijeku je priprema genskog panela koji će uključivati bolesti uvrštene u nacionalni program novorođenačkog probira i koji bi imao ulogu kao drugostupanjski test u slučajevima kada druge analize nisu dostupne. Cilj ovakvog sustava je pratiti rezultate probira, proširiti programe novim bolestima, usvajati nova iskustva, sustavno informirati javnost o prednostima provođenja novorođenačkog probira, osigurati relevantno dijagnostičko i terapijsko praćenje te procjenjivati i unaprjeđivati sustav osiguranja kvalitete. Da bi sustav uspješno funkcionirao potrebno je dobro organizirano i usklađeno djelovanje na svim razinama, odgovarajuća podrška državnih ustanova, koordinirani rad velikog broja zdravstvenih djelatnika kao i suradnja roditelja.

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ration and will be used as confirmatory test as well as a second-tier test.

Main goal of NBS program is to follow up NBS results, expand program with new diseases, evaluate and improve quality assurance, provide relevant diagnostic and therapeutic monitoring, inform public about NBS and continuously improve every part of NBS program. Well-organized and coordinated practice on all levels is necessary for the system to work successfully.

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**PKSM-4****Sve je lako kad si mlad: osobna iskustva uključivanja u stručne aktivnosti**

Tara Rolić

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 Klinički zavod za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, Klinički bolnički centar Osijek, Osijek, Hrvatska

Tijekom studija medicinske biokemije na Farmaceutsko-biokemijskom fakultetu, volontiranje u studentskoj udruzi, stečeno iskustvo, kao i prekrasna sjećanja iz tih dana, ohrabrili su me za daljnje uključivanje u rad stručnih društava. Podršku sam dobila od kolega iz radnog okruženja koji su aktivno sudjelovali u radu strukovnih organizacija te unaprijedili struku medicinske biokemije. Premda je potrebno uložiti puno slobodnog vremena, kojeg nikad nema previše, ispunjavanjem zadataka, bili oni znanstvene, stručne ili humanitarne osobitosti osjećaj je zadovoljstva. Medicinski biokemičari mogu se aktivno uključiti u rad Hrvatskog društva za medicinsku biokemijsku i laboratorijsku medicinu (HDMBLM), strukovno udruženje medicinskih biokemičara osnovano s ciljem razvijanja i unaprjeđenja stručnog i znanstvenog rada medicinsko-biokemijske djelatnosti u Republici Hrvatskoj. Uz promociju struke, društvo provodi vanjsku procjenu kvalitete u svim medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima (CROQALM), te izdaje znanstveni časopis "Biochemia Medica". Biokemičari, članovi društva, mogu se uključiti u brojne radne grupe i povjerenstva. Osim u radu HDMBLM-a, medicinski biokemičari mogu sudjelovati u radu Hrvatske komore medicinskih biokemičara, najvažnije krovne organizacije u Republici Hrvatskoj, te dati doprinos zakonskom dijelu djelatnosti pri Ministarstvu zdravstva, regulatornom tijelu koje omogućuje rad medicinskih biokemičara u Hrvatskoj. Posebno je važno uključivanje biokemičara u strukovne organizacije na europskoj i svjetskoj razini. Već gotovo 30 godina društvo je član Europske udruge laboratorijske medicine (EFLM), a mnogi su istaknuti članovi sudjelovali u radu EFLM-a što je rezultiralo afirmacijom medicinskih biokemičara i unaprjeđenjem struke. Zajednička registracija članova društva u EFLM Akademiju, omogućuje medicinskim biokemičarima u Hrvatskoj mnoge pogodnosti poput upisa u EFLM Registar,

**PCS-YS-4****Everything is easier when you are young: personal experiences of involvement in professional activities**

Tara Rolić

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 Institute of laboratory diagnostics, Osijek University Hospital, Osijek, Croatia

During medical biochemistry study at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, volunteering at the Student Association and the experience I got, as well as the wonderful memories from those days, encouraged me in further participation in the work of professional societies. I have received support from senior colleagues at work environment due they have been active in the professional organizations and contributed to developing of the profession. Although it is necessary to invest a lot of free time, which we never have too many, by completing the tasks, whether they scientific, professional, or humanitarian, one's feels satisfied. Medical biochemists in Croatia can actively participate in the professional activities of the Croatian Society for Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (CSMBLM), a professional association of medical biochemists founded with the aim of developing and improving the professional and scientific work of medical-biochemical activity in the Republic of Croatia. Along with the promotion of the profession, the society conducts external quality assessment in all medical-biochemical laboratories (CROQALM) and publishes the scientific journal "Biochemia Medica". Biochemists who are members of the society can join numerous Working groups and Committees. In addition, medical biochemists can participate in the work of the Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists, the most important organization in Croatia for medical biochemists, and contribute to the regulatory part of the profession by presenting it in the Ministry of Health, regulatory body which enables the work of medical biochemists. The inclusion of medical biochemists in professional organizations at the European and international level is particularly important. For almost 30 years, the society has been a member of the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), and many prominent members have participated

besplatan pristup e-seminarima i CLSI smjernicama, sudjelovanje u obrazovnim i praktičnim programima (Syllabus course i LabX). Osim toga, HDMBLM je član svjetske organizacije za kliničku kemiju (IFCC), najveće svjetske organizacije, koja okuplja više od 88 zemalja članica. Članovi HDMBLM-a mogu aktivno sudjelovati u radu radnih grupa te kreirati smjernice, poslušati besplatne e-seminare, prijaviti se za stipendije ili sudjelovati u promociji struke. U okviru predavanja predstaviti će se osobno iskustvo uključivanja u radne grupe, dok će rasprava poslužiti za sve odgovore na pitanja.

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in work of the EFLM which resulted with recognition of the medical biochemists and improvement of the profession. The block registration of the CSMBLM members in EFLM Academy enables medical biochemists in Croatia many benefits: EFLM Register, free webinars, CLSI guidelines, Syllabus course, LabX program, etc. In addition, CSMBLM is a member of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry (IFCC), the largest organization in the world, connecting more than 88 national societies. CSMBLM members can actively participate in the work of Working and Task groups and create guidelines, attend free webinars, apply for bursaries, or participate in promotion of the profession. Personal experience of the involvement in working groups of the professional organizations will be presented, while the discussion will be Q and A.

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PL-1

## Je li vanjska kontrola kvalitete korisna?

Sverre Sandberg

Norwegian Organization for Quality Improvement of Medical Examinations (Noklus)

Vanjska kontrola kvalitete (VKK) ima tri glavne svrhe: (1) daje informaciju laboratoriju o usporedivosti vlastitih rezultata s drugim laboratorijima koji koriste iste medicinske uređaje za *in vitro* dijagnostiku (IVD), (2) informiranje laboratorija o prikladnosti vlastitih rezultata u rutinskoj uporabi u odnosu na medicinske zahtjeve i (3) da informira proizvođače IVD-a i laboratorijsku zajednicu o mjeriteljskoj sljedivosti njihovih mjernih postupaka (MP) s ciljem dobivanja ekvivalentnih rezultata za kliničke uzorke među različitim MP-ovima. U sva tri slučaja, da bi se koristila zajednička ciljna vrijednost za uključene IVD medicinske uređaje, korišteni kontrolni materijal mora biti komutabilan s kliničkim uzorcima kada ga mijere IVD medicinski uređaji koji sudjeluju u skupini. Vanjska kontrola kvalitete je najkorisnija kada se rezultati laboratorija mogu usporediti sa stvarnom vrijednošću. Stoga je bolje imati nekoliko ciklusa, ali kvalitetnih, nego mnogo ciklusa koji će često biti loše kvalitete. Nacionalni pružatelj VKK-a mora educirati sudionike i akreditacijsko tijelo o tome kako ocjenjivati VKK izvješća. Akreditacijsko tijelo ne samo da mora zahtjevati popravne radnje kada su rezultati izvan danih specifikacija, već mora i procijeniti primjenjivost VKK programa kliničkoj primjeni. Programi VKK s pacijentovim medijanima mogu biti nadopuna uobičajenim VKK programima i čak zamjeniti neke ako nemaju odgovarajući kontrolni materijal. Programi VKK s pacijentovim medijanima mogu pratiti ekvivalentnost između mjernih postupaka.

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PL-1

## Is external quality control (EQA) useful?

Sverre Sandberg

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External quality assurance (EQA) is used for three main purposes: (1) to inform a laboratory of its results compared to other laboratories using the same *in-vitro* diagnostics (IVD) medical devices (IVD-MDs) (2) to inform a laboratory of the suitability of its results in regular use vs medical requirements, and (3) to inform IVD manufacturers and the laboratory community regarding the metrological traceability of their measurement procedures (MP) with the goal to obtain equivalent results for clinical samples among different MPs. In all the three cases, to use a common target value for the participating IVD-MDs, the control material used must be commutable with clinical samples when measured by the IVD-MDs participating in the group. External quality assurance is most useful when the laboratories' results can be compared with a true value. It is therefore better to have few surveys, but of high quality than many surveys which often will be of poor quality. The national EQA provider must educate the participants and the Accreditation body in how to evaluate EQA reports. The accreditation body must not only ask for "actions" when the results are outside the specifications given, but also evaluate if the EQA program is fit for purpose. External quality assurance programs with patient medians can be a supplement to ordinary EQA programs and even replace some if they don't have a suitable control material. External quality assurance programs with patient medians can monitor equivalence between measurement procedures.

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**PL-2****U svakom medicinskom biokemičaru skriva se lider. Probudimo ga!**

Ana-Maria Šimundić

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Vođa je osoba koja nas inspirira i pokazuje nam put. Vođa je netko koga smo skloni dobrovoljno slijediti. Specijalisti laboratorijske medicine su voditelji timova. Vodimo laboratorije, naše mlađe kolege i članove tima, studente i specijalizante, znanstvene projekte itd.

Da bismo bili dobri vođe, osim našeg znanja, kompetencija i vještina u laboratorijskoj medicini, od nas se zahtijevaju i brojne meke vještine koje nam pomažu u pozitivnoj interakciji s našim zaposlenicima i članovima njihovog tima. Biti na vodećoj poziciji zahtijeva dobre vještine vođenja, a biti dobar vođa znači biti izvrstan u mnogima od njih, ako ne i u svima. Ove vještine omogućuju vođama da učinkovito komuniciraju, upravljaju vremenom, postavljaju ciljeve, razmišljaju strateški, čitaju, pišu i jasno prezentiraju svoje ideje, donose odluke, delegiraju zadatke, upravljaju stresom, promjenama i krizama i mnoge druge. Iako bi neki tvrdili da se vođe rađaju, a ne postaju, istina je da se vještine vođenja mogu naučiti i razvijati. Vodstvo je praktična vještina koja se može naučiti, poput sporta, sviranja klavira ili bilo koje druge vještine.

Vodstvo je osobni razvoj koji počinje s nama i našom odlukom. Kako bi započeo to putovanje, svatko mora analizirati vlastite snage i slabosti i prepoznati prostor za poboljšanje. Nije lako, potrebno je vrijeme, fokus i predanost, puno vježbe, naporan rad i osobno odricanje. Ali, nije nemoguće. Postoje brojne tehnike, alati i resursi koji mogu olakšati ovaj poduhvat. Veliki vođe nikada ne prestaju učiti.

Ovo predavanje će dati pregled nekih najvažnijih vještina vođa, pokazati zašto su one važne i kako se te vještine mogu steći i unaprijediti.

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**PL-2****There is a leader in every specialist in laboratory medicine. Let's wake him up!**

Ana-Maria Šimundić

University Hospital "Sveti Duh", Zagreb, Croatia

A leader is a person that inspires us and shows us the way. A leader is someone we tend to follow voluntarily.

Specialists in laboratory medicine are team leaders. We lead laboratories, our younger colleagues and team members, students and residents, scientific projects etc.

To be good leaders, besides our knowledge, competence and skills in laboratory medicine, we are also required to have a number of soft skills to help us positively interact with our employees and their team members. Being in a leadership position requires good leadership skills and being a good leader means to excel in many of them, if not all. These skills enable leaders to effectively communicate, manage time, set goals, think strategically, read, write and present their ideas clearly, make decisions, delegate tasks, manage stress, change and crisis and many other.

Although some would argue that leaders are born, not made, the truth is that leadership skills can be learned and developed. Leadership is a practicable, learnable skill, like sports, piano playing or any other skill.

Leadership is a personal development which starts with us and our decision. To start that journey, everyone must analyse his/her own strengths and weaknesses and identify room for improvement. It is not easy, and it takes time, requires focus and commitment, lot of practice, hard work and personal sacrifice. But, it is not impossible. There are a number of techniques, tools and resources, which may facilitate this endeavour. Great leaders never stop learning.

This lecture will provide an overview of some most important skills of a leader, show why are they important and how these skills can be obtained and improved.

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# Simpozijska predavanja

# Symposium lectures

## S1 Nove tehnologije u laboratorijskoj medicini

S1-1

### Potpuna automatizacija, testiranje uz krevet bolesnika i nosivi uređaji: tko će biti pobjednik u laboratorijskoj medicini?

Mario Plebani

Počasni profesor kliničke biokemije i kliničke molekularne biologije, Sveučilište u Padovi, Padova, Italija  
Izabrani predsjednik Europskog udruženja za kliničku kemiju i laboratorijsku medicinu za razdoblje od 2024. do 2025. godine

Laboratorijska medicina ima rastuću ulogu u suvremenim zdravstvenim sustavima, budući da se *in vitro* dijagnostički testovi u današnje vrijeme koriste u svim koracima skrbi za bolesnika. Klinički laboratoriji integralni su dio većine dijagnostičkih postupnika i ključni su za optimizaciju i usmjeravanje tijeka skrbi za bolesnika, harmonizaciju postupaka prije i nakon obrade bolesnika, kao i harmonizaciju naručivanja laboratorijskih pretraga te ograničavanje prekomjernih i nepotrebnih laboratorijskih obrada. Laboratorijska dijagnostika predstavlja temelj suvremene medicine i proteklih je godina doživjela sveobuhvatne promjene koje su dovele do značajne preobrazbe uobičajenih opsega korištenja, te načina i okruženja izvođenja laboratorijskih pretraga. Laboratorijska ispitivanja danas obuhvaćaju spektar od jednostavnih testova koji se koriste za praćenje bolesnika do visokodiferentnih laboratorijskih pretraga kojima je omogućena stratifikacija rizika i rano otkrivanje pojedinih bolesti, a što je osnova za individualizirani pristup i liječenje bolesnika. Organizacija laboratorijskog rada jedнако je doživjela značajne promjene te su izvođenja jednostavnih analitičkih metoda unutar pojedinih odjela ili u njihovoј neposrednoj blizini danas zamjenjena velikim, automatiziranim, tehnološki sofisticiranim i konsolidiranim laboratorijsima u izdvojenim prostorima. Odgođeno slanje rezultata laboratorijskih pretraga koje premašuje propisano vrijeme izdavanja nalaza (engl. *turnaround time*, TAT) pokazalo se kao čimbenik koji može produžiti trajanje hospitalizacije i smanjiti zadovoljstvo bolesnika laboratorijskom uslugom, što je potaknulo razvoj potpuno automatiziranih laboratorijskih rješenja (engl. *total laboratory automation*, TLA). Pot-

## S1 New technologies in laboratory medicine

S1-1

### Total automation, Point-of-care testing and wearables: which will be the winner in laboratory medicine?

Mario Plebani

Honorary Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology, University of Padova, Padova, Italy  
President Elect of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (2024-2025)

Laboratory medicine plays an increasingly essential role in modern healthcare systems, since *in vitro* diagnostic tests are now used in virtually each step of the managed care. Clinical laboratories are integral to most care pathways and play an essential role for optimizing patient flow, harmonizing procedures before and after analysis, improving harmonization and containing unnecessary testing. Laboratory diagnostics, a cornerstone of modern medicine, has undergone monumental changes in recent years, which have led to a substantial transformation of the conventional landscape of their environment and activities. Laboratory investigations have evolved from simple tests used for patient monitoring, to more sophisticated and pathognomonic analyses, which can be useful for stratifying the risk of certain diseases, for achieving earlier diagnoses, and for promoting the path towards personalized medicine. Laboratory organization has consistency evolved from simple analytical techniques carried out by medical doctors in small rooms close to or into the wards, to large, automated, sophisticated and consolidated facilities. The evidence that delayed transmission of inpatient test results exceeding the recommended turnaround times (TAT) may extend the hospital length of stay and increase patient dissatisfaction prompted the introduction of total laboratory automation (TLA) solutions. TLA solutions have been introduced to allow clinical laboratories to improve the workflow, TAT and even staff safety. However, a few data are available on the improvement of clinical outcomes. In the last decades, point-of-care testing (POCT) solutions have been increasingly developed and introduced for improving

puno automatizirani laboratorijski sustavi uvedeni su sa ciljem unapređenja radnog procesa i skraćenja vremena izdavanja nalaza, ali i povećanja sigurnosti laboratorijskog osoblja. Dostupni podaci govore u prilog tomu da automatizirani laboratorijski sustavi mogu poboljšati i klinički ishod bolesnika. Posljednjih desetljeća ubrzano se razvijaju i pojavljuju na tržištu uređaji za izvođenje pretraga uz krevet bolesnika (engl. *point-of-care testing, POCT*). Iako su se takvi uređaji u početku razvijali sa svrhom unapređenja skrbi za životno ugrožene bolesnike, s acidobaznim uređajima kao prvim i ključnim predstavnicima ove vrste uređaja, u današnje vrijeme postoje POCT uređaji u svim područjima i razinama laboratorijske dijagnostike, uključujući i primarnu zdravstvenu zaštitu. Dodatni izazov tradicionalnom poimanju laboratorijske dijagnostike predstavlja razvoj nosivih uređaja i mogućnosti samotestiranja od strane bolesnika. Opstanak kliničkih laboratorijskih temelji se na njihovoj sposobnosti objedinjavanja različitih izvora laboratorijskih podataka i upravljanja naručivanjem laboratorijskih pretraga te interpretacijom nalaza. Pandemija COVID-19 ukazala je na važnost boljeg razumijevanja potrebe objedinjavanja centraliziranog i decentraliziranog laboratorijskog testiranja te nužnost osiguravanja učinkovitog korištenja laboratorijskih podataka.

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initially critical care (blood-gas analysis is the paradigm of this proposal), and subsequently, all other diagnostic approaches, including primary care. In addition, further challenges to traditional laboratory medicine come from the development of wearables and self-testing. The survival of clinical laboratories is based on the capacity to integrate different sources of laboratory information, and to provide laboratory stewardship in test request and interpretation. The COVID-19 pandemic has represented a lesson to better understand the need to integrate centralized and decentralized laboratory testing and to assure a valuable utilization of laboratory information.

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**S1-2**

## **Sekvenciranje nove generacije u personaliziranoj medicini i farmakogenetici**

Mario Štefanović

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Prva generacija tehnika sekvenciranja započinje 1970-ih godina prošlog stoljeća kada se razvijena 2 pristupa, a oba se temelje na gel elektroforezi varijacija u duljini nukleotida pri *in vitro* sintezi DNA dideoksi metodom (Sanger) ili metodom kemijskog cijepanja templata (Maxam Gilbert). Sangerova metoda s vremenom je prevladala jer umjesto toksičnih i radioaktivnih reagensa za nasumični završetak sinteze DNA lana koristi fluorescentno označene dideoksi nukleotide (ddNTP). Danas se ona smatra referentnom metodom koja (iako ograničena na kraće fragmente) omogućava maksimalnu točnost te se njojne provjeravaju i dijelovi sekvenci određeni novijim tehnikama sekvenciranja.

Prije dvadesetak godina sazrijeva izazov određivanja potpune sekvence genoma čovjeka. Američka vlada 1990. započinje 2,7 milijarde dolara vrijedan, spor i mukotranjan projekt (*Human Genome Project*, HGP), koji klasičnim Sangerovim sekvenciranjem nastoji završiti posao do kraja milenija. Neovisno o projektu HGP, istom se zadatku 1998. posvećuje i privatna tvrtka *Celera Genomics*. Kompeticija među njima ubrza je razvoj tehnologije te obje skupine neovisno jedna o drugoj, 2003. godine objavljaju prvu cjelovitu sekvencu genoma čovjeka. Na tim se temeljima dalje razvija tehnologija sekvenciranja nove generacije (eng. *Next Generation Sequencing*, NGS). Cijena sekvenciranja danas iznosi svega 500-1000\$ po genomu, sam proces traje svega nekoliko dana i obuhvaća sljedeće uobičajene korake:

1. Prvi je korak priprema DNA knjižnice (eng. *DNA library*) reprezentativnih fragmenata svih gena iz ukupne DNA izolirane iz uzorka, a postupak se provodi kemijskim, fizikalnim ili enzimskim cijepanjem DNA u fragmente svih kombinacija (veličine ~150pb). Na krajeve fragmenata vežu se kratki nukleotidi (oznake, eng. *tags*), čiji će sljedovi u kasnijoj računalnoj obradi biti iskorišteni za samo sekvenciranje odnosno za spajanje očitanih sekvenci u softverskoj obradi.
2. Zatim se PCR metodom provodi umnažanje knjižnice DNA kako bi se amplificirao i signal očitanja pri sekvenciranju.

**S1-2**

## **New generation sequencing in personalized medicine and pharmacogenetics**

Mario Štefanović

Clinical Department of Chemistry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia

The first generation sequencing techniques began in the 1970s when 2 approaches invented, both based on gel electrophoresis of nucleotide length variations during *in vitro* DNA synthesis using the dideoxy method (Sanger) or the chemical template cleavage method (Maxam Gilbert), respectively. Using fluorescently labeled dideoxy nucleotides (ddNTP) instead of toxic and radioactive reagents, the Sanger method eventually prevailed, and today is considered a reference, as it enables maximum accuracy and is also used to check parts of sequences determined by newer sequencing techniques. About twenty years ago, the challenge of determining the complete human genome sequence arose. Therefore, in 1990, the US government started a slow and painstaking \$2.7 billion Human Genome Project, HGP - which, using Sanger sequencing, tried to finish the job by the end of the millennium. Independently, the private company Celera Genomics started the same task in 1998. The competition between two projects accelerated the development of technology, and in 2003 both groups independently published the complete human genome sequence. On these foundations, the development of a new technology (Next Generation Sequencing, NGS) emerges, sequencing price drops to only \$500-1000 per genome today. Process itself takes only a few days and includes the following usual steps:

1. The first step is DNA library preparation (representative fragments of total sample isolated genes). The procedure is carried out by chemical, physical or enzymatic cleavage into DNA fragments of all combinations (~150bp in size). The fragments are then marked with short nucleotides (tags), whose sequences will later be used for sequencing itself or for joining the read sequences in software processing.
2. To maximize the signal reading during sequencing, DNA library is amplified by PCR.
3. In the next step, automated, parallel and simultaneous sequencing of millions of short fragments is

3. U sljedećem se koraku provodi automatizirano, paralelno i istovremeno sekvenciranje milijuna kratkih fragmenata na silikonskom mikročipu nekog od danas dva najzastupljenija tipa uređaja: Prvi je tvrtke Illumina (koji koristi princip sekvenciranja uz sintezu Sangerovom metodom, eng. *Sequencing by synthesis*). Drugi je tvrtke Thermo Fisher Scientific (sekvenciranje na mikročipu s ionskim poluvodičem, eng. *Ion semiconductor*).  
 4. Nakon očitanja sekvenci milijuna fragmenata – snažno računalo i specifični softver koji zahtjeva posebna bioinformatička znanja, spaja ih u konačno očitanje. Na osnovu broja preklapanja (30, 50, 100 ili više puta) višestruko sekvenciranih fragmenata za isti dio DNA, (predstavlja veću ili manju dubinu čitanja, engl. *coverage*) - statistički najvjerojatniji slijed uzima se kao konačan, a dobivena očitanja tumače se različitim razinama točnosti (99%, 99,99%, 99,999%).

5. Kako bi se identificirale razlike u slijedu nukleotida, utvrđena sekvence se najčešće uspoređuje u odnosu na referentni genom (slijed nukleotida organizma poznat od ranije, engl. *assembly sequencing*) ili se pak višestruko preklapajući fragmenti pokušavaju sastaviti u sekvencu novog genoma (sekvenciranje *de novo*), što u problematičnim regijama očitanja s nižom razinom točnosti može predstavljati poseban izazov.

U DNA ili RNA (koja je prethodno transkribirana u cDNA) izoliranim iz svježih ili arhivskih uzoraka tkiva (npr. parafinski rezovi) NGS metodama je danas moguće odrediti slijed nukleotida putem više različitih pristupa:

WGS (eng. *Whole Genome Sequencing*) – sekvenciranje cijelog genoma iznova - omogućuje ciljano otkrivanje novih mutacija i polimorfizama u svih ~3 milijarde parova baza

Sekvenciranje eksoma (eng. *Exome Sequencing*) – sekvenciraju se samo regije koje kodiraju proteine (180 000 egzona čini ~1% genoma, ~20 000 gena, odnosno ~30 milijuna parova baza). Dobivena sekvencia naziva se *eksom*.

Sekvenciranje RNA (eng. *RNA Sequencing*) – sekvencira se sva stanična RNA prepisana u trenutku izolacije iz uzorka tkiva (prije sekvenciranja prevede se u cDNA koja se sekvencira). Dobivena sekvencia naziva se *transkriptom*.

Sekvenciranje metilacije DNA (eng. *Methylation Sequencing*) – paralelno se sekvencira DNA koja je na mjestima metilacije prethodno kemijski modificirana u odnosu na nemodificiranu DNA - koristi se u epigenetskim istraživanjima.

U kliničkoj praksi (npr. u određivanju nasljednih rizika ili farmakogenetici) obično se sekvencira 10 do nekoliko stotina gena, dok se ispitivanje većeg broja gena češće provodi u molekularnoj klasifikaciji raka

carried out on a silicon microchip of one of the two most common types of devices today: The first is from the company Illumina (which uses sequencing by synthesis). The second is from Thermo Fisher Scientific (ion semiconductor microchip sequencing).

4. In the final step, after reading all fragments - specific software combines the information of millions of sequences into the final reading. Data merging is performed on powerful computers and the processing requires special bioinformatics knowledge. Multiple sequenced fragments are overlapped over the same part of the DNA (30, 50, 100 or more times overlaps represents coverage) and the most probable reading sequence is statistically taken as final. The readings obtained are interpreted with different accuracy levels (99%, 99.99%, 99.999%).

5. In order to identify nucleotide sequence differences, the sequence is most often compared to a reference genome (assembly sequencing - when organism's nucleotide sequence is known from before), or fragments are tried to be assembled into a new nucleotide sequence of an organism (de novo sequencing).

With NGS methods, it is possible to determine DNA or RNA sequence (RNA is prior sequencing transcribed into cDNA) in fresh or archival tissue samples (paraffin sections), and the following approaches are most common:

WGS (Whole Genome Sequencing) - sequencing of the entire genome - enables the targeted detection of new mutations and polymorphisms in all ~3 billion base pairs

Exome Sequencing - only protein-coding regions are sequenced (180,000 exons make up ~1% of the genome, ~20,000 genes, or ~30 million base pairs). The resulting sequence is called an exome.

RNA Sequencing - all cellular RNA transcribed at the time of isolation from the tissue sample is sequenced (before sequencing, it is translated into cDNA). The resulting sequence is called a transcriptome.

Methylation Sequencing - parallel sequencing of DNA that has been previously chemically modified at methylation sites compared to unmodified DNA sequence - used in epigenetic research.

In clinical practice, smaller sets ranging from 10 to several hundred genes are usually examined (e.g. in determining hereditary risks or pharmacogenetics). Larger gene examination sets can aid in cancer mo-

i kliničkim istraživanjima. Zbog kompleksnosti informacija rezultata sekvenciranja za tumačenje varijanti s vjerojatnim kliničkim značajem, nužno je koristiti specifične genomske baze podataka.

Od vremena ograničenih, sporih i zahtjevnih metoda sekvenciranja prve generacije (Maxam Gilbert/Sanger), danas je široko u primjeni tehnologija druge generacije, a i ona već napreduje prema trećoj generaciji - čije će glavne značajke biti niska cijena i izostanak potrebe za pripremom DNA knjižnice. Na primjer, tvrtka Oxford Nanopore Technologies pokušava *Nanopore sequencing* pristupom - direktno i u realnom vremenu čitati slijed pojedinačnih nukleotida pri prolasku pojedinačnih DNA molekula kroz nanoporu senzora.

Osim u medicini, danas se NGS intenzivno koristi i u mnogim drugim područjima (primjerice u evolucijskoj genetici, forenzici, paleontologiji i dr.).

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lecular classification and provide guidance for the clinical trials selection.

Since the time of limited, slow and demanding sequencing methods of the first generation (Maxam Gilbert/Sanger), nowadays second generation technology is widely used, and it is progressing towards the third generation with the main features: low price and the absence of a DNA library preparation. For example, the Oxford Nanopore Technologies company is testing the Nanopore sequencing approach – as individual DNA molecules pass through the sensor's nanopores, the direct individual sequence of nucleotides is read in real time.

In addition to medicine, today NGS is used intensively in many other fields (for example, in evolutionary genetics, forensics, paleontology, etc.).

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**S1-3**

## Dijagnostičke primjene slikovne spektrometrije masa

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Slikovna spektrometrija masa (engl. *Imaging Mass Spectrometry*, IMS) je tehnologija snimanja ionskih slika (engl. *Ion Images*) koje prikazuju prostorne raspodjele različitih molekularnih iona u preparatima cijelih organa, tkiva ili stanica. Dobivene ionske slike ukazuju na kemijske razlike među staničnim i tkivnim sastavnicama analiziranog preparata a mogu se kolocirati sa snimkama istog preparata dobivenim svjetlosnim mikroskopom. IMS omogućava istovremeno snimanje većeg broja ionskih snimki različitih molekula: malih molekula poput lijekova, lipida, šećera, nukleotida i organometalnih spojeva te većih molekula poput peptida i proteina. Trenutno je razvoj IMS-a usmjeren prema prepoznavanju i dijagnostičkoj primjeni tkivnih pokazatelja apoptoze (ceramidi, omjer ATP/ADP), autofagije (diamini), oksidativnog stresa (oksidirani lipidi, lizofosfatidi), stanične proliferacije (histoni) i sl. dok su širu kliničku primjenu već našli na IMS-u temeljeni postupci detekcije tumorskih margina i metastaza, određivanja histoloških podtipova te razlikovanja primarnih od sekundarnih tumora. Navedena detekcija tumorskih margina i razlikovanje tumora od nekrotiziranog tkiva ima i intraoperativne primjene. Trenutno su u razvoju su brojne nove primjene ove tehnologije u dijagnostici amiloidoze, kroničnog bubrežnog zatajenja, osteoartritisa, primjene u individualizaciji farmakoterapije itd.

Razvoj dijagnostičkih primjena IMS-a podrazumjeva i razvoj analitičke tehnologije. Ionizacija i desorpcija molekula analita iz biološkog uzorka su presudne za analize temeljene na primjeni spektrometara masa (engl. *Mass Spectrometer*, MS) koji su sastavni dio komercijalno dostupnih IMS uređaja. Danas su u dijagnostičkoj primjeni četiri tehnologije ionizacije i desorpcije: matricom podpomognuta laserska desorpcija/ionizacija (engl. *Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization*, MALDI), desorpcija i ionizacija pomoću sekundarnih iona (engl. *Secondary Ion*, SI), desorpcija i ionizacija pomoću nano-elektronspreja (engl. *Nano Desorption Electrospray Ionization*, nDESI) te laserska ablacija povezana s induktivno-spregnutom plazmom (engl. *Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma*,

**S1-3**

## Diagnostic applications of imaging mass spectrometry

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Imaging Mass Spectrometry (IMS) is a technology for recording ion images that show the spatial distribution of various molecular ions in preparations of whole organs, tissues or cells. The obtained ion images indicate chemical differences between cellular and tissue components of the analysed preparation and can be collocated with images of the same preparation obtained with a light microscope. IMS enables the simultaneous recording of a large number of ion images of different molecules: small molecules such as drugs, lipids, sugars, nucleotides and organometallic compounds, and larger molecules such as peptides and proteins. Current development of IMS is aimed at the recognition and diagnostic application of tissue markers of apoptosis (ceramides, ATP/ADP ratio), autophagy (diamines), oxidative stress (oxidized lipids, lysophosphatides), cell proliferation (histones) etc., while some IMS-based procedures have already attained a wider clinical application in detection of tumor margins and metastases, in determination of histological subtypes, and in distinguishing primary from secondary tumours. The aforementioned detection of tumor margins and differentiation of tumors from necrotic tissue attained intraoperative applications. Numerous new applications of this technology in the diagnosis of amyloidosis, chronic renal failure, osteoarthritis, in the individualization of pharmacotherapy etc., are being developed.

The development of diagnostic IMS applications presumes the development of analytical technology, itself. Ionization and desorption of analyte molecules from a biological sample are crucial for analyses that are to be performed using mass spectrometers (MS), which are an integral part of the commercially available IMS devices. Today, there are four ionization and desorption technologies in diagnostic use: Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI), desorption and ionization using Secondary Ions (SI), nano Desorption Electrospray Ionization (nDESI) and Laser Ablation linked with Inductively Coupled Plasma (LA-ICP). Among the mentioned technologies, only

LA-ICP). Među navedenim tehnologijama jedino MALDI podrazumjeva nanošenje matrica no, iako je riječ o dodatnom koraku u pripremi uzorka, upravo izbor matrice i metode njenog nanošenja omogućavaju značajno povećanje osjetljivosti za molekule od interesa. Izbor tehnologije desorpcije i ionizacije također izravno utječe na prostornu rezoluciju ionske slike: dok SI tehnologija omogućava rezoluciju od 1 µm, MALDI i LA-ICP omogućavaju rezoluciju od 5 µm a nDESI omogućava rezoluciju od 50 µm. Zahvaljujući visokoj prostornoj rezoluciji, noviji SI, MALDI i LA-ICP uređaji omogućavaju provedbe analiza staničnih suspenzija poput krvi, suspenzija staničnih kultura, tumorskih sferoida ili aspirata uz od prije dostupne analize smrznutih i formalinom-fiksiranih u parafin ugrađenih uzoraka tkiva solidnih organa. Kako bi se osigurala što veća rezolucija omjera masa-naboj (engl. *mass-to-charge ratio*, m/z) potrebna za pouzdanu identifikaciju molekularnih iona u komercijalnim IMS instrumentima se najčešće koriste tzv. MS uređaji vremena leta (engl. *Time-Of-Flight*, TOF), Orbitrap MS uređaji i rezonancijski ionski ciklotroni s Fourierovom transformacijom (engl. *Fourier-Transform Ion-Cyclotron*, FTICR). U svrhu pouzdane identifikacije se može primjeniti i tandemkska spektrometrija masa te mjerjenje ionske mobilnosti (engl. *Ion Mobility*).

Dijagnostička primjena IMS-a podrazumjeva vrlo zahtjevnu obradu snimljenih ionskih slika: ionske slike mogu prikazivati intenzitete signala više tisuća iona u svakom od tisuća piksela što generira u projektu nekoliko stotina Mb informacije. Za tu se namjenu danas koriste različiti specijalizirani računalni programi za statističku obradu i obradu slike. Takva obrada najčešće uključuje relativnu kvantifikaciju tj. usporedbu sadržaja i distribucije analita s ciljem prepoznavanja onih m/z omjera tj. molekularnih iona čiji se intenziteti najviše razlikuju među različitim preparatima ili dijelovima preparata. Na temelju tako odabranih m/z omjera te, eventualno, dostupnih ionskih mobilnosti i spektara dobivenih tandemskom MS moguće je pretraživati baze podataka u svrhu identifikacije novih biomarkera koji odgovaraju odabranim m/z omjerima. Uz navedeno, računalni programi omogućavaju i obradu ionskih slika s ciljem lakšeg uočavanja razlika među dijelovima preparata što ima najveću primjenu u histopatologiji.

U okviru predavanja biti će prikazani tipični primjeri dijagnostičkih primjena IMS-a te trenutni status razvoja IMS tehnologije.

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MALDI implies the application of matrices, but even though it is an additional step in sample preparation, it is precisely the choice of the matrix and the method of its application that enable a significant increase in sensitivity for molecules of interest. The choice of desorption and ionization technology also directly affects the spatial resolution of the ion image: while SI technology enables a resolution of 1 µm, MALDI and LA-ICP enable a resolution of 5 µm and nDESI enables a resolution of 50 µm. Thanks to the high spatial resolution, the newer SI, MALDI and LA-ICP devices enable the analysis of cell suspensions such as blood, cell culture suspensions, tumor spheroids or aspirates in addition to the previously available analyses of frozen and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue samples of solid organs. In order to ensure the highest resolution of the mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) required for the reliable identification of molecular ions, so-called Time-Of-Flight (TOF) MS devices, Orbitrap MS devices and Fourier-Transform Ion-Cyclotron Resonance (FTICR) MS devices are implemented in commercial IMS instruments. For the purpose of reliable identification, tandem mass spectrometry and ion mobility measurement can also be used.

The diagnostic application of IMS implies a very demanding processing of recorded ion images: ion images can display the signal intensities of thousands of ions in each of thousands of pixels, which generates an average of several hundred Mb of information. Today, different specialized computer programs for statistical and image processing are used for the purpose of IMS data processing. Such processing most often includes relative quantification, i.e. comparison of the content and distribution of analytes with the aim of identifying those m/z ratios, i.e. molecular ions whose intensities differ the most among different preparations or parts of the preparation. Based on the thus selected m/z ratios and, possibly, available ion mobilities and spectra obtained by tandem MS, it is possible to search databases for the purpose of identifying new biomarkers that correspond to the selected m/z ratios. In addition to the above, computer programs enable the processing of ion images with the aim of easier observation of differences between parts of the preparation, which is the most important application in histopathology.

As a part of the lecture typical examples of the diagnostic applications of IMS and the status of the IMS technology will be presented.

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## S2 Primjena znanosti o podacima u poboljšanju laboratorijske dijagnostike

S2-3

### Primjena rudarenja laboratorijskih podataka

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Laboratorijska medicina tvorac je velikog broja rezultata laboratorijskih analiza, kvalitativnih i kvantitativnih podataka. Međutim, cilj laboratorijske medicine nije suhoporno izvještavanje brojeva već njihova interpretacija u smislu vrijednih informacija koje podupiru medicinske odluke. Svakodnevno radno opterećenje onemogućuje pregled cijelokupne dokumentacije pacijenata kako bi se osigurala individualna procjena laboratorijskog nalaza. Kada je količina podataka prevelika i presložena, a njihova analiza i interpretacija nadilazi ljudske mogućnosti, tada govorimo o „velikim podacima“ (engl. *Big Data*). Laboratorijski su tvorci „velikih podataka iz stvarnog svijeta“ (engl. *Real-World Big Data*) (VPSS), koji nastaju svakodnevno u rutinskom radu, ali laboratorijski specijalisti nisu podatkovni znanstvenici. Znanost o podacima je znanstveno područje koje se bavi analizom velike količine podataka koristeći napredne alate i složene algoritme u potrazi za novim znanjem i nepoznatim poveznicama koje, u ovom slučaju, podupiru medicinsko odlučivanje. Znanost o podacima je široki pojam koji obuhvaća rudarenje podataka (engl. *Data Mining*) (RP) i strojno učenje (engl. *Machine Learning*) (SU), a ova dva pojma nisu sinonimi. Proces znanosti o podacima započinje prikupljanjem sirovih podataka koje je potrebno očistiti i preuređiti u oblik pogodan za analizu te na taj način izgraditi bazu podataka. Zatim se takvi podaci rudare u potrazi za novim i korisnim uzorcima (engl. *pattern*) koji će donijeti važne nove informacije. Rudarenje podataka je proces koji ovisi o ljudskom upravljanju za razliku od strojnog učenja koji je isključivo upravljanjem strojem tj. računalom. Strojno (računalno) učenje predstavlja sposobnost računala da uči iz iskustva bez ljudskog utjecaja. Koristeći matematičke i statističke algoritme, računala se uvježbavaju na podacima te time uče, razvijaju nove sposobnosti i otkrivaju poveznice među podacima. Nakon obučavanja,

## S2 Application of data science in laboratory diagnostics improvement

S2-3

### Application of laboratory data mining

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From a technical perspective, laboratory medicine produces large volumes of laboratory test results, either qualitative or quantitative data. From a professional perspective, laboratory specialists must interpret all these data to provide valuable information to support medical decisions. The current laboratory workload makes it nearly impossible to access all available patient data and make an individualised assessment of the laboratory report. When there is too much and complex data that exceeds the human ability to evaluate and interpret it, it is called Big Data. Laboratories are true producers of Real-World Big Data (RWBD), data that comes from routine procedures, but laboratory professionals are not data scientists. Data science is a field of study in which large amounts of data are analysed using advanced tools and complex algorithms to search for new knowledge and unseen relationships that, in this case, support medical decisions. Data science is a broad term that encompasses data mining (DM) and machine learning (ML), but they are not synonyms. The path of data science begins with the collection of raw data that must be cleaned and transformed into usable form to build a database. Then, this extensive data is processed through DM. This involves extracting new and useful patterns in the data in search of relevant information. DM is a human-driven process, as opposed to ML, which is machine-driven. ML is the machine's ability to learn from experience without further human input. Using mathematical and statistical algorithms, machines are trained on a data set from which they learn. They develop new capabilities and discover relationships between data and are then able to perform the same task on an entirely new data set. The algorithms used by the machines (regression, decision tree, random forest, support vector machine, convolutional neural network, etc.) depend on the type of data and the de-

računala mogu izvoditi identične zadatke na potpuno nepoznatim, novim podacima. Algoritmi koji se upotrebljavaju u strojnom učenju (regresija, stablo odlučivanja, potporni vektorski stroj, konvolucijska neuron-ska mreža itd.) ovise o vrsti podataka i traženom zadatku. Razliku između RP i SU nije jednostavno shvatiti jer se SU ponekad upotrebljava za RP, a RP se može upotrijebiti za pripremu podataka za SU.

Multidisciplinarni timovi sastavljeni od laboratorijskih specijalista i podatkovnih znanstvenika predstavili su inovativna rješenja koristeći VPSS iz laboratorijskih informacijskih sustava (LIS). Studije na VPSS su praktične, ekonomične i izravno primjenjive na stvarne pacijente. S druge strane, VPSS iz LIS-a su heterogeni, nepotpuni, ovisni o analitičkoj točnosti i preciznosti te često nedostaju značajne kliničke informacije. Bez obzira na brojne izazove, studije VPSS imaju veliki potencijal za poboljšanje upravljanja kvalitetom i standardizaciju u laboratorijskoj medicini. Sve je veći interes za izvođenje referentnih intervala (RI) iz VPSS jer je metoda jeftina, jednostavna, brza i omogućuje uspostavljanje RI za populacije čiji uzorci nisu lako dostupni (pedijatrijska i gerijatrijska populacija). Osim toga, VPSS se mogu koristiti za kontrolu kvalitete u stvarnom vremenu temeljenu na rezultatima pacijenata (engl. *patient-based real-time quality controls*) radi bržeg otkrivanja analitičkih pogrešaka; procjenu individualne biološke varijacije ovisne o čimbenicima koji nisu uključeni u standardne parametre biološke varijacije; epidemiološka istraživanja, primjerice prevalencija i mortalitet uslijed hiponatrijemije kojeg su objavili Hao i sur. Podaci izvedeni iz LIS-a također se mogu upotrijebiti za unaprjeđenje upravljanja kvalitetom laboratorija. Rosenbaum i Baron izvjestili su o otkrivanju pogrešne identifikacije pacijenata ili krivo označenih epruveta korištenjem algoritama SU na vrijednostima značajne razlike (engl. *delta check*) za više laboratorijskih pokazatelja. Rudarenje podataka je u fokusu vanjske procjene kvalitete (VPK) jer omogućuje kontinuirano praćenje laboratorijske kvalitete uz veću učestalost provjere u odnosu na tradicionalne VPK sheme. Nadalje, studije VPSS mogu pomoći u racionalizaciji laboratorijskih rutinskih procesa. Lidbury i sur. zaključili su kako je GGT suvišan test za procjenu jetrene funkcije kada se istovremeno mjere ALT i ALP. Islam i sur. razvili su algoritam za preporuku panela laboratorijskih testova temeljem osnovnih podataka o pacijentu. Luo i sur. predviđeli su koncentraciju feritina temeljem demografskih podataka pacijenata te rezultata biokemijskih i hematoloških pretraga. Yu i sur.

sired task. The difference between DM and ML is difficult to understand, as ML is sometimes used for DM and DM can be used to prepare data for ML.

Multidisciplinary teams have combined laboratory medicine and data science to present innovative approaches using RWBD from laboratory information systems (LIS). Real-World Big Data studies are practical, economical, and apply well to real patients. On the other hand, RWBD from LIS is heterogeneous, incomplete, dependent on analytical accuracy and precision, and often lacks relevant clinical information. Regardless of the many challenges, RWBD studies have great potential to improve quality management and standardisation in laboratory medicine. Establishing reference intervals (RI) using RWBD is of growing interest because it is inexpensive, simple, rapid, and allows RIs to be established for populations whose samples are not readily available (paediatric or geriatric populations). In addition, RWBD can be used for patient-based real-time quality controls for faster detection of analytical errors; estimation of individual biological variation dependant of factors not included in standard biological variation parameters; epidemiological surveys, e.g., the prevalence and mortality of hyponatremia published by Hao *et al.* Laboratory quality management can also use data derived from LIS. Rosenbaum and Baron reported on the detection of patient misidentification or mislabeled tubes using ML-based multianalyte delta checks. Data mining is in the focus of External Quality Assessment (EQA) because it has the potential to monitor laboratory quality continuously and with much higher frequency than traditional EQA schemes. Furthermore, RWDB studies can help rationalize laboratory routines. Lidbury *et al.* found that GGT is a redundant test in a liver function test panel when ALT and ALP are also measured. Islam *et al.* developed an algorithm to recommend laboratory tests based on patient input data. Luo *et al.* predicted ferritin concentration based on patient demographics and biochemical and haematological test results. Yu *et al.* obtained an intriguing result by developing a ML-based model to predict laboratory test values without performing them. Demirci *et al.* created an autovalidation protocol based on the neural network ML technique that goes far beyond simple rule-based autovalidation due to its ability to self-improve.

su razvili model temeljen na SU za predviđanje vrijednosti laboratorijskih pokazatelja bez njihovog izravnog određivanja. Demirci i sur. objavili su protokol za autovalidaciju temeljen na tehnički SU putem neuron-ske mreže koja nadilazi jednostavnu autovalidaciju temeljenu na pravilima upravo zbog sposobnosti učenja i samounaprjeđenja.

Najzanimljivije studije VPSS su one koje pokazuju izravnu korist RP i SU u probiru i predviđanju bolesti, dijagnozi, prognozi i praćenju bolesti. Međutim, još uvijek nema dovoljno dokaza o primjenjivosti ovih algoritama u rutinskoj praksi, a upitna je i njihova točnost. Trenutno, jedini detaljno ispitani i odobreni algoritmi u laboratorijskoj medicini uključuju prepoznavanje slikovnih zapisa poput morfološke analize diferencijalne krvne slike i analize sedimenta mokraće. Znanost o podacima trebala bi omogućiti korisne alate za potporu medicinskom odlučivanju i smanje- nje radnog opterećenja te se ne može smatrati za- mjenom za ljudsku stručnost i iskustvo.

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The most intriguing RWDB studies are those that demonstrate the utility of DM and ML for screening and disease prediction, diagnosis, prognosis, and monitoring, yet these findings are rarely applied. There is insufficient evidence on the general applicability of these algorithms to real-world data and the accuracy of these models. Currently, the only thoroughly tested and approved algorithms in laboratory medicine involve image recognition, such as morphological analysis in haematology and urine sediment analysis. Data science should provide helpful tools for medical decision support and workload reduction and should not be viewed as substitute for human expertise and experience.

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**S3 Novosti u hematologiji****S3-1****Novi parametri na hematološkim brojačima kao dodana vrijednost u dijagnostici trombotskih mikroangiopatija**

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Naziv trombotske mikroangiopatije (TMA) obuhvaća skupinu srodnih bolesti koje karakterizira neimuna trombocitopenija, mikroangiopatska hemolitička anemija (MAHA) i mikrovaskularna tromboza s disfunkcijom povezanog organa. Patogeneza TMA povezana je sa stvaranjem tromba u mikrovaskulaturi kao posljedicom oštećenja endotela ili postojanja molekula von Willebrandova faktora (VWF) ultravelike molekularne mase, što dovodi do potrošne trombocitopenije i mehaničkog razaranja eritrocita (Erc) unutar krvnih žila. Postoji više različitih TMA koje su prouzročene različitim patofiziološkim mehanizmima. Trombotička trombocitopenička purpura (TTP) najbolje je proučena TMA, a prouzročena je trombima nastalima povezivanjem VWF-a ultravelike molekularne mase s trombocitima kao rezultatom nedostatka VWF-cijepajuće proteaze nazvane ADAMTS13 (engl. *a disintegrin and metalloprotease, with thrombospondin-1-like domains*). Trombotička trombocitopenička purpura ima i naslijedni i stičeni oblik i uglavnom zahvaća mozak i srce. Hemolitičko-uremijski sindrom (HUS) obično je uzrokovan djelovanjem Shiga toksina na renovaskularni endotel, dok je rjeđi oblik, poznat kao atipični HUS (aHUS), poremećaj uzrokovani abnormalnostima u regulaciji sustava komplementa koji također rezultira endotelnim oštećenjem. Ciljni je organ bubreg. Razlikovanje ovih poremećaja klinički je izrazito zahtjevno zbog vrlo slične kliničke prezentacije i laboratorijskih nalaza koji upućuju na trombocitopeniju i hemolitičku anemiju, a istodobno i vrlo važno jer su mnoge TMA opasne za život, terapija je drukčija, a pravodobno i odgovarajuće liječenje dramatično poboljšava prognozu bolesnika.

Obilježje ovih bolesti prisutnost je fragmentiranih Erc-a (FRC), nazvanih shistociti, pa je otkrivanje shistocita važna morfološka značajka koja upućuje na

**S3 News in hematology****S3-1****New parameters on hematological analysers as an added value in the diagnosis of thrombotic microangiopathies**

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The term thrombotic microangiopathies (TMAs) describes a group of related disorders characterized by nonimmune thrombocytopenia, microangiopathic hemolytic anemia (MAHA) and microvascular thrombosis with dysfunction of an associated organ. The pathogenesis of TMAs is associated with thrombus formation in the microvasculature as a consequence of endothelial damage or the persistence of abnormally large molecules of von Willebrand factor (VWF), which leads to a consumptive thrombocytopenia and mechanical destruction of erythrocytes (RBC) within the vasculature. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) is the best studied TMA, caused by ultra-large VWF–platelet thrombi formed as a result of deficiency of VWF-cleavage protease called ADAMTS13 (a disintegrin and metalloprotease, with thrombospondin-1-like domains). TTP has both hereditary and acquired form and mainly involves the brain and the heart. Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is typically caused by the action of Shiga toxin on the renovascular endothelium, whereas a more rare form, known as atypical HUS (aHUS), is a disorder driven by abnormalities in complement system regulation that also results in endothelial damage. The target organ is kidney. Differentiating between TMAs is clinically challenging due to very similar clinical presentation and laboratory findings that indicate thrombocytopenia and hemolytic anemia; it is at the same time very important as many TMAs are life-threatening, the therapy is different, and timely and appropriate treatment dramatically improves patient prognosis.

The hallmark of these disorders is the presence of fragmented red blood cells (FRC), named schistocytes, and their detection is an important morphological clue to the diagnosis of TMA. However,

dijagnozu TMA. Metoda brojenja shistocita svjetlosnom mikroskopijom jest, međutim, subjektivna i neprecizna. Postoje interindividualne razlike u definiciji shistocita u istom laboratoriju kao i među različitim laboratorijima. Međunarodno vijeće za standarizaciju u hematologiji (engl. *International Council for Standardization in Haematology*, ICSH) 2012. godine objavilo je preporuke za identifikaciju, kvantifikaciju i dijagnostičku vrijednost shistocita, a 2021. ista je skupina procijenila učinak tih preporuka i objavila njihovu reviziju. Shistociti su definirani kao ulomci koji su uvihek manji od intaktnih Erc i u većini slučajeva homogeno obojeni, s oštrim kutovima i ravnim rubovima, ili mogu imati oblik polumjeseca, kacige, mogu biti keratociti (stanice s „rogovima“) ili mikrosferociti (samo u prisutnosti gore navedenih oblika eritrocita). Prema preporukama, nalaz više od 1% shistocita u razmazu periferne krvi optičkom mikroskopijom pri srednjem (x400) ili velikom (x1000) povećanju, nakon brojenja najmanje 1000 Erc, snažan je citomorfološki pokazatelj koji upućuje na dijagnozu TMA u odraslih. U slučaju negativnog nalaza shistocita uz postojanje jasne kliničke sumnje na TMA, pregled razmaza periferne krvi na shistocite treba ponavljati svakodnevno jer se ponekad shistociti mogu pojaviti s odgodom od nekoliko dana. Unatoč preporukama ICSH-a s boljom morfološkom definicijom shistocita i preciznim analitičkim protokolom, procjena shistocita ostaje zamoran laboratorijski postupak s velikom interindividualnom varijabilnošću rezultata.

Najnoviji hematološki analizatori opremljeni su postupnicima za upozoravanje (engl. *flag*) ili kvantificiranje FRC-a u uzorcima krvi s EDTA antikoagulantom. Analizatori Sysmex XE/XN i Siemens Advia automatsirano broje FRC, parametar koji se još uvihek koristi samo za istraživanja (engl. *research parameter*). Oba analizatora rabe veličinu stanice kao metodu detekcije i obično se automatiziranom metodom dobiju viši rezultati, no unatoč tomu pokazana je znatna korelacija s ručnom metodom. Na Siemensovim se analizatorima FRC mjeri izravno dvodimenzijском optičkom analizom koja se koristi u integriranoj analizi Erc/trombociti. FRC-ovi odgovaraju događajima u području eritrocita izrazito male veličine, ispod praga od 30 fL, što odgovara trombocitima, ali s indeksom refrakcije  $> 1,4$  zbog sadržaja hemoglobina, što ih razlikuje od trombocita. Sysmex se za brojenje FRC-ova koristi retikulocitnim kanalom u kojem, nakon bojenja polimetinskom fluorescentnom bojom, analiza raspršenja svjetla prema naprijed (FSC) i intenziteta

manual microscopical counting of schistocytes is both subjective and imprecise. There are differences in the definition of schistocytes between individuals in the same laboratory as well as between different laboratories. In 2012, the International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICSH) published recommendations for the identification, quantitation, and diagnostic value of schistocytes and in 2021 the impact of these recommendations was evaluated and revision published by the same group. Schistocytes have been defined as cell fragments which are always smaller than intact RBCs and homogeneously stained in most cases, with sharp angles and straight borders, or may be small, crescent-shaped, helmet cells, keratocytes, or microspherocytes. According to the recommendations, the finding of more than 1% schistocytes on peripheral blood smear using an optical microscope at medium (x400) or high (x1000) magnification after counting at least 1000 RBCs is a robust cytomorphological indicator for the diagnosis of TMA in adults. If schistocytes are absent and there is a high suspicion of TMA, blood smear screening for schistocytes should be repeated daily as the appearance of schistocytes can occasionally be delayed for several days. Despite efforts of ICSH to set up recommendations with better morphological definition, the assessment of schistocytes remains tedious laboratory procedure with a high interobserver variability. Recent hematology analysers have been equipped with various proprietary algorithms to flag or quantify FRC in EDTA-anticoagulated blood samples. The Sysmex XE/XN and Siemens Advia instruments both provide an automated FRC count as part of the full blood count, currently used as a research parameter. Both instruments use cellular size as the detection method and there is a tendency for overestimation by the automated methods but, despite this, significant correlation with the manual method has been reported. On Siemens analysers, FRCs are measured directly by two-dimensional optical analysis that combines an integrated analysis of RBCs and platelets. The FRCs correspond to events with erythrocytes of very small size, below a 30 fL threshold and with the refractive index  $> 1.4$  as the hemoglobin content separates them from platelets. Sysmex uses a detection system from the reticulocyte channel. After staining with polymethine fluorescent dye, analysis of forward scatter and fluorescence intensity lets the device detect events in Gate1 with a vol-

fluorescencije omogućuje uređaju bilježenje događaja u prozoru 1 (engl. *Gate1*) s volumenom manjim od Erc i sa sadržajem RNA nižim od Trc što odgovara FRC-ovima. Dodatni prozor 2 (engl. *Gate2*) ustanovljen je kako bi se smanjili učinci mikrocita koji su prisutni kod sideropenične ili nekih drugih anemija. Zbog višestruko većeg broja stanica analiziranih automatiziranom metodom u usporedbi s ručnim brojenjem, preciznost automatizirane metode mnogo je bolja. Nadalje, pokazalo se da FRC ima visoku negativnu prediktivnu vrijednost, ali nisku specifičnost. Prema preporukama ICSH-a, rutinsko automatsko brojenje FRC-a koje omogućuju automatizirani hematološki analizatori potencijalno je moćan alat za probir na prisutnost shistocita. Parametar FRC ima izvrsnu reproducibilnost, nisku cijenu i lako je dostupan u većini laboratorija. Negativan nalaz FRC-a s visokom vjerojatnošću isključuje shistocite u razmazu periferne krvi, a svaki pozitivan nalaz treba potvrditi mikroskopskim pregledom kako bi se potvrdila prisutnost shistocita.

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ume smaller than RBC and with RNA content lower than platelets, and thus corresponding to FRCs. Supplementary Gate2 is incorporated to minimize the effects of small-sized intact RBCs as observed in iron deficiency anemia or other disorders. Due to the greater number of cells counted by automated methods compared with manual counting, precision is much better. Furthermore, FRC has been shown to have excellent negative predictive value but a low specificity.

According to the ICSH recommendations, routine automated FRC count provided by automated hematology analysers is a potentially powerful screening tool for assessing schistocytes. The FRC analysis has excellent reproducibility, low cost and rapid availability. Negative FRC result is a valuable parameter to exclude schistocytes on the blood film, but any positive case should have a microscopical examination to confirm the presence of schistocytes.

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**S3-2**

## **Automatizirane metode za brojenje i diferencijaciju stanica u uzorcima ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina**

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Likvor, serozne tekućine (pleuralna, peritonealna i perikardijalna) i sinovijalna tekućina su ekstravaskularne tjelesne tekućine koje se najčešće analiziraju u kliničkom laboratoriju. Sastav svake ekstravaskularne tjelesne tekućine je jedinstven i ovisan o poremećaju i/ili organu koji je poremećajem zahvaćen. Analiza ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina uključuje biohemiske, citološke i mikrobiološke pretrage, a kombinacijom dobivenih rezultata mogu se dobiti korisne informacije za razlikovanje poremećaja koji su uzrokovali njihovo nakupljanje i za otkrivanje zahvaćenosti specifičnih organa.

U fiziološkim uvjetima različite stanice mogu biti prisutne u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama (npr. leukociti, eritrociti, obložne stanice (mezotelne stanice, sinoviociti) i druge stanice s jezgrom). U različitim upalnim, infektivnim, hemoragičnim i malignim poremećajima dolazi do kvantitativnih i kvalitativnih promjena u sastavu prisutnih stanica. Određivanje ukupnog broja stanica u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama, posebice broja leukocita i njihove diferencijacije, smatra se važnim dijagnostičkim alatom, a dobiveni rezultati mogu biti korisni i u liječenju pacijenta. Stoga je nužno da metode koje se koriste za brojanje i diferencijaciju stanica u uzorcima ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina budu točne kako bi se dobili pouzdani rezultati i u konačnici povećala sigurnost pacijenata.

Jedan od bitnih zahtjeva za akreditaciju laboratorija prema normi ISO 15189 je verifikacija/validacija metode. Prije implementacije automatiziranih metoda za brojanje i diferencijaciju stanica u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama u kliničku praksu neophodno je provesti verifikaciju. Taj postupak obuhvaća provjeru analitičkih specifikacija deklariranih od strane proizvođača za svaku vrstu ekstravaskularne tjelesne tekućine koristeći lokalnu metodu kako bi osigurali dokazi o pouzdanosti dobivenih rezultata. Iako su smjernice za verifikaciju

**S3-2**

## **Automated cell count and differentials in extravascular body fluids analysis**

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Cerebrospinal fluid, serous fluids (pleural, peritoneal and pericardial) and synovial fluid are the most frequently analysed extravascular body fluids (EBF) in the clinical laboratory. The composition of each EBF is unique and organ/disease dependent. The analysis of EBF includes biochemical, cytological and microbiological tests; their combined results provide useful information in differentiating conditions causing fluid accumulation and in detecting specific organ involvement.

Physiologically, various cells might be found in EBF (e.g. white blood cells (WBC), red blood cells (RBC), lining (mesothelial cells, synoviocytes) and other nucleated cells). Furthermore, the cellular composition of EBF is altered (both quantitatively and qualitatively) in many inflammatory, infectious, haemorrhagic and malignant conditions. The analysis of total cell count in EBF samples, especially WBC and differentials, is an important diagnostic tool and might guide clinical treatment. Thus, it is imperative that the methods used for EBF cell counting and differentiation are accurate in order to obtain reliable results and ultimately maximize patient safety.

Method verification/validation is an essential requirement for laboratory accreditation according to the ISO 15189. It is indispensable prior to the implementation of automated methods for EBF cell counting and differentiation into clinical practice. The performance specifications declared by the manufacturers should be verified according to EBF sample type and local method in order to provide evidence that the analyser can provide reliable results. This might represent a challenging task for many laboratories despite the availability of guidelines for the verification of automated methods for EBF cell counting. The specificities of each EBF matrix, the availability of EBF samples, the necessity for sample pre-treatment before analysis and the definition of appropriate acceptability criteria are some of the factors

automatiziranih metoda za brojanje stanica u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama dostupne, verifikacija je izazovni zadatak za mnoge laboratorije. Neki od čimbenika koje treba uzeti u obzir kod planiranja verifikacije su specifičnosti svakog pojedinog matriksa, dostupnost uzoraka ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina, potreba za njihovom obradom prije analize i definicija odgovarajućih kriterija prihvatljivosti. Ukoliko proizvođač nije deklarirao specifikacije metode, korištena se metoda treba smatrati laboratorijski razvijenim testom i sukladno tome laboratorij je odgovoran za njenu potpunu validaciju. Postupci prikupljanja, rukovanja i obrade ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina prije analize mogu značajno utjecati na kvalitetu tih jedinstvenih uzorka te posljedično i na pouzdanost rezultata dobivenih brojanjem i diferencijacijom stanica. Zato je potrebno imati na umu predanalitičke čimbenike slične onima koji utječu na analizu standardnih uzorka (tehnike uzorkovanja, vrsta spremnika, transport te uvjeti obrade i pohrane uzorka).

Manualna metoda se tradicionalno smatra zlatnim standardom za brojanje i diferencijaciju stanica u uzorcima ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina. Izvode ju za to osposobljeni laboratorijski djelatnici koristeći optičke mikroskope i hemocitometre nakon citocentrifugiranja i bojenja uzorka. Optička mikroskopija ima nekoliko ograničenja koja se mogu smatrati potencijalnim izvorima pogrešaka. Dugotrajna je što utječe na ukupno vrijeme obrade uzorka (TAT), ovisi o stručnosti laboratorijskog osoblja, o uvjetima bojenja i citocentrifugiranja u svakom laboratoriju, a dobiveni su rezultati neprecizni zbog velike inter- i intra-individualne varijabilnosti prisutne kod djelatnika koji izvode analizu.

Pojavom automatiziranih hematoloških analizatora s ugrađenim specifičnim načinom rada i automatiziranih urinskih analizatora kojima se mogu analizirati stanice u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama, optička se mikroskopija u mnogim laboratorijima sve više zamjenjuje automatiziranim metodama. Uvođenje automatiziranih metoda pojednostavnilo je i na određen način harmoniziralo određivanje ukupnog broja stanica u ekstravaskularnim tjelesnim tekućinama. Glavne su prednosti automatiziranih metoda poboljšana točnost, preciznost i učinkovitost, skraćenje TAT-a i mali volumen uzorka potreban za analizu. Odabir između automatizirane metode za brojenje i diferencijaciju stanica u uzorcima ekstravaskular-

that should be taken into account when planning a verification. Furthermore, if no performance specifications are provided by the manufacturer, the method used should be regarded as a laboratory-developed test and the laboratory is responsible for complete method validation.

Collection, handling and processing of EBF samples until analysis might greatly affect the quality of such unique samples and hence potentially influence the reliability of EBF cell counts and differentiation. Preanalytical variables similar to those influencing standard fluid analysis should be taken into account (collection techniques, type of containers, transport, and processing and storage conditions).

Traditionally, manual microscopy is considered the gold standard for counting and differentiating cells in EBF samples. It is performed by expert laboratory operators using optical microscopes and haemocytometers after cytocentrifugation and staining of the sample. The manual method has several limitations which might be regarded as potential sources of errors. It is time consuming and labour intensive which affects the laboratory turnaround time (TAT), it depends on the operator's expertise, staining and cytocentrifugation conditions in each laboratory, and the obtained results are affected by high imprecision due to inter- and intra-observer variability.

With the advent of automated haematology analysers using a dedicated body fluid mode, and, most recently, automated urinalysis analysers able to perform EBF cellular analysis, the manual method for EBF cell enumeration and differentiation is rapidly being replaced in many laboratories. The introduction of automated methods has simplified and to a great extent, harmonized EBF cell count. Their main advantages are the provision of improved accuracy, precision and efficiency, reduction in TAT and the low volume of EBF sample required for analysis.

The decision of selecting between automated methods and manual microscopy for EBF cellular analysis (or both) is the responsibility of each individual laboratory. In order to optimize the process of EBF analysis and maximise its efficiency, manual methods for EBF cell counts and differentials should be considered complementary to the automated ones, and laboratory algorithms should be developed to include microscopic review when indicated. Factors such as technical capabilities of the labora-

nih tjelesnih tekućina ili optičke mikroskopije (ili obje metode) je odgovornost svakog pojedinog laboratorija. Kako bi se optimizirao proces analize ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina i povećala njegova učinkovitost, potrebno je optičku mikroskopiju smatrati komplementarnom metodom automatiziranim metodama za brojanje i diferencijaciju stanica. Dodatno, potrebno je razviti laboratorijske algoritme koji uključuju mikroskopski pregled kada je to indicirano. Pri tome valja pažljivo uzeti u obzir čimbenike kao što su tehničke mogućnosti laboratorija, vrstu i volumen uzorka ekstravaskularnih tjelesnih tekućina te prednosti i ograničenja korištene automatizirane metode. Taj proces podrazumijeva značajnije uključivanje laboratorijskih stručnjaka i svih laboratorijskih resursa u ovo područje ispitivanja.

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tory, EBF sample type and volume, advantages and limitations of the automated method used should be carefully taken into account. This implies a major involvement of laboratory professionals and commitment of laboratory resources in this area of testing.

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**S3-3****Mikroskopska analiza razmaza periferne krvi digitalnog doba**

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Kompletna krvna slika (KKS) jedna je od najčešće korištenih pretraga u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici. Moderni hematološki analizatori daju pouzdane rezultate KKS u većini slučajeva, ali u prisutnosti nezrelih leukocita/ eritrocita ili promjena u morfologiji leukocita/ eritrocita još uvek ne mogu ponuditi cijelovitu kliničku informaciju. U tim okolnostima još uvek je potrebna morfološka analiza razmaza periferne krvi. Ovaj postupak je dugotrajan i zahtjeva znanje i iskustvo, a uz to je vrlo subjektivan. Zbog svega navedenog se morfološka analiza razmaza periferne krvi pokušava automatizirati.

Prvi pokušaji automatizacije morfološke analize razmaza periferne krvi sežu u šezdesete godine prošlog stoljeća, prije ere hematoloških analizatora s petodijelnom diferencijalnom krvnom slikom kao prvi kao pokušaj automatizacije diferenciranja leukocita. Nedavno je postalo dostupno nekoliko naprednih sustava koji koriste različite algoritme i metode za automatiziranu analizu slika razmaza periferne krvi. Neki od dostupnih uređaja imaju i mogućnost automatske izrade i bojanja razmaza. Uređaji se sastoje od digitalnog mikroskopa koji se koristi za skeniranje razmaza/snimanje slika stanica visoke rezolucije i softverske komponente koja analizira slike. Analiza slike uključuje nekoliko koraka: a) segmentaciju slike - izolacije područja od interesa na slici, b) izdvajanje i odabir značajki - opisnih karakteristika ekstrahiranog objekta i c) klasifikacija stanica - dodjeljivanje klase odabranim tipovima stanica. Klasifikacija stanica temelji se na analizi parametara kao što su geometrijske značajke, boja i tekstura pomoću složenog algoritma. Digitalna mikroskopija (DM) i kompjuterizirana analiza slike pretvaraju kvalitativne citološke parametre u kvantitativne vrijednosti čineći analizu objektivnjom.

Studije pokazuju da je automatizirana klasifikacija pet normalnih subklasa leukocita pomoću ovih uređaja prilično uspješna, ali pred-klasifikacija nezrelih granulocita i abnormalnih stanica nije zadovoljava-

**S3-3****Microscopic analysis of peripheral blood smears in the digital era**

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Complete blood count (CBC) is one of the most commonly performed tests in laboratory diagnostic. Modern hematology analysers give reliable CBC results in most circumstances but in presence of immature white blood cells (WBC)/red blood cells (RBC) or changes in RBC/WBC morphology still can not offer complete clinical information so microscopic examination of the peripheral blood smear (PBS) is still needed. Microscopic PBS analysis is labor intensive and time-consuming procedure that requires skillful and experienced personnel and is also highly subjective and operator-dependent so attempts have been made to automate this process. First automated morphological analysis systems were introduced in the 1960s, before an era of flow cytometry-based hematology analysers as an attempt of WBC differential automatization. In recent times several advanced digital cell imaging systems that utilize various algorithms and methods to automate PBS image analysis became available. Some devices are also capable of automatic preparing and staining slides. Devices consist of the digital microscope used to scan a slide/capture high-resolution images of cells and the software component which analysers images. Image analysis takes several steps: a) image segmentation - isolation of the regions of interest in the image, b) features extraction and selection - derive descriptive characteristics of the extracted object and c) pattern classification - assign a class to the selected cell types. Classification of cells is based on the analysis of parameters such as geometric, color, and texture features using a complex algorithm. Digital microscopy (DM) and computerized image analysis transform cytological qualitative parameters into quantitative values making them more standardised and objective.

Studies show that automated classification of five normal WBC subclasses by those devices is quite successful but pre-classification of immature granulocytes and abnormal cells is not satisfactory

juća i zahtijeva provjeru klasifikacije od strane iskustnog osoblja, stoga je algoritme za klasifikaciju stanica potrebno dodatno poboljšati. Dobro pripremljen i ispravno obojen, kvalitetan razmaz preduvjet je uspješne morfološke analize stanica. Ponekad kvaliteta boje ručno obojenih razmaza možda ne odgovara zahtjevima digitalne mikroskopije što također može utjecati na prepoznavanje stanica i pred-klasifikaciju u slučaju da sustav ne omogućava pripremu i bojanje razmaza. Nezadovoljavajuća korelacija pojedinih parametara između automatske digitalne mikroskopije i mikroskopske analize razmaza periferne krvi može se objasniti činjenicom da digitalna mikroskopija ne može prevladati dva dobro poznata nedostatka mikroskopske analize razmaza periferne krvi: nehomogenu raspodjelu stanica u različitim područjima stakalca i statističku pogrešku uzorkovanja zbog diferenciranja 100 ili 200 stanica. Osim toga, automatizirana morfološka analiza eritrocita nije zadovoljavajuća i potrebno ju je unaprijediti.

Trenutno digitalna mikroskopija može donijeti najviše koristi laboratorijima s velikim brojem, uglavnom normalnih uzoraka ili onih uzoraka s minimalnim abnormalnostima uz koje analizator daje neku od oznaka upozorenja. Naime prosječno vrijeme za analizu razmaza periferne krvi pomoću automatske digitalne mikroskopije je oko 40% kraće u usporedbi s ručnom mikroskopijom pa digitalna mikroskopija može uštedjeti dragocjeno vrijeme laboratorijskih stručnjaka. Ali ušteda vremena nije jedina prednost digitalne mikroskopije. Prema navodima korisnika, glavne prednosti digitalne mikroskopije su manje naprezanje očiju i lakša procjena kompetencije osoblja i jednostavnija obuka novih zaposlenika. Digitalne slike jednostavno su dostupne za konzultacije s kolegama s udaljenih mesta, a mogu se pohraniti ili uključiti u elektronički karton pacijenata tako da se tijekom praćenja mogu usporediti s prethodnim. Treba naglasiti da prije prijelaza s tradicionalnog mikroskopa na digitalnu mikroskopiju osoblje treba dodatno educirati zbog mogućih razlika u morfološkim detaljima i boji između digitalnog sustava i optičke mikroskopije. Proizvođači kontinuirano razvijaju i modificiraju ove uređaje, a nedavno je predstavljen i prvi sustav koji koristi skeniranje cijelog razmaza (full field microscopy) za prepoznavanje i klasifikaciju stanica koji omogućuje pregled cijelog razmaza krvi putem moderne aplikacije temeljene na pregledniku, pred-klasifikaciju leukocita i procjenu broja trom-

and needs manual classification by an experienced observer so algorithms for cell classification should be further improved. Well prepared and properly stained, a good quality slide is a prerequisite for cell differentiation. Sometimes color quality requirements of manually stained smears may not match that of the DM which can also affect cell recognition and pre-classification of cells. Unsatisfactory correlation between DM and microscopic analysis of PBS in different studies can be explained by the fact that DM cannot overcome two well-known shortcomings of manual differential blood counts: inhomogeneous distribution of the cells in different areas of the slide and statistic error of sampling because of differentiating only 100 or 200 cells. In addition, the automated morphology characterization of RBC should be further improved.

Currently, DM can bring the most benefits to laboratories with a high workload which receive mostly normal or samples with irrelevant abnormalities flagged by instruments. Since average time to analyse a blood film by DM is about 40% less compared with manual microscopy DM can save precious time of laboratory personnel. But saving time is not the only benefit of DM. According to users main advantages of DM are reduction of eyestrain, easier competency assessment and training for new employees. Digital images are easily available for remote viewing and consultation with colleagues from remote sites, and can be stored or incorporated into the patient records so during monitoring can be compared with previous ones. It should be noted that before transitioning from the traditional microscope to DM personnel should be trained because of possible differences in morphological details and color between digital system and optical microscopy.

Manufacturers continuously develop and modify these devices and recently first full field microscopy approach for cell recognition and classification is introduced which enables: viewing of whole blood smears via a modern browser-based application, pre-classification of WBC, and platelets estimation. Validation showed a high degree of correlation of all tested parameters with manual microscopy. This approach enables experts to gain general slide context by viewing the whole PBS - monolayer as well as feathered edge which is an advantageous feature.

In the near future with development of solutions for the smaller labs and advancement in analysis and

bocita. Validacija je pokazala visok stupanj korelacije svih ispitivanih parametara s ručnom mikroskopijom. Ovaj pristup omogućuje stručnjacima dobivanje konteksta gledanjem cijelog razmaza periferne krvi (optimalnog dijela i rubova razmaza).

U bliskoj budućnosti s razvojem rješenja za manje laboratorije i napretkom u analizi i prepoznavanju stanica sa svim prednostima koje nudi, digitalna mikroskopija mogla bi zamijeniti optičku mikroskopiju. Treba spomenuti da su ovi uređaji trenutačno odobreni od strane FDA samo kao sustav za podršku odlučivanju, a unaprijed klasificirane stanice treba da lje procjenjivati iskusno osoblje, tako da kvalificirani morfolozi ostaju bitan dio laboratorijske dijagnostike hematoloških poremećaja. Laboratorijski stručnjaci u budućnosti očekuju rješenja sposobna za pouzданo prepoznavanje nezrelih/abnormalnih stanica te brojenje i prepoznavanje patognomoničnih promjena u morfologiji eritrocita s visokim stupnjem pouzdanosti u pružanju klinički značajnih informacija koje hematološki analizatori trenutno ne mogu ponuditi.

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recognition of the cells and all benefits offered, DM could replace optical microscopy. It should be mentioned that these devices are currently FDA approved only as a decision support system and pre-classified cells should be further judged by experienced personnel so skilled morphologist remains an essential part of laboratory diagnostic of hematological disorders. Laboratory experts in the future expect DM solutions capable of reliable recognition of immature/abnormal cells, recognition, and enumeration of pathognomonic changes in RBC morphology with a high degree of confidence in providing clinically meaningful information that current analysers can not provide.

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## S4 Suvremeni laboratorij i medicinski biokemičar u njemu

S4-1

### Racionalno naručivanje pretraga – od dojma do djelovanja

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Racionalno naručivanje pretraga iz perspektive laboratorija obično se odnosi na potrebu za smanjenjem opsega ili učestalosti naručivanja pojedinih laboratorijskih pretraga. S druge strane, laboratorijski stručnjaci bitno rjeđe uočavaju obrnuti proces, a to je nedostatno ili propušteno korištenje određenih pretraga. Glavni je razlog tomu nepoznavanje kliničkog konteksta, što je nažalost neizbjježno za sve masovne rutinske pretrage koje se svakodnevno izrađuju u velikom broju. Tijekom dvije godine COVID-19 pandemije dodatno se uočava izrazit porast naručivanja određenih pretraga povezanih bilo s akutnim tijekom bolesti, bilo s povećanim rizikom obolijevanja ili kasnim komplikacijama (D-dimeri, prokalcitonin, feritin, vitamin D, brojna autoantitijela). Glavni čimbenik koji utječe na intenzitet naručivanja laboratorijskih pretraga dostupnost je odnosno jednostavnost ordiniranja. U današnjim informatiziranim i visoko automatiziranim kliničkim laboratorijima, uz nekoliko klikova na računalu, dovoljno je izvaditi jednu ili dvije standardne epruvete krvi za više desetaka, pa i stotinjak vrlo brzo dostupnih laboratorijskih nalaza. Prema tome, ograničenja u smislu pretjeranog vađenja krvi i posljedične jatrogene anemije danas više ne postoje, osim za vulnerabilne skupine poput novorođenčadi ili bolesnika u jedinicama intenzivne skrbi. Za sve ostale bolesnike (vrlo često treba ih pravilno nazvati ispitanicima s obzirom na to da je laboratorij ključan dio sistematskih pregleda) kod naručivanja pretraga uglavnom vrijedi napisano pravilo – bolje više nego manje, što je ljudski i potpuno razumljivo s obzirom na to da sustav ni na koji način ne vrednuje racionalni pristup resursima u zdravstvu. Na problem lažno pozitivnih nalaza i generiranja nepotrebnih troškova laboratorijska stru-

## S4 A modern laboratory and a medical biochemist in it

S4-1

### Rational test ordering – from impression to action

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Rational test ordering from laboratory perspective usually refers to the need for reducing the scope or frequency of ordering specific laboratory tests. On the other hand, laboratory experts notice much more seldom the inverse process, *i.e.* insufficient or omitted use of some tests. Principal reason for this is being unacquainted with the clinical context, which is unfortunately unavoidable for all large-scale routine tests that are daily performed in large numbers. During the two years of COVID-19 pandemic, a pronounced increase has been observed in requesting specific tests associated either with the acute course of this disease or with enhanced risk of its contraction, or with late complications (D-dimers, procalcitonin, ferritin, vitamin D, numerous autoantibodies). The main factor affecting the intensity of laboratory test ordering is the availability or simplicity of making requests. In the current-day computerized and highly automated clinical laboratories, it takes – with a few clicks on the computer – only to draw one or two standard test-tubes of blood for tens or even hundreds of very rapidly available laboratory reports. Thus, the limitations regarding excessive venipuncture and consequent iatrogenic anemia fail to be valid any more today, except for vulnerable groups like newborns or ICU patients. For all other patients (they should be very often named subjects given that the laboratory is a significant factor in medical check-ups), an unwritten rule is valid during test ordering, *i.e.* the more, the better, which is quite human and understandable because the system itself does not in any way evaluate the rational approach to healthcare resources. Laboratory profession keeps calling attention to the issue of falsely positive test results and incurrence of unnecessary costs,

ka trajno upozorava, što je vidljivo i iz rastućeg broja publikacija koje se bave ovom tematikom. Željni mi to priznati ili ne, veliki klinički laboratorijski najčešće funkcioniраju kao bezimeni servisni centri od kojih se očekuje brza i kvalitetno isporučena usluga: primjereni TAT i točni nalazi. Broj kliničara korisnika takvih laboratorijskih brojeva se u tisućama (obiteljski i bolnički lječnici, vanjske suradne ustanove) te je zbog toga vrlo teško utjecati na veće promišljanje kod naručivanja pretraga preko razgovora, predavanja, danas popularnih mrežnih seminara i slično. Užurbanost, delegiranje mlađim kolegama i brojni drugi prioriteti rada na klinici također ne idu u prilog racionalnom i promišljenom naručivanju pretraga. Kako pokazuju brojna istraživanja, gotovo jedini učinkoviti načini koji potiču smisleno naručivanja pretraga jesu oni koje su pokrenuli i proveli sami laboratorijski. Radi se vrlo često o jednostavnim organizacijskim intervencijama poput implementacije minimalnih retestnih intervala ili uklanjanju pojedinih pretraga s uputnice. Važno je ne zanemariti činjenicu da je laboratorijski vitalan i nezaobilazan dio medicinske skrbi zbog čega ovakve intervencije moraju biti fleksibilne, po potrebi reverzibilne i svakako provedene u dogovoru s ključnim korisnicima. Kako je već rečeno, nemoguće je komunicirati sa svim korisnicima većih laboratorijskih, ali važno je identificirati one bitne i relevantne kliničare koje svakako treba pitati za mišljenje prije uvođenja promjena u dostupnosti određene pretrage. Prijedlozi za promjene u smislu manje dostupnosti određene pretrage svakako se ne smiju temeljiti na osjećajima i emotivno obojenom dojmu pretjeranog ordiniranja nego na konkretnim podacima i suvremenim dijagnostičkim smjernicama. Ovakvim pristupom osigurava se suradnja i razumijevanje kliničara, a već i minimalne promjene u dostupnosti određene pretrage redovito donose vidljive rezultate. Trajno skretanje pozornosti i djelovanje u smislu racionalnijeg pristupa laboratorijskim uslugama trajan je profesionalni izazov s kojim se medicinski biokemičari još uvijek nedovoljno bave.

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which is evident in a growing number of publications that deal with this problem area. Whether we admit it or not, the largest clinical laboratories most often function as nameless service centers expected to provide a rapid and prestigiously delivered service: adequate TAT and accurate results. The number of clinicians who use the services of such laboratories are counted in thousands (family and hospital physicians, external collaborating institutions), and it is therefore very difficult to influence and achieve better consideration during test ordering through discussion, lectures, currently popular webinars, etc. Hurried work schedule, delegating tasks to young colleagues and numerous other work priorities at a clinic also do not support rational and thoughtful ordering of lab tests. As shown by numerous studies, almost the only effective methods to encourage sensible test ordering are those initiated and carried out by laboratories themselves. They very often involve simple organizational interventions like implementation of minimum retesting intervals or erasing certain tests from the request form. It is important not to disregard the fact that laboratory is a vital and indispensable component of health care, which is why such interventions must be flexible, reversible as needed, and by all means conducted in agreement with the key users. As stated above, it is impossible to communicate with all users of large laboratories, yet it is crucial to identify those relevant clinicians who should definitely be asked for opinion prior to introducing changes in the availability of a test. Suggestions for changes resulting in lesser availability of a test must by no means be based on feelings and emotionally colored impression of exaggerated test ordering but rather on actual data and valid diagnostic guidelines. Such approach ensures clinicians' collaboration and understanding, while minimum changes in availability of a certain test regularly yield visible results. Continuous drawing of attention and action intended to promote rational approach to laboratory services is a permanent professional challenge that medical biochemists have still not tackled with sufficient interest.

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**S4-2****Biokemičar kao konzultant – mit ili stvarnost?**

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Središte medicinskog sustava je bolesnik, a najveći je izazov postaviti točnu dijagnozu te pravilno i pravodobno ga liječiti. Rezultati laboratorijskih pretraga nedvojbeno utječe na izbor i uspješnost liječenja bolesnika. Kako bi se osigurala pouzdanost rezulta laboratorijskih pretraga potrebna je bliska komunikacija između laboratorija i medicinskog osoblja u klinici. Jačanje komunikacije i profesionalnih odnosa između liječnika kliničara i medicinskih biokemičara nužno je kako bi se pozitivno promijenio stav kliničara o pouzdanosti dijagnostičkih testova, poboljšala upotreba laboratorijske dijagnostike i, u konačnici, poboljšala skrb za pacijente. Iako su informatizacija u sustavu zdravstva s jedne strane te automatizacija i integracija laboratorija s druge strane postupno smanjile kontakt laboratorija s kliničkim osobljem, važno je da i dalje postoje odgovarajući dvosmjerni komunikacijski kanali između kliničara i medicinskih biokemičara čime se može utjecati na broj i vrstu traženih pretraga i upotrebu dobivenih rezultata za donošenje kliničkih odluka. Posebno treba naglasiti važnost višedisciplinskog pristupa u liječenju onkoloških bolesnika gdje je, zbog implementacije visokodiferentne laboratorijske dijagnostike u kliničku praksu, nužna kvalitetna laboratorijska podrška. Medicinski biokemičar specijalist sve češće sudjeluje na stručnim sastancima kliničara i postaje konzultant u odabiru pretraga, odgovarajućeg uzorka i dijagnostičke metode, analizira i interpretira rezultate, raspravlja i argumentira važnost tih rezultata s ciljem postavljanja odgovarajuće kliničke dijagnoze, stratifikacije rizika i planiranja terapije.

U ovom će se predavanju na primjerima iz područja molekularne dijagnostike zločudnih bolesti prikazati uloga medicinskog biokemičara – specijalista medicinske biokemije i laboratorijske dijagnostike kao ravnopravnog člana – konzultanta u liječničkom timu.

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**S4-2****Biochemist as a consultant – a myth or reality?**

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The center of the medical system is the patient, and the biggest challenge is to establish an accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment. Success of the patient's treatment undoubtedly depends on the choice and results of laboratory tests. In order to ensure reliability of laboratory test results, close communication between laboratory and medical staff at the clinic is necessary. Strengthening communication and professional relationships between physicians and medical biochemists is necessary to positively change clinicians' attitudes about reliability of diagnostic tests, improve the use of laboratory diagnostics, and ultimately improve patient care. Informatization in the health care system on the one hand, and automation and integration of laboratories on the other have gradually reduced the contact of laboratory with clinical staff. Nevertheless, adequate two-way communication channels between clinicians and medical biochemists are still important as this can influence the number and type of required tests and the use of results for making clinical decisions. Importance of a multidisciplinary approach in the treatment of oncology patients should be particularly emphasized as this is where, due to the implementation of highly differential laboratory diagnostics in clinical practice, quality of laboratory support is pivotal. A medical biochemistry specialist has an irreplaceable role at professional healthcare meetings and becomes a consultant in the selection of tests, appropriate sample and diagnostic method, analyses and interprets results, discusses and argues the importance of these results with the aim of establishing appropriate clinical diagnosis, risk stratification and therapy planning.

In this presentation, everyday examples will be used to demonstrate importance of molecular laboratory diagnostics in malignant diseases and the key role of a medical biochemist - a specialist in medical biochemistry and laboratory diagnostics as an equal member - consultant in the medical team.

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**S4-4**

## Akreditacija prema normi ISO 15189 u Republici Hrvatskoj – jesmo li za ili protiv?

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Akreditacija medicinsko-biokemijskih laboratorija prema međunarodnoj normi ISO 15189 formalno je priznanje laboratoriju da ima uspostavljen učinkovit sustav upravljanja kvalitetom te udovoljava zahtjevima tehničke sposobnosti i kompetentnosti osoblja za provođenje laboratorijskih ispitivanja. Sukladnost sa zahtjevima norme ISO 15189 smatra se dokazom da je laboratorij organizacijski, tehnički i stručno sposobljen za izdavanje pouzdanih nalaza i osiguravanje visoke kvalitete laboratorijskih usluga. U tu svrhu norma ISO 15189 propisuje obavezu definiranja i dokumentiranja svih laboratorijskih procesa i postupaka, postojanje temeljitoga i sustavnog pristupa kontroli kvalitete laboratorijskih ispitivanja, kontinuirano osposobljavanje djelatnika za rad, ali i nalaže potrebu za trajnim poboljšanjima. Uspostavljanje rada medicinsko-biokemijskog laboratorija u skladu s načelima norme ISO 15189 neminovno unoši promjene u laboratorijski rad zamjenjujući ustaljene pristupe sustavnim protokolima, a za njihovo učinkovito provođenje u svakodnevnom radu potreban je dodatni i kontinuirani angažman svih članova laboratorijskog tima, ovisno o razini ovlaštenja i odgovornosti. Iako norma ISO 15189 obuhvaća cjelokupni laboratorijski proces i po svojim je zahtjevima opsežna i temeljita, sam način provedbe pojedinačnih zahtjeva nije strogo definiran, što daje određenu slobodu laboratoriju i omogućava prilagodbu postupaka tehničkim i kadrovskim mogućnostima te području laboratorijske dijagnostike.

Unatoč tomu što su prednosti akreditacije u smislu poboljšanja cjelokupne kvalitete laboratorijskih usluga i povećanja sistematicnosti unutarlaboratorijskih procesa neupitne, do sada je u Republici Hrvatskoj prema normi ISO 15189 akreditirano samo osam medicinsko-biokemijskih laboratorija, što nas svrstava među države s najnižim udjelom akreditiranih laboratorija u Europi. Razlozi tomu mogu biti zahtjevnost i dugotrajnost uspostave sustava upravljanja kvalitetom i rada laboratorija u potpunosti u skladu s načelima norme ISO 15189, dodatni finansijski izdat-

**S4-4**

## Accreditation according to ISO 15189 in Croatia - are we for or against it?

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Accreditation of medical laboratories according to the ISO 15189 standard is a formal recognition that the laboratory has established an efficient quality management system and meets the requirements of technical and staff competence for conducting laboratory testing. Compliance with ISO 15189 requirements is considered as a proof that the laboratory has adequate organizational, technical and professional competence for delivering reliable testing results and providing high quality laboratory services. For this purpose, ISO 15189 obliges the laboratory to define and document all processes and procedures, to establish thorough and systematic quality assurance approach, to provide continual staff training and professional development, and it also promotes continual improvements within the total testing process. Implementation of ISO 15189 requirements into everyday laboratory work inevitably introduces changes of the existing practice, causing a shift from ingrained approaches to systematic and well-defined protocols. For their successful conductance, ongoing active involvement of all levels of laboratory staff is required. Although ISO 15189 requirements encompass the total testing process, being comprehensive and thorough, they do not define how each specific clause should be addressed in practice. Therefore, each laboratory is given freedom to adapt its protocols according to technical and staff capabilities, and tailor them to the specific laboratory diagnostic field.

Despite the numerous benefits of accreditation in terms of enhancing overall quality of laboratory services and improving systematicness of intralaboratory procedures, so far only eight medical-biochemistry laboratories have been accredited in the Republic of Croatia, which is among the lowest rates compared to other European countries. This can be a consequence of the demanding process of establishment of the quality management system and implementation of ISO 15189 requirements into routine practice which requires a great deal of time and

ci, nedostatak kadra u pojedinim laboratorijima, ali i nedovoljno razvijena svijest o vrijednosti akreditacije.

Provedeno anketno ispitivanje zadovoljstva i stavlja laboratorijskih djelatnika prema akreditaciji u tri bolnička medicinsko-biokemijska laboratorija u Republici Hrvatskoj akreditirana prema ISO 15189 pokazalo je da većina ispitanog osoblja ima pozitivan odnos prema akreditaciji. Radom u akreditiranom laboratoriju zadovoljni su zbog postojanja definiranih radnih protokola i postupaka koji im olakšavaju izvođenje svakodnevnih rutinskih obaveza te redovitog vođenja zapisa koji osiguravaju sljedivost čitavoga laboratorijskog procesa. Dodatno, bilježenje i praćenje nesukladnosti te provođenje redovitih unutarnjih nadzora smatra se poticajnim za otkrivanje mogućih propusta u radu te posljedično uvođenje preventivnih i popravnih radnji, čime se postiže poboljšanje unutar radnog procesa. Kao glavni nedostatak akreditacije navodi se povećanje opsega posla, što je najvećim dijelom uzrokovano obavezom stalnoga i temeljitog vođenja i ažuriranja dokumentacije. Razlike u poznavanju zahtjeva norme ISO 15189 i stavovima prema akreditaciji izražene su među osobljem različitih razina stručne spreme, pri čemu znatno veći udio tehničkog osoblja smatra da ne razumije u potpunosti što se od njih očekuje za potrebe akreditacije kao i da nisu uvijek upoznati s promjenama unutar akreditacijskog sustava. Dodatna područja za poboljšanje koja su proizašla iz ove ankete odnose se na načine provedbe provjere osposobljenosti osoblja, pri čemu se trenutačno najčešće korišteni način pisanim provjerama ne smatra dovoljno učinkovitim niti poticajnim, što upozorava na potrebu za uvođenjem provjera s pomoću praktičnih zadataka. Ovo je samo jedan od primjera koji pokazuje da se zahtjevi norme mogu provoditi na različite načine, koji su svi formalno prihvativi, ali nisu jednako učinkoviti. Stoga je ključno da se unutar laboratorija osmisle načini provedbe akreditacijskih zahtjeva koji će doista doprinijeti poboljšanju radnog procesa. Slično je uočeno i za praćenje vremena izdavanja nalaza (engl. *turnaround time*, TAT) kao jednog od ključnih indikatora kvalitete. Anketa je pokazala da tehničko osoblje, posebice u hitnim laboratorijima gdje je TAT definiran na kratkih 60 minuta, praćenje TAT-a doživljava kao dodatni pritisak, a ne mehanizam kojim je moguće uočiti slabosti i prostor za napredak. Da su život s akreditacijom doista jest proces koji zahtijeva

dedication, but in some cases also of financial constraints, staff shortage or lack of awareness of the benefits of accreditation.

A survey conducted among laboratory staff of three Croatian hospital medical laboratories accredited according to ISO 15189 revealed an overall positive attitude towards accreditation. They are especially satisfied with the availability of written procedures and protocols that facilitate their routine work, as well as with regular evidence of all steps of laboratory work that ensures traceability of the entire testing process. In addition, monitoring of non-conformities and internal audits on a regular basis are considered as beneficial for identifying possible bottlenecks and serve as a starting point for introduction of preventive and corrective measures that can improve the working process. On the other hand, surveyed participants stated that accreditation increased the usual workload, mainly due to excessive paperwork, which is considered as its main disadvantage. Differences in familiarity with the ISO 15189 requirements and attitudes towards accreditation were observed between laboratory staff of different levels of education, with more technicians reporting that they do not fully understand what is expected of them regarding accreditation and that they are not always timely informed about new operating procedures. Furthermore, this survey identified that the commonly used format for staff competence assessment via written exams is considered neither effective nor motivating, and thus should be replaced with more engaging practical tasks. This example points out that requirements of ISO 15189 can be fulfilled in several ways, which are all acceptable, but not equally effective. It is, therefore, crucial that each laboratory finds the most suitable approach for implementation of accreditation requirements that can truly contribute to improvements of the working process. Similarly, it was shown that monitoring of turnaround time (TAT) has caused a counter effect, especially in the emergency laboratory setting where TAT is set to 60 minutes, and is among technical staff predominantly considered as an additional stressor, rather than means for identification of drawbacks and introduction of improvements. Coexistence with accreditation is indeed a process that requires adaptation and continuous involvement, which was evidenced by the fact that employees from the laboratory that has been accre-

prilagodbu i kontinuirani rad dokazuje i činjenica da je među osobljem laboratoriјa koji je najduže akreditiran prisutan najpozitivniji stav prema akreditaciji i razvijena svijest o njezinoj važnosti.

Razumijevanje svrhe akreditacije i dobrobiti koje ona donosi za radni proces, kvalitetu laboratorijske usluge i u konačnici sigurnost bolesnika ključno je za njezino uspješno provođenje. Iako je neosporno da je akreditacija opterećena administrativnim poslovima, a detaljna razrada ispunjavanja pojedinih zahtjeva ponekad dovodi u pitanje njihovu primjenjivost u rutinskom radu, u tom izazovnom procesu potrebno je pronaći ravnotežu i prilagoditi protokole kako bili svrhoviti i doista pridonijeli poboljšanju radnog procesa. Zadovoljstvo laboratorijskog osoblja provedbom akreditacijskih zahtjeva potrebno je periodično ispitati, a njihova mišljenja i prijedloge uvažavati u svrhu otkrivanja područja za napredak.

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dited for the longest period have a greater positive attitude and higher awareness about its importance. Understanding the value of accreditation and the benefits it brings to the total testing process, quality of laboratory services and patient safety is crucial for its successful implementation and day-to-day compliance. Although it is indisputable that accreditation increases administrative tasks and occasionally causes overdetailed elaboration of its requirements that may decrease their applicability in routine practice, it is essential to find balance in this challenging process and adapt protocols to be appropriate and really contribute to improvements of the total testing process. Satisfaction of laboratory staff with implementation of accreditation requirements should be periodically assessed, while their opinions and suggestions should be taken into consideration in order to identify areas for improvement.

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**S5 Laboratorijska dijagnostika u pedijatriji****S5-1****Biomarkeri starvacije u pedijatrijskoj anoreksiji nervozi**

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Anoreksija nervosa (AN), paradigmatski je oblik poremećaja u jedenju (eating disorders- ED) koji predstavljaju treću po učestalosti kroničnu bolest adolescenata, s višestruko većom stopom smrtnosti od svih drugih uzorka te dobi. Radi se o biopsihosocijalnom poremećaju koji se pojavljuje kao odgovor na razvojne izazove. Trajno poremećen odnos prema jelu i slici o izgledu vlastitog tijela dovodi do poremećenog unosa hrane, gubitka na tjelesnoj masi (TM) i znatnog oštećenja fizičkog zdravlja i psihohemocionalnog funkcioniranja. Pridružene brojne metaboličke komplikacije zbog fizioloških osobitosti razdoblja rasta i spolnog razvoja mogu biti potencijalno irreverzibilne, izvjesno i fatalne ukoliko su kasno prepoznate. Ipak, većina je izlječiva ako se na vrijeme postigne tjelesni oporavak.

Od prvog opisa AN do danas stečeno je mnogo znanja, no uprkos tome posljednjih desetljeća incidencija i prevalencija uporno rastu, rušeći univerzalno geografske, kulturološke i socijalne barijere, s pojmom u sve mlađim dobnim skupinama. Posebno brine činjenica kako se oboljeli često prezentiraju nekom od metaboličkih komplikacija, bez da se otkrije poremećaj u podlozi. Zbog iskrivljenog doživljaja izgleda vlastitog tijela oboljeli uporno skrivaju postojanje problema i odbijaju zatražiti pomoć, što ovu bolest čini osobitom, otežava pravovremeno prepoznavanje i sam proces liječenja. Stoga je iznimno važno da svi zdravstveni djelatnici budu svjesni različitih kliničkih prezentacija i komplikacija AN.

Posljednjih godina prepoznaju se i novi podtipovi bolesti s atipičnim obilježjima koji nisu ništa manje ozbiljni od klasične forme. Definiraju se specifični poremećaji među kojima poseban izazov predstavlja atipična anoreksija nervoza (AAN) koja je po svim

**S5 Laboratory diagnostics in pediatrics****S5-1****Biomarkers of starvation in pediatric anorexia nervosa**

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Anorexia nervosa (AN) is a paradigmatic form of eating disorders (ED), which represent the third most frequent chronic disease of adolescents, with a mortality rate higher than that of any other disease in that age. It is a biopsychosocial disorder that appears in response to developmental challenges. A permanently disturbed attitude towards food and the body image leads to disturbed food intake, loss of body mass (BM) and significant damage to physical health and psycho-emotional functioning. Many associated metabolic complications are due to the physiological peculiarities of the period of growth and sexual development and can be potentially irreversible, even fatal if recognized late. However, most are curable if physical recovery is timely achieved. A lot of knowledge has been gained since the first description of AN until today, but despite this, the incidence and prevalence have been steadily increasing in recent decades, universally breaking geographical, cultural and social barriers, with the onset in younger age. Of particular concern is the fact that patients often present with some of the metabolic complications, without the underlying disorder being detected. Due to the distorted perception of the appearance of their own body, patients persistently hide the existence of a problem and refuse to ask for help, which makes this disease special, makes timely recognition and the treatment process difficult. Therefore, it is extremely important that all healthcare professionals are aware of the different clinical presentations and complications of AN.

In recent years, new subtypes of the disease have been recognized with atypical features that are no less serious than the classic form. Specific disorders are defined, among which atypical anorexia nervosa (AAN) is a special challenge, which is identical

obilježjima istovjetna klasičnoj AN, izuzev TM koja može biti očuvana ili čak povećana. Upravo činjenica kako izostaje pothranjenost, predstavlja najveći izazov za pravovremeno prepoznavanje bolesti kada se pred vama nalazi dijete ili adolescent koji na prvi pogled ni po čemu ne odskače od vršnjaka.

Naime, kliničke i metaboličke komplikacije starvacije, iako se radi o primjereno ili čak preuhranjenoj djeci, jednako su ozbiljne kao i kod ekstremno pothranjenih pacijenata s klasičnom AN. Glavni rizični čimbenik je dinamika BM, starvacija, a ne aktualni stupanj uhranjenosti. Štoviše, komplikacije AAN mogu biti i teže, a psihoemotivni problemi dublji i u usporedbi s pacijentima koji boluju od klasičnog tipa AN.

U ovako kompleksnim kliničkim situacijama od velike pomoći mogu biti nalazi laboratorijskih pretraga. Stoga je u svakodnevnoj praksi od iznimne vrijednosti poznavanje nekih od tipičnih biomarkera starvacije u AN i AAN, a sve s ciljem pravovremenog započimanja liječenja.

Tradicionalno su prepoznati brojni biomarkeri poput leukopenije, bradikardije i osteopenije, koji koreliraju s metaboličkim komplikacijama i dobro su poznati prediktori statusa pothranjenosti ili gladovanja. U ovom predavanju biti će naglasak na nekim manje poznatim biomarkerima, promjenama u biohemiskim nalazima koji mogu biti od pomoći pri slagaju mozaika i procjeni ugroze pacijenta. Nekoliko recentnih istraživanja utvrdilo je kako povišene serumske vrijednosti feritina mogu poslužiti kao biomarker težine bolesti što smo u našim istraživanjima i potvrdili. Snižena serumska koncentracija ceruloplazmina također dobro kolerira s dinamikom gubitka/oporavka TM, neovisno o stupnju uhranjenosti. Konačno i neke manje poznate promjene hormonalnog statusa kao što je netirodina bolest štitnjače mogu biti dobar pokazatelj, ne samo akutne ugroze pacijenta zbog starvacije neovisno stupnju uhranjenosti već i odličan pokazatelj dinamike somatskog oporavka u ovoj zahtjevnoj populaciji pacijenata. U zadnjem desetljeću posebno nas je zainteresirala povezanost starvacije i hiperkolesterolemije. Dostupna literatura o uzorcima i učestalosti hiperlipidemije u pedijatrijskoj AN je oskudna. Istraživanje o povezanosti stupnja pothranjenosti i endotipa AN s dislipidemijom i estradiolom u kohorti naših pacijenata potvrđilo je negativnu korelaciju hiperkolesterolemije i povraćanja/uzimanja laksativa. Ova činjenica potvrđuje gladovanje kao značajan faktor rizika za

to classic AN in all its features, with the exception of BM, which can be preserved or even increased. The fact that underweight is absent is the biggest challenge for timely recognition of the disease when you have a child or adolescent in front of you who, at first glance, does not stand out from his peers in any way. Namely, the clinical and metabolic complications of starvation, even though these are adequately or even still overweight children, are just as serious as in cahectic patients with classical AN. The main risk factor is the dynamics of BM and starvation, not the current antropometric status. Moreover, the complications of AAN can be more severe, and the psychoemotional problems deeper, even compared to patients suffering from the classical type of AN.

In such complex clinical situations, the findings of laboratory tests can be of great help. Therefore, in daily practice, knowledge of some of the typical biomarkers of starvation in AN and AAN is of exceptional value, all with the aim of timely initiation of treatment. Traditionally, numerous biomarkers such as leukopenia, bradycardia and osteopenia have been recognized, which correlate with metabolic complications and are well-known predictors of malnutrition or starvation status. In this lecture, there will be an emphasis on some lesser-known biomarkers, changes in biochemical findings that can be helpful in piecing together a mosaic and assessing a patient's risk. Several recent studies have established that elevated serum ferritin values can serve as a biomarker of disease severity, which we have confirmed in our studies. Decreased serum ceruloplasmin concentration also correlates well with the dynamics of BM loss/recovery, independent of nutritional status. Finally, some lesser-known changes in hormonal status such as euthyroid sick syndrome can be a good indicator, not only of the patient's acute health threat due to starvation regardless of the level of nutrition, but also an excellent indicator of the somatic recovery dynamics in this demanding patient population. In the last decade, we have been especially interested in the connection between starvation and hypercholesterolemia. Currently available data on causes and incidence of dyslipidemia in pediatric patients with AN are scarce. The aim of this study was to investigate the relation between the degree of malnutrition and endotype of eating disorder to dyslipidemia and circulating estradiol in

razvoj hiperkolesterolemije u pedijatrijskih bolesnika s AN. Time se naglašava važnost tjelesnog oporavka, spontanih menstrualnih ciklusa i normalizacije odnosa prema hrani kako bi se izbjegla dislipidemija kao rizik za buduće kardiovaskularne komplikacije. Zaključno, imajući na umu kako u pedijatrijskoj AN, slikovito rečeno vodimo utrku s vremenom, pored usmjerena anamneze i detaljnog fizikalnog statusa, laboratorijski parametri predstavljaju važan element u procjeni ugroze i dinamike oporavka oboljelih. Posebna je vrijednost u populaciji oboljelih od AAN kada izostaje glavno kliničko obilježje koje tradicionalno vezujemo uz AN.

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patients with AN. A negative correlation between elevated serum cholesterol and vomiting or usage of laxatives confirms starvation as a significant risk factor for development of hypercholesterolemia in patients with AN. Physical recovery, spontaneous menstrual cycle and normalization of attitude towards food are important objectives of treating AN, especially in order to avoid dyslipidemia as risk for future cardiovascular complications.

Therefore, bearing in mind that in pediatric AN, we are, figuratively speaking, running a race against time, in addition to directed medical history and detailed physical status, laboratory parameters represent an important element in assessing the risk and recovery dynamics of patients. This is especially valuable in the population of patients with AAN when the main clinical feature that we traditionally associate with anorexia nervosa is absent.

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**S5-2**

## Laboratorijska dijagnostika kongenitalne adrenalne hiperplazije primjenom LC-MS/MS tehnike

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Kongenitalna adrenalna hiperplazija (KAH) predstavlja zajednički naziv za skupinu nasljednih autosomno recesivnih bolesti koje su karakterizirane poremećenom sintezom steroidnih hormona u kori nadbubrežnih žlezda, prvenstveno kortizola. Iako kod KAH-a poremećaj može zahvatiti gotovo bilo koji od enzima koji sudjeluju u steroidogenezi, u oko 90-99% slučajeva riječ je poremećaju funkcije enzima 21-hidroksilaze (21-OH). Ovisno o preostaloj aktivnosti 21-OH, bolest se može klinički podijeliti u onu klasičnog i neklasičnog oblika. Kod klasičnog oblika poremećaja funkcije 21-OH razlikujemo teški oblik s potpunim ili gotovo potpunim gubitkom funkcije enzima karakteriziran renalnim gubitkom soli (engl. *salt-wasting*, SW KAH) i nešto blažu jednostavnu virilizirajuću formu s očuvanom funkcijom 21-OH od oko 1-5% (engl. *simple virilizing*, SV KAH). Kod SW oblika KAH-a dolazi do teškog deficitu kortizola i aldosterona i mogućeg razvoja adrenalne krize i teškog gubitka soli s hiponatrijemijom, hiperkalemijom, acidozom i šokom, koja može završiti smrtnim ishodom. SV oblik KAH-a karakteriziran je manjkom kortizola uz donekle očuvanu sintezu aldosterona. Kod oba klasična oblika KAH-a zbog nedostatka negativne povratne sprege u osovini hipotalamus-hipofiza-nadbubrežna žlezda dolazi do pojačane steroidogeneze u nadbubrežnoj žlezdi koja rezultira prekomjernim stvaranjem i nakupljanjem steroidnih prekursora koji se preusmjeravaju u nezahvaćeni sintetski put stvaranja androgena. Koncentracije steroidnih prekursora (npr. 17-hidroksiprogesteron, 17-OHP) i androgena (npr. dehidroepiandrosteron sulfat (DHEAS), androstendion i testosteron) mogu biti i do nekoliko desetaka ili stotina puta iznad referentnih vrijednosti. Zbog prekomjerne izloženosti androgenima u ženske novorođenčadi dolazi do teške virilizacije vanjskog spolovila. Kod neklasičnog oblika

**S5-2**

## Laboratory diagnosis of congenital adrenal hyperplasia using the LC-MS/MS technique

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Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) is the common name for a group of inherited autosomal recessive diseases characterized by impaired synthesis of steroid hormones, primarily cortisol, in the adrenal cortex. Although in CAH almost any of the enzymes involved in steroidogenesis can be impacted, in approximately 90-99% of cases only 21-hydroxylase (21-OH) enzyme is affected. Depending on the residual activity of 21-OH enzyme, the disease can be clinically divided into classic and non-classic forms. In the classic 21-OH CAH, severe form with complete or almost complete loss of enzyme function characterized by renal salt loss (salt-wasting, SW CAH) and a slightly milder simple virilizing form with preserved 21-OH function of approximately 1-5% (simple virilizing, SV CAH) can be distinguished. In the SW CAH, there is a severe deficiency of cortisol and aldosterone and with a possibility of development of an adrenal crisis and life-threatening renal salt loss with hyponatremia, hyperkalemia, acidosis, and shock that can be potentially fatal. The SV form is characterized by the cortisol deficiency and somewhat preserved aldosterone synthesis. In both classic forms, due to the lack of negative feedback in the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis, increased steroidogenesis in the adrenal gland results in excessive production and accumulation of steroid precursors that are diverted to the unaffected path of androgen production. Concentrations of steroid precursors (e.g., 17-hydroxyprogesterone, 17-OHP) and androgens (e.g., dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS), androstenedione and testosterone) can be elevated tens or hundreds of times above reference values. Due to the excessive exposure to fetal androgens in female newborns severe virilization of external genitalia occurs. In the non-classic form of CAH, 20-50% of the function of the 21-OH enzyme

KAH-a očuvano je 20-50% funkcije enzima 21-OH i u takvih bolesnika se KAH eventualno dijagnosticira tek kasnije, uglavnom u pubertetu i adolescenciji. Tekućinska kromatografija spregnuta s tandem massenim spektrometrom (LC-MS/MS) je analitička tehnika koja sve više pronalazi mjesto u kliničkom laboratoriju. Područja kliničke laboratorijske dijagnostike koja već uvelike koriste LC-MS/MS tehniku su primjerice određivanje koncentracije lijekova i drugih malih molekula kao što je vitamin D, a sve veću primjenu nalazi i u određivanju koncentracije različitih hormona. Upravo određivanje koncentracija steroidnih hormona i njihovih prekursora i metabolita predstavlja osnovu dijagnostike i razlikovanja različitih varijanti KAH-a. Ono što izdvaja LC-MS/MS tehniku od ostalih analitičkih tehnika koje su se koristile za određivanje steroidnih hormona u kliničkom laboratoriju je vrlo visoka specifičnost i osjetljivost, te mogućnost određivanja više desetaka analita u jednoj analizi. Osim toga, uvođenje novih analita je kod LC-MS/MS tehnike puno jednostavnije nego kod konkurenčkih analitičkih tehnika. Stoga je kod analize steroidnih hormona u serumu/plazmi LC-MS/MS tehnikom u svrhu dijagnostike KAH-a moguće u jednoj analizi odrediti ne samo uobičajene steroidne hormone i prekursore (kao što su npr. 17- hidroksiprogesteron, koritizol, aldosteron, dehidroepiandrosteron (DHEA), androstendion, testosteron i dr.), nego i neke manje uobičajene (kao što su npr. 11-deoksikortikosteron, 11-deoksikortizol, 17-hidroksipregnolon, kortikosteron, 18-hidroksikortikosteron i dr.) ili nove (kao što su npr. 21-deoksikortizol ili 11-oksigenirani androgeni kao što je 11-ketotestosteron).

Brza i točna dijagnostika, osobito teškog oblika SW KAH-a, je vrlo važna jer u ekstremnim slučajevima, ako se na vrijeme ne primjeni odgovarajuća terapija, može doći i do smrtnog ishod uslijed adrenalne krize. Osim u dijagnostici teških oblika KAH-a, LC-MS/MS analiza steroidnih hormona, prekursora i metabolita ima važnu ulogu i kod blažih oblika KAH-a, u kasnoj dijagnostici te praćenju uspješnosti terapije (usmjerenе prvenstveno ublažavanju metaboličkih, kardiovaskularnih i reproduktivnih posljedica KAH-a), kao i u izbjegavanju neželjenih nuspojava terapije.

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is preserved, and in such patients, CAH is eventually diagnosed later, usually in puberty and adolescence. Liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry with a tandem mass detector (LC-MS/MS) is an analytical technique that is increasingly finding its place in the clinical laboratory. Areas of clinical laboratory diagnostics that already widely use the LC-MS/MS technique are, for example, the analysis of drugs and other small molecules such as vitamin D. LC-MS/MS is more and more used in the determination of the concentration of various hormones. Determination of the concentrations of steroid hormones and their precursors and metabolites with LC-MS/MS is the basis of diagnosis and differentiation of different variants of CAH. What distinguishes the LC-MS/MS technique from other analytical techniques used for the determination of steroid hormones in the clinical laboratory is its very high specificity and sensitivity, and the possibility of determining dozens of analytes in one analysis. In addition, the introduction of new analytes is much simpler with the LC-MS/MS technique than with competing analytical techniques. Therefore, when analysing steroid hormones in serum/plasma using the LC-MS/MS technique for the purpose of diagnosing CAH, it is possible to determine in one analysis not only the usually steroid hormones and precursors (such as e.g. 17-hydroxyprogesterone, cortisol, aldosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), androstenedione, testosterone, etc.), but also some less common ones (such as, for example, 11-deoxycorticosterone (DOC), 11-deoxycortisol, 17-hydroxypregnolon, corticosterone, 18-hydroxycorticosterone, etc.) or new ones (such as 21-deoxycortisol or 11-oxygenated androgens such as 11-ketotestosterone). Quick and accurate diagnosis, especially of the severe form of SW CAH, is very important because in extreme cases, if appropriate therapy is not applied in time, it can be fatal. In addition to the diagnosis of severe forms of CAH, LC-MS/MS analysis of steroid hormones, precursors and metabolites also plays an important role in treatment of milder forms of CAH. LC-MS/MS analysis can be very helpful in monitoring of the CAH therapy (aimed primarily at alleviating metabolic, cardiovascular, and reproductive consequence of CAH), as well as in avoiding unwanted side effects of the therapy.

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**S5-3****Kongenitalna adrenalna hiperplazija – izazovi u dijagnostici**

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Kongenitalna adrenalna hiperplazija zbog manjka 21-hidroksilaze (21-OH) najčešći je nasljedni poremećaj u adrenaloj steroidogenezi i najčešći uzrok adrenalne insuficijencije u dojenčadi, djece i adolescenata. Iako se primarno radi o poremećaju u sintezi kortizola, u bolesnika s KAH-om zbog manjka 21-OH, koncentracije kortizola mogu biti tek neznatno snižene. Istovremeno je mehanizmom negativne povratne sprege stimulirana hipersekrecija ACTH, što rezultira pojačanim stvaranjem intermedijarnih produkata u sintezi kortizola i adrenalnih androgena. Dijagnoza se zbog toga zasniva na povišenim koncentracijama 17-OHP u krvi (glavnog supstrata enzima 21-hidroksilaze) i povišenim koncentracijama adrenalnih androgena (u prvom redu androstendiona). U bolesnika s kompletним manjkom enzima 21-OH uz snižen aldosteron i Na<sup>+</sup> te povišen K<sup>+</sup> u plazmi, povišena je i reninska aktivnost plazme.

Za mjerjenje koncentracija adrenalnih steroida najčešće se koriste radio-imunokemijske metode ili enzim-imunokemijske metode. Iako vrlo osjetljive, relativno brze i pristupačne, specifičnost ovih metoda je manjkava što posebno dolazi do izražaja u kritično bolesne novorođenčadi ili pak prijevremeno rođene djece u kojih nerijetko nalazimo lažno povišene koncentracije adrenalnih steroida. U novije vrijeme se za mjerjenje steroidnih hormona sve više primjenjuje tekućinska kromatografija spregnuta s tandem massnim detektorom (LC-MS/MS) koja osim osjetljivosti ima i visoku specifičnost te mogućnost istovremenog mjerjenja više različitih steroida.

Za potvrdu dijagnoze i provođenje pouzdanog genetskog savjetovanja nužna je molekularno genetička analiza gena CYP21A2 odgovornog za sintezu enzima 21-OH. Najčešće korištena metoda analize je DNA polimerazna lančana reakcija (PCR) za otkrivanje najčešćih točkastih mutacija, odnosno reakcija višestrukog umnažanja vezanih sondi – MLPA (engl.

**S5-3****Congenital adrenal hyperplasia- diagnostic challenges**

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Congenital adrenal hyperplasia due to 21-hydroxylase (21-OH) deficiency is the most common inherited disorder of adrenal steroidogenesis and the most common cause of adrenal insufficiency in infants, children and adolescents. Although primarily a disorder of cortisol synthesis, patients with CAH due to 21-OH deficiency may have only slightly reduced cortisol concentrations. At the same time, the hypersecretion of ACTH is stimulated by a negative feedback mechanism, which results in increased formation of intermediate products in the synthesis of cortisol and adrenal androgens. The diagnosis is therefore based on elevated concentrations of 17-OHP in the blood (the main substrate of the enzyme 21-hydroxylase) and elevated concentrations of adrenal androgens (primarily androstanedione). In patients with a complete deficiency of the 21-OH enzyme, in addition to decreased aldosterone and Na<sup>+</sup> and elevated K<sup>+</sup> in the plasma, plasma renin activity is also elevated.

Radio-immunochemical or enzyme-immunochemical assays are most often used in measurement of adrenal steroid levels. Although very sensitive, relatively fast, and affordable, the specificity of these methods is sometimes inadequate, which is especially evident in critically ill newborns or prematurely born infants, in whom we often find falsely elevated concentrations of adrenal steroids. Recently, liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) is increasingly being used to measure steroid hormones, which, in addition to sensitivity, also has high specificity and the possibility of simultaneous measurement of several different steroids. Molecular genetic analysis of the CYP21A2 gene responsible for the synthesis of the 21-OH enzyme is necessary to confirm the diagnosis and conduct adequate genetic counselling. The most used method of analysis is the DNA polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which detects the most common point mu-

multiple ligand probe amplification) za određivanje većih genetskih rearanžmana poput velikih delecija ili konverzija. Oko 95 % bolesnika nositelji su jedne od 8 najčešćih točkastih mutacija ili delecija. U procjeni kliničkog značenja rezultata biokemijskih i molekularnih analiza nužna je bliska suradnja kliničara i laboratorijskih stručnjaka.

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tations, or multiple ligand probe amplification reactions - MLPA (multiple ligand probe amplification) to determine larger genetic rearrangements such as large gene deletions or conversions. About 95% of patients are carriers of one of the 8 most common point mutations or deletions. In assessing the clinical significance of the results of biochemical and molecular analyses, close cooperation between clinicians and laboratory is necessary.

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## S6 Analiza hormona štitnjače: izazovi i rješenja

S6-1

### Hormoni štitnjače u trudnoći

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Trudnoća značajno utječe na štitnjaču i njenu funkciju. Osim što se tijekom trudnoće žlijezda poveća za 10% kod trudnica u zemljama koje nemaju problem s nedostatkom joda, a čak 20-40 % u područjima siromašnim jodom, dolazi i do promjene u lučenju hormona štitnjače zbog utjecaja estrogena i humanog korionskog gonadotropina (hCG). Estrogen u trudnoći dovodi do porasta proteina pa tako i porasta transportnog proteina (TBG) što direktno povećava koncentraciju trijodtironina (T3) i tiroksina (T4) te se u prvom trimestru trudnoće preporuča određivati samo slobodne hormone, slobodni trijodtironin (FT3) i slobodni tiroksin (FT4). Korionski gonadotropin zbog strukturne sličnosti s tireotropnim hormonom (TSH) djeluje tireotropno, odnosno vezanjem na TSH receptor uzrokuje povećano izlučivanje hormona štitnjače i smanjenje koncentracije TSH u cirkulaciji.

Zdrava štitnjača prilagođava se promjenama mijenjajući metabolismus hormona, preuzimanje joda i regulacijom osovine hipotalamus-hipofiza-štutnjača pa se promjene u koncentraciji TSH zadržavaju unutar referentnog intervala za negravidne žene. Međutim, navedene fiziološke promjene mogu rezultirati hipotireozom u kasnijim stadijima trudnoće, kod žena koje imaju manjak joda iako su bile eutireoidne u prvom trimestru trudnoće.

Prema trenutno važećim smjernicama za bolesti štitnjače u trudnoći, potrebno je testirati trudnice starije dobi te trudnice s pozitivnom osobnom i obiteljskom anamnezom. Smjernice za žene s niskim rizikom nisu jednoglasne. Većina ginekologa u Republici Hrvatskoj zato u ranoj fazi trudnoće, u rutinskim probirima određuje i TSH. U prilog tome ide učestalost bolesti, izostanak kliničkih simptoma te dostupnost labora-

## S6 Thyroid hormone analysis: challenges and solutions

S6-1

### Thyroid hormones during pregnancy

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Pregnancy significantly affects the thyroid gland and its function. In addition to the fact that during pregnancy, the gland increases by 10% in pregnant women in countries that do not have a problem with iodine deficiency, and even by 20-40% in iodine-poor areas, there is also a change in thyroid hormone secretion due to the influence of estrogen and human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). Estrogen in pregnancy leads to an increase in protein and thus an increase in transport protein (TBG), which directly increases the concentration of triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4). Hereof, in the first trimester of pregnancy it is recommended to determine only free hormones, free triiodothyronine (FT3) and free thyroxine (FT4). Chorionic gonadotropin, due to its structural similarity to thyrotropin (TSH), has a thyrotropic effect. Binding to the TSH receptor, it causes an increased secretion of thyroid hormones and a decrease in the concentration of TSH in the circulation.

A healthy thyroid adapts to changes by altering hormones metabolism, iodine uptake and regulation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-thyroid axis, so changes in the TSH concentration remain within the reference interval for non-pregnant women. However, the aforementioned physiological changes can result in hypothyroidism in the later stages of pregnancy in women who have iodine deficiency even though they were euthyroid in the first trimester of pregnancy. According to the currently valid guidelines for thyroid diseases in pregnancy, it is necessary to test older pregnant women and pregnant women with a positive personal and family history for thyroid diseases. Guidelines for low-risk women are not concordant. That is why most gynecologists in the Republic of Croatia determine TSH in the early stages of pregnancy, in routine screening. This is supported by the frequency

torijske metode za određivanje TSH-a u sekundarnoj i u primarnoj zdravstvenoj zaštiti.

Prema prijašnjim smjernicama za prvi trimestar se kao gornja vrijednost referentnog intervala odnosno cut-off vrijednost koristila vrijednost od 2,5 mIU/L, odnosno 3,0 mIU/L za drugi i treći trimestar. Međutim, više studija je pokazalo da su navedene cut-off vrijednosti preniske što je dovelo do prekomjernog dijagnosticiranja i nepotrebogn ili čak pretjeranog liječenja bolesti štitnjače. Godine 2017. Američko društvo za štitnjaču (engl. *American Thyroid Association*, ATA) izdalo je revidirane smjernice u kojima zbog uočene značajne geografske i etničke razlike u vrijednostima TSH tijekom trudnoće ali i nestandardiziranosti testova i referentnih intervala koji se koriste za određivanje hormona štitnjače preporučuje da svaki laboratorij izračuna vlastite, za trudnoću specifične referentne intervale za TSH i FT4, a ako to nije moguće da provjeri da li referentni intervali koje preporučuje proizvođač reagensa odgovaraju njihovoj populaciji trudnica.

Prema navedenim preporukama testirali smo referentne intervale za TSH, FT4 i FT3 dva proizvođača reagensa čiji testovi se koriste u laboratorijima na području grada Osijeka. U studiji su sudjelovale trudnice koje su došle na redovnu ginekološku kontrolu, koje nemaju bolest štitnjače, nemaju obiteljsku predispoziciju za bolest štitnjače, nisu uzimale niti uzimaju lijekove za bolesti štitnjače, nemaju pozitivna antitijela na tireoidnu peroksidazu (ATPO). Rezultati testiranja bit će prikazani u sklopu predavanja.

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of the disease, the absence of clinical symptoms and the availability of a laboratory method for determining TSH in secondary but also in primary health care. According to the previous guidelines for the first trimester, a value of 2.5 mIU/L, or 3.0 mIU/L for the second and third trimesters were used as the upper value of the reference interval or cut-off value. However, several studies have shown that the stated a cut-off value are too low, leading to overdiagnosis and unnecessary or even overtreatment of thyroid diseases. In 2017, due to the observed significant geographic and ethnic differences in TSH values during pregnancy, as well as the non-standardization of tests and reference intervals used to determine thyroid hormones, the American Thyroid Association (ATA) issued revised guidelines. According to the guidelines, it was recommended that each laboratory calculates its own pregnancy-specific reference intervals for TSH and FT4, and if this was not possible, to check that the reference intervals recommended by the manufacturer of the reagent correspond to their pregnant population.

According to the mentioned recommendations, we investigated reference intervals for TSH, FT4 and FT3 from two different reagents manufacturers whose tests are used in laboratories in the area of the city of Osijek. The study was attended by pregnant women who came for regular gynecological check-ups, and who had no thyroid disease, and no family predisposition to thyroid disease, who did not take or were not taking any medication for thyroid diseases and who did not have positive antibodies to thyroid peroxidase (ATPO). The test results will be presented as part of the lecture.

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**S6-2****Uhvati me ako možeš**

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Imunokemijske metode, premda osjetljive na različite vrste interferencije koje mogu dovesti do pogrešnih kliničkih odluka, metode su izbora u kliničkim laboratorijima za testove procjene funkcije štitnjače i testove za otkrivanje uzroka bolesti štitnjače.

Otkrivanje i ispravno postupanje kod prisutnosti interferencije ostaje odgovornost medicinskog biohemičara i kliničkog laboratorija. Međutim, interferencije mogu biti jedinstvene za pojedinca i promjenjive tijekom vremena, uzrokujući lažno pozitivne ili lažno negativne rezultate. Na prisutnost interferencije treba posumnjati kad postoji razlika između izmjerene vrijednosti i prethodnog rezultata mjerenoj istom metodom, kao i odstupanje s drugim biokemijskim parametrima i/ili kliničkom slikom pacijenta. Poznavanje povijesti bolesti također je važno jer su neki pacijenti skloniji razvoju interferencija zbog nedavne transfuzije, imunizacije, autoimune bolesti ili monoklonske terapije.

Poznato je šest glavnih vrsta interferencija u testiranju funkcije štitnjače, uključujući biotin, makro-tiretotropin (makro-TSH), antistreptavidinska antitijela, antirutenijeva antitijela, autoantitijela na hormone štitnjače i heterofilna antitijela. Dodatni izvori interferencija uključuju varijante transportnog proteina hormona štitnjače, varijante TSH i paraprotein. Interferencije se obično otkrivaju ponavljanjem mjerjenja, korištenjem druge dostupne metode, izvođenjem postupka razrjeđivanja, dodavanjem blokirajućih agensa ili uklanjanjem interferirajućih antitijela.

U okviru predavanja bit će prezentirane analitičke smetnje u laboratorijskoj dijagnostici poremećaja funkcije štitnjače s kojima se susrećemo u svakodnevnoj praksi i moguća rješenja za njihovo otkrivanje ili uklanjanje. Medicinsko-biokemijski laboratoriji trebaju imati jasan protokol za prepoznavanje i ispitivanje mogućih interferencija, a poznavanjem izvora interferencije te bliskom suradnjom s kliničarima i proizvođačima reagensa moguće je izbjegići neželjene posljedice nepredvidivih interferencija.

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**S6-2****Catch me if you can**

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Immunoassays, although sensitive to various types of interferences that can lead to wrong clinical decisions, are the methods of choice in clinical laboratories for the evaluation of thyroid function tests and tests to detect the cause of thyroid disease.

Detection and correct handling of the presence of interference remains the responsibility of medical biochemists and clinical laboratories. However, interferences may be unique to an individual and variable over time, causing false positive or false negative results. The presence of interference should be suspected when there is a difference between the measured value and the previous value measured by the same method, as well as a discrepancy with other biochemical parameters and/or the patient's clinical picture. Knowing the history of present illness is also important because some patients are prone to develop interference due to recent transfusions, immunizations, autoimmune diseases, or monoclonal therapy. Six major types of interference in thyroid function testing have been identified, including biotin, macro-thyrotropin (macro-TSH), antistreptavidin antibodies, antiruthenium antibodies, thyroid hormone autoantibodies, and heterophilic antibodies. Additional sources of interference include thyroid hormone transporter protein variants, TSH variants, and paraproteins. Interferences are usually detected by repeating the measurement, using other available methods, performing a dilution procedure, adding blocking agents, or removing the interfering antibodies. In this lecture, analytical interferences in the laboratory diagnosis of thyroid function tests that we encounter in everyday practice and possible solutions for their detection or elimination, will be presented. Clinical laboratories should have a clear protocol for identifying and testing possible interferences, and by knowing the sources of interference and having a close cooperation with clinicians and reagent manufacturers, it is possible to avoid unwanted consequences of unpredictable interferences.

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**S6-3****Laboratorijska obrada štitnjače iz perspektive endokrinologa**

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Određivanje tiroksina (T4), trijodtironina (T3) i tireotropina (TSH) koristi se u različitim kliničkim stanjima za procjenu funkcije štitnjače. Glavni hormon koji luči štitnjaču je T4 koji se u ekstratiroidnim tkivima, kao što su jetra, možak i bubrezi, pretvara u T3. Sekrecija ovih hormona je pod kontrolom hormona hipofize koji stimulira štitnjaču (TSH), a čije je izlučivanje regulirano negativnom povratnom spregom od strane tih istih hormona štitnjače. Krvni testovi za mjerjenje svih navedenih hormona lako su dostupni i naširoko se upotrebljavaju, no, s druge strane, nisu svi jednako korisni u pojedinim kliničkim situacijama. Iz kliničke perspektive, osnovni fiziološki princip na kojem temeljimo dijagnostiku poremećaja štitnjače leži u činjenici da vrlo male promjene u razinama hormona štitnjače (uglavnom slobodnog T4 u serumu) izazivaju vrlo velike promjene u serumskim koncentracijama TSH. Sukladno tome, uz pretpostavku nepostojanja bolesti hipofize ili hipotalamus, funkciju štitnjače najbolje je procijeniti mjerjenjem TSH u serumu. Promjene vrijednosti TSH su najraniji pokazatelj poremećaja funkcije štitnjače jer se događaju znatno prije nego što razina T3 i/ili T4 postane previšoka ili preniska. Mjerjenje T4, a posebno T3, u pravilu nije dovoljno osjetljivo, a time niti potrebno, za dijagnozu hipofunkcije štitnjače, no, s druge strane, određivanje ovih hormona je korisno pri procjeni težine hiperfunkcije štitnjače, kao i u monitoriranju doze tireostatskih lijekova u početnim fazama liječenja hipertireoze. Pored toga, u slučaju sekundarne hipotireoze zbog bolesti hipofize ili hipotalamus i posljedičnog oslabljenog otpuštanja TSH, mjerjenje T4 koristi se za titriranje doze levotiroksina. Antitijela na različite antigene štitnjače (TPO, Tg, TSH receptor) su pozitivna u većine bolesnika s kroničnim autoimunim tireoiditismom i Gravesovom bolešću, no, usprkos tome, nije ih potrebno rutinski određivati.

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**S6-3****Laboratory evaluation of the thyroid from an endocrinologist's perspective**

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Thyroid function tests (T3, T4, TSH) are used in a variety of clinical settings to evaluate thyroid function. The major thyroid hormone secreted by the thyroid gland is thyroxine (T4) which is, in extrathyroidal tissues such as liver, brain and kidneys, converted to triiodothyronine (T3). Their production is regulated by pituitary thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) which secretion is, in turn, controlled through negative feedback by thyroid hormones. Blood tests to measure all these hormones are readily available and widely used, but not all are useful in all clinical scenarios. From a clinical perspective, the basic principle in the thyroid physiology on which we base the diagnosis of different thyroid disorders is the fact that very small changes in thyroid hormones (mainly serum T4) induce very large corresponding changes in serum TSH concentrations. Accordingly, assuming the absence of pituitary or hypothalamic disease, thyroid function is best assessed by measuring serum TSH. Changes in TSH can serve as an "early warning system" – often occurring before the actual level of thyroid hormones becomes too high or too low. Measurement of T4, and especially T3, is generally not enough sensitive, and therefore is not used, to detect hypothyroidism, but on the other hand, their assessment is useful to determine the severity of the hyperthyroidism as well as during the initial monitoring of hyperthyroidism treatment with thyrostatic drugs. In addition, in case of secondary hypothyroidism due to pituitary or hypothalamic disease, and consequent impaired TSH release, measurement of T4 should be used to titrate the levothyroxine dose. As for the antibodies against various thyroid antigens (TPO, Tg, TSH receptor), they are positive in the majority of patients with chronic autoimmune thyroiditis and Graves' disease, but despite this, their routine measurement is not necessary.

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**S6-4**

## Dizajniranje, implementacija i evaluacija autoverifikacijskih pravila za hormone štitnjače

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Uz sve veće zahtjeve za produktivnošću i sve manje resursa, klinički laboratoriji traže načine za optimizaciju i poboljšanje tijeka rada, smanjenje troškova osoblja, smanjenje stope pregleda i poboljšanje točnosti i dosljednosti prijavljenih rezultata. Kako bi se zadovoljilo sve navedeno, uz neke druge zahtjeve, iznalaženje optimalnih rješenja ovisno o uvjetima rada i resursima važan je zadatak i kontinuirani proces svakog kliničkog laboratorija. Implementacija programa autoverifikacije (AV) veliki je korak naprijed. AV je proces kojim se rezultati ispitivanja uspoređuju s unaprijed definiranim pravilima i izvještavaju u laboratorijskom informacijskom sustavu (LIS) u slučaju slaganja.

Trenutno mnogi laboratorijski diljem svijeta imaju implementiranu AV u nekoliko domena: klinička biohemija, hematologija, koagulacija i analiza urina. AV je doprinio mnogim poboljšanjima u svakodnevnoj rutini, posebno optimiziranjem radnog vremena laboratorijskog osoblja i dopuštanjem da se usredotoče na rezultate koji zahtijevaju više pažnje, te povećanjem dosljednosti laboratorijskih nalaza.

Danas mnogi softveri nude AV, ali uglavnom osnovnu razinu. AlinIQ sustav upravljanja analizatorom (engl. *Analyser Management System; AMS*) (Abbott diagnostic) je softver koji povezuje analizator s LIS-om i omogućuje upravljanje cijelim procesom rada. AMS prosljeđuje informacije kao što je narudžba za testiranje od LIS-a do instrumenta i rezultate ispitivanja od instrumenta natrag do LIS-a. Osim toga, ovaj softver omogućuje korisniku stvaranje i modificiranje AV algoritama prema specifičnim zahtjevima ovisno o populaciji pacijenata i bolničkim postavkama. Osmisljavanje i implementacija AV pravila zahtjevan je zadatak koji zahtijeva angažman kvalificiranih laboratorijskih stručnjaka i stručnjaka za informacijske

**S6-4**

## Designing, implementing and evaluating autoverification rules for thyroid hormones

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With increasing demands on productivity and decreasing resources, clinical laboratories are looking for ways to optimize and improve workflow, reduce staffing costs, reduce review rates and improve accuracy and consistency of reported results.

To satisfy all pointed out, along with some other requirements, finding optimal solutions depending on occupational conditions and resources is an important task and continuous process of every clinical laboratory. Implementation of autoverification (AV) program is a great step forward. AV is a process by which test results are compared to predefined rules and released in laboratory information system (LIS) in case of agreement.

Currently, many laboratories worldwide have implemented AV in several domains: clinical biochemistry, hematology, coagulation, and urinalysis. AV contributed to many improvements in daily routine, particularly by optimizing laboratory staff working time and allowing them to focus on results that need more attention, and by increasing consistency of laboratory results.

Today many softwares offer AV, but mostly the basic level. AlinIQ Analyser Management System (AMS) (Abbott diagnostic) is a middleware software that can connect any analyser or automation system to the LIS and enable manage the entire workflow process. It delivers information such as test orders from LIS to instrument and test results from instrument back to LIS. Additionally, this software enables the user to create and modify AV algorithms according to specific requirements depending on the patient population and hospital settings.

Designing and implementing AV rules is a demanding task that requires the engagement of qualified laboratory specialists and information technology

tehnologije (IT). Savjetodavna uloga liječnika također je više nego dobrodošla.

CLSI je objavio nekoliko dokumenata koji pružaju osnovni okvir koji svakom kliničkom laboratoriju omogućuje dizajniranje, implementaciju i validaciju specifičnih AV pravila. Pravila bi trebala biti organizirana na logičan način, a zatim napisana računalnim jezikom. Nakon što je AV sustav implementiran, mora se potvrditi korištenjem stvarnih rezultata pacijenata prije pokretanja. Validacija se obično izvodi u dva koraka, prvo primjenom pravila i testiranjem u testnom načinu, nakon čega slijedi korištenje kliničkih uzoraka za provjeru izvedbe algoritma.

Funkcionalne pretrage štitnjače jedne su od najčešće naručivanih pretraga u svakodnevnoj rutini. Hormon koji stimulira štitnjaču (TSH), slobodni tiroksin (FT4) i slobodni trijodtironin (FT3) primjer su međusobno ovisnih testova koje treba verificirati vodeći računa o njihovom međusobnom odnosu. Stoga korištenje osnovnih AV pravila nije prikladno.

Uz pomoć Abbott tima i u suradnji s bolničkim liječnicima, razvili smo specifična unutar-laboratorijska AV pravila za testove funkcije štitnjače koja su implementirana na AMS.

Bit će predstavljen neobrađeni model ovih algoritama koji se može primijeniti u bilo kojem laboratoriju i modificirati prema specifičnim zahtjevima ustanove.

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(IT) experts. The advisory role of the physicians is also more than welcomed.

CLSI published a few documents that provide a basic framework to allow each clinical laboratory to design, implement and validate specific AV rules. Rules should be organized in a logical fashion and then written in a computer language. Once the AV system is implemented, it must be validated by using actual patient results before go-live. Validation is usually performed in two steps, first by applying rules and testing it in test mode, followed by the use of clinical specimens to verify the performance of the algorithm.

Thyroid function tests are one of the most ordered tests in daily routine. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), free thyroxine (FT4) and free triiodothyronine (FT3) are an example of interdependent tests that should be verified in relation to each other. Thus, using basic AV rules is not suitable.

With the assistance of the Abbott team and in collaboration with hospital physicians, we developed specific within-laboratory AV rules for thyroid function tests which are implemented on the AMS.

A raw model of these algorithms that can be applied to any laboratory and modified according to the specific requirements of the institution will be presented.

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## A Hematologija

A-01

**Pouzdanost provjere trombocita digitalnom morfologijom na uređaju Sysmex DI-60**

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**Uvod:** Mikroskopska provjera trombocita ključna je zbog pravovremenog uočavanja promjena u morfološkoj i broju trombocita. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati pouzdanost provjere broja trombocita i otkrivanja nakupina trombocita digitalnom morfologijom na analizatoru Sysmex DI-60 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan).

**Materijali i metode:** U ispitivanje je uključeno 389 uzoraka kojima je, nakon određivanja kompletne krvne slike na Sysmex XN-3100 analizatoru (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan), bila potrebna provjera trombocita, prema kriterijima: poruke s analizatora koje upućuju na prisutnost nakupina trombocita, prvo pojavljivanje broja trombocita ispod  $100 \times 10^9/L$  ili razlika broja trombocita veća od 50% unutar 90 dana. Razmazi periferne krvi pregledani su svjetlosnom mikroskopijom i digitalnom morfologijom na Sysmex DI-60 u tri podizbornika (WBC, RBC, PLT) sa svrhom otkrivanja nakupina trombocita. Kod uzorka bez nakupina, trombociti su izbrojani Fonio metodom na DI-60 te uspoređeni s brojem trombocita dobivenim na hematološkom analizatoru.

**Rezultati:** Slaganje otkrivanja nakupina trombocita svjetlosnom mikroskopijom i digitalnom mikroskopijom na uređaju DI-60 iznosilo je 94,5%. Kappa koeficijenti za sva tri podizbornika DI-60 ukazuju na umjereno slaganje rezultata (WBC:  $\kappa = 0,60$  (95% CI: 0,45 do 0,76); RBC:  $\kappa = 0,63$  (95% CI: 0,48 do 0,77); PLT:  $\kappa = 0,62$  (95% CI: 0,47 do 0,76)). Hi-kvadrat testom nije utvrđena statistički značajna razlika u otkrivanju nakupina trombocita između pojedinih podizbornika uređaja DI-60 ( $P = 0,323$ ). Usporedba broja trombocita određenih na XN-3100 i Fonio metodom pokazala je izvrsno slaganje ( $\rho = 0,94$ , 95%

## A Haematology

A-01

**Reliability of platelet verification by digital morphology on Sysmex DI-60 analyser**

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**Introduction:** Microscopic examination of platelets is crucial for accurate detection of alterations in platelet morphology and count. The present study aimed to assess the reliability of platelet count determination and platelet clumps detection using digital morphology on Sysmex DI-60 analyser (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan).

**Materials and methods:** The study included 389 samples that required additional platelet inspection after complete blood count analysis on Sysmex XN-3100 analyser (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan), due to: analyser flags indicating the platelet clumps presence, platelet count below  $100 \times 10^9/L$  evidenced for the first time or platelet count exceeding the difference of 50% within 90 days. Peripheral blood smears were examined for platelet clumps by light microscopy and digital morphology on DI-60 in three submenus (WBC, RBC, PLT). For samples without platelet clumps, platelet count was determined using the Fonio method on DI-60 and compared to the count from the haematology analyser.

**Results:** Agreement of platelet clumps detection by light and digital microscopy was 94.5%. Kappa coefficients for all three DI-60 submenus indicate moderate agreement (WBC:  $\kappa = 0.60$  (95% CI :0.45 to 0.76); RBC:  $\kappa = 0.63$  (95% CI: 0.48 to 0.77); PLT:  $\kappa = 0.62$  (95% CI: 0.47 to 0.76)). Chi-square test did not reveal statistically significant difference for detection of platelet clumps for either of the DI-60 submenus ( $P = 0.323$ ). Comparison of platelet counts determined on XN-3100 and by Fonio showed excellent agreement ( $\rho = 0.94$ , 95% CI: 0.93 to 0.95). Passing-Bablok regression showed constant difference ( $y = -7.30(-$

CI: 0,93 do 0,95). Passing-Bablok regresijom utvrđeno je konstantno odstupanje ( $y = -7,30$  (-10,50 do -4,40) + 1,27 (1,23 do 1,32)), dok je Bland-Altmanovom analizom dobivena absolutna razlika 21,7 (95% CI: 17,9 do 25,5) i relativna razlika 13,5% (95% CI: 10,9 do 16,1). Od 261 uzorka s brojem trombocita ispod  $100 \times 10^9/L$ , u 248 uzoraka je svjetlosnom i digitalnom mikroskopijom isključena prisutnost nakupina, u 10 uzoraka su nakupine potvrđene objema metodama, dok su za 3 uzorka nakupine nađene svjetlosnom mikroskopijom, ali ne i pomoću DI-60.

**Zaključak:** DI-60 omogućava pouzdanu provjeru broja trombocita i prisutnosti nakupina. Za dvojbine slučajeve potrebna je dodatna provjera svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

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## A-02

### Validacija ISHAGE protokola za određivanje brojnosti CD34+ na protočnim citometrima u kliničke svrhe

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**Uvod:** Protočna citometrija metoda je izbora za određivanje brojnosti nezrelih hematopoetskih preteča i progenitorskih stanica preko mjerjenja izražaja antiga CD34 na njima. Svha ove studije je evaluacija ISHAGE protokola za određivanje broja CD34+ stanica na protočnim citometrima BC DxFlex i BC Navios (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD).

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacija ISHAGE protokola za određivanje broja CD34+ stanica na protočnim citometrima (BC DX Flex i BC Navios) je urađena prema CLSI EP-A2 protokolu. Uključivala je provjeru preciznosti mjerjenjem kontrolnih uzoraka u triplikatu 5 dana, izračun mjerne nesigurnosti, usporedivost dobivenih rezultata mjerjenja broja CD34+ stanica između analizatora, a točnost je

10.50 to -4.40) + 1.27(1.23 to 1.32)). Bland-Altman analysis revealed absolute bias of 21.7 (95% CI: 17.9 to 25.5) and relative bias of 13.5% (95% CI: 10.9 to 16.1). Of the 261 samples with platelet count below  $100 \times 10^9/L$ , clumps were excluded in 248 both by light and digital microscopy, in 10 samples clumps were confirmed by both methods, while for 3 clumps were detected only by light microscopy.

**Conclusion:** DI-60 provides reliable verification of platelet count and the presence of platelet clumps. In doubtful cases, additional inspection by light microscopy is required.

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## A-02

### Validation of ISHAGE protocol for CD34+ cells enumeration on flow cytometers for clinical purpose

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**Introduction:** Flow cytometry is a method of choice in immature hematopoietic precursor and progenitor cells enumeration via measurement of expression of CD34 antigen on them. Aim of this study was performance evaluation of ISHAGE protocol for CD34+ cell quantificationon BC DxFlex or Navios flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA).

**Materials and methods:** ISHAGE protocol for CD34+ cell quantification on BC Dx Flex and Navios flow cytometer was verified following CLSI EP-A2 protocol. Verification studies included assessment of random error check upon triplicate measurement for five days consecutively and calculation of measurement uncertainty. One comparison study was performed on 88 blood samples and leukapheresis

provjerena kroz sudjelovanje u vanjskoj procjeni kvalitete. Usporedivost rezultata učinjena je prema referentnom analizatoru BD FACS CANTO II na 88 uzoraka krvi i produkata leukafererezata (BC DX Flex vs. BD FACS Canto II), odnosno na 101 uzorku (BC Navios vs. BD FACS Canto II). Za statističku obradu rezultata korišten je statistički program MedCalc (MedCalc software, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Verifikacijska obrada je u potpunosti zadovoljila postavljene kriterije kvalitete. Unutar-laboratorijska nepreciznost na protočnim citometrima BC DX Flex i BC Navios za kontrolni uzorak niske koncentracije je iznosila 6,17% i 6,41%, a visoke 4,20% i 3,21%. Proširena mjerna nesigurnost je bila 14,18% i 10,94% za BC DxFlex, odnosno 14,62% i 9,50% za BC Navios. Usporedivost rezultata na protočnim citometrima regresijskom analizom (Passing Bablok) je bila zadovoljavajuća ( $R = 0,99$  za BC DX Flex vs. BD FACS CANTO II;  $N = 88$ , i  $R = 0,99$  za BC Navios vs. BD FACS CANTO II;  $N = 101$ ), a rezultati su dodatno potvrđeni kroz sudjelovanje u shemi CD34+ Stem Cell Enumeration neovisnog organizatora UK NEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacija metode protočne citometrije za određivanja broja CD34+ stanica prema ISHAGE protokolu je zadovoljila postavljene kriterije analitičke kvalitete. Usporedbom rezultata sa protočnih citometara (BC DX Flex, BD FACS Canto II i BC Navios) nisu nađene značajne razlike što ih sve čini prikladnima za kliničku primjenu.

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products for BC DxFlex and BD FACS Canto II (BD Biosciences, Erembodegem, Belgium) flow cytometers, and another was done on 101 samples for BC Navios and BD FACS Canto II, respectively. The calculations were made using MedCalc software (MedCalc software, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Verification studies of ISHAGE protocol on BC DxFlex and Navios flow cytometers fulfil quality specification. Within laboratory precision for commercial control samples at low and high concentration level was 6.17%, 4.20% and 6.41%, 3.21%, respectively. Expanded measurement uncertainty was 14.18%, 10.94%, and 14.62%, 9.50% for the same controls. Passing and Bablok regression analysis revealed satisfactory comparison between BC DxFlex and BD CANTO II ( $Y = -0.08 + 1.03x$ ;  $R = 0.99$ ,  $N = 88$ ) or BC Navios and BD FACS CANTO II ( $y = 1.14 + 1.06x$ ;  $R = 0.98$ ,  $N = 101$ ). Additionally, the obtained results were evaluated through participation in CD34 Stem cell enumeration, an external quality assessment scheme, organized by UK NEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping, where results were within consensus values.

**Conclusion:** Verification studies of ISHAGE protocol on BC DX Flex and Navios flow cytometer fulfil analytical specifications suggested by manufacturer or an external quality assessment /proficiency testing provider. Comparison study revealed insignificant difference in measurement on different analysers, no matter on which analyser it is done, which makes them all suitable for clinical purpose.

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**A-03**

**Usporedba brzine sedimentacije eritrocita izmjerene u EDTA kapilarnim uzorcima na Roller 20PN (Alifax) s Westergren referentnom metodom**

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**Uvod:** Međunarodno vijeće za standardizaciju u hematologiji (ICSH) izdalo je preporuke po kojima bi rezultati svih metoda za mjerjenje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita (ESR, eng. *erythrocyte sedimentation rate*) trebali biti usporedivi sa Westergrenovom referentnom metodom. Uzorci koji se obično koriste su citratni venski uzorci. Roller 20PN (Alifax) koristi tehnologiju mikroagregacije za mjerjenje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita u EDTA venskim i kapilarnim uzorcima. Cilj je bio usporediti rezultate ESR Westergren metode s rezultatima kapilarnih uzoraka EDTA mjerениh na Roller20PN.

**Materijali i metode:** Po dva uzorka krvi prikupljena su od 67 bolesnika, 28 muškaraca i 39 žena (kapilarni uzorci - K2 EDTA Microtainer (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, SAD); venski uzorci - Vacutainer ESR epruvete (BD)). Venski uzorci su mjereni Westergrenovom referentnom metodom, a upotrijebljene su jednokratne pipete Vacupeta (Laboratorijska tehnika Burnik). Kapilarni uzorci su mjereni na vanjskom modu Rollera 20PN. Učinci hematokrita < 0,330 u Westergrenovoj metodi korigirani su Fabryjevom formulom. Rezultati su korelirani prije i nakon korekcije.

**Rezultati:** A) Prije korekcije: Spearmanov koeficijent korelacije  $\rho$  je 0,85 (95% CI: 0,77 do 0,91) ( $P < 0,005$ ); Passing-Bablok jednadžba je  $y = 2,78 + 1,08x$  (95% CI za odsječak: 1,89 do 5,28; 95% CI za nagib: 0,97 do 1,22). Bland-Altanova analiza pokazuje srednju razliku od 4,9 ili 14,2%. B) Nakon korekcije: Spearmanov koeficijent korelacije  $\rho$  je 0,87 (95% CI: 0,79 do 0,91) ( $P < 0,005$ ); Passing-Bablokova jednadžba je  $y = 0,35 + 1,37x$  (95% CI za odsječak: -4,11 do 4,27; 95% CI za nagib: 1,18 do 1,59). Bland-Altanova analiza pokazuje srednju razliku od 13,7 ili 30,4%.

**A-03**

**Comparison of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) in EDTA capillary samples measured on Roller 20PN (Alifax) with Westergren reference method**

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**Introduction:** International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICSH) recommended that methods for measuring erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) should agree with the standardized Westergren method. Samples commonly used are citrate venous samples. The Roller 20PN (Alifax) uses microaggregation technology to measure ESR in EDTA venous and capillary samples. The aim was to compare ESR results from Westergren method with results from EDTA capillary samples measured on Roller20PN.

**Materials and methods:** Paired blood samples were collected from 67 inpatients, 28 male and 39 female; capillary samples - K2 EDTA Microtainer (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, USA); venous samples - Vacutainer ESR Tubes (BD). Venous samples were measured by the Westergren reference method and performed with disposable pipette Vacupeta (Laboratorijska tehnika Burnik). Capillary tubes were measured in external mode at the Roller 20PN. The effects of haematocrit < 0.330 in Westergren method were corrected with Fabry's formula. Results were correlated before and after correction.

**Results:** A) Before correction: Spearman's correlation coefficients  $\rho$  is 0.85 (95% CI: 0.77 to 0.91) ( $P < 0.005$ ) Passing-Bablok equation is  $y = 2.78 + 1.08x$  (95% CI for intercept and slope respectively: 1.89 to 5.28 and 0.97 to 1.22). Bland-Altman analysis shows mean difference of 4.9 or 14.2%. B) After correction: Spearman's correlation coefficients  $\rho$  is 0.87 (95% CI: 0.79 to 0.91) ( $P < 0.005$ ). Passing-Bablok equation is  $y = 0.35 + 1.37x$  (95% CI for intercept and slope respectively: -4.11 to 4.27 and 1.18 to 1.59). Bland-Altman analysis shows mean difference of 13.7 or 30.4%.

**Conclusion:** Erythrocyte sedimentation rate measured with two methods in different sample types

**Zaključak:** Brzina sedimentacije eritrocita mjerena dvjema metodama u različitim tipovima uzoraka pokazuje dobru korelaciju. Korekcija rezultata s Fabryjevom formulom ne doprinosi smanjenju razlike među metodama. Passing-Bablok analiza pokazuje sustavnu razliku prije i proporcionalnu razliku nakon korekcije rezultata. Bland-Altmanova analiza pokazuje veću srednju razliku nakon korekcije rezultata. Za uvođenje ESR iz kapilarnih uzoraka u rutinu potrebno je provesti više mjeranja posebno u patološkom području.

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show good correlation. The result correction with Fabry's formula doesn't reduce the differences between methods. Passing-Bablok analysis shows systematic difference before and proportional difference after result correction. Bland-Altman analysis shows greater mean difference after result correction. Before implementation of ESR in capillary samples in routine practice more measurements need to be carried out, especially samples with pathological results.

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#### A-04 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Izvještavanje ukupnog broja stanica s jezgrom uz broj leukocita u različitim vrstama ekstravaskularnih uzoraka – analiza rizika

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**Uvod:** Suvremeni hematološki analizatori posjeduju poseban modul za analizu ekstravaskularnih uzoraka (EVU) kojim se određuju ukupni broj leukocita (WBC) i ukupni broj stanica s jezgrom (TNC). Ako su u EVU prisutne stanice s jezgrom koje nisu WBC (mezotelne, maligne), TNC je viši od WBC. Cilj rada bio je utvrditi učinak neizvještavanja TNC uz WBC prilikom analize EVU na sigurnost pacijenta.

**Materijali i metode:** Retrospektivno su u analizu uključeni rezultati obrade 399 različitih EVU (ascitesa, perikardijalnog i pleuralnog izljeva, likvora, dijalizata) na Sysmex XN-1000 analizatoru (Sysmex Corporation, Kobe, Japan). Koristeći podatke iz laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava izračunati su: a) apsolutna razlika ( $\Delta$ ) TNC i WBC ( $\Delta = TNC - WBC$ ); b) relativna razlika ( $\Delta\%$ ) TNC i WBC ( $\Delta\% = (\Delta/WBC) \times 100$ ). Iz petogodišnjih rezultata unutarnje kontrole

#### A-04 (Oral presentation)

#### Reporting the total number of nucleated cells count with the number of leukocytes for different extravascular samples - a risk analysis

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**Introduction:** Modern haematology analysers with modules for extravascular samples (EVS) enable the measurement of total number of leukocytes (WBC) and nucleated cells (TNC). The presence of nucleated cells other than WBC (mesothelial, malignant) results in higher TNC compared to WBC. Our aim was to determine the effect of non-reporting TNC with WBC for different EVS on patient safety.

**Materials and methods:** Results of 399 different EVS (ascites, pericardial and pleural effusion, cerebrospinal fluid, dialysate) analysed on the Sysmex XN-1000 analyser (Sysmex Corporation, Kobe, Japan) were included in the risk analysis. Using data from the laboratory information system, we calculated: the absolute difference ( $\Delta$ ) of TNC and WBC ( $\Delta = TNC - WBC$ ); the relative difference ( $\Delta\%$ ) of TNC and WBC ( $\Delta\% = (\Delta/WBC) \times 100$ ). Quality

kvalitete za WBC u dvije razine izračunata je klinički značajna promjena (RCV) rezultata WBC u EVU ( $RCV = 21/2 \times Z \times U$ , uz  $Z = 1,96$  i  $Z = 2,58$ , gdje je  $U$  mjerna nesigurnost uz  $k = 2$ ). Temeljem tih podataka granice kliničke odluke za  $\Delta\%$  su postavljene na  $\leq 10\%$  i  $\leq 20\%$ . Matrica rizika je konstruirana koristeći 6 kategorija ozbiljnosti i 5 kategorija učestalosti. Kategorije ozbiljnosti su klasificirane temeljem broja WBC u EVU (u usporedbi s granicom za kliničko odlučivanje za svaki pojedini EVU) i kriterija  $\Delta\%$ .

**Rezultati:** Za uzorke pleuralnog izljeva utvrđen je visoki rizik u slučaju neizvještavanja TNC uz WBC kada je WBC iznad granice za kliničko odlučivanje ( $> 1000 \times 10^6/L$ ) i  $\Delta\% > 20\%$ . Za likvor je utvrđen umjereni rizik u slučaju rezultata WBC iznad referentnog intervala ( $> 5 \times 10^6/L$ ) uz  $\Delta\% < 10\%$ . Zbog malog broja uzoraka, za perikardijalni izljev rizik nije procijenjen. Za preostale vrste EVU utvrđen je nizak rizik prilikom neizvještavanja TNC uz WBC.

**Zaključak:** Za uzorke pleuralnog izljeva kod kojih je WBC iznad granice za kliničko odlučivanje i  $\Delta\% > 20\%$  nužno je na nalazu izvještavati i TNC kako bi kliničar mogao odlučiti o potrebi za citološkom analizom uzorka.

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control results from a five-year period for two levels were used to calculate the reference change value (RCV) for WBC in EVS ( $RCV = 21/2 \times Z \times U$ , using  $Z = 1.96$  and  $Z = 2.58$ , with  $U$  designating measurement uncertainty with  $k = 2$ ). Based on these data, the clinical decision limits of  $\Delta\%$  were set at  $\leq 10\%$  and  $\leq 20\%$ . The risk matrix was constructed using six severity and five occurrence categories. The severity categories were classified based on WBC count (compared to clinical decision limits for each individual EVS) and the  $\Delta\%$  criteria.

**Results:** For pleural effusions, high risk was found in case of non-reporting TNC with WBC when WBC count is above the clinical decision limit ( $> 1000 \times 10^6/L$ ) with  $\Delta\% > 20\%$ . Moderate risk for cerebrospinal fluid was found with  $\Delta\% < 10\%$  for WBC count above the reference interval ( $> 5 \times 10^6/L$ ). Due to small number of samples, the risk for pericardial effusions was not assessed. The remaining EVS showed low risk when TNC counts were not reported with WBC.

**Conclusion:** The TNC count should be reported for pleural effusions if WBC are above the clinical decision limit and  $\Delta\% > 20\%$ . This allows the clinician to decide if further cytological analysis is needed.

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## A-05

### Analitička verifikacija diferencijalne krvne slike na uređaju za digitalnu morfologiju Sysmex DI-60

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**Uvod:** Mikroskopski pregled razmaza periferne krvi neizostavni je dio određivanja kompletne krvne slike. Iako je svjetlosna mikroskopija zlatni standard, u današnje je vrijeme dostupno više uređaja za digi-

## A-05

### Analytical verification of white blood cell differential on the digital cell morphology analyser Sysmex DI-60

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**Introduction:** Microscopic examination of peripheral blood (PB) smears is the essential part of complete blood count analysis. Although light microscopy is still considered the gold standard method, several

talnu morfološku analizu, a jedan je takav i Sysmex DI-60 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan) koji se temelji na Cellavision tehnologiji (Lund, Švedska). Cilj ovoga rada bio je provesti analitičku verifikaciju određivanja diferencijalne krvne slike na uređaju DI-60 ispitivanjem preciznosti, točnosti i usporedivosti sa svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

**Materijali i metode:** Ponovljivost i međupreciznost ispitane su s pomoću četiri razmaza periferne krvi iz programa vanjske kontrole kvalitete Reference Institute for Bioanalytics (RfB) koji su analizirani pet dana zaredom u kvintuplikatu prema protokolu CLSI EP15-A3. Točnost je određena usporedbom srednjih vrijednosti dobivenih za svaku subpopulaciju leukocita ispitivanjem međupreciznosti s dopuštenim intervalom koji je definirao RfB. Usporedba je obuhvatila 242 razmaza periferne krvi koji su pregledani na uređaju DI-60 i svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati ponovljivosti i međupreciznosti za zrele leukocitne subpopulacije (segmentirani granulociti, limfociti, monociti i eozinofili granulociti) bili su unutar kriterija za standardne devijacije (SD) preporučene od proizvođača. Samo su za nesegmentirane i bazofilne granulocite dobivene više SD od definiranih kriterija u po 1/4 razmaza periferne krvi. Procjenom točnosti utvrđeno je odstupanje od definiranog intervala samo za eozinofilne granulocite u jednom razmazu (1,4%, raspon 2-10%). Usporedbom metoda dobiven je Spearmanov koeficijent korelacije za zrele leukocite od 0,44 (bazofilni granulociti) do 0,93 (segmentirani granulociti), a za nezrele leukocite od 0,34 (metamijelociti) do 0,75 (mijelociti). Regresijskom analizom po Passing-Babloku utvrđeno je konstantno odstupanje za limfocite ( $y = -2,3 (-3,4 \text{ do } -1,5) + 1,05 (1,0 \text{ do } 1,1) x$ ) i monocite ( $y = -1,1 (-2,0 \text{ do } -0,7) + 1,0 (0,95 \text{ do } 1,04) x$ ) te proporcionalno odstupanje za mijelocite ( $y = 0 (0 \text{ do } 0) + 1,9 (1,1 \text{ do } 2,0) x$ ).

**Zaključak:** Ispitivanjem analitičkih svojstava uređaja za digitalnu morfologiju DI-60 potvrđena je njegova pouzdanost u određivanju diferencijalne krvne slike te mogućnost rutinske primjene umjesto svjetlosne mikroskopije. Ipak, u slučaju prisutnosti mlađih/promijenjenih staničnih oblika nužna je primjena svjetlosne mikroskopije.

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automated digital microscopy systems are available nowadays. Sysmex DI-60 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan) is a digital cell morphology analyser that utilizes Cellavision technology (Lund, Sweden). The study aimed to assess the analytical performance of DI-60 analyser for white blood cell (WBC) differential (precision, accuracy, and comparability with the routinely used light microscopy).

**Materials and methods:** Within-run and between-run precision for WBC differential were determined by analysing four PB smears from the Reference Institute for Bioanalytics (RfB) quality assessment scheme, for five consecutive days in quintuplicate, as defined in the CLSI EP15-A3 document. For each WBC subpopulation, accuracy was evaluated by comparing grand means obtained in between-day precision with acceptable ranges defined by RfB. Method comparison included analysis of 242 PB smears using both DI-60 and light microscopy.

**Results:** Results of within-run and between-run precision for mature WBC subpopulations (segmented granulocytes, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils) fulfilled manufacturer's criteria for standard deviation (SD). The obtained SDs for non-segmented granulocytes and basophils exceeded defined criteria in 1/4 of PB smears. Accuracy assessment revealed that only eosinophils in one smear yielded a grand mean (1.4%) outside the defined criteria (2-10%). Method comparison for mature WBCs yielded Spearman's  $\rho$  ranging from 0.44 (basophils) to 0.93 (segmented granulocytes), and for immature WBCs from 0.34 (metamyelocytes) to 0.75 (myelocytes). Passing-Bablok regression showed constant difference for lymphocytes ( $y = -2.3 (-3.4 \text{ to } -1.5) + 1.05 (1.0 \text{ to } 1.1) x$ ) and monocytes ( $y = -1.1 (-2.0 \text{ to } -0.7) + 1.0 (0.95 \text{ to } 1.04) x$ ), but proportional difference for myelocytes ( $y = 0 (0 \text{ to } 0) + 1.9 (1.1 \text{ to } 2.0) x$ ).

**Conclusion:** The performed analytical verification confirmed DI-60 as a reliable analyser for WBC differential that can be safely used instead of light microscopy in routine practice. However, in case of presence of the pathological/immature cell forms, the use of light microscopy is still mandatory.

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**A-06**

## **Usporedba automatizirane metode za određivanje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita s referentnom metodom po Westergrenu**

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**Uvod:** Zlatni standard za određivanje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita (SE) je metoda po Westergrenu. Posljednjih godina sve se više koriste i automatizirane metode. Cilj rada bio je ispitati usporedivost rezultata između referentne metode po Westergrenu i automatizirane metode CUBE 30 touch (Diesse, Italija).

**Materijali i metode:** U ispitivanje su bili uključeni ispitnici ( $N = 1031$ ) za koje su tražene pretrage kompletne krvne slike (KKS) i SE. Za metodu SE po Westergrenu korišten je uzorak venske krvi uz antikoagulans Na-citrat, a za automatiziranu metodu uzorak pune venske krvi s antikoagulansom K3EDTA za pretragu KKS. Prema preporuci proizvođača, za vrijednosti hematokrita (Hct)  $< 0.400$  L/L učinjena je korekcija rezultata SE automatskim unosom Hct-a. Ukupna skupina ispitnika je prema vrijednostima SE metodom po Westergrenu podijeljena u 3 podskupine: SE  $\leq 25$  ( $N = 695$ ), 26-59 ( $N = 220$ ) i  $\geq 60$  ( $N = 116$ ). Statistička analiza uključila je Passing-Bablok regresijsku analizu (MedCalc 14.8.1.0, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Passing-Bablok analiza pokazala je statistički značajno konstantno odstupanje ( $y = 1,57$  (1,00 do 2,13) + 0,10 (0,93 do 1,00)  $x$ ) i klinički značajno odstupanje (srednje odstupanje 26% uz kriterij prihvatljivosti (25%)), bez značajnog proporcionalnog odstupanja između metoda za ukupnu skupinu. Analiza po podskupinama pokazala je statistički i klinički (srednje odstupanje 55%) značajno konstantno odstupanje bez proporcionalnog odstupanja za  $SE \leq 25$  ( $y = 2,00 + 1,00x$ ) te statistički značajno konstantno i proporcionalno odstupanje za  $SE 26-59$  ( $y = -27,27$  (-37,00 do -19,20) + 1,73 (1,52 do 2,00)  $x$ ) i  $SE \geq 60$  ( $y = -50,26$  (-76,14 do -27,14) + 1,58 (1,29 do 1,93)  $x$ ). Za obje podskupine, konstantno odstupanje nije klinički značajno (srednje odstupanje 24%), dok je

**A-06**

## **Comparison of automated method for determining erythrocyte sedimentation rate with the Westergren reference method**

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**Introduction:** The gold standard for determining erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) is the Westergren method. In recent times automated methods have been increasingly used. Aim of this study was to compare results between the Westergren reference method and the automated CUBE 30 touch method (Diesse, Italy).

**Materials and methods:** The study included whole blood samples from patients ( $N = 1031$ ) for whom complete blood count (CBC) and ESR were requested. For the Westergren ESR method, sodium citrate vacutainers were used and for the automated method, K3EDTA vacutainers for the CBC test were used. According to manufacturer's recommendation, for haematocrit values (Hct)  $< 0.400$  L/L, ESR results were corrected by automatic Hct registration. According to the Westergren method, the total group was divided into 3 subgroups: ESR  $\leq 25$  ( $N = 695$ ), 26-59 ( $N = 220$ ) and  $\geq 60$  ( $N = 116$ ). Statistical analysis was performed using Passing-Bablok regression analysis (MedCalc 14.8.1.0, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Passing-Bablok analysis showed statistically significant systematic difference ( $y = 1.57$  (1.00 to 2.13) + 0.0976 (0.93 to 1.00)  $x$ ) and clinically significant difference (mean difference 26%, acceptance criteria 25%), without significant proportional difference between the methods for the total group. Analysis by subgroups showed statistically and clinically (mean difference 55%) significant systematic difference without proportional difference for ESR  $\leq 25$  ( $y = 2.00 + 1.00x$ ) and statistically significant systematic and proportional difference for ESR 26-59 ( $y = -27.27$  (-37.00 to -19.20) + 1.73 (1.52 to 2.00)  $x$ ) and ESR  $\geq 60$  ( $y = -50.26$  (-76.14 to 27.14) + 1.58 (1.29 to 1.93)  $x$ ). Both subgroups showed no clinically significant systematic difference (mean difference

proporcionalno odstupanje i klinički značajno jer više od 5% (39% i 38%) parova mjerena ima odstupanje veće od kriterija prihvatljivosti.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivanje je pokazalo da se rezultati ispitivane CUBE30 touch metode u odnosu na Westergren metodu klinički značajno razlikuju i u području vrijednosti unutar referentnog intervala, ali i u području povišenih i izrazito povišenih vrijednosti, što znači da se ove dvije metode ne mogu istodobno koristiti, a u slučaju uvođenja automatizirane metode kao nove metode koja zamjenjuje metodu po Westergrenu, o promjeni metode potrebno je obavijestiti korisnike laboratorijskih usluga.

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24%), but clinically significant proportional difference (more than 5% of measurement pairs (39% and 38%) have differences greater than the acceptance criteria).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that results of the tested CUBE30 touch method compared to the Westergren method differ clinically, especially for values within the reference range, but also in the range of elevated and marked elevated values. This means that these two methods should not be used interchangeably. In the case of Westergren method replacement by the automated CUBE 30 touch method, laboratory services users should be informed of this implementation.

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## A-07

### Verifikacija analize limfocitnih populacija korištenjem BD Multitest 6-color TBNK reagensa

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**Uvod:** Temeljem biološke funkcije i izražaja antige na površini stanice limfociti u ljudi se mogu podijeliti na glavne populacije: T limfocite (CD3+), B limfocite (CD19+), NK stanice (CD16+CD56+CD3-), i CD4+ i CD8+ poskupine T limfocita. Cilj ovog rada je evaluacija BD multitest 6-color TBNK reagensa za određivanje apsolutnog i relativnog broja limfocitnih populacija na protočnim citometrima BC DxFlex i BC Navios.

**Materijali i metode:** Određivanje limfocitnih populacija korištenjem BD multitest 6-color TBNK reagensa na protočnim citometrima BC DX Flex i BC Navios, je provjereno prema CLSI EP-A2 protokolu. Verifikacijski protokol je uključivao 5-dnevno određivanje mjeranjem kontrolnih uzoraka u dvije razine u triplikatu, izračun preciznosti i proširene

## A-07

### Verification of lymphocytic population analysis using BD Multitest 6-color TBNK reagent

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**Introduction:** Human lymphocytes are divided into several major subset populations based on their biological function and cell-surface antigen expression: T lymphocytes (CD3+), B lymphocytes (CD19+), and NK lymphocytes (CD16+CD56+), as well as the CD4+ and CD8+ subpopulations of T cells. The aim of this study was to evaluate BD multitest 6-color TBNK reagent to determine the absolute and relative numbers of lymphocyte populations on BC DxFlex and BC Navios flow cytometers.

**Materials and methods:** Determination of lymphocyte populations using BD multitest 6-color TBNK reagent on BC DX Flex and BC Navios flow cytometers was verified according to the CLSI EP-A2 protocol. The verification protocol included 5-day determination by measuring of commercial control

mjerne nesigurnosti. Usporedivost rezultata učinjena je prema referentnom analizatoru BD FACS CANTO II na 42 uzorka krvi. Točnost je provjerena kroz sudjelovanje u vanjskoj procjeni kvalitete. Za statističku obradu rezultata korišten je statistički program MedCalc (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Provedenom verifikacijskom analizom dobiveni rezultati mjerena na analizatoru BC DX Flex i BC Navios su se kretali ovisno o populaciji u rasponu: za ponovljivost od 0,34 do 4,33%, za međupreciznost od 0,51 do 5,26%, za ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost od 0,71 do 6,33%, što je unutar kriterija prihvatljivosti proizvođača. Za proširenu mjernu nesigurnost rezultati su bili u rasponu od 1,42 do 15,02% za BC DX Flex, odnosno 6,00 do 14,30% za BC Navios. Usporedivost rezultata regresijskom analizom (Passing Bablok) je bila zadovoljavajuća za sve populacije (raspon: R = 0,99-1,00 za BC DX Flex vs. BD FACS CANTO II i R = 0,99-1,00 za BC Navios vs. BD FACS CANTO II). Analiza točnosti mjerena provedena je u odnosu na ciljne vrijednosti organizatora vanjske procjene kvalitete UKNEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping u shemi Immune Monitoring. Nađene razlike bile su unutar definiranih kriterija prihvatljivosti organizatora.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacijska analiza određivanih limfocitnih populacija na protočnim citometrima BC DX Flex i BC Navios pokazala je analitičku pouzdanost mjerena, u potpunosti zadovoljavajući kriterije proizvođača.

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blood at two levels in triplicate, calculating precision and extended measurement uncertainty. Comparison of results was done according to the BD FACS CANTO II reference analyser on 42 blood samples. The accuracy is verified through participation in external quality assessment. Calculations were made in MedCalc statistical program (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Results of analysis performed on the BC DX Flex and BC Navios analysers were ranged depending on the population: for repeatability: 0.34 to 4.33%, for intermediate precision: 0.51 to 5.26%, and total laboratory precision: 0.71 to 6.33%, which is within the manufacturer's acceptable criteria. For extended measurement uncertainty, the results ranged from 1.42 to 15.02% for BC DX Flex, and 6.00 to 14.30% for BC Navios. Comparison of results by regression analysis (Passing Bablok) was satisfactory for all populations (range: R = 0.99-1.00 for BC DX Flex vs. BD FACS CANTO II and R = 0.99-1.00 for BC Navios vs. BD FACS CANTO II). The obtained results were evaluated through participation in Immune Monitoring Scheme, organized by UK NEQAS for Leukocyte Immunophenotyping

**Conclusion:** Verification analysis of determined lymphocyte populations on BC DX Flex and BC Navios flow cytometers showed analytical reliability of measurement fulfils the manufacturer's specifications.

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**A-08**

## **Analitička verifikacija uređaja za automatizirano određivanje brzine sedimentacije eritrocita CUBE 30 touch**

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**Uvod:** Automatizacija određivanja brzine sedimentacije eritrocita (SE) nameće se kao potreba u svakodnevnom laboratorijskom radu. Cilj istraživanja bila je analitička verifikacija CUBE 30 touch (Diesse, Italija) uređaja za automatizirano određivanje SE, koji radi na načelu modificirane Westergrenove metode.

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacijom je provjerena preciznost u seriji (ponovljivost) i iz dana u dan (međupreciznost), točnost, usporedba rezultata s ručnom Westergrenovom metodom i stabilnost. Preciznost je ispitana analizom komercijalnih uzoraka ESR Control Cube Normal Level I i Abnormal Level II (Diesse, Italija) u peteroplikatu, tijekom pet uzastopnih dana. Dobiveni podatci su korišteni i za procjenu točnosti usporedbom dobivene srednje vrijednosti s deklariranim vrijednostima kontrolnih uzoraka. Usporedba metoda provedena je na 191 uzorku pacijenata, te su rezultati analizirani regresijskom analizom po Passingu i Babloku (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgija). Stabilnost uzoraka ( $N = 19$ ) na sobnoj temperaturi i na  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ispitana je određivanjem SE u nultoj točki, te nakon 4, 8 i 24 sata, te je statistička analiza učinjena T-testom za zavisne uzorke (statistička značajnost:  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** Za kontrolne uzorke razine I i II dobiveni su koeficijenti varijacije 5,2% i 2,6% za ponovljivost, te 9,4% i 2,2% za međupreciznost, što zadovoljava kriterije proizvođača (< 15%). Provjerom točnosti dobiveno je odstupanje 9,3% i 7,8%, što zadovoljava kriterij CROQALM-a (< 25%). Usporedbom SE automatiziranim i ručnom Westergrenovom metodom dobiven je Spearmanov koeficijent korelacije 0,93, te jednadžba pravca  $y = 0,4$  (95% CI: -1,7 do 1,0) + 1,06 (95% CI: 1,0 do 1,14) x. Ispitivanjem

**A-08**

## **Analytical verification of automated erythrocyte sedimentation rate analyser CUBE 30 touch**

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**Introduction:** Automation of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) measurement has emerged as a requisite in a daily laboratory work. The study aimed to investigate the analytical verification of automated analyser CUBE 30 touch (Diesse, Italy) for ESR determination by modified Westergren method.

**Materials and methods:** Analytical verification included within-day (repeatability) and between-day (intermediate) precision, accuracy, result comparison with manual Westergren method and stability testing. For precision study, commercial ESR Control Cube Normal Level I and Abnormal Level II (Diesse, Italy) were analysed in pentuplicate for five consecutive days. For accuracy determination, obtained mean values were compared with mean values declared by the manufacturer. Results of method comparison, performed in 191 patients' samples were analysed by Passing-Bablok regression analysis, using MedCalc statistical software (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium) for data analysis. Sample stability ( $N = 19$ ) at room temperature and at  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  was tested by determining ESR immediately and after 4, 8 and 24 hours. Statistical analysis was performed by T-test for dependent samples (statistical significance:  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Results:** Obtained coefficients of variation for control samples level I and II were 5.2% and 2.6% for repeatability, and 9.4% and 2.2% for intermediate precision, which meets the manufacturer defined requirements (< 15%). Accuracy study yielded a bias of 9.3% and 7.8%, which meets the requirements defined by CROQALM (< 25%). Comparison of ESR results between the Cube analyser and manual Westergren method gave the Spearman correlation coefficient of 0.93, with the equation  $y = 0.4$  (95%

stabilnosti na sobnoj temperaturi dobivena je granična vrijednost nakon 8-satne pohrane ( $P = 0,054$ ), dok je statistički značajna razlika nađena nakon 24-satne pohrane na sobnoj temperaturi ( $P < 0,001$ ) i na  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $P = 0,002$ ).

**Zaključak:** Analitička verifikacija je u potpunosti zadovoljila kriterije prihvatljivosti pa se uređaj pokazao pogodnim za rutinski rad. Stabilnost uzorka na sobnoj temperaturi je 4 sata od uzorkovanja, odnosno 8 sati kod pohrane uzorka na  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

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CI: - 1.7 to 1.0) + 1.06 (95% CI: 1.0 to 1.14) x. Sample stability investigation revealed a borderline significant value ( $P = 0.054$ ) after 8-hours storage at room temperature while a statistically significant difference was found after 24-hours storage at room temperature ( $P < 0.001$ ) and at  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $P = 0.002$ ).

**Conclusion:** Analitical verification fulfilled recommended criteria, enabling the implementation of the analyser in routine practice. Sample stability study indicated a 4-hours stability at room temperature and 8-hours stability at  $+ 4^{\circ}\text{C}$  storage.

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## A-09

### Važnost određivanja 6-dijelne diferencijalne krvne slike u postavljanju dijagnoze - prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Diferencijalna krvna slika predstavlja odnos pojedinih vrsta leukocita i važan je parametar kompletne krvne slike. Hematološki analizator Siemens ADVIA 2120i uz standardnih pet frakcija prepoznaće i šestu, LUC (eng. *Large Unstained Cells*). LUC su velike stanice bez mijeloperoksidazne aktivnosti kojima najčešće odgovaraju atipični limfociti, blasti i druge abnormalne mononuklearne stanice. Uvidom u dobivenu diferencijalnu krvnu sliku, kliničara se usmjerava u postavljanje dijagnoze ili praćenje bolesti.

**Materijali i metode:** Žena stara 41 godinu upućena je od strane svog obiteljskog liječnika u hematološku ambulantu zbog perzistirajuće makrocitne anemije, manjka vitamina B12, umora i lumbosakralnih bolova, sa širenjem u bedra. Na temelju dobivene diferencijalne krvne slike dogovorena je hospitalizacija na odjel hematologije.

**Rezultati:** Po dolasku u hematološku ambulantu, pacijentici je uzorkovana puna krv u epruvetu sa K3EDTA antikoagulansom i određena je kompletna

## A-09

### The importance of 6-part differential blood count in diagnostics - a case report

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**Introduction:** Differential blood count represents the ratio of individual types of leukocytes and is an important parameter of the complete blood count. In addition to the standard five fractions, the Siemens ADVIA 2120i haematology analyser also recognizes the sixth, LUC (Large Unstained Cells). LUCs are large cells without myeloperoxidase activity most commonly associated with atypical lymphocytes, blasts and other abnormal mononuclear cells. By looking at the obtained differential blood count, the clinician is guided to make a diagnosis or monitor the disease.

**Materials and methods:** A 41-year-old woman was referred to a haematology clinic for persistent macrocytic anaemia, vitamin B12 deficiency, fatigue, and lumbosacral pain, which spread to the thighs. Based on the differential blood count, she was hospitalized to the haematology department.

**Results:** The patient's whole blood was sampled in a test tube with K3EDTA anticoagulant and a complete blood count was determined. In addition

krvna slika. Uz već poznatu makrocitnu, hiperkromnu anemiju utvrđen je visoki relativni udio LUC-eva od 22,9% ( $RI < 4\%$ ) zbog čega je bilo potrebno izraditi krvni razmaz i diferencirati svjetlosnom mikroskopijom. Na razmazu je pronađeno 14% plazma stanica, nakon čega je kontaktiran liječnik i pacijentica je dogovorno hospitalizirana na odjel hematologije radi daljnje obrade i liječenja. Tijekom hospitalizacije je na temelju monoklonskog imunoglobulina IgA tipa kapa potvrđenog imunofiksacijom (41 g/L) i citološkog nalaza koštane srži koji je potvrdio prisutnost plazma stanica od 20% dijagnosticiran multipli mijelom te je započeto liječenje kemoterapijom. Dodatno, u prilog dijagnozi, u nalazima je prisutna hiperkalcemija (3,23 mmol/L), anemija (Erc  $2,08 \times 10^{12}/L$ , MCV 97,7 fL, MCHC 356 g/L), povišeni bubrežni parametar (kreatinin 163 umol/L) i opsežne osteolize utvrđene magnetskom rezonanciom.

**Zaključak:** Ovaj prikaz slučaja ukazuje na važnost mogućnosti određivanja 6-dijelne diferencijalne krvne slike jer uvelike može doprinijeti u usmjeravanju kliničara na postavljanje ispravnih dijagnoza koje zahtijevaju neodgodivo liječenje.

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to the macrocytic, hyperchromic anaemia, a high relative proportion of LUCs of 22.9% ( $RI < 4\%$ ) was found, which made it necessary to perform a blood smear and differentiate by light microscopy. Fourteen percent of plasma cells were found, after which patient was hospitalized on the haematology department for further diagnostics. During hospitalization, patient was diagnosed with multiple myeloma based on monoclonal immunoglobulin of the cap type confirmed by immunofixation (41 g/L) and a cytological finding of bone marrow that showed the presence of plasma cells. Chemotherapy was initiated. In support of the diagnosis, hypercalcaemia (3.23 mmol/L), anaemia (Erc  $2,08 \times 10^{12}/L$ , MCV 97.7 fL, MCHC 356 g/L), elevated renal parameter (creatinine 163 umol/L) and extensive osteolysis were present, determined by magnetic resonance imaging.

**Conclusion:** This case report points to the importance of being able to determine a 6-part differential blood count because it can greatly contribute in guiding clinicians to make correct diagnoses that require immediate treatment.

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## A-10

### Usporedba Cellavision DM1200 digitalnog hematološkog analizatora i svjetlosne mikroskopije

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**Uvod:** Cellavision DM1200 je digitalni hematološki analizator koji klasificira leukocite iz razmaza perifer-

## A-10

### Comparison of Cellavision DM1200 digital haematology analyser and light microscopy

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**Introduction:** Cellavision DM1200 is a digital haematology analyser that classifies leukocytes from

ne krvi. Cilj rada bio je usporediti rezultate diferencijalne krvne slike (DKS) pomoću uređaja Cellavision DM1200 prije i nakon reklassifikacije i reklassificirane s rezultatima dobivenima svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

**Materijali i metode:** Usporedba je učinjena na 63 razmaza periferne krvi uz K3EDTA (Vacutte, Greiner Bio-One, Austria). Iz svakog uzorka napravljena su dva razmaza, jedan na standardnom laboratorijskom predmetnom stakalcu, a drugi na originalnom stakalcu za Cellavision DM1200. Oba razmaza bojana su May Grunwald-Giemsa bojom prema standardiziranom protokolu. Dva stručnjaka pregledala su sve razmaze svjetlosnom mikroskopijom na 100 leukocita. Razmaze koji su analizirani na Cellavision DM1200 pregledao je stručnjak te je napravio reklassifikaciju. Usporedba rezultata učinjena je korištenjem kappa statistike pomoću programa MedCalc Version 20.110 (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium) te je izračunat postotak podudarnosti.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati usporedbe prije i nakon reklassifikacije su pokazali sljedeće  $\kappa$  (95% CI), postotak slaganja (%): segmentirani neutrofili 0,79 (0,67 do 0,91), 83%; limfociti 0,83 (0,72 do 0,94), 86%; monociti 0,39 (0,20 do 0,58), 67%; eozinofili 1,00 (1,00 do 1,00), 100%; bazofili 0,30 (0,13 do 0,47), 60%; eritroblasti 0,27 (0,06 do 0,48), 70%; nesegmentirani neutrofili 0,22 (0,02 do 0,42), 59%; nezreli granulociti 0,52 (0,32 do 0,72), 77%. Usporedba sa svjetlosnom mikroskopijom poslije reklassifikacije pokazuje sljedeće  $\kappa$  (95% CI) i postotak slaganja (%): segmentirani neutrofili 0,73 (0,59 do 0,86), 78%; limfociti 0,77 (0,64 do 0,89), 81%; monociti 0,50 (0,30 do 0,71), 73%; eozinofili 0,77 (0,57 do 0,98), 93%; bazofili 0,42 (0,17 do 0,66), 75%; eritroblasti 0,57 (0,24 do 0,90), 91%; nesegmentirani neutrofili 0,50 (0,29 do 0,72), 75%; nezreli granulociti 0,38 (-0,15 do 0,91), 95%; reaktivni limfociti 0,54 (0,33 do 0,76), 80%.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati dobiveni na analizatoru Cellavision DM1200 nakon reklassifikacije pokazuju dobro slaganje s rezultatima dobivenima svjetlosnom mikroskopijom. Cellavision DM1200 digitalni analizator je koristan dijagnostički alat u svakodnevnom radu hematološkog laboratorija, posebice za diferenciranje razmaza periferne krvi u kojima nema patoloških promjena u broju i morfologiji leukocitnih populacija. U svim patološkim uzorcima i dalje je potrebno DKS analizirati svjetlosnom mikroskopijom.

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peripheral blood smears. The aim of this study was to compare the results of the differential blood count using the Cellavision DM1200 before and after reclassification and reclassified with the results obtained by light microscopy.

**Materials and methods:** The comparison was made on 63 peripheral blood smears (PBS) with K3EDTA (Vacutte, Greiner Bio-One, Austria). Two smears were made from each sample, one on a standard laboratory slide and the other on an original Cellavision slide. Both smears were painted with May Grunwald-Giemsa paint according to a standardized protocol. Two experts examined all smears by light microscopy per 100 leukocytes. The smears analysed on the Cellavision DM1200 were reviewed by an expert and reclassified. A comparison of the results was made using kappa statistics by MedCalc Version 20.110 (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium) and the percentage of agreement was calculated.

**Results:** Comparison before and after reclassification showed the following  $\kappa$  (95% CI), percentage of agreement: segmented neutrophils 0.79 (0.67 to 0.91), 83%; lymphocytes 0.83 (0.72 to 0.94), 86%; monocytes 0.39 (0.20 to 0.58), 67%; eosinophils 1.00 (1.00 to 1.00), 100%; basophils 0.30 (0.13 to 0.47), 60%; erythroblasts 0.27 (0.06 to 0.48), 70%; unsegmented neutrophils 0.22 (0.02 to 0.42), 59%; immature granulocytes 0.52 (0.32 to 0.72), 77%. Comparison with light microscopy after reclassification  $\kappa$  (95% CI); compatibility: segmented neutrophils 0.73 (0.59 to 0.86), 78%; lymphocytes 0.77 (0.64 to 0.89), 81%; monocytes 0.50 (0.30 to 0.71), 73%; eosinophils 0.77 (0.57 to 0.98), 93%; basophils 0.42 (0.17 to 0.66), 75%; erythroblasts 0.57 (0.24 to 0.90), 91%; unsegmented neutrophils 0.50 (0.29 to 0.72), 75%; immature granulocytes 0.38 (-0.15 to 0.91), 95%; reactive lymphocytes 0.54 (0.33 to 0.76), 80%.

**Conclusion:** The reclassified results on the Cellavision DM1200 show good agreement with the results obtained by light microscopy. Cellavision DM1200 digital analyser is a useful diagnostic tool for the daily work of the haematology laboratory, especially for differentiating peripheral blood smears without pathological changes in the number and morphology of leukocyte populations. In all pathological PBS samples, light microscopy is still required.

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A-11

## Učinkovitost diferenciranja leukocita periferne krvi novorođenčadi automatiziranim sustavom Vision Hema Assist nakon zamjene objektiva

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**Uvod:** Određivanje ukupnog broja leukocita je najčešći parametar kompletne krvne slike u obradi novorođenčadi koji se mijenja promjenom broja bilo koje populacije leukocita. Nezrelije populacije leukocita je teško diferencirati na hematološkom brojaču, no važno ih je uočiti što ranije u razmazu periferne krvi novorođenčadi jer su znak moguće infekcije (akutne ili kronične), upale (bakterijske ili virusne) i sepsa. Cilj istraživanja je procijeniti učinkovitost diferenciranja leukocita novorođenčadi automatiziranim sustavom Vision Hema Assist (West Medica, Austrija) nakon zamjene objektiva (Olympus Plan N 50x/0.90 Oil) u odnosu na preporučenu manualnu metodu mikroskopiranja.

**Materijali i metode:** Nakon analize kompletnih krvnih slika (44) na hematološkom brojaču (Sysmex XN2000, Japan), istovremeno su priređeni razmazi periferne krvi novorođenčadi (May-Grünwald-Giemsa) za diferenciranje automatiziranim sustavom Vision Hema Assist (rezultati su po potrebi naknadno korigirani) i manualnom metodom mikroskopiranja. Morfološki pregled krvnog razmaza je akreditiran prema ISO 15189 i uključen u vanjsku procjenu kvalitete organizatora Labquality (Finska). Usporedba relativnih udjela populacija leukocita automatizirane i manualne metode mikroskopiranja provedena je Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Usporedbom relativnih udjela populacija leukocita nisu nađene ni konstantne ni proporcionalne razlike za segmentirane neutrofilne granulocite ( $y = -4,9 (-13,45 \text{ do } 0) + 1,12 (1 \text{ do } 1,27)x$ ), limfocite ( $y = -1,5 (-5,43 \text{ do } 1,71) + 1 (0,9 \text{ do } 1,14)x$ ), monocite ( $y = -1 (-5 \text{ do } 0,86) + 1 (0,86 \text{ do } 1,5)x$ ), eozinofilne granulocite ( $y = 0 (-0,5 \text{ do } 0) + 1 (1 \text{ do } 1,29)x$ ) i ne-segmentirane granulocite ( $y = 0 (-2 \text{ do } 0) + 1 (1 \text{ do } 2)x$ ). Bazofilni granulociti, mijelociti i metamijelociti su isključeni iz statističke analize radi premalog broja uzoraka u kojima su bili prisutni.

A-11

## Efficacy in differentiating peripheral neonatal blood leukocytes using automated analyser Vision Hema Assist after objective replacement

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**Introduction:** Determination of total leukocyte count is the most common parameter of complete blood count in neonatal care. Immature leukocytes are difficult to differentiate on a haematology analyser, but it is important to recognize them because they are a sign of a possible infection (acute or chronic), inflammation (bacterial or viral) and sepsis. The aim of our study was to evaluate the efficacy of a new objective (Olympus PlanN 50x/0.90 Oil) on the automated blood smear analyser Vision Hema Assist (West Medica, Austria) in the newborn samples comparing its results with the results obtained by manual microscopy.

**Materials and methods:** After analysis of complete blood counts (44) on haematology analyser (Sysmex XN2000, Japan), neonatal peripheral blood smears (May-Grünwald-Giemsa) were prepared simultaneously for differentiation using the automated analyser and manual microscopy. Morphological examination of blood smears is accredited according to ISO 15189 and included in the external quality assessment of the organizer Labquality (Finland). Comparison of the relative proportions of leukocytes obtained by the automated analyser and manual microscopy was performed using Passing-Bablok regression analysis.

**Results:** Passing-Bablok regression analysis didn't show any constant or proportional difference for segmented neutrophilic granulocytes ( $y = -4,9 (-13,45 \text{ to } 0) + 1,12 (1 \text{ to } 1,27)x$ ), lymphocytes ( $y = -1,5 (-5,43 \text{ to } 1,71) + 1 (0,9 \text{ to } 1,14)x$ ), monocytes ( $y = -1 (-5 \text{ to } 0,86) + 1 (0,86 \text{ to } 1,5)x$ ), eosinophilic granulocytes ( $y = 0 (-0,5 \text{ to } 0) + 1 (1 \text{ to } 1,29)x$ ) and band neutrophils ( $y = 0 (-2 \text{ to } 0) + 1 (1 \text{ to } 2)x$ ). Basophilic granulocytes, myelocytes and metamyelocytes were excluded from the statistical analysis due to the limited number of samples in which they were present.

**Zaključak:** S obzirom na to da nije nađena ni proporcionalna ni konstantna razlika u diferenciranju leukocita nakon zamjene objektiva na automatiziranom sustavu u odnosu na manualnu metodu, zaključujemo da se navedene dvije metode mogu koristiti istovremeno. Prednost zamjene objektiva je značajno skraćenje vremena mikroskopiranja automatiziranim sustavom Vision Hema Assist (TAT od maksimalno 5 minuta za diferenciranje 200 leukocita) i dobivanja klinički značajnih informacija u cilju pravovremene kliničke odluke o daljnjoj skrbi za novo-rođenčad. Najveću ulogu u prepoznavanju nezrelijih populacija leukocita bez obzira na poboljšane karakteristike automatiziranog sustava i dalje ima stručnjak s iskustvom manualnog mikroskopiranja.

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**Conclusion:** Since no statistically significant difference was found between the results obtained using a new objective on automated analyser and manual microscopy, we conclude that the two methods can be used simultaneously. The main advantage of objective replacement is a significant reduction in turnaround time (maximum of 5 minutes to differentiate 200 leukocytes) and obtaining clinically relevant information earlier. Despite the improved characteristics of the automated system, the expert's proficiency in recognition of different types of leukocytes still remains essential.

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#### A-12 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Primjena albumina pri izradi razmaza periferne krvi za diferencijalnu krvnu sliku – rješenje kod pojačanog raspada limfocita!

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**Uvod:** Pojačano raspadanje limfocita u razmazu periferne krvi može se pojaviti osim kod kronične limfatičke leukemije i u drugim hematološkim neoplazmama, različitim infekcijama (uključujući SARS-CoV-2), solidnim tumorima, srčanom zastoju. Iako je mikroskopska metoda zlatni standard za diferencijalnu krvnu sliku (DKS), u ovim stanjima nije pouzdana zbog pojačanog raspada limfocita kada je moguće dobiti pogrešan rezultat s lažno sniženim udjelom limfocita u odnosu na granulocite. U ovom radu bit će prikazani pacijenti kod kojih je primjenom albumina pri izradi razmaza periferne krvi postignuto

#### A-12 (Oral presentation)

#### Use of albumin during peripheral blood smear preparation for differential blood count - solution for smudge cells!

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**Introduction:** Increased lymphocyte lysis in the peripheral blood smear occurs not only in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia but also in other haematological neoplasms, various infections (including SARS-CoV-2), solid tumours, cardiac arrest. Although microscopic method is the gold standard for differential blood count (DBC), here it is not reliable due to lymphocyte lysis, and it is possible to get the wrong result with falsely reduced lymphocytes related to granulocytes. In this paper we present cases where albumin use during the peripheral blood smears

smanjeno raspadanje limfocita te je omogućeno dobivanje ispravnog nalaza DKS-a.

**Materijali i metode:** Kod 13 bolesnika (s dijagnozama koje mogu biti povezane s pojačanim raspadanjem limfocita) u rezultatima DKS-a uočen je lažno snižen udio limfocita i znatan udio raspadnutih limfocita usporednom s diferencijalnom krvnom slikom s hematološkog brojača (AUTODIF) (Sysmex XN-3100, Sysmex, Kobe, Japan). U uzorcima EDTA krvi ovih bolesnika dodatno je izrađen razmaz periferne krvi s 10-postotnim ljudskim albuminom (5 kapi krvi + 1 kap albumina) te je ponovljena analiza DKS-a. Dobiveni rezultati uspoređeni su s prethodnim rezultatima DKS-a i AUTODIF-om primjenom Friedmanova testa u statističkom programu GraphPad Prism.

**Rezultati:** Dobiveni su medijani i rasponi (%) kako slijedi: limfociti/AUTODIF 48,7 (20,6-94,6), limfociti/DKS 22,0 (5,4-72,0), limfociti/DKS s albuminom 49,0 (21,0-92,0) ( $P < 0,001$ ); neutrofilni granulociti/AUTODIF 43,1 (3,1-69,9), neutrofilni granulociti/DKS 72,0 (22,0-92,0), neutrofilni granulociti/DKS s albuminom 43,0 (6,0-71,0) ( $P < 0,001$ ). Dobivena je statistički značajna razlika ( $P < 0,05$ ) rezultata DKS-a s rezultatima AUTODIF-a i DKS-a s albuminom i za limfocite i neutrofilne granulocite.

**Zaključak:** Albumin stabilizira staničnu membranu limfocita vezanjem za površinske stanične strukture i smanjenjem njihove hidrofobnosti. U iznimno rijetkim stanjima kada se u nalazu DKS-a zbog pojačanog raspadanja limfocita dobije lažno sniženi broj limfocita, primjena albumina omogućuje dobivanje točnog nalaza. U nedostatku albumina ili u hitnim situacijama preporuka je izdati AUTODIF (uz odgovarajući napomenu), a nikako izdati nalaz DKS-a s lažno sniženim udjelom limfocita i omjerom limfociti/granulociti.

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preparation reduced lymphocyte lysis and enabled correct DBC results.

**Materials and methods:** In 13 patients (with diagnoses associated with increased lymphocyte lysis), falsely reduced lymphocyte count with a significant proportion of smudged lymphocytes was noticed in DBC results compared to the differential blood count from the haematology analyser (AUTODIFF) (Sysmex XN-3100, Kobe, Japan). Peripheral blood smear with 10% human albumin (5 drops of blood + 1 drop of albumin) was additionally made from EDTA blood samples of these patients and DBC was repeated. The obtained results were compared with the previous results of DBC and AUTODIFF using the Friedman test (statistical program GraphPad Prism).

**Results:** The medians and ranges (%) obtained were as follows: lymphocytes/AUTODIFF 48.7 (20.6-94.6), lymphocytes/DBC 22.0 (5.4-72.0), lymphocytes/DBC-albumin 49.0 (21.0-92.0) ( $P < 0.001$ ); neutrophils/AUTODIFF 43.1 (3.1-69.9), neutrophils/DBC 72.0 (22.0-92.0), neutrophils/DBC-albumin 43.0 (6.0-71.0) ( $P < 0.001$ ). A statistically significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) was obtained between DBC results compared to AUTODIFF and DBC-albumin results for both lymphocytes and neutrophils.

**Conclusion:** Albumin stabilizes the lymphocyte cell membrane by binding to surface cell structures and reducing their hydrophobicity. In extremely rare conditions, where due to lymphocyte lysis falsely reduced lymphocyte count is obtained in the DBC, the use of albumin allows obtaining of an accurate result. In the absence of albumin or in emergencies, it is recommended to use AUTODIFF with an appropriate note rather than DBC results with falsely reduced lymphocyte count and lymphocyte/granulocyte ratio.

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**A-13****Broj trombocita i trombocitni indeksi kod bolesnika s traumom**

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**Uvod:** Trombociti (Trc) imaju važnu ulogu u hemostazi te upalnom procesu i angiogenezi. Izvedeni trombocitni parametri (eng. *derived platelet parameters*, dPltP); srednji volumen trombocita (eng. *mean platelet volume*, MPV), širina distribucije trombocita (eng. *platelet distribution width*, PDW) i frakcija velikih trombocita (eng. *platelet large cell ratio*, P-LCR) dio su automatske analize kompletne krvne slike i smatraju se biomarkerima aktivacije trombocita. Cilj rada bio je ispitati dijagnostičku vrijednost dPltP-a kod bolesnika s traumom.

**Materijali i metode:** Za 96 bolesnika (54 muškarca; medijan dobi 68) primljenih u Kliniku za traumatologiju u periodu od siječnja do travnja 2021., analizirani su broj Trc i dPltP-i dobiveni na hematološkom analizatoru Sysmex XN1000 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan). Ovisno o težini ozljede bolesnici su razvrstani u skupinu s težim (skupina A; N = 57) i s lakšim traumama (skupina B; N = 39). Medijani broja Trc i dPltP-a promatranih skupina uspoređeni su pomoću Mann-Whitney testa s razinom značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ . Za procjenu dijagnostičke vrijednosti dPltP u istraživanim skupinama, ROC analizom izračunata je površina ispod krivulje (AUC) (MedCalc Software v20.008, Ostend, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** Medijan broja Trc u skupini A ( $97 \times 10^9/L$ ; IQR: 90-218) značajno je niži nego u skupini B ( $245 \times 10^9/L$ ; IQR: 203-321),  $P < 0,001$ . Značajno viši MPV, PDW i P-LCR uočeni su u skupini A (10,3 fL, IQR: 9,8-11,5; 11,2 fL, IQR: 10,3-14,4; 26,4%, IQR: 22,9-37,3) u odnosu na skupinu B (9,7 fL, IQR: 9,2-10,1; 10,1 fL, IQR: 9,6-11,5; 22,1%, IQR: 18,6-25,9), uz  $P = 0,001$ ;  $P = 0,003$ ;  $P = 0,002$ , redom. ROC analizom dobiveni su AUC-i od 0,70 (95% CI: 0,60-0,79), 0,68 (95% CI: 0,58-0,77) i 0,69 (95% CI: 0,59-0,78) za MPV, PDW i P-LCR. ROC analizom podskupine težih trauma s trombocitopenijom (kriterij  $Trc < 100 \times 10^9/L$ ), za MPV, PDW i P-LCR su dobivene granične vrijednosti od  $> 11,1$  fL,  $> 12,9$  fL i  $> 32,8\%$  s AUC od 0,77 (95% CI: 0,64-0,87), 0,70 (95% CI: 0,57-0,82) i 0,77 (95% CI: 0,64-0,87), redom.

**A-13****Platelet count and indices in trauma patients**

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**Introduction:** Platelets (Plt) has important role in haemostasis and contribute to the inflammatory process and angiogenesis. Derived platelet parameters (dPltP); mean platelet volume (MPV), platelet distribution width (PDW) and platelet larger cell ratio (P-LCR) are obtained as part of the automatic analysis of the complete blood count and are considered as biomarkers of platelet activation. The aim of the study was to investigate diagnostic value of dPltP in trauma patients.

**Materials and methods:** Platelet count and dPltP of 96 patients (54 males; median age 68) admitted to Traumatology Hospital from January to April 2021, obtained by Sysmex XN1000 (Sysmex, Kobe, Japan) were recorded. Depending on injury severity patients were observed as major (group A; N = 57) and minor trauma patients (group B; N = 39). The medians of the Plt and dPltP among observed groups were compared using the Mann-Whitney test with a significance set up at  $P < 0,05$ . To evaluate diagnostic ability of dPltP to discriminate between the groups, area under the curve (AUC) was calculated from ROC curve (MedCalc Software v20.008, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Median Plt number in group A ( $97 \times 10^9/L$ ; IQR: 90-218) was significantly lower in compare to group B ( $245 \times 10^9/L$ ; IQR: 203-321),  $P < 0,001$ . However, higher MPV, PDW and P-LCR values were observed in group A (10.3 fL, IQR: 9.8-11.5; 11.2 fL, IQR: 10.3-14.4; 26.4%, IQR: 22.9-37.3) compared to group B (9.7 fL, IQR: 9.2-10.1; 10.1 fL, IQR: 9.6-11.5; 22.1%, IQR: 18.6-25.9) with  $P = 0,001$ ;  $P = 0,003$ ;  $P = 0,002$ , respectively. ROC analysis revealed AUC of 0.70 (95% CI: 0.60-0.79), 0.68 (95% CI: 0.58-0.77) and 0.69 (95% CI: 0.59-0.78) for MPV, PDW and P-LCR, respectively. When ROC analysis was conducted among major trauma subgroup with thrombocytopenia (criteria  $Plt < 100 \times 10^9/L$ ), cut offs of  $> 11.1$  fL;  $> 12.9$  fL and  $> 32.8\%$  with AUC of 0.77 (95% CI: 0.64-0.87), 0.70 (95% CI: 0.57-0.82) and 0.77 (95% CI: 0.64-0.87) for MPV, PDW and P-LCR obtained, respectively.

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati ukazuju na povećanu potrošnju trombocita kod bolesnika s težim traumama, pri čemu bi dPltP mogli biti koristan parametar za mjerjenje težine bolesti i aktivacije trombocita.

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**Conclusion:** Obtained results indicate increased Plt turnover in major trauma patients whereas dPltP could provide a valid parameter for determining disease severity and platelet activation.

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## B Hemostaza

B-01

### Usporedba rezultata D-dimera izmјerenih lateks imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom na koagulacijskom analizatoru Sysmex CS-5100 i fluorescentnom imunokemijskom metodom na analizatoru Afias-6

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**Uvod:** D-dimeri su globalni pokazatelji stvaranja fibrina *in vivo*, koji se zbog visoke negativne prediktivne vrijednosti koriste za isključenje tromboembolijskih bolesti. Cilj rada je usporedba koncentracija D-dimera izmјerenih na analizatoru Afias-6 (Boditech Med Incorporated, Južna Koreja) s rezultatima dobivenim na rutinski korištenom koagulacijskom analizatoru Sysmex CS-5100 (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Njemačka).

**Materijali i metode:** D-dimeri su određeni u 84 uzorka 3,2% trinatrij-citratne plazme automatiziranom lateks imunoturbidimetrijom s kompletom reagensa INNOVANCE D-dimer (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Njemačka) na Sysmex CS-5100 te fluorescentnom imunokemijskom metodom na Afias-6. Uzorci su prema koncentracijama D-dimera sa

## B Hemostasis

B-01

### Comparison of results of D-dimers measured by latex immunoturbidimetric method on coagulation analyser Sysmex CS-5100 and fluorescent immunochemical method on Afias-6 analyser

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**Introduction:** D-dimers are final fibrin degradation products that are, due to high negative predictive value, used for exclusion of thromboembolic events. The aim of this study was to compare D-dimer concentrations measured on the Afias-6 analyser (Boditech Med Incorporated, South Korea) with the results obtained on the routinely used coagulation analyser Sysmex CS-5100 (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Germany).

**Materials and methods:** D-dimers were determined in 84 3.2% trisodium citrate plasma samples by automated latex immunoturbidimetry with the INNOVANCE D-dimer reagent kit (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Germany) on Sysmex CS-5100 and fluorescent immunochemical method on Afias 6. Samples were divided into three groups according to D-

Sysmex CS-5100 podijeljeni u tri skupine ( $N = 28$  po skupini): od  $< 0,19\text{-}1,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ , od  $1,01\text{-}4,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  te od  $4,51\text{-}10,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ . Rezultati su uspoređeni Passing-Bablok regresijom i Bland-Altmanovom analizom, dok je slaganje rezultata dvjema metoda u odnosu na graničnu vrijednost ( $0,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ ) ispitano kappa koeficijentom.

**Rezultati:** Passing-Bablok regresijom za usporedbu svih 84 uzoraka dobivena je konstanta i proporcionalna razlika, uz  $y = -0,09$  (-0,18 do -0,03) + 0,70 (0,65 do 0,77) x. Proporcionalna razlika utvrđena je za skupinu od  $< 0,19\text{-}1,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ , uz  $y = 0,02$  (-0,01 do 0,06) + 0,53 (0,44 do 0,61) x, te konstantna razlika za skupine od  $1,01\text{-}4,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ , uz  $y = -0,42$  (-1,04 do -0,11) + 0,82 (0,68 do 1,11) x te od  $4,51\text{-}10,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ , uz  $y = -4,90$  (-19,2 do 1,40) + 1,57 (0,94 do 4,13) x. Bland-Altmanovom analizom dobiveno je odstupanje od  $0,72 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0,40 do 1,04) za svih 84 uzoraka, odnosno  $0,24 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0,18 do 0,30),  $0,70 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0,13 do 1,28),  $1,22 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0,46 do 1,97) za skupine od  $< 0,19\text{-}1,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ ,  $1,01\text{-}4,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  te od  $4,51\text{-}10,00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ . Slaganje rezultata u odnosu na graničnu vrijednost od  $0,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  iznosilo je 87% (73/84), uz kappa koeficijent 0,67 (95% CI: 0,54 do 0,77). Neslaganje se odnosi na 11 uzoraka koji su na Sysmex CS-5100 imali vrijednosti iznad, a na Afias-6 dobivene vrijednosti ispod  $0,50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ .

**Zaključak:** Uočena su manja odstupanja u rezultatima D-dimera između dviju uspoređenih metoda koja su značajnija u višem koncentracijskom području. Razlike između metoda mogu dovesti do različite klasifikacije bolesnika u odnosu na graničnu vrijednost.

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## B-02

### Aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV) u koaguliranim uzorcima krvi

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dimer concentrations measured on Sysmex CS-5100 ( $N = 28$  per group): from  $0.19\text{-}1.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ , from  $1.01\text{-}4.50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  and from  $4.51\text{-}10.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ .

**Results:** Passing-Bablok regression for comparison of all 84 samples yielded constant and proportional difference ( $y = -0.09$  (-0.18 to -0.03) + 0.70 (0.65 to 0.77) x). Proportional difference was found for the group  $< 0.19\text{-}1.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  ( $y = 0.02$  (-0.01 to 0.06) + 0.53 (0.44 to 0.61) x), and constant difference for the groups of  $1.01\text{-}4.50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  ( $y = -0.42$  (-1.04 to -0.11) + 0.82 (0.68 to 1.11) x) and from  $4.51\text{-}10.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  ( $y = -4.90$  (-19.2 to 1.40) + 1.57 (0.94 to 4.13) x). Bland-Altman analysis showed a bias of  $0.72 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  (95% CI: 0.40 to 1.04) for all 84 samples, and  $0.24 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0.18 to 0.30),  $0.70 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0.13 to 1.28),  $1.22 \text{ mg/L}$  (95% CI: 0.46 to 1.97) for groups  $< 0.19\text{-}1.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ ,  $1.01\text{-}4.50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  and  $4.51\text{-}10.00 \text{ mg/L FEU}$ . Agreement of the results in relation to the cut-off value of  $0.50 \text{ mg/L FEU}$  was 87% (73/84), with a kappa coefficient of 0.67 (95% CI: 0.54 to 0.77).

**Conclusion:** Minor differences in D-dimer results were observed between the two compared methods, which are more significant in the higher concentration range. However, in some cases the use of different methods can lead to different classification of patients in relation to the cut-off value.

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## B-02

### Activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) in clotted blood samples

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**Uvod:** Aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV) je probirni koagulacijski test koji služi za otkrivanje deficita faktora zgrušavanja, njihovih inhibitora i praćenje terapije nefrakcioniranim heparinom. Za točan nalaz APTV-a moraju biti zadovoljeni brojni predanalitički uvjeti, između ostalog uzorak ne smije biti koaguliran. U uzorcima krvi ponekad je teško prepoznati manji ugrušak i bilo bi poželjno znati kakav je učinak na APTV. Ne nalazimo podatke u literaturi o utjecaju prisutnosti ugruška na APTV, stoga je cilj ovoga istraživanja bio usporediti APTV-ove u koaguliranim i nekoaguliranim uzorcima.

**Materijali i metode:** U uzorcima venske krvi ( $N = 18$ ) uzetim na 3,2% Na-citrat (BD Vacutainer) u kojima je rutinski određen APTV, a naknadno je uočena prisutnost ugruška, APTV je određen i u novim ( $N = 18$ ) nekoaguliranim uzorcima. Za određivanje APTV-a upotrijebljen je reagens Actin FS (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka) i analizator BCS XP (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka). Statistička analiza napravljena je statističkim programom Medcalc 20.0.10.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgija). Statistička značajnost postavljena je na  $P = 0,05$ . Podaci su opisani medijanom i interkvartilnim rasponom. Zbog malog uzorka upotrijebljen je neparametrijski test, Wilcoxonov test za parne uzorce.

**Rezultati:** U 18 parova uzoraka krvi izmjereni APTV-ovi bili su statistički značajno kraći u koaguliranim uzorcima (medijan 17,5; IQR 16,5 do 19,4) nego u nekoaguliranim uzorcima (medijan 23,4; IQR 21,1 do 24,8) što je pokazano Wilcoxonovim testom za parne uzorce ( $z = -3,723$ ;  $P < 0,001$ ). APTV-ovi u koaguliranim uzorcima (15/18) bili su kraći od donje granice referentnog raspona (23,0 s).

**Zaključak:** APTV u uzorku s ugruškom je kraći od APTV-a u uzorku koji je prihvativ za analizu vjerojatno zbog kontaktne aktivacije unutarnjeg puta zgrušavanja. Na prisutnost malog ugruška u uzorku može ukazivati APTV koji je kraći od referentnog raspona. Budući da APTV fiziološki može biti skraćen u upalnim stanjima zbog povisene aktivnosti faktora VIII, skraćeni APTV nije specifičan pokazatelj prisutnosti ugruška u uzorku krvi.

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**Introduction:** Activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) is a coagulation test used for detecting coagulation factors deficiency, their inhibitors and monitoring unfractionated heparin therapy. For an accurate APTT result, several pre-analytical conditions must be met including the blood sample must be not clotted. It is sometimes difficult to recognize a small clot in blood samples and it would be useful to know its effect on APTT. No literature date can be found on the influence of clot presence on APTT. Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare APTTs in clotted and adequate samples.

**Materials and methods:** Blood was collected into 3.2% Na-citrate tubes (BD Vacutainer). APTT was determined in ( $N = 18$ ) samples where the presence of clot was subsequently observed. APTT was also measured in new, adequate blood samples ( $N = 18$ ). Actin FS reagent (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) and BCS XP analyser (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) were used to determine APTT. Statistical analysis was done using MedCalc 20.0.10.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium). Statistical significance was set at  $P = 0.05$ . Data are described by median and interquartile range. Due to the small sample, a nonparametric test, the Wilcoxon test for paired samples, was used.

**Results:** APTTs were statistically significantly shorter in clotted samples (median 17.5; IQR 16.5 to 19.4) than in adequate samples (median 23.4; IQR 21.1 to 24.8) as shown by the Wilcoxon test ( $z = -3.723$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ). APTTs in clotted samples (15/18) were below the lower limit of the reference range (23.0 s).

**Conclusion:** APTT in clotted samples is shorter than APTT in adequate blood samples probably due to contact activation of the intrinsic clotting pathway. The presence of small clots may be indicated by an APTT below the lower reference limit. Since APTT may be physiologically shortened in inflammatory conditions due to increased FVIII, short APTT is not a specific indicator of a clot in a blood sample.

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B-03

## Upravljanje ciljevima kvalitete u koagulaciji za unapređenje izvedbe protrombinskog vremena

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**Uvod:** Unutarnja (UKK) i vanjska kontrola kvalitete (VKK) se moraju provoditi zajedno kako bi se osiguralo cijelovito upravljanje kvalitetom koagulacijskih testova. Cilj nam je bio procijeniti učinak VKK i dostižnost postavljenog dozvoljenog odstupanja za protrombinsko vrijeme (PV) u hrvatskim medicinsko-biokemijskim laboratorijima (MBL).

**Materijali i metode:** Liofilizirani uzorci humanog podrijetla s očekivanim vrijednostima PV(%) i PV-INR na normalnoj i patološkoj razini distribuiraju se MBL-ima tri puta godišnje od strane Hrvatskog centra za ocjenjivanje kvalitete u laboratorijskoj medicini (CROQALM). Rezultati dobiveni u svakom ciklusu od 2017. do 2021. promatrani su prema dopuštenim granicama: 15% za PV(%) i 7% za PV-INR (izmjena s 15%). Dodatno, od ciklusa 3/2020 su formirane peer grupe prema seriji reagensa i koagulometra u uporabi. Kako bi se istražila izvedba VKK za PV(%) i PV-INR, svim MBL-ovima je u listopadu 2019. poslan upitnik putem aplikacije Survey-Monkey kao dio redovnog ciklusa 3/2019.

**Rezultati:** U svim navedenim ciklusima, rezultate PV-a je prijavilo između 163 do 171 MBLa. Na normal-

B-03

## Management of quality goals in coagulation for improvement of prothrombin time performance

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**Introduction:** Internal quality control (IQC) and external quality assessment (EQA) are performing in conjunction to help provide a complete Quality Management in coagulation testing. We aimed to assess EQA performance and achievable goals for prothrombin time (PT) among Croatian medical laboratories (CMLs).

**Materials and methods:** Lyophilized samples of human origin with expected PT(%) and PT-INR values at normal and pathological level distributed three times per year to CMLs by Croatian Center for Quality Assessment in Laboratory Medicine (CROQALM). Results obtained at each round from 2017 until 2021 were observed according to allowable limits: 15% for PT (%) and 7% for PT-INR (changed from 15%). Additionally, from round 3/2020 peer groups were formed according to reagent and coagulometer-series in use. To investigate IQC performance for PT (%) and PT-INR, CMLs questionnaires were distributed to everyone in October 2019 through Survey-Monkey application as the part of 3/2019 regular round.

**Results:** In all rounds, between 163 and 171 CMLs reported PT results. At normal level, regardless and

noj razini, bez obzira na- i prema metodi koeficijenti varijacije (CV) su iznosili < 15% uz 80-100% prihvatljivih PV(%) rezultata. U peer grupama, ovisno o kombinaciji reagens/koagulometar zabilježen je CV < 7% i > 90% prihvatljivih rezultata osim u malim skupinama (N = 6; > 83%). Na patološkim razinama zabilježeni su CV < 7,8% i 82-95% prihvatljivih PV(%) rezultata. Slijedom promjene kriterija u 2017 za PV-INR je zabilježeno 63-90% prihvatljivih rezultata. U 2018. i 2019. bilježi se poboljšanje prihvatljivih PV-INR rezultata na 80% i > 98% s medijanom CV-a 5,7% odnosno 5,0%, redom. Rezultati UKK upitnika: medijan CV-a za PV(%) iznosi 3,2% (N = 80) na normalnoj i 3,8% (N = 77) na patološkoj razini. Za PV-INR, medijan CV-a na normalnoj razini iznosi 3,0% (N = 80) i na patološkoj razini 3,9% (N = 77).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati UKK, ukazuju da su CV ispod granice dozvoljenog odstupanja za VKK što ukazuje da je nova granica odstupanja dostižna za MBL-e. Grupe formirane prema seriji reagens/koagulometar su doprinijele boljoj međulaboratorijskoj usporedivosti.

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according to the method, coefficients of variation (CVs) were < 15% with 80-100% acceptable PT (%). Peer groups according to reagent/coagulometer combination revealed CVs < 7% and > 90% of acceptable results except in small peer groups (N = 6; > 83%). At pathological levels, CVs < 7.8% and 82-95% acceptable PT (%) results were recorded. Following PT-INR criteria change in 2017, depending on peer group 63-90% of acceptable results noted. In 2018 and 2019, acceptable PT-INR results improved to 80% and > 98% with a median of CV 5.7% and 5.0%, respectively. The questionnaire IQC results: median of CV for PT (%) was 3.2% (N = 80) at normal and 3.8% (N = 77) at pathological level. For PT-INR, the reported median of CV at normal level was 3.0% (N = 80) and 3.9% (N = 77) at pathological level.

**Conclusion:** IQC results revealed CVs below valid EQA allowable tolerance indicating that new allowable limit is attainable to CMLs. Peer groups formed according to reagent/coagulometer-series contributed to better inter-laboratory comparability.

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#### B-04

#### Verifikacija optomehaničkog koagulacijskog analizatora Siemens BFT II

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**Uvod:** Cilj studije bio je verificirati optomehanički koagulacijski analizator BFT II (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka).

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacijski protokol prema CLSI EP15-A3 2014 i CLSI H57-A 2008 smjernicama obuhvaća ponovljivost i ukupnu preciznost u dvije razine kontrolne plazme (Siemens Control Plasma

#### B-04

#### Verification of an optomechanical coagulation analyser Siemens BFT II

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**Introduction:** The aim of the study was to verify the optomechanical coagulation BFT II Analyser (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany).

**Materials and methods:** The verification protocol combined the CLSI EP15-A3 2014 and CLSI H57-A 2008 guidelines and included: the estimation of precision (repeatability and overall precision at two

N i P, izražene kao koeficijent varijacije, CV %), procjenu on-board stabilnosti reagensa, interferencije i usporedbu BFT II s referentnim analizatorom BCS XP (155 uzoraka plazme prema prethodno definiranoj distribuciji vrijednosti mjerenih parametara). Koagulacijski testovi na kojima je verifikacija provedena su: protrombinsko vrijeme (PV, Dade INNOVIN), aktivirano parcijalno tromboplastinsko vrijeme (APTV, Dade Actin FS), i fibrinogen (Multifibren U), proizvođača Siemens Healthineers. Rezultati su uspoređeni s kriterijima proizvođača i CROQALM-a. Podatci su obrađeni koristeći MedCalc 16.2.0 statistički softver (MedCalc Software bvba, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Procijenjena nepreciznost je unutar dozvoljenih kriterija prihvatljivosti (< 5%) za sve teste. Deklarirana on-board stabilnost je potvrđena za sve reagense (2 h Dade INNOVIN, 4 h Multifibren U i 24 h za Actin FS). Interferencija lipemije je bila unutar kriterija prihvatljivosti do koncentracije triglicerida od 7,15 mmol/L, a hemolize do koncentracije hemoglobina od 10 g/L. Koncentracije triglicerida i hemoglobina su bile veće od deklariranih cut-off koncentracija proizvođača. Iako je Bland-Altman analizom pokazana statistički značajna razlika za PV (u uzorcima plazme s manjom aktivnosti, PV < 50%: apsolutna razlika: - 1,3, 95% CI: - 1,9 do - 0,6) i fibrinogen (> 2 g/L) (razlika (%): 6,8, 95% CI: 4,0 do 9,6), sva odstupanja su unutar kriterija prihvatljivosti od 3% (apsolutna razlika) te 14% za PV i fibrinogen.

**Zaključak:** Analizator Siemens BFT II zadovoljava sve navedene kriterije proizvođača i može se koristiti u svakodnevnom rutinskom radu kao nadopuna Siemens BCS XP.

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levels of control plasma (Siemens Control Plasma N and P, expressed as coefficient of variation, CV%), verification of on-board reagent stability and interference cut-offs, and comparison with the routine Siemens BCS XP analyser (155 plasma samples according to a pre-defined distribution of parameter values). The included coagulation tests were: prothrombin time (PT, Dade INNOVIN), activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT, Dade Actin FS), and fibrinogen (Multifibren U), all Siemens. The results were compared with the manufacturer's and CROQALM criteria. Analysis was done using MedCalc 16.2.0 statistical software (MedCalc Software bvba, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** The estimated imprecision was within the permitted eligibility criteria (< 5%) for all tests. Declared on-board stability was confirmed for all reagents (2 h Dade INNOVIN, 4 h Multifibren U, and 24 h for Actin FS). The interference of lipemia was not significant up to a triglyceride concentration of 7.15 mmol/L, and haemolysis up to a haemoglobin concentration of 10 g/L, both even higher than the manufacturer's defined cut-offs. Although Bland-Altman analysis for comparison results revealed a statistically significant difference for PT (in plasma samples with lower activity, PT < 50%): absolute difference: -1.3, 95% CI: - 1.9 to - 0.6, and fibrinogen (above 2 g/L) (difference (%): 6.8, 95% CI: 4.0 to 9.6), bias values were within the acceptability criteria of 3% (absolute difference) and 14% for PT and fibrinogen, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The Siemens BFT II analyser fulfilled all the predefined acceptance criteria and can be used interchangeably with the routine Siemens BCS XP coagulation analyser.

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**C Kardiovaskularne bolesti****C-01 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Serumske koncentracije katestatina u bolesnika s esencijalnom hipertenzijom**

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**Uvod:** Mnoštvo studija upućuje na to da katestatin, endogeni peptid inicijalno prepoznat kao inhibitor unutar simpatičkog živčanog sustava (SŽS), ima brojne kardioprotektivne učinke. Preliminarne studije utvrđile su da katestatin sudjeluje u regulaciji arterijskog tlaka. Stoga, uvažavajući utjecaj poremećaja SŽS-a na razvoj esencijalne hipertenzije, cilj ove studije bio je utvrditi razlikuju li se serumske razine katestatina između bolesnika s esencijalnom hipertenzijom i zdravih kontrola te utvrditi postoji li povezanost između vrijednosti srednjeg arterijskog tlaka i cirkulirajućeg katestatina. Uz to, dodatni je cilj bio usporediti serumske koncentracije katestatina između neliječenih bolesnika s hipertenzijom i bolesnika liječenih ACE inhibitorima.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je dizajnirano kao presječna studija, a u isto je uključeno 50 bolesnika (18-65 godina) s dijagnosticiranom esencijalnom hipertenzijom (25 liječenih s ACE inhibitorima, 25 neliječenih) te 50 zdravih kontrola. Svim ispitnicima prosječne razine arterijskog tlaka utvrđene su uređajem za kontinuirano mjerjenje tlaka (24 h), a serumske koncentracije katestatina koristeći ELISA metodu (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals Inc., Burlingame, USA). Za analizu varijabli od interesa korišteni su Mann-Whitney U test i Spearmanov test korelacije. Statistička značajnost postavljena je na  $P < 0,05$  za sve analize.

**Rezultati:** Bolesnici s hipertenzijom imali su značajno veće koncentracije katestatina od zdravih kontrola (29,6 (19,4-48,5) ng/mL vs. 5,9 (4,3-8,4) ng/mL,  $P = 0,019$ ). U odnosu na neliječene bolesnike, bolesnici

**C Cardiovascular diseases****C-01 (Oral presentation)****Serum cestestatin concentrations in patients with primary hypertension**

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**Introduction:** Cestestatin, a potent physiological inhibitor of catecholamine spillover, has recently been recognized as an cardioprotective agent. Studies suggest that cestestatin is also implicated in the regulation of arterial blood pressure. Hence, considering the importance of sympathetic nervous system (SNS) dysfunction for pathophysiology of primary hypertension, the principal aim of the study was to compare cestestatin serum concentrations between patients with hypertension and matched healthy controls, and establish whether mean arterial pressure correlates with circulating cestestatin. Furthermore, we aimed to compare serum cestestatin concentrations with respect to the presence of ACE inhibitor therapy.

**Materials and methods:** In the present cross-sectional study, we enrolled 50 participants (25 treated with ACE inhibitors, 25 treatments naïve), aged 18-65 years, diagnosed with primary hypertension and 50 age and BMI-matched controls. Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring system was used to establish average blood pressure values, and cestestatin concentrations were determined using ELISA method (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals Inc., Burlingame, USA). For statistical analysis, Mann-Whitney U test and Spearman rank correlation analysis were employed. Statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$  for all comparisons.

**Results:** Patients with hypertension exhibited significantly higher serum levels of cestestatin in comparison to healthy controls (29.6 (19.4-48.5) ng/mL vs. 5.9

liječeni ACE inhibitorima su imali značajno niže koncentracije katestatina ( $27,5$  ( $19,3$ - $45,4$ ) ng/mL vs.  $41,6$  ( $24,6$ - $63,8$ ) ng/mL,  $P = 0,019$ ). Utvrđena je pozitivna korelacija između srednjeg arterijskog tlaka i katestatina u skupini bolesnika s hipertenzijom ( $r = 0,47$ ,  $P = 0,002$ ).

**Zaključak:** Povećane koncentracije katestatina u bolesnika s hipertenzijom u odnosu na zdrave kontrole i povezanost srednjeg arterijskog tlaka s katestatinom, upućuju na njegovu uključenost u patofiziologiju esencijalne hipertenzije. Uz to, smanjene koncentracije katestatina u bolesnika liječenih od hipertenzije ACE inhibitorima upućuju na utjecaj ACE inhibitora na kontrolu SŽS-a u esencijalnoj hipertenziji.

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( $4.3$ - $8.4$ ) ng/mL,  $P = 0.019$ ). Compared to untreated subgroup of patients, patients treated with ACE inhibitors had significantly lower serum catestatin levels ( $27.5$  ( $19.3$ - $45.4$ ) ng/mL vs.  $41.6$  ( $24.6$ - $63.8$ ) ng/mL,  $P = 0.019$ ). A positive correlation was found between circulating catestatin and mean arterial pressure in hypertensive patients ( $r = 0.47$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ).

**Conclusion:** Increased catestatin concentrations in patients with hypertension compared with healthy controls, and the association of mean arterial pressure with serum catestatin levels, suggest its involvement in the pathophysiology of essential hypertension. Furthermore, decreased catestatin in patients with hypertension treated with ACE inhibitors suggests an effect of ACE inhibitors on SNS control in essential hypertension.

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## C-02

### Usporedba direktnog i računskog LDL-kolesterola pomoću Friedewald, Martin/Hopkins i Sampson formule

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**Uvod:** Friedewaldova formula (FF) se uobičajeno koristi za izračun LDL-kolesterola (LDL). Nedavne studije su pokazale da su novije formule kao Martin/Hopkins formula (M/HF) i Sampson formula (SF) točnije i usporedive s referentnom metodom za određivanje LDL-a, beta-kvantifikacijom. Cilj ove studije bio je usporediti izmjereni direktni LDL (dLDL) s računskim LDL-om (rLDL) koristeći FF, M/HF i SF te dobiti uvid mogu li se te nove formule primjeniti u našoj bolnici.

**Materijali i metode:** Kolesterol (KOL), trigliceridi (TG), HDL-kolesterol (HDL) i LDL izmjereni su na AU5800 i DxC 700 AU analizatorima (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD) s pripadajućim reagensima kod 250 pacijenata iz Kliničke bolnice Dubrava. Samo rezultati s trigliceridima  $< 3,5$  mmol/L su bili

## C-02

### Comparison of measured and calculated LDL-cholesterol by Friedewald, Martin/Hopkins and Sampson formulas

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**Introduction:** The Friedewald formula (FF) is frequently used for the calculation of LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C). Recently, Martin/Hopkins formula (M/HF) and Sampson formula (SF) are proposed as more accurate and comparable to the reference method for LDL-C measurement, beta-quantification. This study aimed to compare measured direct LDL-C (dLDL-C) with calculated LDL-C (cLDL-C) using the FF, M/HF, and SF and to gain insight if these new formulas could be applicable in our hospital.

**Materials and methods:** Cholesterol (CHOL), triglycerides (TG), HDL-cholesterol (HDL-C) and LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) were measured on AU5800 and DxC 700 AU analysers (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA) with dedicated reagents in 250 patients from University Hospital Dubrava. Only results with tri-

uključeni u studiju. Korištene su sljedeće formule za rLDL: FF (rLDL = KOL - HDL - TG/2,2) (mmol/L); M/HF (rLDL = KOL - HDL - TG/novi faktor) (mg/dL); SF (rLDL = KOL/0,948 - HDL/0,971 - (TG/8,56 + (TG x (KOL - HDL))/2140 - TG x TG/16100) - 9,44) (mg/dL), uz potrebne konverzije ovisno o mjernim jedinicama. Statistička analiza napravljena je u MedCalc statističkom softveru (verzija 14.8.1, Ostend, Belgija) s Bland-Altman analizom (BA), Passing-Bablok regresijom (PB) i Kruskal-Wallisovim testom ( $P < 0,05$ ). **Rezultati:** Rezultati BA analize (srednja razlika i 95% interval pouzdanosti) i PB regresije su bili kako slijedi: dLDL u odnosu na rLDL s FF (6,9 (- 18,6 do 32,5%); ( $y = -0,69$  (-0,79 do -0,58) + 1,19 (1,15 do 1,22)  $x$ ); s M/HF (5,2 (-17,0 do 27,5%); ( $y = -0,57$  (-0,65 do -0,49) + 1,15 (1,13 do 1,18)  $x$ ); sa SF (4,9 (-19,5 do 29,3%); ( $y = -0,68$  (-0,77 do -0,58) + 1,20 (1,17 do 1,23)  $x$ ). Kruskal-Wallis test nije pokazao statistički značajnu razliku između dLDL-a i rLDL-a bez obzira na korištenu formulu ( $P = 0,255$ ).

**Zaključak:** Nije nađena statistički značajna razlika između dLDL-a i rLDL-a sa FF, M/HF i SF. Međutim, prema usporedbi metoda s BA analizom SF za rLDL je pokazala najmanju prosječnu razliku u usporedbi s dLDL, stoga bi se SF mogla koristiti za izračun LDL-a umjesto dosadašnje FF.

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glycerides < 3.5 mmol/L were included in this study. LDL-C was calculated with the following formulas: FF (cLDL-C = CHOL - HDL-C - TG/2.2) (mmol/L); M/HF (cLDL-C = CHOL - HDL-C - TG/novel factor) (mg/dL); SF (cLDL-C = CHOL/0.948 - HDL-C/0.971 - (TG/8.56 + (TG x (CHOL - HDL-C))/2140 - TG x TG/16100) - 9.44) (mg/dL), and also with necessary conversion according to measurement units. Statistical analysis was done in MedCalc Statistical Software (version 14.8.1, Ostend, Belgium) with Bland-Altman analysis (BA), Passing-Bablok regression (PB), and Kruskal-Wallis test ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Results:** Results of BA analysis (mean difference and 95% CI) and PB regression were as follows: dLDL-C vs. cLDL-C with FF (6.9 (-18.6 to 32.5%); ( $y = -0.69$  (-0.79 to -0.58) + 1.19 (1.15 to 1.22)  $x$ ); with M/HF (5.2 (-17.0 to 27.5%); ( $y = -0.57$  (-0.65 to -0.49) + 1.15 (1.13 to 1.18)  $x$ ); and with SF (4.9 (-19.5 to 29.3%); ( $y = -0.68$  (-0.77 to -0.58) + 1.20 (1.17 to 1.23)  $x$ ). Kruskal-Wallis test showed no statistically significant difference between dLDL-C and cLDL-C regardless of the formula used ( $P = 0.255$ ).

**Conclusion:** No significant differences were found between dLDL-C and cLDL-C with FF, M/HF, and SF, however according to method comparison with BA the SF for cLDL-C showed the lowest mean difference compared to dLDL-C, hence it could be implemented instead of the FF.

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## D Endokrinologija

### D-01

#### Verifikacija metode za određivanje tireoglobulina na analizatoru Atellica Solution IM 1300

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## D Endocrinology

### D-01

#### Verification of the thyroglobulin determination method on the Atellica Solution IM 1300 analyser

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**Uvod:** Tireoglobulin je ključan klinički parametar u praćenju pojave recidiva karcinoma štitnjače kod pacijenata podvrgnutih totalnoj tireoidektomiji. Cilj verifikacije bio je ispitati zadovoljavaju li definirane značajke CLIA metode za određivanje koncentracije tireoglobulina na analizatoru Atellica IM 1300 definirane kriterije prije uvođenja u rutinski rad.

**Materijali i metode:** Provedena je provjera nepreciznosti, referentnog intervala (RI) i granice kvantifikacije (LoQ). Nepreciznost je ispitana prema CLSI EP15-A3 analizom dvije razine komercijalnog kontrolnog materijala Liquichek TM Tumor Marker Control (Bio-Rad, Hercules, SAD) i pool-a seruma u peteroplikuatu kroz pet dana. Izračunati su koeficijenti varijacije (CV) za ponovljivost i unutarlaboratorijsku nepreciznost te su uspoređeni s vrijednostima deklariranim od strane proizvođača (ponovljivost i unutarlaboratorijska nepreciznost: < 6% i < 8%) i s EFLM kriterijima (optimalni: < 2,6%, poželjni: < 5,3%, minimalni: < 7,9%). Verifikacija referentnog intervala tireoglobulina (1,82-111 ng/mL) provedena je na ukupno 20 ostatnih uzoraka seruma ispitanika (10 muškaraca i 10 žena) s urednom funkcijom štitnjače. Procjena deklarirane LoQ (0,05 ng/mL) provedena je na dva ostatna uzorka, prethodno razrijeđena na koncentraciju tireoglobulina približnu granici kvantifikacije. Razrijeđeni uzorci analizirali su se tijekom tri dana, prva dva dana u triplikatu, treći dan u četveroplikuatu. Deklarirani CV za granicu kvantifikacije iznosi ≤ 20%.

**Rezultati:** Izračunati CV-ovi za ponovljivost za razinu 1, 2 i pool iznosili su 2,12%, 1,58% i 1,29%, a za unutarlaboratorijsku nepreciznost iznosili su 2,40%, 1,66% i 1,57%. Rezultati 19 od 20 uzoraka analiziranih za provjeru referentnog intervala bili su unutar navedenih intervala. Izračunati CV za granicu kvantifikacije uzorka 1 i 2 iznosio je 1,99% i 2,93%.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacija nepreciznosti zadovoljila je EFLM kriterije, kao i kriterije proizvođača. Referentni interval za tireoglobulin je verificiran i prihvativ za ispitivanu populaciju. CV za LoQ zadovoljava kriterije od strane proizvođača. Metoda određivanja tireoglobulina zadovoljava kriterije potrebne za rutinski rad.

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**Introduction:** Thyroglobulin is a key biomarker in monitoring the recurrence of cancer in patients undergoing total thyroidectomy. The aim of the verification was to examine if the defined features of CLIA thyroglobulin determination on the Atellica IM 1300 analyser meet the set criteria before being introduced into routine work.

**Materials and methods:** We evaluated the imprecision, reference interval (RI), and limit of quantification (LoQ). The imprecision was examined by analysing two levels of commercial control material Liquichek TM Tumor Marker Control (Bio-Rad, Hercules, SAD) and a serum pool fivefold over five days according to the CLSI EP15-A3 guidelines. Coefficients of variation (CV) for repeatability and intra-laboratory imprecision were calculated and compared with the values declared by the manufacturer (< 6% and < 8%, respectively) and with EFLM criteria (optimal: < 2.6%, desirable: < 5.3%, minimum: < 7.9%). Verification of the thyroglobulin reference interval (1.82-111 ng/mL) was performed on 20 leftover patient serum samples (10 men and 10 women) with orderly thyroid function. Estimation of declared LoQ (0.05 ng/mL) was performed on two leftover samples, previously diluted to an approximate thyroglobulin concentration. Diluted samples were analysed over three days, the first two days in the triplicate, and the third day in the four-poster. The declared CV for LoQ is ≤ 20%.

**Results:** Calculated CV for repeatability for levels 1, 2 and pool were 2.12%, 1.58% and 1.29%, and for intra-laboratory imprecision were 2.40%, 1.66% and 1.57%. Nineteen out of 20 samples for the verification of the reference interval were within the stated intervals. The calculated CV for LoQ in samples 1 and 2 was 1.99% and 2.93%.

**Conclusion:** Imprecision verification met all EFLM and manufacturer imprecision criteria. The thyroglobulin reference interval was verified and acceptable for the studied population. In addition, the CV at the LoQ concentration was acceptable. The method for thyroglobulin met all the necessary criteria for introduction into routine work.

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**D-02**

## **Verifikacija imunoeseja za određivanje inzulina i C-peptida na Maglumi 800 analizatoru**

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**Uvod:** MAGLUMI 800 (Snibe, Kina) je automatizirani imunokemijski analizator s kemiluminiscentnim (CLIA) principom detekcije. Cilj ovog rada je evaluirati analitičke performanse imunoeseja za određivanje inzulina i C-peptida na analizatoru MAGLUMI 800.

**Materijali i metode:** Evaluacija je učinjena prema smjernicama Instituta za standarde u kliničkim laboratorijsima (eng. *Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute*, CLSI). Poželjni kriteriji prihvatljivosti za nepreciznost metoda za određivanje inzulina i C-peptida odabrani su prema biološkoj varijaciji. Nepreciznost je ocijenjena analizom Maglumi kontrolnog materijala u dvije koncentracijske razine. Inzulin i C-peptid određeni su u 22 uzorka seruma. Rezultati analize uspoređeni su s rezultatima dobivenim CLIA metodom na analizatoru LIAISON (DiaSorin, Italija). Usporedba metoda učinjena je Passing Bablok regresijskom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Ponovljivost u kontrolnim uzorcima normalne i visoke koncentracije bila je 0,73% i 1,12% za inzulin te 1,11% i 1,67% za C-peptid. Ponovljivost između serija za dvije koncentracijske razine kontrolnog materijala bila je 0,50% i 2,10% za inzulin te 1,75% i 3,26% za C-peptid. Metoda za određivanje C-peptida pokazala je zadovoljavajuću usporedivost, dok je između dvije CLIA metode za određivanje inzulina uočena konstantna i proporcionalna razlika ( $y = 2,85$  (95% CI: 1,90-3,96) + 0,89 (95% CI: 0,85-0,96)  $x$ ).

**Zaključak:** Metode za određivanje koncentracije inzulina i C-peptida na analizatoru MAGLUMI 800 pokazale su zadovoljavajuće analitičke performanse. Zbog postojanja konstantne i proporcionalne razlike, određivanje koncentracije inzulina potrebno je učiniti uvijek istom metodom.

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**D-02**

## **Verification of insulin and C-peptide immunoassays on the Maglumi 800 analyser**

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**Introduction:** MAGLUMI 800 (Snibe, China) is an automatic chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA) analyser. This study aimed to verify the analytical performance of insulin and C-peptide assays using a MAGLUMI 800 analyser.

**Materials and methods:** Verification was performed according to the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines. Desirable specifications for the imprecision of insulin and C-peptide assays were determined based on biological variations. The analytical imprecision was assessed using a two-level Maglumi control material. Twenty-two serum samples for insulin and C-peptide were analysed using a MAGLUMI 800 analyser. The results were compared with measurements obtained by CLIA assays using LIAISON analyser (DiaSorin, Italy). For method comparison, Passing Bablok regression was used.

**Results:** Within-laboratory precision for normal and high concentration levels were 0.73% and 1.12% for insulin and 1.11% and 1.67% for C-peptide. Between-laboratory precision for two analysed concentration levels were 0.50% and 2.10% for insulin and 1.75% and 3.26% for C-peptide. The C-peptide assay showed a good method comparison to LIAISON CLIA assay, while a proportional and constant bias was revealed between two insulin assays ( $y = 2.85$  (95% CI: 1.90-3.96) + 0.89 (95% CI: 0.85-0.96)  $x$ ).

**Conclusion:** The Maglumi insulin and C-peptide assays showed acceptable analytical performances. Because of constant and proportional differences, two immunochemical analysers can't be used interchangeably, especially for insulin assay.

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**D-03****Mogućnost uvođenja porcije mokraće kao uzorka za analizu kortizola**

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**Uvod:** Jednokratni uzorak umjesto 24-mokraće je jednostavniji i za pacijenta i za laboratorijsko osoblje. U literaturi se navode dobivene vrijednosti kortizola u jednokratnom uzorku, te mogućnost njegove primjene, u svrhu probirnog testa, kod sumnje na Cushingov sindrom. Cilj ovog rada je odrediti vrijednosti kortizola u jednokratnoj porciji mokraće, za našu populaciju i našu metodu, i procijeniti mogućnosti njegova uvođenja u svakodnevnu praksu.

**Materijali i metode:** Jednokratni uzorci mokraće su prikupljeni od 38 referentnih pojedinaca, koji su odabrani nakon ispunjavanja upitnika. Uzorci mokraće, uzorkovani u periodu 6-8 i 22-23 sata, pohranjeni su odmah po uzorkovanju prema preporuci proizvođača reagensa. Uzorci su analizirani na analizatoru Abbott Architect 1000i, CMIA metodom i analizatoru Beckman Coulter DxC 700, kompenziranim Jaffé metodom.

**Rezultati:** Medijan dobi odabranih pojedinaca (24 žene i 14 muškaraca) je bio 38 (19-81) godina, raspon BMI 18,7-32,7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Dobivene vrijednosti pokazuju jasno nisko izlučivanje kortizola noću koje se povećava ujutro. Srednji omjer kortizol/kreatinin za uzorke uzete od 6 do 8 sati je 13,2 (90% interval pouzdanoći (CI), 0,9-59,5) a za uzorke uzete od 22 do 23 sata ga je bilo nemoguće izračunati, jer su kod nekih ispitanika vrijednosti kortizola bile ispod mjernog područja i dobiveni raspon omjera je bio < 0,6 do < 7,3.

**Zaključak:** Cushingov sindrom karakteriziraju visoke koncentracije kortizola i izostanak dnevne varijacije. Definiranjem granice kliničke odluke, ispitivanjem većeg broja referentnih ispitanika i analizom uzorka pacijenata sa Cushingovim sindromom, u narednom periodu, moguće je uvođenje porcije mokraće kao uzorka za analizu kortizola.

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**D-03****Possibility of introducing a urine portion as a sample for cortisol analysis**

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**Introduction:** Spot urine instead of a 24-hour urine collection is simpler for both the patient and the laboratory staff. The literature states the obtained values of cortisol in a spot urine and the possibility of its use for a screening test in case of a suspected Cushing's syndrome. This paper aims to determine the values of cortisol in a one - time sample of urine, for our population and our method, and to evaluate the possibilities of its introduction into everyday practice.

**Materials and methods:** Spot urine samples were collected from 38 reference individuals. The reference individuals were selected after completing the questionnaire. Urine samples, sampled between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., and between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., were stored immediately after sampling as recommended by the reagent manufacturer. Samples were analysed on an Abbott Architect 1000i analyser (CMIA) and on a BC DxC 700 analyser (compensated Jaffe method).

**Results:** The median age of selected individuals (24 women and 14 men) was 38 (19-81) years with a BMI range between 18.7 and 32.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The values obtained show a clear low excretion of cortisol at night, which increases in the morning. The mean cortisol/creatinine ratio for samples taken between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. was 13.2 (90% confidence interval (CI), 0.9-59.5). It could not be calculated for samples taken between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. because in some reference individuals the cortisol values were below the measuring range, and the obtained range of ratios was < 0.6 to < 7.3.

**Conclusion:** Cushing's syndrome is characterized by high cortisol concentrations and the absence of daily variation. By defining the limit of clinical decision, examining a larger number of reference individuals, and analysing samples of patients with Cushing's syndrome, in the following period, it is possible to introduce a portion of urine as a sample for cortisol analysis.

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D-04

## Probir na dijabetes melitus mjenjem hemoglobina A1c nasumičnim pacijentima zaprimljenim na objedinjeni hitni bolnički prijem

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je napraviti probir na dijabetes melitus mjenjem hemoglobina A1c pacijentima koji su zaprimljeni na Objedinjeni hitni bolnički prijem nevezano za dijabetes, bez očitih simptoma vezanih uz dijabetes i koji nemaju prethodno dijagnosticiran dijabetes, uz prepostavku da postoji značajan postotak ljudi s nedijagnosticiranim dijabetesom.

**Materijali i metode:** Ovo istraživanje je obuhvatilo 578 pacijenata u dobi od 15 do 95 godina zaprimljenih na Objedinjeni hitni bolnički prijem u Općoj bolnici Dr. Josip Benčević u Slavonskom Brodu. HbA1c mjenjen je iz pune krvi na analizatoru Abbott Alinity c serije enzimskom metodom, NGSP certificiranom, IFCC standardiziranom te sljedivom do DCCT. Kriteriji za dijagnozu uzeti su iz preporuka American Diabetes Association (ADA): 5,7 do 6,4% HbA1c (39 do 46 mmol/mol) uzet je kao kriterij za prediabetes, a rezultati  $\geq 6,5\%$  (48 mmol/mol) smatrani su kriterijem za dijagnozu dijabetesa.

**Rezultati:** Od 578 pacijenata, 20 ih je imalo prethodno dijagnosticiran dijabetes. Od preostalih 558 (medijan dobi 57 godina; 47% muškaraca), ukupno 146 pacijenata (26%) imalo je HbA1c iznad 5,7%. Devedeset i devet pacijenata (18%) imalo je HbA1c vrijednosti od 5,7 do 6,4%, a 47 pacijenata (8%) imalo je HbA1c  $\geq 6,5\%$  (raspon od 6,5% do 12,1%).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ovog istraživanja pokazali su da više od četvrtine ispitanika imaju poremećaj metabolizma glukoze, a gotovo svaki deseti ispitanik ima razinu HbA1c dostatno visoku za potvrđnu dijagnozu dijabetesa, a da toga uopće nisu bili svjesni. Podaci dobiveni ovim istraživanjem trebali bi potaknuti

D-04

## Screening for diabetes mellitus by measuring hemoglobin A1c in random patients admitted to the emergency department

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**Introduction:** The aim of this study was to perform screening for diabetes mellitus by measuring haemoglobin A1c in patients admitted to the Emergency Department for symptoms not related to diabetes, who were not diagnosed diabetes before, under the assumption that a significant percentage of people have undiagnosed diabetes.

**Materials and methods:** This study included 578 patients aged 15 to 95 years admitted to the Emergency Department at the General Hospital Dr. Josip Benčević in Slavonski Brod. HbA1c was measured in whole blood on an Abbott Alinity c series analyser by enzyme method, NGSP certified, IFCC standardized and traceable to the DCCT. The criteria for diagnosis were taken from the recommendations of the American Diabetes Association (ADA): 5.7 to 6.4% HbA1c (39 to 46 mmol/mol) was taken as a criterion for prediabetes, and results  $\geq 6.5\%$  (48 mmol/mol) were considered as a criterion for diabetes.

**Results:** Twenty out of 578 patients were previously diagnosed with diabetes. Out of the remaining 558 (median age 57; 47% male), a total of 146 patients (26%) had HbA1c above 5.7%. Ninety-nine patients (18%) had HbA1c values between 5.7 and 6.4%, and 47 patients (8%) had HbA1c  $\geq 6.5\%$  (range between 6.5% and 12.1%).

**Conclusion:** The results of this study showed that more than a quarter of subjects have impairment of glucose metabolism, and almost one in ten subjects have HbA1c levels high enough to confirm the diagnosis of diabetes without being aware of it. The data obtained from this research should encourage

kreiranje javnozdravstvenih mjera za prevenciju dijabetesa, među kojima bi se trebalo posebno istaknuti podizanje svjesnosti o opasnostima dijabetesa u javnosti.

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## D-05

### **Učinak različitih epruveta za uzorkovanje i 24-satnog skladištenja uzoraka na razinu inzulina i C-peptida**

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**Uvod:** Inzulin i C-peptid su važne dijagnostičke pretrage u liječenju dijabetesa. Zbog malog broja studija za usporedbu različitih vrsta epruveta i oprečnih rezultata kod stabilnosti ovih analita, cilj naše studije je bio usporediti njihove razine u različitim serumskim epruvetama i plazmi te procijeniti njihovu 24-satnu stabilnost u različitim uvjetima pohrane.

**Materijali i metode:** Venska krv prikupljena je od 33 pacijenta u serumske epruvete s aktivatorom zgrušavanja (CAT, Clot Activator Tube) i gel separatorom (SST) te u K3EDTA plazma - epruvete (BD Vacutainer, Becton Dickinson, SAD). Nakon centrifugiranja, serum i plazma su odvojeni u tri alikvota pri čemu je jedan analiziran odmah, a druga dva su ostavljena na sobnoj temperaturi ( $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) te u hladnjaku ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 24 sata nakon čega su analizirani koristeći Atellica IM1600 kemiluminiscentnu imunoanalizu. Statistička analiza napravljena je s Wilcoxonovim testom za sljedećih šest parova uzoraka: svježi serumi u CAT epruveti naspram SST, svježi serum u CAT epruveti naspram sveže plazme, svježi serum u SST epruveti naspram pohranjenih seruma (sobna temperatura i  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) te svježa plazma naspram pohranjene plazme na  $23$  i  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Rezultati:** Koncentracije inzulina bile su značajno različite u svim parovima uzoraka ( $P < 0,05$ ) osim kod svježe plazme i plazme pohranjene na  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $P =$

establishing public health measures for the prevention of diabetes, emphasizing specially the awareness of the dangers of diabetes in the general public.

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## D-05

### **Effect of various sample tubes and 24-hour sample storage on insulin and C-peptide levels**

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**Introduction:** Insulin and C-peptide are considered valuable diagnostic tools in diabetes management. Due to insufficient studies on sample tube type comparison and inconsistent stability information, the aim of our study was to compare insulin and C-peptide levels in serum and plasma from different sample tubes and to assess 24-hour stability.

**Materials and methods:** Venous blood was collected from 33 patients into two types of plastic serum tubes: Clot Activator (CAT) and SST gel separator tubes, and K3EDTA plasma tubes (BD Vacutainer, Becton Dickinson, USA). After centrifugation, serum and plasma were separated into three aliquots of which one was analysed immediately and the other two were stored at room temperature (average  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and in the refrigerator ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for 24 hours until analysis with the Atellica IM 1600 chemiluminescent immunoassay. Using the Wilcoxon test, statistical analysis was made for the following six paired samples: fresh serum: CAT vs. SST, fresh CAT serum vs. plasma, fresh SST serum vs. stored serums (room temperature and  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and fresh plasma samples vs. plasma aliquots stored at both  $23$  and  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively.

**Results:** Insulin concentration showed a significant difference in all paired sample comparisons ( $P < 0.05$ ) except for fresh plasma samples and stored plasma at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $P = 0.200$ ). Considering CAT serum

0,200). Budući da se CAT serum smatra preporučenim za analizu inzulina i C-peptida, prosječna razlika koncentracije inzulina bila je - 2,8% za SST serum i - 10,6% za plazmu. Razlike ostalih parova uzoraka bile su manje od 10%, uz iznimku svježe plazme i plazme na sobnoj temperaturi (- 13,2%). Za koncentracije C-peptida, značajna razlika otkrivena je samo za par CAT seruma i plazme ( $P < 0,001$ ) uz vrijednost od - 12,9%. Sve ostale usporedbe pokazale su prosječnu razliku manju od 1,2%.

**Zaključak:** Unatoč statističkoj razlici pojedinih usporedbi, uočene prosječne razlike za inzulin i C-peptid u ispitivanim uzorcima zajedno sa studijom stabilnosti, bile su unutar vrijednosti preporučenih za biološku varijabilnost (25,4% za inzulin i 16,6% za C-peptid).

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as the recommended sample for insulin and C-peptide measurement, the average difference for insulin was - 2.8% (SST serum) and - 10.6% (plasma). Other paired samples except for fresh plasma and room temperature plasma (- 13.2%) were below 10%. For C-peptide concentration, only CAT serum and plasma revealed a significant difference ( $P < 0.001$ ) with a - 12.9%. All other average differences were below 1.2%.

**Conclusion:** Despite a statistical difference in individual paired samples, observed average differences for both insulin and C-peptide levels in all tested tubes together with stability study were within the recommended values of biological variability (25.4% for insulin and 16.6% for C-peptide).

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## D-06

### Atellica IM aTG II: nova metoda za određivanje protutijela na tireoglobulin. Analitička verifikacija i usporedivost s ADVIA Centaur xp aTG metodom

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**Uvod:** Tireoglobulinska protutijela koriste se u dijagnostici autoimunih bolesti štitnjače te kao koristan prognostički alat kod malignih bolesti štitnjače. Nedavno predstavljena Siemens Healthineers Atellica IM metoda za određivanje tireoglobulinskih protutijela (aTGII) deklarira značajno nižu graničnu vrijednost koja ukazuje na autoimunu bolest štitnjače u usporedbi s prethodnim Advia Centaur/Atellica IM testom (aTG) (4,5 vs. 60 kU/L). Cilj nam je bio provjeriti karakteristike analitičke izvedbe novog aTGII testa i usporediti rezultate s aTG testom.

**Materijali i metode:** Analitička izvedba, uključujući ponovljivost, međupreciznost i ukupnu laborato-

## D-06

### Atellica IM aTG II: a new method for anti-thyroglobulin antibodies determination. Analytical verification and comparability to ADVIA Centaur XP aTG assay

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**Introduction:** Anti-thyroglobulin antibodies are used in the diagnosis of autoimmune thyroid diseases and as a useful prognostic tool for malignant thyroid disease. Recently introduced Siemens Healthineers Atellica IM anti-thyroglobulin II assay (aTGII), proposed a significantly lower cut-off indicative of autoimmune thyroid disease when compared to Advia Centaur/Atellica IM Anti-Thyroglobulin assay (aTG) (4.5 vs. 60 kU/L, respectively). We aimed to verify the analytical performance characteristics of the new aTGII assay and compare results with aTG assay.

**Materials and methods:** Analytical performance including between-run, intermediate and total

rijsku preciznost procijenjena je korištenjem Atellica IM aTGII kontrolnih materijala na 2 razine. Kontrole su analizirane u 3 ciklusa dnevno tijekom 5 dana te su izračunati odgovarajući koeficijenti varijacije (CV). Mjerna nesigurnost izračunata je korištenjem podataka o nepreciznosti, te sljedivosti i nesigurnosti aTGII kalibratora koje je dostavio proizvođač. Usporedba metoda provedena je korištenjem svježih serum-a pacijenata iz tercijarne endokrinološke ustanove zdravstvene zaštite. Provedena je Passing-Bablokova regresijska i Bland-Altman analiza. Klinička podudarnost procijenjena je ukupnom podudarnošću (OC) i kapa indeksom ( $\kappa$ ).

**Rezultati:** Ponovljivost je bila 1,91% i 2,51%, međupreciznost 0,90% i 0,49%, dok je ukupna laboratorijska preciznost bila 1,80% i 2,11% za vrijednosti aTGII od 48,4 i 475,3 kU/L. Proširena mjerna nesigurnost iznosila je 10,9% i 6,6%. Passing-Bablokova regresija otkrila je proporcionalnu (nagib = 0,07; 95% CI: 0 do 0,45), ali ne i konstantnu (odsječak = - 0,19; 95% CI: - 9,92 do 1,28) razliku. Prosječna razlika u Bland-Altman grafu bila je 126,6 (95% CI: - 72,0 do 325,2). Na graničnoj vrijednosti indikativnoj za autoimunu bolest, bilo je više pozitivnih ispitanika s aTG nego aTGII (19/34 vs. 13/34, Hi-kvadrat = 10,994;  $P < 0,001$ ), s OC od 76,5% i  $\kappa$  0,54.

**Zaključak:** Atellica IM aTGII metoda ima zadovoljavajuću analitičku izvedbu sukladno specifikacijama proizvođača. Međutim, OC i  $\kappa$  pokazuju umjerenoslaganje s metodom usporedbе, što upućuje na zaključak da se aTGII i aTG metode ne bi smjele koristiti naizmjenično.

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imprecision was evaluated using 2-level Atellica IM aTGII QC material. Controls were analysed in 3 cycles daily for 5 days and the corresponding coefficients of variation (CV) were calculated. The measurement uncertainty was calculated using data on the precision, and aTGII calibrators traceability and uncertainty data provided by the manufacturer. Method comparison was carried out in fresh sera of the patients from a tertiary care endocrinology facility. Passing-Bablok regression and Bland-Altman analysis were performed. Clinical concordance was assessed by overall concordance (OC) and kappa index ( $\kappa$ ).

**Results:** Between-run imprecision was 1.91% and 2.51%, intermediate imprecision 0.90% and 0.49%, while total imprecision was 1.80% and 2.11% for aTGII values of 48.4 and 475.3 kU/L, respectively. Expanded measurement uncertainty was 10.9% and 6.6%. Passing-Bablok regression revealed proportional (slope = 0.07; 95% CI: 0 to 0.45) but not constant (intercept = - 0.19; 95% CI: - 9.92 to 1.28) difference. Average difference in the Bland-Altman graph was 126.6 (96% CI: - 72.0 to 325.2). At the cut-off indicative for autoimmune disease, there were more positive subjects with aTG than aTGII (19/34 vs. 13/34, Chi-squared = 10.994;  $P < 0.001$ ), with OC of 76.5% and  $\kappa$  0.54.

**Conclusion:** Atellica IM aTGII assay demonstrated a satisfactory analytical performance compliant with manufacturer specifications. However, OC and  $\kappa$  show moderate agreement with the comparator method, indicating that aTG and aTGII should not be used interchangeably.

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**D-07****Analiza podataka o utjecaju tjelesne aktivnosti na određivanje prolaktina**

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**Uvod:** Prema većini istraživanja tjelesna aktivnost naglo povećava koncentraciju prolaktina. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati postoji li statistički značajna razlika u koncentraciji prolaktina neposredno nakon tjelesne aktivnosti u odnosu na koncentracije prolaktina nakon 20 i 30-minutnog mirovanja. Dodatan cilj bio je utvrditi značajnost razlike u ponovljenim mjerenjima koncentracije prolaktina nakon 20-minutnog mirovanja u odnosu na koncentraciju prolaktina nakon 30-minutnog mirovanja.

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanju je dobrovoljno sudjelovalo 21 ispitanik odrasle dobi. Od ispitanika se tražilo da prije dolaska na vađenje krvi hodaju 15-30 minuta ili dođu biciklom. Nakon dolaska ispitanicima je krv uzorkovana tri puta: prvi put odmah nakon dolaska, drugi put nakon 20-minutnog mirovanja, a treći put nakon 30-minutnog mirovanja. Za određivanje koncentracije prolaktina u serumu koristila se metoda elektrokemiluminiscencije (ECLIA) prema sendvič principu na automatskom analizatoru Cobas e801 (Roche Diagnostics, Basel, Švicarska). Statistički značajne razlike u koncentracijama prolaktina ispitane su Wilcoxonovim parnim testom,  $P < 0.05$  se smatrao statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** Utvrđeno je da je koncentracija prolaktina neposredno nakon tjelesne aktivnosti veća u odnosu na koncentracije prolaktina nakon 20 i 30-minutnog mirovanja ( $P = 0,014$  te  $P = 0,007$ ). Daljnji rezultati pokazali su da je mirovanje u trajanju od 20 minuta doprinijelo stabilizaciji koncentracije prolaktina koja je statistički značajno različita u odnosu na koncentraciju prolaktina nakon 30-minutnog mirovanja ( $P = 0,006$ ). Međutim, kako se radi o gotovo jednakim medijanim koncentracije prolaktina koje nisu klinički značajno različite (386 vs. 388 mIU/L), možemo

**D-07****Analysis of data on the influence of physical activity on prolactin determination**

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**Introduction:** According to most studies, physical activity instantly increases prolactin concentration. This study aimed to examine whether there is a statistically significant difference in prolactin concentration immediately after physical activity compared to concentrations after 20 or 30 minutes of rest. Additionally, we aimed to determine the significance of difference in repeated measurements of prolactin concentration after 20 minutes of rest compared to concentration after 30 minutes of rest.

**Materials and methods:** Twenty-one adult volunteers participated in the study. Participants were asked to walk for 15-30 minutes or come by bicycle before blood sampling. Upon arrival, the blood was drawn three times: the first immediately upon arrival, the second after 20 minutes of rest, and the third after 30 minutes of rest. The sandwich electrochemiluminescence method (ECLIA) was used to determine the serum prolactin concentrations on the Cobas e 801 automated analyser (Roche Diagnostics, Basel, Switzerland). Statistically significant differences in the prolactin concentrations were determined with the Wilcoxon signed - rank test,  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** The concentration of prolactin immediately after physical activity was found to be higher than the concentrations after 20 and 30 minutes of rest ( $P = 0.014$  and  $P = 0.007$ ). Further results showed that resting for 20 minutes contributed to the stabilization of prolactin concentration, which was statistically significantly different from the concentration after 30 minutes of resting ( $P = 0.006$ ). However, as medians of prolactin concentrations were almost equal and weren't clinically significantly different (386 vs. 388 mIU/L), we could conclude that the two resting

zaključiti kako su dva protokola mirovanja izazvala identičan predanalitički učinak i mogu se jednakovrijeđno primjenjivati.

**Zaključak:** S obzirom na dobivene rezultate, tj. povišene koncentracije prolaktina u prvoj točki mjerjenja (odmah po dolasku u laboratorij) u odnosu na koncentracije nakon mirovanja, zaključujemo da je cijeli postupak mirovanja prije uzorkovanja krvi za određivanje koncentracije prolaktina absolutno opravdan i da tjelesna aktivnost uzrokuje lažno povišene rezultate.

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protocols caused an identical preanalytical effect and can be applied equally.

**Conclusion:** Considering the obtained results, which showed elevated prolactin concentrations at the first measurement point (immediately upon arrival) compared to post-resting concentrations, we conclude that the whole resting procedure before blood sampling for determination of prolactin concentration is justified and that physical activity causes falsely elevated results.

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## D-08

### Usporedba računske i imunokemijske metode za određivanje slobodnog testosterona

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**Uvod:** Hormon testosteron cirkulira vezan za transportere (SHBG, albumin) ili kao slobodan testosteron. Slobodan testosteron je biološki aktivna molekula. Preporučena metoda određivanje slobodnog testosterona je ravnotežna dijaliza i ultrafiltracija. Kako ova metoda nije praktična za primjenu u svakodnevnom radu, rutinski se u laboratoriju koriste imunokemijske metode ili različite računske formule za mjerjenje slobodnog testosterona. Najčešće korištena računska formula je Vermeulenova formula kod koje se koncentracija slobodnog testosterona izračunava iz koncentracija ukupnog testosterona i SHBG-a. Cilj ovog istraživanja je usporediti računsku metodu za određivanje slobodnog testosterona s mjerenom imunokemijskom metodom.

**Materijali i metode:** Korišteni su ostatni uzorci seruma 18 pacijenata. Koncentracije ukupnog testosterona i SHBG su određene na analizatoru Alinity i (Abbott, SAD) CMIA metodom (eng. chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay). Za izračun slobodnog

## D-08

### Comparison of calculated and measured free testosterone methods

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**Introduction:** Testosterone is a hormone that circulates bound to its transporters (SHBG, albumin) or unbound as free testosterone. Free testosterone is a biologically active molecule. The recommended method for measuring free testosterone is equilibrium dialysis and ultrafiltration which is not practical for use in everyday work. Routine laboratories use immunochemistry methods for measuring or different formulas for calculation of free testosterone. The most used formula was proposed by Vermeulen, in which free testosterone is calculated from the concentration of total testosterone and SHBG. The aim of our study was to compare calculated free testosterone with measured free testosterone assays.

**Materials and methods:** We used leftover serum samples from 18 routine patients. The concentration of total testosterone and SHBG were determined on Alinity i analyser (Abbott, USA) by chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay (CMIA). To calculate free testosterone, we used the formula proposed by

testosterona korištena je Vermeulenova formula. Koncentracija slobodnog testosterona je izmjerena na analizatoru iSYS/IDS (Immunodiagnostic System, Velika Britanija) CLIA metodom (eng. chemiluminescence immunoassay). Normalnost podataka je testirana Kolmogorov-Smirnovim testom. Podaci su prikazani kao srednja vrijednost i standardna devijacija (SD). Usporedba metoda je provedena Bland Altman analizom i Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom. Za provođenje statističkih analiza korišteni je MedCalc Statistical Software version 14.3.0. (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgija). P vrijednost < 0,05 smatra se statistički značajnom.

**Rezultati:** Vrijednosti izračunatog i mјerenog slobodnog testosterona su slijedeći: 17,57 ( $\pm$  8,73) i 4,47 ( $\pm$  1,75) pmol/L. Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza pokazala je da nema statistički značajne sistemske razlike, ali je prisutna statistički značajna proporcionalna razlika između dvije analizirane metode. Regresijska jednadžba:  $y = 1,28 + 0,18x$ ; odsječak A = 1,28 (95% CI: -0,93 do 2,78), nagib = 0,18 (95% CI: 0,07 do 0,35). Cusumov test linearnosti pokazuje da nema značajnog odstupanja linearnosti ( $P = 0,72$ ). Bland-Altman analiza pokazala je razliku između mјerene u odnosu na računsku metodu (srednje odstupanje = 13,10 (95% CI: 9,24 do 16,96)); postotak odstupanja (srednje odstupanje = 72,46 (95% CI: 67,66 do 77,25)).

**Zaključak:** Računska metoda izračuna slobodnog testosterona prema Vermeulenu i imunokemijska metoda određivanja slobodnog testosterona na analizatoru iSYS/IDS pokazuju statistički značajne razlike. Zbog nedostatka standardizacije metoda i velikih razlika u vrijednostima slobodnog testosterona pacijenti bi se trebali uvijek pratiti istom metodom.

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Vermeulen. The concentration of free testosterone was directly measured on iSYS/IDS analyser (Immunodiagnostic System, UK) by chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA). The distribution of normality was tested with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Data were presented as average and standard deviation (SD). Method comparison was performed with Bland Altman and Passing-Bablok regression analysis. Statistical analysis was performed with MedCalc version 14.3.0. (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium). P value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. **Results:** Calculated and measured free testosterone values were as follows: 17.57 ( $\pm$  8.73) and 4.47 ( $\pm$  1.75) pmol/L. Passing-Bablok regression analysis revealed no statistically significant systematic differences, but significant proportional differences between two compared methods. Regression equation:  $y = 1.28 + 0.18x$ ; Intercept A = 1.28 (95% CI: -0.93 to 2.78), slope = 0.18 (95% CI: 0.07 to 0.35). Cusum test for linearity showed no significant deviation from linearity ( $P = 0.72$ ). The Bland-Altman plot presented the difference between methods against the mean of the calculated method (mean difference = 13.10 (95% CI: 9.24 to 16.96)); as percentage (mean difference = 72.46 (95% CI: 67.66 to 77.25)).

**Conclusion:** Comparison of calculated free testosterone and measured testosterone showed a significant statistical difference. Because of the lack of standardization and big discrepancies in values, patient follow-ups should always be done with the same method.

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## E Koštane bolesti

E-01

### Korisnost HLA-B27 testa u dijagnostici spondiloartropatija: kratka retrospektivna studija

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**Uvod:** Spondiloartropatije (SpA) su grupa upalnih reumatskih bolesti koje se dijagnosticiraju evaluacijom zajedničkih kliničkih, radioloških i imunogenetskih karakteristika. Najčešće zahvaćaju kralježnicu, sakroilijakalne i katkad periferne zglobove. U zajednička nasljedna obilježja prvenstveno ubrajamo prisutnost HLA-B27 antiga na T-limfocitima. On označava povećan rizik za razvoj SpA, a najčešće se određuje metodom protočne citometrije koja ima visoku pozitivnu prediktivnu vrijednost, ali nisku specifičnost. Uzrok tomu je križna reaktivnost HLA-B7 antiga koji daje lažno pozitivne rezultate. U ovoj kratkoj retrospektivnoj studiji evaluirali smo dijagnostičku specifičnost i osjetljivost HLA-B27 antiga u dijagnostici SpA u graničnoj „sivoj“ zoni blizu cut-off vrijednosti logaritma medijana fluorescencije (LMF).

**Materijali i metode:** U razdoblju od siječnja 2020. do svibnja 2022. u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku medicinu KBC-a Osijek odrađeno je ukupno 410 analiza HLA-B27 antiga u uzorcima periferne krvi na protočnom citometru BD FACSCalibur u softveru BD HLA-B27 (Becton Dickinson). Korišten je BD HLA-B27 reagens kit koji se sastoji od monoklonskih antitijela anti-CD3PE i anti-HLA-B27FITC obilježenih fluorokromom. Kao cut-off vrijednost kojom se diskriminiraju pozitivni i negativni uzorci, korištena je LMF vrijednost deklarirana od proizvođača, uz modificiranu sivu zonu ( $148 \pm 10$ ).

**Rezultati:** Od ukupno 55 pozitivnih, 15 analiza bile su granično pozitivne, a od ukupno 355 negativnih, 23 su bile granično negativne. Nadalje, kod 9/15 granično pozitivnih i 6/23 granično negativnih pacijenta potvrđen je SpA (udio lažno pozitivnih je 40%, audio lažno negativnih je 26%), što daje dijagnostičku osjetljivost od 60% i specifičnost od 74%.

## E Bone diseases

E-01

### Usefulness of the HLA-B27 test in the diagnosis of spondyloarthropathy: a brief retrospective study

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**Introduction:** Spondyloarthropathies (SpA) are a group of inflammatory rheumatic diseases diagnosed by common clinical, radiological, and immunogenetic characteristics, usually affecting spine, sacroiliac and sometimes peripheral joints. Hereditary characteristics primarily include the presence of HLA-B27 antigen on T-cells, indicating an increased risk of developing SpA. HLA-B27 is most commonly determined by flow cytometry and has a high positive predictive value but low specificity, due to the cross-reactivity of the HLA-B7 antigen, resulting in false positive results. Here, we retrospectively assessed the diagnostic specificity and sensitivity of the HLA-B27 in the diagnosis of SpA, in the "gray" zone near the log median fluorescence (LMF) cut-off.

**Materials and methods:** From January 2020 to May 2022, at the Clinical Department of Laboratory Diagnostics of the University Hospital Osijek, a total of 410 HLA-B27 analysis in blood were performed using the BD-FACSCalibur cytometer, with the BD-HLA-B27 software, using the BD-HLA-B27 reagent kit (Becton Dickinson), consisting of anti-CD3PE and anti-HLA-B27FITC fluorochrome-labeled antibodies. The LMF value determined by the reagent's manufacturer, with a modified gray zone ( $148 \pm 10$ ), was used as the cut-off value, discriminating between positive and negative samples.

**Results:** Results showed that 15 of total 55 positive cases were borderline positive, and 23 of total 355 negative cases were borderline negative. Furthermore, in 9/15 borderline positive and 6/23 borderline negative cases, SpA was confirmed (the share of false positives was 40% and false negatives was 26%), giving a diagnostic sensitivity of 60% and a specificity of 74%.

**Zaključak:** Analiza graničnih rezultata HLA-B27 antigena u proteklih 2,5 godine pokazali su da je udio lažno pozitivnih prilično visok, ali i udio lažno negativnih nije zanemariv. Iako je ukupni broj graničnih slučajeva relativno nizak, rezultati su pokazali da sam HLA-B27 antigen nema dovoljnu dijagnostičku točnost, nego je i dalje potrebna kombinacija kliničkih i radioloških pokazatelja, kao i da je za granične slučajeve potrebna potvrda metodama molekularne dijagnostike.

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**Conclusion:** Analysis of the HLA-B27 antigen borderline results in the last 2.5 years has shown that the proportions of both false positives and negatives are quite high. Although the total number of borderline cases is relatively low, the results showed that HLA-B27 alone lacks diagnostic accuracy, still requiring a combination of clinical and radiological indicators, and that borderline cases need to be confirmed by molecular diagnostic methods.

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## F Konične bolesti

F-01

### Evaluacija Sampsonove jednadžbe za izračun LDL-kolesterola u bolesnika sa šećernom bolešću tipa 2 i različitim stupnjevima hipertrigliceridemije

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**Uvod:** Hipertriglyceridemija je ključna komponenta dijabetičke dislipidemije. Nedavno uvedena Sampsonova jednadžba omogućuje pouzdan izračun LDL-kolesterola unutar dvostrukе granice triglicerida od tradicionalno korištene Friedewaldove jednadžbe (9,0 mmol/L naspram 4,5 mmol/L). Ovo istraživanje imalo je za cilj procijeniti Sampsonovu jednadžbu za izračun LDL-kolesterola u bolesnika s dijabetesom tipa 2 i različitim stupnjevima hipertriglyceridemije.

**Materijali i metode:** LDL-kolesterol u serumu određen je Sampsonovom jednadžbom u 306 ispitanika s dijabetesom tipa 2 (M/F = 199/58) i medijanom (raspon) triglicerida: 5,4 (0,73-9,0) mmol/L. Rezultati su uspoređeni pomoću dva postupka: 1) Friedewalдовom jednadžbom za uzorke s razinama triglicerida < 4,5 mmol/L i 2) neizravno, putem kolesterola

## F Chronic diseases

F-01

### Evaluation of the Sampson equation for calculating the LDL-cholesterol in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and various degrees of hypertriglyceridemia

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**Introduction:** Hypertriglyceridemia is the key component of diabetic dyslipidaemia. The recently introduced Sampson equation enables reliable calculation of LDL-cholesterol within the twofold triglyceride cut-off than the traditionally used Friedewald equation (9.0 vs. 4.5 mmol/L). This research aimed to evaluate the Sampson-equation for the calculation of LDL-cholesterol in patients with type 2 diabetes and various degrees of hypertriglyceridemia.

**Materials and methods:** Serum LDL-cholesterol was determined by the Sampson-equation in 306 subjects with type 2 diabetes (M/F = 199/58) and median (range) triglyceride levels: 5.4 (0.73-9.0) mmol/L. The results were compared by the two procedures: 1) Friedewald-equation for the samples

izmjereno nakon precipitacije VLDL čestica natrijevim dodecil-sulfatom (SDS-precipitacija), za uzorke trigliceridima u rasponu od 4,5-9,0 mmol/L. Analiza podataka provedena je pomoću MedCalc Statistical Software (v. 18.11.6, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Wilcoxon-ov test pokazao je da je LDL-kolesterol dobiven Sampsonovom jednadžbom minimalno, ali značajno niži od LDL-kolesterola dobivenog iz Friedewaldovom jednadžbom (srednja razlika = 0,07 mmol/L;  $P < 0,001$ ). Međutim, regresijska analiza pokazala je izvrsnu korelaciju bez konstantne ni proporcionalne razlike ( $y = -0,06 + 1,00x$ ; presjek A = -0,06, 95% CI: -0,13 do 0,00; nagib B = 1,00, 95% CI: 0,98 do 1,02; Spearmanov R 0,99). Srednja razlika između LDL-kolesterola dobivenog Sampsonovom jednadžbom i mjerenoj SDS-precipitacijom bila je veća i statistički značajna (0,63 mmol/L;  $P < 0,001$ ). Regresijska analiza pokazala je i konstantnu i proporcionalnu razliku, uz dobru korelaciju između metoda ( $y = -0,35 + 0,91x$ ; presjek A = -0,35, 95% CI: -0,49 do -0,21; nagib B = 0,91, 95% CI: 0,87 do 0,96; Spearmanov R = 0,91).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ovog istraživanja pokazali su izvrsnu podudarnost procijenjenog LDL-kolesterola između Sampsonove i Friedewaldove jednadžbe za uzorke s razinom triglicerida < 4,5 mmol/L. Međutim, u rasponu triglicerida između 4,5-9,0 mmol/L, LDL-kolesterol izведен iz Sampsonove jednadžbe bio je sustavno niži u usporedbi s SDS-precipitacijom. Potrebne su daljnje studije kako bi se procijenila primjenjivost Sampsonove jednadžbe u bolesnika s dijabetesom tipa 2 i hipertrigliceridemijom.

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with triglyceride levels < 4.5 mmol/L, and 2) indirectly, via cholesterol measured after precipitation of VLDL particles with sodium dodecyl-sulphate (SDS-precipitation), for the samples with triglyceride range between 4.5-9.0 mmol/L. Data analysis was carried out with the MedCalc Statistical Software (v. 18.11.6, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Wilcoxon-paired samples test revealed that LDL-cholesterol derived by the Sampson-equation was minimally, but significantly lower than the Friedewald-equation-derived LDL-cholesterol (median difference = 0.07 mmol/L;  $P < 0.001$ ). However, regression analysis showed an excellent correlation with neither constant nor proportional difference ( $y = -0.06 + 1.00x$ ; intercept A = -0.06, 95% CI: -0.13 to 0.00; slope B = 1.00, 95% CI: 0.98 to 1.02; Spearman's R 0.99). Median difference between the LDL-cholesterol derived by the Sampson-equation and measured with SDS-precipitation was higher, and statistically significant (0.63 mmol/L;  $P < 0.001$ ). The regression analysis showed both constant and proportional difference, with a good correlation between the methods ( $y = -0.35 + 0.91x$ ; intercept A = -0.35, 95% CI: -0.49 to -0.21; slope B = 0.91, 95% CI: 0.87 to 0.96; Spearman's R = 0.91).

**Conclusion:** Results of this research showed an excellent concordance of estimated LDL-cholesterol between Sampson- and Friedewald-equation for the samples with triglyceride levels < 4.5 mmol/L. However, in the triglyceride range between 4.5-9.0 mmol/L, Sampson-equation-derived LDL-cholesterol was systematically lower when compared to SDS-precipitation. Further studies are needed to evaluate the applicability of the Sampson equation in patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertriglyceridemia.

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**G Autoimune bolesti****G-01****Usporedba dviju metoda za određivanje autoantitijela na akvaporin 4**Ljiljana Zaninović, Željka Vogrinc, Ana Turčić

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**Uvod:** Spektar bolesti optičkog neuromijelitisa (NMOSD) su rijetke, autoimune, demijelinizacijske bolesti koje karakterizira postojanje specifičnih antitijela na akvaporin 4 (AQP4). Pozitivan nalaz anti-AQP4 antitijela jedan je od dijagnostičkih kriterija za NMOSD prema revidiranom konsenzusu Internacionallnog panela za dijagnozu NMO (IPND-NMOSD), pri čemu je preporučeno koristiti testove temeljene na stanicama transficiranim humanim AQP4 (CBA). Cilj rada je bio usporediti ranije korištenu komercijalnu ELISA metodu s jednom od preporučenih CBA metoda.

**Materijali i metode:** Preporučena CBA metoda s fiksiranim transficiranim stanicama i indirektnom imunofluorescencijom kao metodom detekcije (IIF-CBA) (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Njemačka) uspoređivana je s ELISA metodom (DLD Diagnostika GmbH, Njemačka) na uzorcima seruma pohranjenim na  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  nakon rutinske analize. Rezultati su prikazani kvalitativno kao negativni ili pozitivni. Podudarnost između testova izražena je kao kappa koeficijent (dozvoljena  $\kappa \geq 0,8$ ). Dijagnoza NMOSD je definirana prema kliničkim smjernicama IPND-NMOSD. ROC krivulja korištena je za analizu dijagnostičkih karakteristika testa, a McNemarov test za testiranje razlike osjetljivosti i specifičnosti metoda. Za statističku analizu korišten je program MedCalc (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgija).  $P < 0,05$  smatra se statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** Usporedivost je napravljena u 76 uzoraka pacijenata od kojih 28 ima NMOSD. ELISA metodom dobije se: 39 stvarno negativnih (SN), 25 stvarno pozitivnih (SP), 9 lažno pozitivnih (LP) i 3 lažno negativnih (LN) rezultata. IIF-CBA metodom dobije se: 47 SN, 23 SP, 1 LP i 5 LN rezultata. Podudarnost između testova iznosila je  $\kappa = 0,73$ . ROC krivuljom za ELISA metodu izračunata je osjetljivost od 88% (95% CI 71,7-97,6) i specifičnost od 81% (95% CI 67,4-91,0). Osjetljivost IIF-CBA metode iznosila je 82% (95% CI 63,1-

**G Autoimmune diseases****G-01****Comparison of two methods for the detection of autoantibodies to aquaporin 4**Ljiljana Zaninovic, Željka Vogrinc, Ana Turčić

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**Introduction:** Spectrum of optic neuromyelitis-like diseases (NMOSD) are rare, autoimmune, demyelinating diseases characterized by the existence of a specific antibody to aquaporin 4 (AQP4). Positive anti-AQP4 antibodies are one of the diagnostic criteria for NMOSD according to the revised consensus of the International Panel (IPND-NMOSD) which recommend the use of a cell-based assay (CBA). The aim was to compare the previously used ELISA method with the CBA method.

**Materials and methods:** The CBA method with fixed transfected cells and indirect immunofluorescence as a detection method (IIF-CBA) (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany) was compared using serum samples stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  after routine analysis with ELISA method (DLD Diagnostika, Germany). The results are presented as negative or positive. The concordance between the tests is expressed as the kappa coefficient (allowed  $\kappa \geq 0,8$ ). The ROC curve was used to analyse the diagnostic characteristics, and McNemar test was used to compare the sensitivities and specificities between methods. MedCalc was used for statistical analysis (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium).  $P < 0,05$  was statistically significant.

**Results:** The comparability study was performed in 76 patient samples of which 28 had NMOSD. For the ELISA method: 39 true negative (TN), 25 true positive (TP), 9 false positive (FP) and 3 false negative (FN) results were obtained. For the IIF-CBA method: 47 TN, 23 TP, 1 FP and 5 FN results were obtained. The agreement between the tests was  $\kappa = 0,73$ . The ROC curve for the ELISA method calculated a sensitivity of 88% (95% CI 71,7-97,6) and a specificity of 81% (95% CI 67,4-91,0). The sensitivity of the IIF-CBA method was 82% (95% CI 63,1-93,9) and the specificity was 98% (95% CI 88,9-99,9). Sensitivities and specificities were significantly different ( $P < 0,001$ ).

93,9), a specifičnost 98% (95% CI 88,9-99,9). Osjetljivost i specifičnost metoda su značajno različite ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** ELISA i IIF-CBA nisu usporedive metode. Iako je ELISA metoda osjetljivija, IIF-CBA je metoda izbora zbog veće dijagnostičke specifičnosti i stručnih preporuka.

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## G-02

### Ukupni imunoglobulin E kod bolesnika s atopijskim dermatitisom i astmom

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**Uvod:** Atopijski dermatitis (AD) i astma jesu bolesti s izrazito rastućom prevalencijom u modernom društvu čija očitovanja znatno utječu na kvalitetu života. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati postoji li razlika serumskih razine antitijela ukupnog imunoglobulina E (IgE) među bolesnicima s dijagnozom atopijskog dermatitisa i astme u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom bolesnika.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je uključilo 234 bolesnika s AD-om ili astmom te 234 kontrolnih ispitanika. Svima je u serumu određena koncentracija ukupnog IgE kemiluminiscencijskom imunokemijskom metodom na uređaju IMMULITE 2000 XPI (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Njemačka). Podaci o bolesnicima retrospektivno su uzimani iz Laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava BioNET LIS (IN2, Zagreb, Hrvatska). Normalnost raspodjele podataka ispitana je Shapiro-Wilk testom. Mann-Whitney test primjenjen je za ispitivanje statistički značajne razlike u koncentracijama ukupnog IgE u skupinama pacijenata s astmom i atopijskim dermatitisom u usporedbi s kontrolnom skupinom. Svi rezultati interpretirani su na razini statističke važnosti  $P < 0,05$ .

**Rezultati:** U usporedbi 234 pacijenta sa astmom ili AD-om s istim brojem kontrolnih pacijenata, median za koncentraciju IgE iznosio je 117,0 kIU/mL

**Conclusion:** ELISA and IIF-CBA are not comparable methods. The IIF-CBA method is the method of choice due to the greater diagnostic specificity and current recommendations.

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## G-02

### Total immunoglobulin E in patients with atopic dermatitis and asthma

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**Introduction:** Atopic dermatitis (AD) and asthma have a markedly increasing prevalence in modern society, their manifestations significantly affecting life quality. The aim of this study was to assess the difference in serum levels of total immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies among patients diagnosed with AD and asthma compared with control patients.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 234 patients with AD or asthma and 234 control subjects. Serum concentration of IgE was determined by chemiluminescence immunochemical method on IMMULITE 2000 XPI analyser (Siemens Healthcare, Marburg, Germany). Patient data were retrospectively taken from the BioNET LIS Laboratory Information System (IN2, Zagreb, Croatia). Data distribution normality was examined using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Mann-Whitney test was applied to examine a statistically significant difference in IgE concentrations between patients with asthma and AD compared to the control group,  $P < 0,05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** Compared to 234 patients with asthma or AD with the same number of control patients, the median IgE concentration was 117,0 kIU/mL (interquartile range (IQR): 87,2-153,9), and for the control group 44,4 kIU/mL (IQR: 12,4-133,0),  $P < 0,001$ . In 152

(interkvartilni raspon (IQR): 87,2-153,9), a za kontrolnu skupinu 44,4 kIU/mL (IQR: 12,4-133,0), uz  $P < 0,001$ . Kod 152 pacijenta s astmom medijan koncentracije tlgE bio je 130,5 kIU/mL (IQR: 97,4- 177,3), a za kontrolnu skupinu istog broja pacijenata 49,4 kIU/mL (IQR: 31,6-68,4), uz  $P < 0,001$ . U skupini od 82 pacijenta s AD-om medijan za koncentraciju tlgE bio je 80,5 kIU/mL (IQR: 15,1-649,0), a za isti broj kontrolnih pacijenata 38,4 kIU/mL (IQR: 9,0-134,0), dok je  $P = 0,023$ .

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati pokazali su da je kod bolesnika s AD-om ili astmom viša serumska koncentracije ukupnoga IgE u odnosu na kontrolnu skupinu ispitanika. Značenje ovih rezultata u neposrednoj je vezi s činjenicom da su alergijske bolesti češće u osoba s AD-om i astmom nego u ostaku populacije.

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patients with asthma, the median tlgE concentration was 130.5 kIU/mL (IQR: 97.4-177.3), and for the control group of the same number of patients 49.4 kIU/mL (IQR: 31.6-68.4),  $P < 0.001$ . In the group of 82 patients with AD, the tlgE concentration median was 80.5 kIU/mL (IQR: 15.1-649.0), and for the same number of control patients 38.4 kIU/mL (IQR: 9.0-134.0),  $P = 0.023$ .

**Conclusion:** The obtained results indicate that in patients with AD or asthma the serum concentrations of tlgE were higher compared to the control group of subjects. This finding points out that allergic diseases are more common in people with AD and asthma than in the rest of the population.

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### G-03 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Učinkovitost kombinacije indirektne imunofluorescencije (IIF) i probirnog testa na čvrstoj podlozi kao testa prve linije u detekciji antinuklearnih antitijela (ANA)

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**Uvod:** Prethodni algoritam za detekciju antinuklearnih antitijela (ANA) s indirektnom imunofluorescencijom (IIF) na HEp-2 stanicama kao testom prve linije, nakon čega su slijedili testovi potvrde u slučaju titra  $\geq 1:160$ , zamijenili smo kombinacijom IIF i ENA7-probirnog kemiluminiscentnog testa, nakon čega slijedi potvrđni test za pojedinačna antitijela u slučaju pozitivnog ENA7-probirnog testa. Cilj istraživanja bio je ocijeniti novi algoritam.

### G-03 (Oral presentation)

#### The efficiency of the combination of indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) and solid-based screen assay as the first-line test for detection of antinuclear antibodies (ANA)

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**Introduction:** We changed our antinuclear antibodies (ANA) detection algorithm from indirect immunofluorescence (ANA-IIF) on HEp-2 cells as the first-line test followed by confirmation assays in case of  $\geq 1:160$  titer, with the combination of IIF and ENA7-screen chemiluminescence assay (CIA), followed by confirmation assays for individual antibodies in case of positive ENA7-screen assay. The aim of the study was to evaluate the new algorithm.

**Materijali i metode:** Retrospektivna analiza uključila je 5282 uzorka (od veljače 2019. do veljače 2021.) s rezultatima ANA i ENA. Za ANA-IIF korišten je IIFT: HEp-2 test (Euroimmun, Luebeck, Njemačka), a za ENA7-probir (uključuje antigene: Sm, RNP, SS-A, Ro52/TRIM21, SS-B, Scl-70, Jo-1) i pojedinačna antitijela, QUANTA Flash CIA (sve Inova Diagnostics, SAD, na Bio-Flash analizatoru, Biokit, Španjolska). Pozitivan nalaz ostalih antitijela osim SS-A, Ro-52 i Jo-1 dodatno je provjeren, kada je to bilo moguće, linjskim imunotestom (LIA) koji uključuje antigene: Sm, RNP/Sm, SS-A, Ro52/TRIM21, SS-B, Scl-70, PM-Scl, Jo-1, CENP-B, PCNA, dsDNA, nukleosomi, histoni, ribosom P-protein, AMA-M2 (Euroimmun Luebeck, Njemačka).

**Rezultati:** Od 5282 uzorka, 124 (2,3%) bismo propustili s prethodnim algoritmom: 77 ANA negativnih/ENA7 pozitivnih i 47 ANA graničnih (1: 100)/ENA7 pozitivnih. Od 77 ANA negativnih/ENA7 pozitivnih uzoraka, 22 su bila pozitivna na: anti-SS-A (7), anti-Scl-70 (6), anti-Ro52 (5), anti-Jo-1 (2), anti-Sm (2) antitijela. Od 47 ANA graničnih/ENA7 pozitivnih, 33 je bilo pozitivno: anti-Ro-52 (13), anti-SS-A (11), anti-Scl-70 (3), anti-Sm (3), anti-RNP (1), anti-SS-B (2) antitijela. Osam uzoraka pozitivnih na anti-Sm, anti-Scl ili anti-RNP testirano je s LIA i bili su negativni u 5 i granični u 3 slučaja.

**Zaključak:** Očekivano, najčešće pozitivna antitijela su anti-SS-A i anti-Ro52. U kontekstu kliničkih podataka, rezultata ANA-IIF i LIA, čini se da je CIA manje specifična za anti-Sm, anti-Scl-70 i anti-RNP. Novi algoritam poboljšao je osjetljivost za anti-SS-A, anti-Ro52 i anti-Jo-1 antitijela, ali dovodi do dodatnih troškova zbog niže specifičnosti CIA-e.

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**Materials and methods:** The retrospective analysis included data from 5282 samples (February 2019 to February 2021) with ANA and ENA results. ANA-IIF was performed using IIFT:HEp-2 assay (Euroimmun, Luebeck, Germany), while ENA7-screen (includes antigens: Sm, RNP, SS-A, Ro52/TRIM21, SS-B, Scl-70, Jo-1) and individual antibodies with QUANTA Flash CIA (all Inova Diagnostics, USA on Bio-Flash analyser, Biokit, Spain). Positivity other than SS-A, Ro-52, and Jo-1 were checked, when possible, with line immunoassay (LIA) including antigens: Sm, RNP/Sm, SS-A, Ro52/TRIM21, SS-B, Scl-70, PM-Scl, Jo-1, CENP-B, PCNA, dsDNA, nucleosomes, histones, ribosome P-protein, AMA-M2 (Euroimmun Luebeck, Germany).

**Results:** Out of 5282 samples, 124 (2.3%) would be missed with the previous algorithm: 77 ANA negative/ENA7 positive and 47 ANA borderline (1:100)/ENA7 positive. Out of 77 ANA negative/ENA7 positive samples, 22 were positive for: anti-SS-A (7), anti-Scl-70 (6), anti-Ro52 (5), anti-Jo-1 (2), anti-Sm (2) antibodies. Out of 47 ANA borderline positive/ENA7 positive, 33 were positive: anti-Ro-52 (13), anti-SS-A (11), anti-Scl-70 (3), anti-Sm (3), anti-RNP (1), anti-SS-B (2) antibodies. Eight samples positive for anti-Sm, anti-Scl70, or anti-RNP were tested with LIA and were negative in 5 and borderline in 3 cases.

**Conclusion:** As expected, anti-SS-A and anti-Ro52 were the most frequent positivity. In the context of clinical data, ANA-IIF, and LIA results, CIA seems to be less specific for anti-Sm, anti-Scl-70, and anti-RNP. The new algorithm improved the sensitivity of anti-SS-A, anti-Ro52, and anti-Jo-1 antibodies, but produced additional costs due to the lower specificity of CIA.

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#### G-04

#### Korištenje dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* testa za potvrdu prisutnosti protutijela na dsDNA

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#### G-04

#### Confirmation testing for dsDNA antibodies using dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* test

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**Uvod:** Protutijela na dvolančanu DNA (dsDNA) koriste se kao dijagnostički i prognostički biljež za sistemski eritemski lupus (SLE), a povišene vrijednosti protutijela na dsDNA često prethode kliničkom pogoršanju tijeka bolesti. Nova Lite dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* je test u kojem se koristi metoda indirektne imunofluorescencije (IIF) na supstratu jednostaničnog organizma *Crithidia luciliae* koji sadrži mitohondrij (kinetoplast) u kojem se nalazi kružna dsDNA te je visoko specifičan za detekciju antitijela na dsDNA. Test je korišten u svrhu dokazivanja prisutnosti protutijela na dsDNA za uzorce kod kojih metodom IIF na HEp-2 (eng. *human epithelial carcinoma cells*) stanicama nije utvrđen homogeni tip fluorescencije jezgre (AC-1), a Luminex metodom je izmjerena povišena koncentracija antitijela na dsDNA. Cilj ovog rada je ispitati koliko je uzoraka kojima je napravljeno refleksno testiranje imalo dokazana antitijela na dsDNA metodom IIF na supstratu *Crithidia luciliae* te kod kojih dijagnoza pacijenata.

**Materijali i metode:** U promatranom razdoblju od 14 mjeseci u Odjelu za laboratorijsku imunologiju obrađeno je 212 uzoraka pacijenata Nova Lite dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* testom (Werfen, Bedford, SAD). U uzorcima su metodom IIF određena antinuklearna antitijela na supstratu HEp-2 stanica (Euroimmun, Lubeck, Njemačka). Uzorci su testirani i FIDIS Connective Luminex metodom (Theradiag, Croissy Beauborg, Francuska) kojom su među ostalim antitijelima koja se određuju kvantitativno određena i antitijela na dsDNA.

**Rezultati:** Od 212 obrađenih uzoraka, 66 (31%) bilo je pozitivno na antitijela na dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae*. Najčešće pozitivan rezultat nađen je kod pacijenata koji u dijagnozi imaju SLE kao samostalnu bolest (29; 0,44) ili SLE u kombinaciji s drugim bolestima vezivnog tkiva (15; 0,23).

**Zaključak:** Metodom IIF na dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* potvrđeno je 31% uzoraka u kojima su stvarno prisutna protutijela na dsDNA što predstavlja ključnu informaciju liječnicima za postavljanje ispravne dijagnoze i praćenje tijeka bolesti. Očekivano, najviše pozitivnih uzoraka je kod pacijenata s dijagnozom SLE te kod SLE u kombinaciji s drugim bolestima vezivnog tkiva.

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**Introduction:** Double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) antibodies are used as a diagnostic and prognostic marker for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Elevated levels of dsDNA antibodies often precede clinical worsening of the disease symptoms. The Nova Lite dsDNA *Crithidia luciliae* is an indirect immunofluorescent (IIF) assay employing the single-celled organism *Crithidia luciliae* as a substrate containing mitochondria (kinetoplast) with circular dsDNA and is highly specific for the detection of dsDNA antibodies. The test was used to detect the presence of dsDNA antibodies for samples with elevated dsDNA antibodies concentration measured by Luminex method, but without detection of homogeneous type of nuclear fluorescence (AC-1) by IIF HEp-2 (*human epithelial carcinoma cells*) method. The aim of this study was to examine the number of samples proven positive for dsDNA antibodies by the Nova Lite dsDNA test and to examine which diagnosis is the most common in patients with positive IIF *Crithidia luciliae* test.

**Materials and methods:** In 14-month period in the Department of Laboratory Immunology, 212 samples were tested using Nova Lite dsDNA test (Werfen, Bedford, USA). IIF method with HEp-2 cell substrate (Euroimmun, Lubeck, Germany) was used for determination of antinuclear antibodies. The samples were also tested using the FIDIS Connective Luminex method (Theradiag, Croissy Beauborg, France) for quantification of dsDNA antibodies.

**Results:** Sixty-six samples (31%) were positive for dsDNA antibodies using Nova Lite dsDNA test. Majority of positive samples were found in patients diagnosed with SLE as a single disease (29; 0.44) or SLE in combination with other connective tissue diseases (15; 0.23).

**Conclusion:** The Nova Lite dsDNA test confirmed 31% of the samples in which dsDNA antibodies were actually present, which is important information for physicians in making diagnosis and monitoring the activity of the disease. As expected, the majority of positive samples were found in patients diagnosed with SLE and with SLE in combination with other connective tissue diseases.

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**G-05**

## **Model praćenja imunološke terapije protočnom citometrijom u liječenju multiple skleroze**

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**Uvod:** Multipla sklerozu (MS) je demijelinizirajuća kronična bolest karakterizirana upalnim i degenerativnim procesima u središnjem živčanom sustavu. Imunološki sustav ima glavnu ulogu u patologiji i regulatornim mehanizmima bolesti, stoga su limfociti i njihove subpopulacije, kao jedni od ključnih imunoloških stanica, u fokusu mnogih istraživanja. Novi terapijski pristup kod bolesnika sa MS-om uključuje monoklonalno anti-CD20 protutijelo (Ocrelizumab), usmjereni na membranski biljeg CD20. Biljeg CD20 je specifičan za B-limfocite, ali je eksprimiran i na manjoj populaciji T-limfocita. Svega 2% CD20-pozitivnih T-limfocita prisutno je u zdravoj populaciji. CD20-pozitivni T-limfociti su izrazito aktivirani i odgovorni za lučenje proupalnih citokina. Djelovanje imunoterapije prati se metodom protočne citometrije kojom se određuje udio preostalih CD20-pozitivnih B-limfocita, ali ne i CD20-pozitivnih T-limfocita. Ovdje smo analizirali promjene svih CD20-pozitivnih subpopulacija limfocita nakon terapije.

**Materijali i metode:** Metodom protočne citometrije određene su subpopulacije limfocita u krvi pacijenta s MS-om prije i poslije terapije Ocrelizumabom, na citometru FACSCalibur (BD, Njemačka). Primjenjen je protokol direktnog površinskog bojanja pri čemu su korištena sljedeća antitijela obilježena fluorokromom: antiCD45-PerCP-Cy5.5, antiCD3-FITC, antiCD19-PE, antiCD20-APC i izotipska kontrola (BD Biosciences). U softveru CellQuest na ogradi svih CD45+limfocita analizirani su udjeli (%) B-limfocita, T-limfocita, CD20+B-limfocita i CD20+T-limfocita.

**Rezultati:** Rezultati analize prije terapije pokazali su da CD20+T-limfociti čine 4.7% svih T-limfocita, a CD20+B-limfociti čine 100% svih B-limfocita. Zatim, 34.8% ukupnih CD20+ stanica su T-limfociti, a 65.2% ukupnih CD20+ stanica su B-limfociti. Nakon imunoterapije očekivano je došlo do potpunog nedostat-

**G-05**

## **Model of monitoring immunotherapy by flow cytometry in the treatment of multiple sclerosis**

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**Introduction:** Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a demyelinating chronic disease characterized by inflammatory and degenerative processes in central nervous system. The immune system plays a major role in the pathology and regulatory mechanisms of disease, so various immune cells, such as lymphocytes, have been the subject of numerous studies. New immunotherapy includes the use of Ocrelizumab, a monoclonal antibody that targets CD20 surface antigen specific for B-cells. The CD20 antigen is expressed on a small population of T-cells as well (~2% in a healthy population). CD20+T-cells are highly activated and responsible for the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines. The effect of immunotherapy is monitored by flow cytometry, which determines the proportion of remaining CD20+B cells, but not T-cells. Here, we analysed changes in both CD20-positive lymphocyte subpopulations after therapy.

**Materials and methods:** Subpopulations of lymphocytes in the blood of MS patient before and after Ocrelizumab therapy, were determined by flow cytometry using FACSCalibur cytometer (BD, Germany). A direct surface staining protocol was performed using the following fluorochrome-labelled antibodies: antiCD45-PerCP-Cy5.5, antiCD3-FITC, antiCD19-PE, antiCD20-APC and isotype control (BD). In CellQuest software, the gate was set on all CD45+lymphocytes and the percentages (%) of B-cells, T-cells, CD20+B-cells and CD20+T-cells were analysed.

**Results:** The results of analysis before therapy showed that 4.7% of all T-cells and 100% of all B-cells were CD20-positive. Also, 34.8% of total CD20+cells were T-cells and 65.2% were B-cells. As expected, after immunotherapy, complete lack of CD20+B-cells (0%) and significant reduction in CD20+T-cells (0.7%) were found.

ka CD20+B-limfocita (0%) i značajnog smanjenja ekspresije CD20 na T-limfocitima (0.7%).

**Zaključak:** Rezultati su sukladni dosadašnjim istraživanjima, te su pokazali da je udio CD20+T-limfocita veći kod pacijenata s MS-om u odnosu na zdravu populaciju. Potvrđeno je da imunoterapija utječe na smanjenje populacije CD20+B-limfocita, ali i CD20+T-limfocita. Na ovom modelu pokazana je korisnost protočne citometrije u praćenju imunoterapije za MS, no potrebno je nova saznanja o modulatornim učincima ovakve imunoterapije iskoristiti za proširenje postojećih dijagnostičkih panela.

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**Conclusion:** Consistent with previous research, the results showed a higher rate of CD20+T-cells in MS patients, compared to the healthy population. Results confirmed that immunotherapy reduces the population of CD20+B-cells, but also CD20+T-cells. This model demonstrates the usefulness of flow cytometry in monitoring MS immunotherapy, but new insights into the modulatory effects of such immunotherapy should be used to extend existing diagnostic panels.

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## H Nutricija

### H-01

#### Identifikacija funkcionalnog nedostatka vitamina D istovremenim mjeranjem 25(OH)D i 24,25(OH)2D sa LC-MS/MS

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**Uvod:** Moderne LC-MS/MS metode sposobne su istovremeno mjeriti više metabolita vitamina D. Određivanje 25(OH)D, 24,25(OH)2D3 i omjera metabolita vitamina D (VMR) omogućuje funkcionalnu procjenu statusa vitamina D kod pacijenata. To može pomoći u prepoznavanju pacijenata s funkcionalnim nedostatkom vitamina D, za koje je vjerojatno da će imati koristi od suplementacije vitaminom D.

**Materijali i metode:** Status vitamina D i metabolizam kostiju mjereni su u skupini od 2010 austrijskih darivatelja krvi. 25(OH)D3, 25(OH)D2 i 24,25(OH)2D3 izmjereni su validiranom in-house metodom LC-MS/

## H Nutrition

### H-01

#### Identification of functional vitamin D deficiency through the simultaneous measurement of 25(OH)D and 24,25(OH)2D by LC-MS/MS

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**Introduction:** Modern LC-MS/MS methods are capable of measuring multiple vitamin D metabolites simultaneously. Determining 25(OH)D, 24,25(OH)2D3 and the vitamin D metabolite ratio (VMR) allows a functional assessment of patients' vitamin D status. This may help to identify patients with functional vitamin D deficiency, which are likely to benefit from vitamin D supplementation.

**Materials and methods:** Vitamin D status and bone metabolism were assessed in a cohort of 2010 Austrian blood donors. 25(OH)D3, 25(OH)D2 and 24,25(OH)2D3 were measured by a validated in-hou-

MS. VMR je izračunat kako slijedi:  $(24,25(\text{OH})\text{D}3 / 25(\text{OH})\text{D}3) \times 100$ . Paratiroidni hormon (PTH), prokollagen-N-terminalni peptid (P1NP) i beta-CrossLaps (CTX) mjereni su komercijalnim imunotestovima (Roche Diagnostics, Švicarska). Rezultati su korišteni za usporedbu ovih koštanih markera u sudionika sa i bez koncentracije 24,25(OH)2D3 od  $< 3 \text{ nmol/L}$  i VMR  $< 4\%$ .

**Rezultati:** Srednja koncentracija 25(OH)D3 bila je 66,2 nmol/L. Od 2010 sudionika, 1254 je imalo koncentraciju 25(OH)D ispod 75 nmol/L. Od njih, samo 73 osobe su ispunile kriterij funkcionalnog nedostatka vitamina D. Metabolizam kostiju bio je značajno ubrzan u osoba s funkcionalnim nedostatkom vitamina D u usporedbi s onima bez: PTH 33,9 (IQR 25,8-49,0) vs. 28,1 (IQR 21,5-35,4) pg/mL ( $P < 0,001$ ), P1NP 54,9 (IQR 44,8-75,6) vs. 48,4 (IQR 37,2-64,2) ng/mL ( $P = 0,002$ ), CTX 0,25 (IQR 0,17-0,31) vs. 0,21 ng/mL (IQR 0,15-0,30) ( $P = 0,100$ ). U osoba s niskim 25(OH)D, ali bez dokaza funkcionalnog nedostatka vitamina, metabolizam kostiju bio je usporediv s onima s dovoljnom koncentracijom 25(OH)D od  $\geq 75 \text{ nmol/L}$  unatoč maloj, ali značajnoj razlici u PTH.

**Zaključak:** Niske koncentracije primarnog metabolita vitamina D 24,25(OH)2D3 u kombinaciji s niskim VMR-om povezane su s suboptimalnim metabolismom kostiju što ukazuje na funkcionalni nedostatak vitamina D. Međutim, samo podskupina osoba s niskom koncentracijom 25(OH)D ispunjava kriterije za funkcionalni nedostatak vitamina i stoga će vjerojatno imati koristi od suplementacije vitaminom D.

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se LC-MS/MS method. VMR was calculated as follows:  $(24,25(\text{OH})\text{D}3 / 25(\text{OH})\text{D}3) \times 100$ . Parathyroid hormone (PTH), procollagen-N-terminal-peptide (P1NP) and beta-CrossLaps (CTX) were measured by commercial immunoassays (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland). The results were used to compare these bone markers in participants with and without 24,25(OH)2D3 concentrations  $< 3 \text{ nmol/L}$  and a VMR  $< 4\%$ .

**Results:** The median 25(OH)D3 concentration was 66.2 nmol/L. From 2010 participants, 1254 had 25(OH)D concentrations below 75 nmol/L. From these individuals, only 73 individuals fulfilled the criterion for functional vitamin D deficiency. Bone turnover was significantly accelerated in individuals with functional vitamin D deficiency when compared to those without: PTH 33.9 (IQR 25.8-49.0) vs. 28.1 (IQR 21.5-35.4) pg/mL ( $P < 0.001$ ), P1NP 54.9 (IQR 44.8-75.6) vs. 48.4 (IQR 37.2-64.2) ng/mL ( $P = 0.002$ ), CTX 0.25 (IQR 0.17-0.31) vs. 0.21 ng/mL (IQR 0.15-0.30) ( $P = 0.100$ ). In individuals with low 25(OH)D, but no evidence of functional vitamin deficiency, bone metabolism was comparable to those with sufficient 25(OH)D concentrations of  $\geq 75 \text{ nmol/L}$  despite a small but significant PTH difference.

**Conclusion:** Low concentrations of the primary vitamin D catabolite 24,25(OH)2D3 in combination with a low VMR is associated with suboptimal bone metabolism suggesting functional vitamin D deficiency. However, only a subgroup of individuals with low 25(OH)D concentrations meets the criteria for functional vitamin deficiency and is thus likely to benefit from vitamin D supplementation.

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**I Infektivne bolesti i COVID-19****I-01**

**Praćenje dinamike koncentracije SARS-CoV-2 IgG antitijela nakon cijepljenja osoba koje su preboljele COVID-19**

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**Uvod:** Preboljenjem COVID-19 osobe imaju razvijen imunološki odgovor i hipoteza je da će nakon cijepljenja protiv COVID-19 u tih osoba porast antitijela biti brz i snažan. Nije poznato kako se koncentracija antitijela održava nakon toga, pa je cilj istraživanja utvrditi dinamiku koncentracija SARS-CoV-2 IgG antitijela kod osoba koje su preboljele COVID-19 te potom cijepljene s 2 doze cjepiva.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitanici su zdravstveni djelatnici koji su preboljeli COVID-19 te potom cijepljeni protiv COVID-19. Uzorak krvi uzet je u četiri vremenske točke: neposredno prije prve doze cjepiva, deset dana nakon prve doze cjepiva, neposredno prije druge doze cjepiva te deset dana nakon druge doze cjepiva. Uzorci su centrifugirani 30 minuta na 3000 o/min, serumi alikvotirani te čuvani na -40 °C i testirani u istoj seriji CMIA metodom, reagensom Abbott Architect SARS-CoV-2 IgG II Quant (Cut-off = 50 AU/mL). Podaci pokazuju da je veličina učinka takva da se uz  $\alpha = 0,05$  postiže snaga testa 0,80 sa 10 uzoraka. Zbog malog broja uzoraka normalnost raspodjele utvrđena je histogramom. Dob je izražena kao median (min-max). Rezultati koncentracije SARS-CoV-2 IgG izraženi su kao median (IQR). Razlika između pojedinih skupina rezultata testirana je Friedman testom (post-hoc Wilcoxon test). Razina statističke značajnosti je  $P < 0,05$ . Statistička analiza učinjena je uz pomoć MedCalc softvera 12.7.0.0 (Mariakerke, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** U 10 uzoraka ispitanika (7 žena) u dobi 47 godina (26-57) postoji statistički značajna razlika između koncentracija SARS-CoV-2 IgG u svim kombinacijama ispitivanih skupina ( $P = 0,020$ ), osim između skupine 2 i 4 ( $P = 0,492$ ). Od prve do četvrte skupine koncentracija SARS-CoV-2 IgG (AU/mL) je iznosila: 474 (230-2520), 23711 (16806-30366), 7047 (6115-14696) i 26952 (18944-46649).

**I Infectious diseases and COVID-19****I-01**

**SARS-CoV-2 IgG dynamics in persons who were COVID-19 vaccinated after recovery from COVID-19**

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**Introduction:** During COVID-19 infection a person's immune system learn how to react and is hypothesized that after COVID-19 vaccination these persons' antibody rise would be fast and strong. It is not known how antibody concentration would be maintained afterwards so the aim is to assess the dynamics of the SARS-CoV-2 IgG concentration after the post Covid vaccination.

**Materials and methods:** Subjects were health-workers who had COVID-19 and vaccinated twice afterwards. Blood was taken at four periods: just before first vaccination, ten days after first vaccination, just before second vaccination and ten days after second vaccination. Samples were centrifuged 30 minutes at 3000 rpm, sera were aliquoted, kept at -40 °C and tested in the same run with the CMIA method - Abbott Architect SARS-CoV-2 IgG II Quant (Cut-off = 50 AU/mL). Power analysis showed that the size effect was such that with sample size of 10 and  $\alpha = 0.05$  a power of 0.80 would be obtained. Due to small sample size, normality was assessed using the histogram. Age was expressed as median (min-max). Results of SARS-CoV-2 IgG concentration were expressed as median (IQR). Difference between groups was tested with the Friedman test (post hoc Wilcoxon test). The level of statistical significance was set as  $P < 0.05$ . Statistical analysis was performed by using MedCalc software 12.7.0.0 (Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Results:** There was a statistically significant difference in 10 subjects (7 females) aged 47 years (26-57) in SARS-CoV-2 IgG concentration in all groups combinations ( $P = 0.020$ ) except for the second and fourth group ( $P = 0.492$ ). SARS-CoV-2 IgG (AU/mL) concentrations from first to fourth group were 474 (230-2520), 23711 (16,806-30,366), 7047 (6115-14,696) and 26,952 (18,944-46,649), respectively.

**Zaključak:** Kod osoba koje su preboljele COVID-19 prije cijepljenja, koncentracija SARS-CoV-2 IgG antitijela ima veći porast nakon prve nego nakon druge doze cjepiva, no koncentracija antitijela brzo pada i nema razlike u koncentraciji antitijela nakon prve i druge doze cjepiva.

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**Conclusion:** Persons who were vaccinated after the COVID-19 recovery developed higher SARS-CoV-2 IgG concentrations after the first than the second vaccination, but antibody concentration dropped fast and there was no difference between these concentrations.

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## I-02

### Analitička i klinička evaluacija četiri serološka testa za SARS-CoV-2 – obaveza laboratorija

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**Uvod:** Tijekom pandemije korona virusa (SARS-CoV-2), mnogo seroloških testova postalo je komercijalno dostupno u kratkom vremenu, međutim većina njih nije verificirana na specifičnim populacijama. Cilj ovog istraživanja je evaluacija analitičke nepreciznosti i kliničkih karakteristika četiri serološka testa za SARS-CoV-2 u našoj populaciji.

**Materijali i metode:** Proveli smo verifikaciju dva kvalitativna i dva kvantitativna testa - COV2T i sCOVG na analizatoru Atellica IM1300 (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany); Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 i Anti-SARS-CoV-2S na analizatoru Cobas e601 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany). Prema smjernicama CLSI EP15, nepreciznost (ponovljivost i ukupna nepreciznost) je verificirana na komercijalnim kontrolnim materijalima. Dijagnostička točnost je ispitana na 141 sudionika u usporedbi sa zlatnim standardom,

## I-02

### Analytical and clinical evaluation of four SARC-CoV-2 serological assays - imperative for laboratories

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**Introduction:** During the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), many serological assays rapidly became commercially available, but most remain unverified on specific populations. We aimed to evaluate the analytical precision and clinical performance of four serological assays for SARS-CoV-2 in our population.

**Materials and methods:** We performed verification of two qualitative and two quantitative assays - COV2T and sCOVG measured on Atellica IM1300 by Siemens (Erlangen, Germany); Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 and Anti-SARS-CoV-2S measured on Cobas e601 by Roche Diagnostics (Mannheim, Germany), respectively. According to CLSI EP15 guidelines, precision (within-run, day-to-day) was evaluated on commercial control materials. Diagnostic accuracy was investigated on 141 participants in comparison

RT-PCR-om. Sudionici su kategorizirani u skupine: A (PCR-negativni), B (PCR-pozitivni, asimptomatski), C (PCR-pozitivni, bez respiratornih simptoma), D (PCR-pozitivni, sa respiratornim simptomima), E (PCR-negativni, cijepljeni). Kriteriji prihvatljivosti temeljeni su na specifikacijama proizvođača. Normalnost razdoblje ispitana je Kolmogorov-Smirnov testom, a značajnost razlike između skupina ispitana je Wilcoxon-testom ( $\alpha = 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** Nepreciznost nije zadovoljila kriterije prihvatljivosti za COV2T (ponovljivost KV = 4,7%; ukupna nepreciznost KV = 6,0%), Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 (ponovljivost KV = 1,9%; ukupna nepreciznost KV = 5,0%), Anti-SARS-CoV-2S (ponovljivost KV = 1,3%; ukupna nepreciznost KV = 2,4%) u pozitivnoj kontroli; te Anti-SARS-CoV-2S (ponovljivost KV = 2,7%) u negativnoj kontroli. Prema RT-PCR-u, 25% sudionika je bilo negativno za SARS-CoV-2 (A), 55% pozitivno (B, C, D) i 20% cijepljeno (E). U skupini A, specifičnost svih testova je bila 94,4% (CI: 81,3-99,3%). U skupinama B-E, Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2S je bio najosjetljiviji (87,0% (CI: 77,4-93,6%)), dok je osjetljivost Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2 bila 83,1% (CI: 72,9-90,7%); COV2T 84,2% (CI: 74,0-91,6%); i sCOVG 71,1% (CI: 59,5-80,9%). Postoji statistički značajna razlika ( $P < 0,001$ ) u medijanima antitijela između svih skupina mjerenih kvantitativnim testom, osim u skupini B ( $P = 0,557$ ) u kojoj su sva četiri testa pokazala najmanju osjetljivost (u rasponu: 30% (CI: 6,7-65,3%) do 50% (CI: 18,7-81,3%)).

**Zaključak:** Samo jedan serološki test (sCOVG) je zadovoljio kriterije proizvođača za nepreciznost. Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2S je pokazao najveću dijagnostičku točnost, ali nijedan od četiri evaluiranih testova nije zadovoljio kriterije proizvođača u našoj populaciji.

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with the gold standard, RT-PCR. Participants were categorized into groups: A (PCR-negative), B (PCR-positive, asymptomatic), C (PCR-positive without respiratory symptoms), D (PCR-positive with respiratory symptoms), and E (PCR-negative-vaccinated). Acceptance criteria were based on manufacturers' specifications. Data distribution was tested with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and differences between groups were tested with Wilcoxon-test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

**Results:** Precision exceeded acceptance criteria for COV2T (within-run CV = 4.7%; day-to-day CV = 6.0%), Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 (within-run CV = 1.9%; day-to-day CV = 5.0%), Anti-SARS-CoV-2S (within-run CV = 1.3%; day-to-day CV = 2.4%) in positive-control; and Anti-SARS-CoV-2S (within-run CV = 2.7%) in negative-control. According to RT-PCR, 25% of participants were negative for SARS-CoV-2 (A), 55% positive (B, C, D) and 20% vaccinated (E). In group A, specificity for all assays was 94.4% (CI: 81.3-99.3%). In groups B-E, Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2S showed highest sensitivity (87.0% (CI: 77.4-93.6%)), while Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2 showed sensitivity 83.1% (CI: 72.9-90.7%); COV2T 84.2% (CI: 74.0-91.6%); and sCOVG 71.1% (CI: 59.5-80.9%). There was statistically significant difference ( $P < 0.001$ ) in median values of antibodies among all groups measured quantitatively, except in group B ( $P = 0.557$ ) in which all four assays showed poor sensitivity (range: 30% (CI: 6.7-65.3%) to 50% (CI: 18.7-81.3%)).

**Conclusion:** Only one serological assay (sCOVG) met manufacturer's criteria for precision. Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV2S showed best diagnostic accuracy, but none of the four evaluated assays met manufacturers' criteria for our population.

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## I-03

**"Atellica COVID-19 severity" algoritam u ranoj prognozi teških oblika COVID-19 bolesti**

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**Uvod:** Siemens Healthineers je razvio "Atellica COVID-19 severity" algoritam koji predviđa vjerojatnost potrebe za invazivnom mehaničkom ventilacijom, multiorgansko zatajenje i smrtni ishod u 30 dana hospitalizacije. Algoritam uključuje dob i devet labortorijskih biljega koji reflektiraju funkcije i procese različitih organskih sustava (broj limfocita i eozinofila, kreatinin, laktat dehidrogenaza, troponin I, C-reaktivni protein, feritin, D-dimeri i protrombinsko vrijeme, PV-INR). Cilj naše studije je evaluirati prognoističku točnost "Atellica COVID-19 severity" algoritma.

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanje je uključeno 30 bolesnika sa blagom i srednje teškom COVID-19 bolesti hospitaliziranih na Klinici za infektivne bolesti te 70 bolesnika sa teškom i kritičnom COVID-19 bolesti koji su bili hospitalizirani u Respiracijskom centru. COVID-19 potvrđen je PCR testom. Težina bolesti klasificirana je prema WHO smjernicama. Uzorci krvi uzorkovani su u trenutku prijema u bolnicu. Hemato-loški parametri određeni su na hematološkom brojaču Sysmex XN-2000 (Sysmex Corporation, Japan). Biokemijski parametri određeni su na biokemijskom analizatoru Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter, USA), osim troponina I koji je određen na biokemijskom analizatoru Dimension ExL (Siemens Healthineers, Njemačka). Koagulacijske pretrage određene su na koagulometru BCS XP (Siemens Healthineers, Njemačka). Bolesnici su praćeni sve do otpusta s liječenja ili smrtnog ishoda. Prognostička točnost algoritma određena je ROC analizom.

**Rezultati:** Algoritam je pokazao prognostičku osjetljivost od 94% (95% CI 86-98) te specifičnost od 44% (95% CI 23-66) za potrebu za potpomognutom ven-

## I-03

**Atellica COVID-19 severity algorithm in early prognosis of COVID-19 disease severity**

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**Introduction:** Siemens Healthineers has developed an Atellica COVID-19 severity algorithm that predicts a probability of invasive mechanical ventilation requirement, end-stage organ damage, and 30-day in-hospital mortality. The algorithm uses age and nine laboratory biomarkers that reflect the functions of different organ systems and processes (lymphocytes, eosinophils, creatinine, lactate dehydrogenase, troponin I, C-reactive protein, ferritin, D-dimer, and prothrombin time, PV-INR). This study aimed to evaluate the prognostic accuracy of the Atellica COVID-19 severity algorithm early at hospital admission.

**Materials and methods:** Thirty patients with mild and moderate COVID-19 (Clinic of Infective Diseases) and seventy patients with severe and critical COVID-19 (Respiratory Center) were included in the study. COVID-19 was confirmed by PCR test. Disease severity was classified according to the WHO guidelines. Blood samples were collected at the time of patients' admission. Haematology analyses were performed using a haematology analyser Sysmex XN-2000 (Sysmex Corporation, Japan). Biochemical parameters were measured using a biochemistry analyser Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter, USA), except troponin I which was measured using Dimension ExL (Siemens Healthineers, Germany). Coagulation parameters were measured using a coagulometer BCS XP (Siemens Healthineers, Germany). Patients' follow-up was carried out until the discharge from the hospital or lethal outcome. The prognostic performance of the algorithm was assessed using ROC curve analysis.

tilacijom pri graničnoj vrijednosti rizika > 19%. Za prognozu smrtnog ishoda u 30 dana hospitalizacije osjetljivost pri graničnoj vrijednosti rizika > 17% bila je 87% (95% CI 77-94) uz specifičnost od 49% (95% CI 32-66). U prognozi multiorganskog zatajenja, pri graničnoj vrijednosti rizika od > 33%, algoritam je pokazao osjetljivost od 83% (95% CI 72-91) i specifičnost od 54% (95% CI 37-71).

**Zaključak:** "Atellica COVID-19 severity" je algoritam koji je lako primjenjiv i može pomoći u ranom prepoznavanju bolesnika s većim rizikom progresije u teški oblik COVID-19 bolesti.

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**Results:** The algorithm had a prognostic sensitivity of 94% (95% CI 86-98) and a specificity of 44% (95% CI 23-66) for ventilator use at a risk cut-off > 19%. For in-hospital 30-day mortality, the sensitivity at a risk cut-off > 17% was 87% (95% CI 77-94) and the specificity was 49% (95% CI 32-66). For the end-organ damage, at a risk cut-off > 33% the algorithm showed a sensitivity of 83% (95% CI 72-91) and a specificity of 54% (95% CI 37-71).

**Conclusion:** The Atellica COVID-19 algorithm is an easy-to-use tool that can help identify COVID-19 patients at a higher risk of progressing to severe outcomes.

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#### I-04

### Promjene u krivulji disocijacije oksihemoglobina u teškom obliku COVID-19 bolesti

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**Uvod:** SARS-CoV-2 virus uzrokuje značajan poremećaj funkcije pluća uzrokujući akutni respiratori distres sindrom. Bolesnici s težim oblikom COVID-19 bolesti su hipoksični i održavanje izmjene plinova ovisi o mehaničkoj ventilaciji. Hipoteza našeg rada je da se povećanje afiniteta hemoglobina za kisik (pomak krivulje disocijacije oksihemoglobina, ODC, u lijevo) javlja kao kompenzatori učinak radi olakšanog vezanja kisika u oštećenim plućima. Cilj našeg rada je usporediti tlak kisika pri saturaciji od 50% (p50) u COVID-19 bolesti sa standardnom p50 vrijednosti.

**Materijali i metode:** U ovoj retrospektivnoj studiji korišteni su rezultati analize plinova arterijske krvi 235 COVID-19 bolesnika na mehanički potpomognu-

#### I-04

### Changes in the oxyhaemoglobin dissociation curve in severe COVID-19 disease

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**Introduction:** SARS-CoV-2 causes substantial pulmonary dysfunction, which leads to acute respiratory distress syndrome. Patients with severe COVID-19 present with hypoxemia and require mechanical ventilation to support the gas exchange. We hypothesized that increased haemoglobin oxygen affinity (left shift of the oxyhaemoglobin dissociation curve, ODC) is a compensatory effect that facilitates oxygen loading in the damaged lungs. The aim of our study was to compare oxygen tension at half-saturation (p50) in patients with COVID-19 to the standard p50 value.

**Materials and methods:** We performed a retrospective study of arterial blood gas analysis of 235

toj ventilaciji. Acidobazni status i oksimetrijska mjerenja učinjena su na analizatoru ABL800Flex (Radiometer, Danska). Za izračun p50 vrijednosti korištena je Hillova jednadžba prema standardnim uvjetima i dobivene vrijednosti uspoređene su sa standarnom p50 vrijednosti od 26,7 mmHg. Izračunate p50 vrijednosti grupe ispitanika sa saturacijom hemoglobina ( $sO_2$ )  $\leq 70\%$  ( $N = 43$ ) također su uspoređene sa standardnom p50 vrijednosti. Test sume rangova za jedan uzorak korišten je za izračun razlike. Povezanost između varijabli prikazana je Spearmanovim koeficijentom korelacije,  $\rho$ .

**Rezultati:** Bolesnici s COVID-19 bolesti imali su značajno veći postotak deoksihemoglobina (9% (4-16) vs. normalno < 5%,  $P < 0,001$ ). Vrijednosti deoksihemoglobina negativno su povezane sa  $sO_2$  ( $\rho = -0,999$ ; 95% CI -0,999 do -0,998;  $P < 0,001$ ), što upućuje na značajno oštećenje funkcije pluća. p50 vrijednosti pacijenata sa COVID-19 bile su niže od standardne vrijednosti (26,3 mmHg (24,9-27,6),  $P = 0,007$ ). U skupini pacijenata sa  $sO_2 \leq 70\%$ , p50 vrijednost je bila značajno veća od standardne vrijednosti (27,2 mmHg (26,8-28,9),  $P = 0,003$ ) s pripadajućom razlikom od -0,53 mmHg (-2,17 do -0,13).

**Zaključak:** U COVID-19 bolesti, ODC je blago pomaknuta u lijevo što ukazuje na povećani afinitet hemoglobina za kisik u oštećenom plućnom tkivu. Međutim, kod pacijenata s izrazito niskom  $sO_2$ , ODC je značajno pomaknuta u desno što ukazuje da je potaknuto oslobađanje kisika u hipoksičnom tkivu.

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mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients. Arterial blood gasses and oximetry were measured using an ABL800 Flex analyser (Radiometer, Denmark). Hill's equation using standardized conditions was used to calculate the patients' p50 values, which were then compared to the standard p50 value of 26.7 mmHg. The calculated p50 values of the group with haemoglobin saturation ( $sO_2$ )  $\leq 70\%$  ( $N = 43$ ) were also compared to the standard p50 value. To calculate differences, a signed rank sum test for one sample was used. The association between the data was determined using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient,  $\rho$ .

**Results:** We observed a significant increase in the deoxyhaemoglobin percentage in patients with COVID-19 (9% (4-16) vs. normal < 5%,  $P < 0.001$ ). Deoxyhaemoglobin was negatively correlated with  $sO_2$  ( $\rho = -0.999$ ; 95% CI -0.999 to -0.998;  $P < 0.001$ ), indicating substantial pulmonary impairment. p50 values in COVID-19 patients were lower than the standard value (26.3 mmHg (24.9-27.6),  $P = 0.007$ ). In the group of patients with  $sO_2 \leq 70\%$ , p50 value was significantly higher than the standard value (27.2 mmHg (26.8-28.9),  $P = 0.003$ ) with a difference of -0.53 mmHg (-2.17 to -0.13).

**Conclusion:** In COVID-19 patients, the ODC was slightly left-shifted, showing a higher hemoglobin affinity for oxygen in damaged lung tissue. However, in patients with extremely low  $sO_2$  ODC was significantly right shifted, favoring oxygen unloading in hypoxic tissues.

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## I-05

### C-reaktivni protein – usporedivost u uzorcima seruma i plazme

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## I-05

### C-reactive protein - comparability in serum and plasma samples

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**Uvod:** C-reaktivni protein (CRP) je reaktant akutne faze i uz kompletну krvnu sliku te ukupni bilirubin najčešća pretraga u obradi novorođenčadi. Cilj istraživanja je usporediti rezultate određivanja koncentracije CRP-a u uzorcima seruma i plazme (EDTA) kako bi se u slučaju nedostatnog volumena seruma izbjeglo ponovljeno uzorkovanje krvi kod novorođenčadi.

**Materijali i metode:** Koncentracija CRP-a je određena u 43 parna uzorka seruma i plazme (EDTA) na biokemijskom analizatoru Beckman Coulter Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA) metodom imunoturbidimetrije (Beckman Coulter, CRP LATEX, OSR6299) akreditirane prema normi EN ISO 15189 i pod kontrolom vanjske kontrole kvalitete organizatora RfB (Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik, Njemačka) i CROQALM (Hrvatska). Normalnost razdiobe rezultata je testirana Kolmogorov-Smirnovim testom, a usporedivost rezultata Wilcoxon testom, Bland-Altman i Passing Bablok regresijskom analizom (MedCalc, verzija 19.0.6, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Ispitivana je koncentracija CRP-a u rasponu 0,9-290 mg/L. Median koncentracije CRP-a u uzorku seruma je iznosio 48,5 (5,4-107,2) mg/L, a u uzorku plazme (EDTA) 51,1 (5,3-106,3) mg/L uz prosječan bias od - 0,6 %. Nije nađena statistički značajna razlika ( $P = 0,516$ ; Wilcoxon test) u koncentraciji CRP-a u uzorcima seruma i plazme (EDTA). Nije nađena niti konstantna niti proporcionalna pogreška ( $y = -0,05 (-0,26 \text{ do } 0,07) + 0,99 (0,98 \text{ do } 1,01)x$ ) (Passing Bablok regresijska analiza).

**Zaključak:** Prosječni bias (- 0,6%) je značajno manji od mjerne nesigurnosti metode (12,4%, za nisko koncentracijsko područje i 9,2% za visoko koncentracijsko područje). Rezultati istraživanja potvrđuju da nema razlike u koncentraciji CRP-a neovisno o vrsti uzorka te je u slučaju nedostatnog volumena seruma za određivanje koncentracije CRP-a metodom imunoturbidimetrije moguće koristiti i uzorak plazme (EDTA).

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**Introduction:** C-reactive protein (CRP) is an acute phase reactant, which, along with complete blood count and bilirubin, is the most frequently requested test in newborns. The aim of the study is to compare the CRP concentration in serum and plasma samples (EDTA) in order to avoid re-sampling of blood in newborns in case of insufficient serum volume.

**Materials and methods:** C-reactive protein concentration was measured in 43 paired samples of serum and EDTA plasma. CRP analysis was performed on a Beckman Coulter (Olympus AU680, Brea, USA) analyser using the immunoturbidimetry method (Beckman Coulter, CRP LATEX, OSR6299) accredited according to EN ISO 15189 and under the external quality control from the organizers RfB (Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik, Germany) and CRO-QALM (Croatia). The normality of the results distribution was tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and the comparability of results was assessed by Wilcoxon test, Bland Altman and Passing Bablok regression analysis in the statistical program MedCalc 19.0.6 (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** The CRP concentration ranged from 0.9 to 290 mg/L. The median CRP concentration was 48.5 (5.4-107.2) mg/L and 51.1 (5.3-106.3) mg/L in serum and EDTA plasma, respectively. The mean bias was - 0.6 % and the Wilcoxon test showed no statistically significant difference ( $P = 0.516$ ) between samples. Passing Bablok regression analysis proved that there is no constant or proportional error ( $y = -0.05 (-0.26 \text{ to } 0.07) + 0.99 (0.98 \text{ to } 1.01)x$ ).

**Conclusion:** The average bias of - 0.6% is significantly lower than the measurement uncertainty of the method, which is 12.4% for the low concentration range and 9.2% for the high. The results of this study confirmed that there is no difference in CRP concentration regardless of the sample type. In the case of insufficient serum volume EDTA plasma sample can be used to determine the concentration of CRP by immunoturbidimetry.

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**I-06****Feritin kao prediktor teškog oblika bolesti kod COVID-19 pacijenata**

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**Uvod:** Literaturno je već opisivano kako je povećana koncentracija feritina povezana s težim oblicima bolesti COVID-19. Feritin je unutarstanični protein koji skladišti željezo i ima ključnu ulogu u upalnim bolestima kao što su infekcije, tumori, neurodegeneracije. Cilj ovog rada je ispitati može li se feritin koristiti kao prediktor teškog oblika bolesti COVID-19.

**Materijali i metode:** Analizirali smo 354 pacijenta koji su zaprimljeni na Zavod za zarazne bolesti u periodu od četiri mjeseca tijekom 2020. i 2021. godine. Pacijente smo podijelili u dvije grupe s obzirom na njihove ishode tijekom hospitalizacije: bez komplikacija (blaži oblik) N = 161; pacijenti koji su zahtijevali mehaničku ventilaciju (teži oblik) N = 194. Uzorkovanje je izvršeno pri primitku u spremnike bez antikoagulansa. Feritin je izmjerен u serumskim uzorcima imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom na Beckman Coulter DxC 700 AU analizatoru (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD). COVID-19 potvrđen je kod svih pacijenata PCR testom. Statistička analiza je napravljena programom MedCalc for Windows, version 12.4.0.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgija). Za usporedbu grupa koristili smo Mann-Whitney test, a ROC analizu za izračunavanje optimalne granične vrijednosti feritina u razlikovanju blagog od teškog oblika bolesti.

**Rezultati:** Pacijenti s težim oblikom bolesti su bili stariji, ali ne značajno (prosječna dob 69 godina, odnosno 62 godine za pacijente s blažim oblikom bolesti). Koncentracije feritina se značajno razlikuju između dvije grupe, veće koncentracije kod pacijenata s težim oblikom bolesti (929,7 ug/L, 95% CI: 741,7-1075,1; 398,1 ug/L, 95% CI: 318,9-452,5, P < 0,001). Optimalna granična vrijednost za predikciju težeg oblika COVID-19 je > 640 µg/L (osjetljivost = 63%; specifičnost = 78%; AUC = 0,752).

**I-06****Ferritin as a predictor of severe form in COVID-19 patients**

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**Introduction:** It has been already described that increased serum ferritin concentration is associated with COVID-19, especially with more severe forms of the disease. Ferritin is an intracellular protein that can store iron, and plays a critical role in inflammatory diseases, such as infection, cancer, neurodegeneration. In this study we aimed to investigate ferritin as a predictor of a severe form of COVID-19 disease.

**Materials and methods:** We analysed 354 patients admitted to the Department of infective disease in a four-month period in 2020 and 2021. Patients were divided into two groups based on their outcome during hospitalization: without complications (mild form); N = 161 patients who needed mechanical ventilation (severe form); N = 194. Blood sampling was performed at admission into anticoagulant free tubes. Ferritin was measured in serum samples by immunoturbidimetric assay using the Beckman Coulter DxC 700 AU (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). COVID-19 diagnosis was confirmed by the PCR test in all patients. Statistical analysis was performed using MedCalc for Windows, version 12.4.0.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium). The Mann-Whitney test was used for group comparisons. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed for calculating the optimal cut-off values for ferritin.

**Results:** Patients with the severe form were older but not significantly (median age 69 years vs. 62 years for patients with the mild form of the disease). Ferritin differed significantly between the groups and was higher in patients with the severe form of disease (929.7 ug/L, 95% CI: 741.7-1075.1 vs. 398.1 ug/L, 95% CI: 318.9-452.5, P < 0.001). The calculated cut-off value for the prediction of severe COVID-19 was > 640 µg/L (sensitivity = 63%; specificity = 78%; AUC = 0.752).

**Zaključak:** Feritin bi mogao biti koristan prediktor težeg oblika bolesti COVID-19.

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**Conclusion:** Ferritin could be a useful predictor of severe form of COVID-19 disease.

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I-07

### Validacija metode umnažanja lančanom reakcijom polimeraze u stvarnom vremenu za otkrivanje koronavirusa SARS-CoV-2 – preduvjet za kliničku primjenu i akreditaciju prema normi EN ISO 15189

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**Uvod:** Prema Udrudi za molekularnu patologiju (Association for Molecular Pathology, AMP) validacija metode sukladno definiranim pokazateljima dokazuje i kritički procjenjuje prikladnost metode za rutinsku kliničku primjenu. Cilj je procijeniti prikladnost "in-house" metode umnažanja lančanom reakcijom polimeraze u stvarnom vremenu (RT-PCR) za otkrivanje akutne infekcije koronavirusom SARS-CoV-2 i akreditaciju metode prema normi EN ISO 15189.

**Materijal i metode:** "In-house" RT-PCR (QuantStudio 3, Applied Biosystems, SAD) koristi specifične početnice i sonde (Thermo Fisher, USA) za probirni (E-Sarbeco) i potvrđni (RdRp) gen. Validacijom prema smjernicama AMP obuhvaćeni su analitički (graniča detekcije (LoD), preciznost, točnost) i dijagnostički (osjetljivost, specifičnost, pozitivna prediktivna vrijednost (PPV), negativna prediktivna vrijednost (NPV)) pokazatelji. LoD je određen u uzorcima briševa oro-/nazofarinks negativnih na SARS-CoV-2 (15) i replikatima (24) pozitivnih kontrolnih uzorka (EURM-019 ssRNA, AmpliRun Coronavirus RNA control), a preciznost određivanjem kontrolnog uzorka (EURM-019 ssRNA; 100 kopija/µl) u seriji i iz dana u dan (20). Točnost je određena na 11 uzoraka brisa oro-/nazofarinks validacijskog panela (niske, sred-

I-07

### Validation of real-time polymerase chain reaction method for SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus detection-precondition for clinical application and accreditation according to standards EN ISO 15189

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**Introduction:** According to the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), validation of a method with predefined indicators proves and assesses the suitability of the method for routine clinical use. The aim was to evaluate the suitability of the "in-house" method of real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) for detection of acute SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection and the accreditation of the method according to EN ISO 15189.

**Material and methods:** "In-house" RT-PCR (QuantStudio 3, Applied Biosystems, USA) uses specific primers and probes (Thermo Fisher, USA) for the screening (E-Sarbeco) and confirmation (RdRp) genes. Validation according to AMP includes analytical (limit of detection (LoD), precision, accuracy) and diagnostic (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV)) indicators. Limit of detection (LoD) was determined on swab samples negative on SARS-CoV2 (15) and replicates (24) of positive controls (EURM-019 ssRNA and AmpliRun Coronavirus RNA control), and precision from control samples (EURM-019 ssRNA; 100 copies/µl) in series and from day to day (20). Accuracy was determined on 11 swab samples of the validation panel with different concentrations of SARS-

nje ili visoke koncentracije SARS-CoV-2). Rezultati ispitivanja potvrđeni su sudjelovanjem u programu vanjske procjene kvalitete (VKKR) (Labquality, Finska).

**Rezultati:** LoD "in-house" RT-PCR od 1500 kopija/ml je utvrđena u  $\geq 95\%$  ispitivanih uzoraka (15/15) sa prosječnim pragom bazne vrijednosti ( $C_t$ ) 35,3 za oba gena. Koeficijenti varijacije oba gena iznosili su 3,02% i 2,02% (preciznost u seriji) te 2,22% i 3,11% (preciznost iz dana u dan). Točnost rezultata "in-house" metode u usporedbi sa rezultatima referentne metode iznosila je 91%. Dijagnostička osjetljivost (86%), specifičnost (100%) i prediktivne vrijednosti (PPV 100%, NPV 80%) bile su visoke. Rezultati sudjelovanja u programu VKKR zadovoljili su sve kriterije organizatora.

**Zaključak:** Validirana "in-house" metoda RT-PCR zadovoljava postavljene kriterije i analitičke i dijagnostičke kvalitete, prikladna je za rutinsku kliničku primjenu i akreditaciju prema normi EN ISO 15189.

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## I-08

### Granica detekcije SARS-CoV-2 metodom RT-qPCR po Berlinskom protokolu i komercijalnim kitom

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog istraživanja je bilo utvrđivanje granice detekcije odnosno  $C_t$  vrijednosti i broja kopija virusne RNA pomoću komercijalnog kontrolnog uzorka EURM-019 s poznatim brojem kopija kako bi se jasno mogli razlikovati pozitivni od negativnih rezultata SARS-CoV-2 metodom RT-qPCR te pouzdano izdavati rezultati testiranja.

**Materijali i metode:** Komercijalni uzorak EURM-019 s poznatim brojem kopija RNA od 107 kopija/ $\mu\text{L}$  do 100 kopija/ $\mu\text{L}$  je korišten za potvrdu granice

CoV-2. The results were confirmed by participation in an external quality assessment program (EQA) (Labquality, Finland).

**Results:** LoD of 1500 copies/ml determined in  $\geq 95\%$  tested samples (15/15) with an average cycle threshold ( $C_t$ ) of 35,3 for both genes. Coefficients of variation for both genes were 3,02% and 2,02% (precision in series) and 2,22% and 3,11% (precision from day to day). Accuracy of results compared to the results of the reference method was 91%. Diagnostic sensitivity (86%), specificity (100%), (PPV 100% and NPV 80%) were high. The results of participation in the EQA program met all the criteria of the organizers.

**Conclusion:** The validated "in-house" RT-PCR method meets the set criteria of analytical and diagnostic quality, is suitable for routine clinical use and accreditation according to EN ISO 15189.

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## I-08

### Limit of detection of SARS-CoV-2 using RT-qPCR according to Berlin protocol and commercial kit

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**Introduction:** The aim of this study was to determine a limit of detection (LoD), a  $C_t$  value and RNA copy number concentration using the commercial control sample EURM-019 with the known RNA copy number concentration and to distinguish positive from negative results of SARS-CoV-2 using RT-qPCR and to reliably report laboratory test results.

**Materials and methods:** The EURM-019 sample with a known RNA copy number concentration of 107 copies/ $\mu\text{L}$  to 100 copies/ $\mu\text{L}$  was used to deter-

detekcije. Ukupno 54 uzorka brisa nazofarinks pacijenata; 29 očekivano pozitivnih i 25 očekivano negativnih uzoraka je analizirano prema određenoj granici detekcije. Izolacija virusne RNA napravljena je MagMAX Viral/Pathogen II Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit-om (Applied Biosystems) na uređaju za automatsku izolaciju nukleinskih kiselina KingFisher Flex (Applied Biosystems). Umnažanje SARS-CoV-2 je napravljeno na tri različite RT-PCR platforme: ABI7500 i QS5 (Applied Biosystems) i AriaMx (Agilent) Berlinskim protokolom detekcijom E i RdRp gena i komercijalnim kitom LiliF COVID-19 Real-time RT-PCR Kit detekcijom E, RdRp i N gena.

**Rezultati:** Za određivanje granice detekcije, uz stopu detekcije veću od 95%, kao kriterij za pozitivan rezultat, postavljeno je da svi geni koji se mogu detektirati u PCR kitovima budu iznad praga osnovne fluorescencije s prisutnom krivuljom umnažanja. Utvrđena granica detekcije je bila 15 kopija/reakciji odnosno 3 kopije/ $\mu$ L i po Berlinskom protokolu i Liligom, što je odgovaralo vrijednosti Ct 32 tj. Ct 31. Od 54 uzorka očekivano pozitivnih je bilo 29. Po postavljanju Ct < 32 tj. Ct < 31 po Berlinskom protokolu tj. Liliu, 21 uzorak (21/29) je označen kao pozitivan rezultat za oba PCR kita, dok je 8 (8/29) uzorka za oba kita bilo iznad Ct > 32 i rezultat je očitan kao negativan. Svi očekivano negativni uzorci bili su negativni.

**Zaključak:** Postavljanje granice detekcije važno je za kvalitativne metode kao što je korištena RT-qPCR za razlikovanje SARS-CoV-2 pozitivnih od negativnih pacijenata te pouzdano izdavanje rezultata koji mogu smanjiti potrebu za re-testiranjem pacijenata.

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mine a LoD. Nasopharyngeal swabs collected from 54 patients; of which 29 were expected positive and 25 were expected negative. Samples were analysed according to the determined LoD. Isolation of viral RNA was performed with MagMAX Viral/Pathogen II Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit (Applied Biosystems) on automatic nucleic acid purification system KingFisher Flex (Applied Biosystems). Amplification of SARS-CoV-2 was performed on three different RT-PCR platforms: ABI7500 and QS5 (Applied Biosystems) and AriaMx (Agilent) according to Berlin Protocol for E and RdRp genes and commercial LiliF COVID-19 Real-time RT-PCR Kit for E, RdRp and N genes.

**Results:** To determine the LoD, with detection rate > 95%, criterion for positive result was that all genes in PCR kits were detected positive and were above baseline Ct with present multiplication curve. The determined LoD was 3 copies/ $\mu$ L according to the Berlin Protocol and LiliF, which correlates to the Ct value of 32, i.e. Ct of 31. Positive result was expected for 29 samples. Twenty-one samples (21/29) were considered positive for both PCR kits, while 8 (8/29) samples were considered negative for both kits with the above mentioned LoD. All sample results that were expected negative were negative.

**Conclusion:** Determination of the LoD is of a great importance for qualitative methods for distinguishing SARS-CoV-2 positive from negative patients and to reliably report laboratory test results that may reduce patient re-testing.

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I-09

## Prošireni hematološki pokazatelji crvene krvne slike u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi seps u COVID-19 bolesnika

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**Uvod:** Infekcija SARS-Cov-2 s pridruženim komplikacijama i razvojem sepsa predstavlja značajan javnozdravstveni problem. Kompletan krvni sliku sastavni je dio početnog probira u kliničkom zbrinjavanju COVID-19 bolesnika. U svrhu procjene ozbiljnosti kliničkog tijeka COVID-19 infekcije ispitivali smo dijagnostičku točnost proširenih hematoloških pokazatelja crvene krvne slike u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi seps u COVID-19 bolesnika.

**Materijali i metode:** U predmetno istraživanje uključeno je trideset COVID-19 bolesnika u dobi od 42 do 92 godine koji su u razdoblju od siječnja do lipnja 2022. godine bili zaprimljeni u Opću bolnicu Pula. S obzirom na sveukupnu kliničku sliku i aktualne kliničke smjernice, bolesnici su podijeljeni u dvije skupine: nekomplikirani COVID-19 bolesnici i COVID-19 bolesnici s pridruženom sepsom. Odabrani hematološki pokazatelji crvene krvne slike (Sysmex XN-1500, Kobe, Japan) su potom statistički obrađeni ROC analizom u MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** U ispitnoj skupini bolesnika nađena je značajna dijagnostička točnost (AUC) i izračunane su optimirane prijelomnice odabranih hematoloških pokazatelja u prepoznavanju sepsa: relativni udio retikulocita AUC = 0,80 (95% CI: 0,61-0,92), prijelomnica < 0,43%; nezrela frakcija retikulocita (immature reticulocyte fraction, IRF) AUC = 0,78 (95% CI: 0,59-0,91), prijelomnica < 6,2%; omjer zbroja retikulocita visoke fluorescencije (HFR) i retikulocita srednje fluorescencije (MFR) s retikulocitima niske fluorescencije (LFR) ((HFR + MFR) / LFR) AUC = 0,78 (95% CI: 0,59-0,91), prijelomnica < 0,07.

**Zaključak:** Smanjen ukupni broj retikulocita te smanjen relativni udio nezrelih retikulocita uklapa se u očekivanu supresiju eritropoeze u upalnoj bolesti. S obzirom na kratko vrijeme sazrijevanja retikulocita u krvnom optoku opažaju se brze promjene retikulo-

I-09

## Extended haematological red blood cell parameters in differential diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients

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**Introduction:** Sepsis development and complications associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection represent a major threat to public health worldwide. Complete blood count is part of the initial laboratory screening in the clinical care of COVID-19 patients. In order to assess the severity of the clinical course of COVID-19 infection, we examined the diagnostic accuracy of extended red blood cell parameters in differential diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

**Materials and methods:** Thirty COVID-19 patients, aged from 42 to 92, who were admitted to Pula General Hospital in the period from January till June 2022 were included in the study. Based on the overall clinical picture and according to the recent clinical guidelines, patients were divided into two groups (patients with and without associated sepsis). Selected haematological parameters of red blood counts were statistically processed by ROC analysis in MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Significant diagnostic accuracy (AUC) and optimized cutoffs of selected hematological parameters were calculated for sepsis identification: relative reticulocytes count AUC = 0.80 (95% CI: 0.61-0.92), cut-off < 0.43%; immature reticulocyte fraction (IRF) AUC = 0.78 (95% CI: 0.59-0.91), cut-off < 6.2%; ratio of the sum of high fluorescence reticulocytes (HFR) and medium fluorescence reticulocytes (MFR) to low fluorescence reticulocytes (LFR) ((HFR + MFR) / LFR) AUC = 0.78 (95% CI: 0.59-0.91), cut-off < 0.07.

**Conclusion:** Decreased total reticulocyte count and relative proportion of immature reticulocytes fit into the expected erythropoiesis suppression in inflammatory disease. Due to the short maturation time of reticulocytes in the bloodstream, rapid changes in reticulocyte parameters are observed, which may therefore contribute to the assessment of the clinical stage of COVID-19 infection. Hypoprolif-

citnih pokazatelja koji stoga mogu pridonijeti u procjeni kliničkog stadija COVID-19 infekcije, odnosno diferencijalnoj dijagnozi sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika. Hipoproliferacijska anemija upalne bolesti koja je potvrđena retikulocitopenijom u našoj skupini bolesnika predstavlja nepovoljan rizični čimbenik u razvoju komplikacija i sepsa, dok omjer (HFR + MFR) / LFR koji odražava udio nezrelih retikulocita spram grupacije zrelih retikulocita može pridonijeti u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika.

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erative anaemia of inflammatory disease confirmed by reticulocytopenia is an unfavourable risk factor in the development of complications and sepsis, while the ratio (HFR + MFR) / LFR (reflects the proportion of immature to mature reticulocytes) may contribute to the differential diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

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## I-10

### Rani hematološki pokazatelji sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika

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**Uvod:** Sepsa s pridruženim višeorganskim zatajnjem u COVID-19 bolesnika predstavlja značajan javnozdravstveni problem zbog brojnih komplikacija i visoke smrtnosti. U nedostupnosti specifičnih biokemijskih pokazatelja sepsa, primjerice prokalcitonina, mogu se rabiti široko dostupni hematološki pokazatelji koji su izravno povezani s razvojem sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika. Cilj ovog rada je procjena dijagnostičke točnosti hematoloških pokazatelja bijele krvne slike u ranom prepoznavanju sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika.

**Materijali i metode:** U ovome kohortnom prospektivnom istraživanju provedenom u Općoj bolnici Pula u razdoblju od siječnja do lipnja 2022. godine, sudjelovalo je 45 bolesnika u dobi od 42 do 92 godine u kojih je PCR metodom potvrđena COVID-19 infekcija. U ispitnoj skupini bolesnika sepsa je potvrđena na temelju mjerodavnih kliničkih smjernica. Podaci su potom prikupljeni i statistički obrađeni ROC analizom u MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium) radi procjene dijagnostičke učinkovitosti odabranih hematoloških pokazatelja (Sysmex 1500 XN, Kobe,

## I-10

### Early haematological sepsis indicators in COVID-19 patients

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**Introduction:** Sepsis associated with multiorgan failure in COVID-19 patients represents a huge public health problem because of a numerous complications and high mortality rate. Widely accessible haematological sepsis indicators, which are associated with sepsis in COVID-19 patients, could be used when specific biochemistry sepsis indicators such as procalcitonin are not available. The aim of this study is to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of haematological parameters of white blood count that could be used as early sepsis indicators in COVID-19 patients.

**Materials and methods:** This study included 45 COVID-19 patients aged from 42 to 92 and was conducted in Pula General Hospital from January till June 2022. Sepsis was confirmed according to the recent clinical guidelines. Data was collected and statistically processed by ROC analysis in MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium) to assess the diagnostic efficiency of selected haematological parameters (Sysmex 1500 XN, Kobe, Japan) in differential diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

Japan) u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi sepse u COVID-19 bolesnika.

**Rezultati:** U ispitnoj skupini bolesnika nađena je značajna dijagnostička točnost (AUC) i izračunane su optimirane prijelomnice odabranih hematoloških pokazatelja u prepoznavanju sepse: apsolutni broj limfocita AUC = 0,82 (95% CI: 0,68-0,92), prijelomnica < 1,11 x10<sup>9</sup>/L; apsolutni broj eozinofila AUC = 0,73 (95% CI: 0,58-0,86), prijelomnica < 0,01 x10<sup>9</sup>/L; indeks reaktivnosti neutrofila AUC = 0,86 (95% CI: 0,72-0,94), prijelomnica > 52,5 Fl; odnosno omjer apsolutnog broja neutrofila s trombocitima, limfocitima i eozinofilima (Neut / Trc x Limfo x Eo) AUC = 0,84 (95% CI: 0,70-0,93), prijelomnica > 5,9.

**Zaključak:** Limfopenija, eozinopenija uz neutrofiliju i izraženu fagocitnu aktivaciju neutrofila, te pridružena trombocitopenija opažene su u COVID-19 bolesnika sa sepsom pa je ove hematološke pokazatelje moguće rabiti kao dijagnostički učinkovite u ranom prepoznavanju sepse. Omjer Neut / Trc x Limfo x Eo objedinjuje kompleksnu kliničku sliku reaktivne neutrofilije s pridruženom trombocitopenijom, limfopenijom i eozinopenijom u sepsi COVID-19 bolesnika pa stoga može pridonijeti, kao novi dijagnostički pokazatelj, u diferencijalnoj dijagnozi sepse u tih bolesnika.

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I-11

## Pojavnost stvarne naspram pseudo-trombocitopenije odnosno povezanost trombocitopenije sa sepsom u COVID-19 bolesnika

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**Uvod:** Trombocitopenija predstavlja neovisni rizični čimbenik uznapredovalosti bolesti, odnosno smrtnosti u COVID-19 bolesnika. Učestalost pseudotrombocitopenije u svih bolničkih pacijenata iznosi do 1%. Međutim, u vrijeme pandemije COVID-19 broj

**Results:** Significant diagnostic accuracy (AUC) and optimized cut-offs of selected haematological parameters were calculated in the observed group of patients for identifying sepsis: absolute lymphocytes count AUC = 0.82 (95% CI: 0.68-0.92), cut-off < 1.11 x10<sup>9</sup>/L; absolute eosinophils count AUC = 0.73 (95% CI: 0.58-0.86), cut-off < 0.01 x10<sup>9</sup>/L; reactivity neutrophiles index AUC = 0.86 (95% CI: 0.72-0.94), cut-off > 52.5 Fl; at last a new ratio of absolute neutrophils count with platelets, lymphocytes and eosinophils (Neu / Plt x Lym x Eos) AUC = 0.84 (95% CI: 0.70-0.93), cut-off > 5.9.

**Conclusion:** Lymphopenia, eosinopenia and neutrophilia (associated with highly expressed phagocytic activation) with concomitant thrombocytopenia were found in COVID-19 patients with sepsis, therefore these haematological parameters could be used as an efficient diagnostic tool for early sepsis recognition. Hence, Neu / Plt x Lym x Eos ratio, which incorporates the above-mentioned parameters, could be used as a new diagnostic tool to facilitate diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

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I-11

## Incidence of true versus pseudothrombocytopenia as well as association of thrombocytopenia to sepsis in COVID-19 patients

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**Introduction:** Thrombocytopenia is an independent risk factor for disease progression and mortality in COVID-19 patients. Pseudothrombocytopenia is observed in up to 1% of all hospitalized patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of

dokazanih imunosno posredovanih prolaznih pseudotrombocitopenija višestruko je porastao među COVID-19 bolesnicima što usložnjava laboratorijske postupke u određivanju broja trombocita u tih bolesnika. Cilj ovog rada je procjena dijagnostičke točnosti broja trombocita i trombocitnih pokazatelja kao ranih pretkazatelja sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika.

**Materijali i metode:** U predmetnom istraživanju provedenom u Općoj bolnici Pula u razdoblju od siječnja do lipnja 2022. godine sudjelovalo je 52 COVID-19 bolesnika u dobi od 42 do 92 godine u kojih je sepsa potvrđena odnosno isključena na temelju aktualnih kliničkih smjernica. Trombociti su određeni metodom hidrodinamičkog fokusiranja i optičkom metodom (Sysmex XN-1500, Kobe, Japan) prije i nakon snažnog vrtložnog miješanja uzoraka uz mikroskopski pregled razmaza krvi radi isključivanja prisutnosti nakupina trombocita. Radi procjene dijagnostičke učinkovitosti broja trombocita u diferencijalnoj dijagnostici sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika, laboratorijski pokazatelji trombocita su statistički obrađeni ROC analizom u MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium). Na temelju klinički značajne promjene (eng. *reference change value*, RCV) (RCV% porast < 20,3%) izračunatog za naš analitički sustav te mikroskopskog pregleda razmaza krvi izdvojeni su slučajevi pseudotrombocitopenije.

**Rezultati:** U ispitnoj skupini bolesnika nađena je značajna dijagnostička točnost (AUC) i izračunata je optimirana prijelomnica broja trombocita u svrhu prepoznavanja sepsa: broj trombocita AUC = 0,74 (95% CI: 0,60-0,86), prijelomnica < 170 x10<sup>9</sup>/L u COVID-19 bolesnika sa sepsom uz isključenu pseudotrombocitopeniju. U 25,7% COVID-19 bolesnika pregledom krvnih razmaza opaženo je prisustvo omanjih nakupina trombocita koje ne uzrokuju klinički značajno lažno sniženje broja trombocita, dok je u dodatnih 20% bolesnika dokazana klinički značajna pseudotrombocitopenija.

**Zaključak:** Povećana sklonost trombocita sljepljivanju (pseudotrombocitopenija) može imati značajan utjecaj na pouzdanost određivanja broja trombocita. Broj trombocita, uz isključenje pseudotrombocitopenije, moguće je rabiti kao rani dijagnostički pretkazatelj sepsa u COVID-19 bolesnika.

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proven transitory immune-mediated pseudothrombocytopenias among COVID-19 patients is much higher, complicating determining platelet counts. The aim of this study was to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of platelet counts as early predictors of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

**Materials and methods:** The study was conducted at Pula General Hospital from January till June 2022 and includes 52 COVID-19 patients, aged from 42 to 92, among which sepsis was confirmed or ruled out according to the recent clinical guidelines. Platelets were determined on haematological analyser (Sysmex XN-1500, Kobe, Japan) before and after vigorous mixing of the samples with microscopic examination of blood smears to exclude the presence of platelet aggregations. Results were statistically processed by ROC analysis in MedCalc Statistical Software version 20.104 (MedCalc Software Ltd, Ostend, Belgium) to evaluate the diagnostic efficacy of platelet parameters in the differential diagnosis of sepsis in COVID-19 patients. Cases of pseudothrombocytopenia were identified based on blood smear examination and reference change value (RCV% increase < 20.3%) calculated for our analytical system.

**Results:** Significant diagnostic accuracy (AUC) and optimized cut-offs of platelet counts were calculated for sepsis identification: platelet count AUC = 0.74 (95% CI: 0.60-0.84), cut-off < 170 x10<sup>9</sup>/L in COVID-19 patients with sepsis (where pseudothrombocytopenia is excluded). In 25.7% of patients, examination of blood smears showed the presence of small aggregates that do not cause clinically significant falsely decreased platelet count. While in the additional 20% of patients clinically significant pseudothrombocytopenia was determined.

**Conclusion:** The tendency for platelet aggregation can have a significant effect on the actual platelet count in COVID-19 patients. Therefore, platelet count, with the exception of pseudothrombocytopenia, could be used as an early diagnostic predictor of sepsis in COVID-19 patients.

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## Laboratorijski parametri nehospitaliziranih i hospitaliziranih COVID-19 pacijenata

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**Uvod:** Novi koronavirus koji uzrokuje akutni respiratorni sindrom (SARS-CoV-2, eng. *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2*) otkriven je u Wuhanu krajem 2019. godine. Virus se brzo proširio cijelim svijetom i uzrokovao velik broj slučajeva i smrti. Do danas nema specifične terapije za COVID-19, stoga se ubrzano istražuju potencijalni prognostički biljezi koji bi brzo i lako diferencirali pacijente koji bi mogli imati težu kliničku sliku i koje je potrebno hospitalizirati. Cilj ovog rada je istražiti razlike između laboratorijskih parametara nehospitaliziranih i hospitaliziranih COVID-19 pacijenata te odrediti granične vrijednosti laboratorijskih parametara koje su vodile hospitalizaciji.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je rađeno retrospektivno. U istraživanje su uključeni COVID-19 pacijenti ( $N = 231$ ) Kliničkog bolničkog centra Osijek koji su od 10. travnja 2021. do 20. travnja 2021. došli na prvi pregled infektologa. Pacijenti su podijeljeni u 2 skupine ovisno o potrebi za hospitalizacijom: nehospitalizirani i hospitalizirani pacijenti. Statistički su se obradile vrijednosti sljedećih laboratorijskih parametara: D-dimera, C-reaktivnog proteina (CRP), prokalcitonina (PCT), interleukina-6 (IL-6), feritina i visoko osjetljivog troponina I (TNIH, eng. *high-sensitivity troponin I*). Statistička analiza napravljena je u statističkom programu MedCalc ver. 20.0.10.0 (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgija). Razlike u vrijednostima laboratorijskih parametara između skupina pacijenata analizirane su Mann-Whitneyevim testom, a granične vrijednosti za hospitalizaciju pomoću ROC krivulja i Youdenovog indeksa.

**Rezultati:** Pronađena je statistički značajna razlika između vrijednosti laboratorijskih parametara kod nehospitaliziranih i hospitaliziranih pacijenata za D-dimere (medijan ( $M$ ) = 569 µg/L vs.  $M$  = 1056 µg/L,  $P < 0,001$ ), CRP ( $M$  = 19,9 mg/L vs.  $M$  = 77,5 mg/L,  $P < 0,001$ ), PCT ( $M$  = 0,06 µg/L vs.  $M$  = 0,20 µg/L,  $P$

I-12

## Laboratory parameters in nonhospitalized and hospitalized COVID-19 patients

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**Introduction:** Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was discovered in Wuhan in late 2019. The virus spread rapidly throughout the world, causing a large number of cases and deaths. To date, there is no specific therapy for COVID-19, therefore potential prognostic markers that would quickly and easily differentiate patients who may have a more severe clinical presentation and need hospitalization are being rapidly investigated. The aim of this study is to investigate the differences between laboratory parameters in nonhospitalized and hospitalized COVID-19 patients and to determine cut-off values for laboratory parameters that lead to hospitalization.

**Materials and methods:** This study was conducted retrospectively. The study included COVID-19 patients ( $N = 231$ ) from Clinical Hospital Center Osijek who came for their first examination with an infectologist between April 10, 2022 and April 20, 2022. Patients were divided into two groups: non-hospitalized and hospitalized patients. The values of the following laboratory parameters were statistically evaluated: D-dimer, C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin (PCT), interleukin-6 (IL-6), ferritin and high-sensitivity troponin I (TNIH). Statistical analysis was performed with the statistical program MedCalc ver. 20.0.10.0 (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium). Differences in laboratory values between patient groups were analysed using the Mann-Whitney test and cut-off values for hospitalization were analysed using the receiver-operating characteristic curve (ROC) and the Youden index.

**Results:** There was a statistically significant difference between the values of laboratory parameters in nonhospitalized and hospitalized patients for D-dimer (median( $M$ ) = 569 µg/L vs.  $M$  = 1056 µg/L,  $P < 0,001$ ), CRP ( $M$  = 19.9 mg/L vs.  $M$  = 77.5 mg/L,  $P < 0,001$ ), PCT ( $M$  = 0.06 µg/L vs.  $M$  = 0.20 µg/L,  $P$

< 0,001), IL-6 (M = 17,5 ng/L vs. M = 63,2 ng/L, P < 0,001), feritin (M = 310,7 µg/L vs. M = 709,6 µg/L, P < 0,001) i TNIH (M = 6,0 ng/L vs. M = 17,1 ng/L, P < 0,001). Granične vrijednosti laboratorijskih parametara za hospitalizaciju iznosile su: D-dimeri > 709 µg/L (površina ispod krivulje (AUC, eng. *area under curve*) = 0,75, P < 0,001), CRP > 43,9 mg/L (AUC = 0,78, P < 0,001), IL-6 > 41,9 ng/L (AUC = 0,79, P < 0,001), PCT > 0,12 µg/L (AUC = 0,83, P < 0,001), feritin > 375,9 µg/L (AUC = 0,73, P < 0,001) i TNIH > 6,7 ng/L (AUC = 0,76, P < 0,001).

**Zaključak:** Hospitalizirani COVID-19 pacijenti imali su više vrijednosti ispitivanih laboratorijskih parametara od nehospitaliziranih COVID-19 pacijenata. Potrebne su dodatne studije kako bi se procijenila prognostička vrijednost istraživanih laboratorijskih parametara.

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#### I-13 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Utjecaj četiri polimorfizma angotenzin konvertirajućeg enzima (ACE i ACE2) na težinu i klinički ishod COVID-19 bolesti

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**Uvod:** U pandemiji COVID-19 pokazalo se da je jedan od mehanizama ulaska SARS-CoV-2 u stanice posredovan angiotenzin-konvertirajućim enzimima ACE i ACE2, čije varijante gena mogu utjecati na vezanje i ulazak virusa u stanice ili pojačati oštećenje zahvaćenih tkiva.

**Materijali i metode:** U svrhu testiranja hipoteze o utjecaju varijanti ACE i ACE2 gena na težinu i tijek COVID-19 bolesti, ovim istraživanjem ispitali smo najčešće polimorfizme ACE i ACE2 gena

< 0,001), IL-6 (M = 17.5 ng/L vs. M = 63.2 ng/L, P < 0.001), ferritin (M = 310.7 µg/L vs. M = 709.6 µg/L, P < 0.001) and TNIH (M = 6.0 ng/L vs. M=17.1 ng/L, P < 0.001). The cut-off values of laboratory parameters for hospitalization were: D-dimers > 709 µg/L (area under curve (AUC) = 0.75, P < 0.001), CRP > 43.9 mg/L (AUC = 0.78, P < 0.001), IL-6 > 41.9 ng/L (AUC = 0.79, P < 0.001), PCT > 0.12 µg/L (AUC = 0.83, P < 0.001), ferritin > 375.9 µg/L (AUC = 0.73, P < 0.001) and TNIH > 6.7 ng/L (AUC = 0.76, P < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Hospitalized COVID-19 patients had higher values of the laboratory parameters studied than non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Further studies are needed to evaluate the prognostic value of the laboratory parameters studied.

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#### I-13 (Oral presentation)

#### Impact of four common angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE and ACE2) genetic polymorphisms on severity and clinical outcome of COVID-19 disease

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**Introduction:** Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 cells entry is mediated by the angiotensin-converting enzymes (ACE and ACE2), whose variants can affect virus binding and entry to tissues.

**Materials and methods:** To test if ACE and ACE2 gene variants influence the severity of COVID-19 disease, we examined the polymorphisms of ACE and ACE2 genes (rs1799752, rs2285666, rs1978124 and rs3827466) in 231 non-hospitalized patients with milder symptoms (employees of our hospital,

(rs1799752, rs2285666, rs1978124 i rs3827466) u 231 nehospitalizirana bolesnika s blažim simptomima (djelatnici bolnice, medijan dobi 46 godina, 83% žena) i u 52 hospitalizirana bolesnika (sa teškim simptomima, medijan dobi 74 godine, 44% žena, od kojih je 22 preminulo). Pacijenti su podijeljeni u 2 skupine prema težini tijeka bolesti: A (asimptomatski, blagi i srednje teški tijek bolesti) nasuprot skupine B (teški i kritični simptomi). Između listopada i prosinca 2021., tijekom primitka na bolničko liječenje pacijentima je uzet bris nazofarinks u svrhu testiranja na COVID-19. Alikvoti briseva čuvani su na + 4°C, i iz njih je izolirana stanična DNA (iz prisutnog epitela) te je učinjena genotipizacija (metodom real time PCR, LightCycler 1.5, Roche, Basel, Švicarska).

**Rezultati:** Genotipizacijom ACE rs1799752, ACE2 rs1978124 i rs2285666 polimorfizma između ispitivanih skupina nisu utvrđene razlike, dok je za polimorfizam ACE2 rs3827466 utvrđena značajna razlika između kliničke slike bolesti za skupinu A (genotip AA: N = 40, AG: N = 84 i GG: N = 107) i skupinu B (genotip AA: N = 13, AG: N = 4 i GG: N = 35); chi-kvadrat, P < 0,001. Razlika kliničke slike bolesti osobito je izražena u bolesnika mlađih od 60 godina A skupine (genotip AA: N = 35, AG: N = 76 i GG: N = 94) i B skupine (genotip AA: N = 0, AG: N = 0 i GG: N = 7); chi-kvadrat, P = 0,019.

**Zaključak:** Kako utjecaj ACE2 rs3827466 polimorfizma na teži klinički tijek bolesti do sada nije evidentiran u sličnim istraživanjima, a u našem istraživanju veličina ispitivanih skupina nije ujednačena, ispitivanje je potrebno proširiti na veću skupinu bolesnika s težim kliničkim tijekom bolesti.

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mean age 46 years, 83% females) and in 52 hospitalized patients (with severe symptoms, median age 74 years, 44% females, 22 died). Patients were divided into 2 groups according to the severity of the disease: A (mild and moderate symptoms) and group B (severe symptoms). Between October and December 2021, during hospital treatment, patients had a nasopharyngeal swab testing for COVID-19. Swab aliquots were stored at + 4 °C, DNA was isolated, and genotyping was performed (real time PCR, LightCycler 1.5, Roche, Basel, Switzerland).

**Results:** ACE rs1799752, ACE2 rs1978124 and rs2285666 genotyping did not reveal differences between the groups, while ACE2 rs3827466 showed a significant difference between the group A (AA: N = 40, AG: N = 84 and GG: N = 107) and B (AA: N = 13, AG: N = 4 and GG: N = 35); chi-square, P < 0.001. The difference is particularly pronounced in patients younger than 60 years of group A (AA: N = 35, AG: N = 76 and GG: N = 94) and B (AA: N = 0, AG: N = 0 and GG: N = 7); chi-square, P = 0.019.

**Conclusion:** As the influence of ACE2 rs3827466 polymorphism on the more severe course of the disease has not been recorded in similar studies so far, and the size of the groups in our study is not uniform, the study should be extended to a larger group of patients with more severe clinical course.

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**J Pedijatrijska laboratorijska medicina****J-01****Procjena usporedivosti metoda za mjerjenje koncentracije ukupnog bilirubina u krvi pupkovine**Melani Bodalec<sup>1</sup>, Sanja Mandić<sup>2</sup>, Ivana Sarić<sup>2</sup>, Vatroslav Šerić<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Odjel za medicinsku biokemiju, Opća županijska bolnica Vinkovci, Vinkovci, Hrvatska<sup>2</sup>Klinički zavod za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, Klinički bolnički centar Osijek, Osijek, Hrvatska

**Uvod:** Hiperbilirubinemija u novorođenčadi je česta pojava koja predstavlja rizik za razvoj kernikterusa, neurološkog sindroma koji dovodi do oštećenja mozga odlaganjem bilirubina u bazalne ganglije i jezgre moždanog debla. Istraživanja pokazuju da koncentracija bilirubina u krvi pupkovine može biti koristan prediktor razvoja značajne neonatalne žutice. Najčešće korištena metoda određivanja ukupnog bilirubina u serumu je kolorimetrijska metoda s diazo reagensom. Bilirubin se može određivati u punoj krvi na analizatorima za određivanje acidobaznog statusa direktnim spektrofotometrijskim mjeranjem. Cilj ovog rada je usporediti koncentraciju bilirubina u punoj krvi pupkovine određenu spektrofotometrijski na analizatoru ABL 800 (Radiometer, SAD) s koncentracijom u serumu određenom metodom s diazo reagensom na analizatoru AU 480 (Beckman Coulter, SAD).

**Materijali i metode:** Krv iz pupkovine uzorkovana je u dva različita spremnika: hepariniziranu špricu iz koje se odmah po primitku u laboratorij odredila koncentracija bilirubina na analizatoru ABL 800 te u epruvetu bez aditiva (BD Vacutainer, 5 mL) iz koje se nakon centrifugiranja izdvojio serum za analizu na analizatoru AU 480. Usporedba je napravljena na 46 uzorka krvi pupkovine. Statistička analiza napravljena je u programu MedCalc za Windows, verzija 12.4.0.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium) pomoću Passing Bablok i Bland Altman testova.

**Rezultati:** Passing Bablok analizom pokazano je konstantno odstupanje (odsječak - 7,00, 95% CI: -19,62 do 3,17) bez proporcionalnog odstupanja (nagib 1,00, 95% CI: 0,67 do 1,37) između spektrofotometrijske i diazo metode. Bland Altman dijagram pokazuje da medijan razlike između metoda (ABL800 - AU 480) iznosi -6,4 µmol/L (95% CI: -8,32 do -4,46), odnosno -22% (95% CI: -29 do -16).

**J Pediatric laboratory medicine****J-01****Comparability assessment of two methods for bilirubin measurement in umbilical cord blood**Melani Bodalec<sup>1</sup>, Sanja Mandić<sup>2</sup>, Ivana Sarić<sup>2</sup>, Vatroslav Šerić<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Biochemistry, General County Hospital Vinkovci, Vinkovci, Croatia<sup>2</sup>Clinical Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, University Hospital Center Osijek, Osijek, Croatia

**Introduction:** Hyperbilirubinemia in newborns poses risk for development of kernicterus, a neurologic syndrome that results in brain damage because of deposition of bilirubin in the basal ganglia and brain stem nuclei. Studies have shown that umbilical cord blood bilirubin can be a useful predictor of significant neonatal jaundice. Method with diazonium salt is the most popular method for serum bilirubin measurement. It is also possible to measure bilirubin on blood gas analyser in whole blood by direct spectrophotometry. The aim of this study is to compare bilirubin concentration in umbilical cord whole blood measured spectrophotometrically on ABL 800 analyser with umbilical cord serum concentration measured by diazo method on AU 480 analyser.

**Materials and methods:** Umbilical cord blood was sampled in heparin syringe for bilirubin measurement in whole blood on ABL 800 (Radiometer, USA) and in container without additives (BD Vacutainer, 5 mL) for serum preparation and bilirubin measurement on AU 480 (Beckman Coulter, USA). Comparability was tested on 46 blood samples. Statistical analysis was made in MedCalc for Windows, version 12.4.0.0 (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium) using Passing Bablok and Bland Altman tests.

**Results:** Passing Bablok analysis indicates constant bias (intercept - 7.00, 95% CI: -19.62 to 3.17) without proportional bias (slope 1.00, 95% CI: 0.67 to 1.37) between direct spectrophotometric and diazo method. Bland Altman plot indicates that the median of difference between methods (ABL800 - AU 480) is -6.4 µmol/L (95% CI: -8.32 to -4.46) or -22% (95% CI: -29 to -16).

**Conclusion:** ABL 800 measures average 22% lower umbilical cord bilirubin concentrations than AU

**Zaključak:** Koncentracije bilirubina mjerene u punoj krvi na analizatoru ABL 800 su u prosjeku 22% niže od koncentracija mjerjenih u serumu na analizatoru AU 480. Prije direktnog spektrofotometrijskog mjerjenja bilirubina u krvi pupkovine u rutinskom radu potrebno je evaluirati navedenu metodu te po potrebi obavijestiti kliničara o navedenoj promjeni uz prilagodbu cut-off vrijednosti.

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480. Before introducing direct spectrophotometry umbilical cord blood bilirubin in routine work it is necessary to evaluate this method. If there is a significant difference, laboratory specialists must alarm clinicians about this change and adjust cut-off value.

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## J-02

### Verifikacija CALIPER (Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Pediatric Reference Intervals) referentnih intervala u Kliničkoj bolnici Merkur

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**Uvod:** Baza podataka CALIPER (Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Pediatric Reference Intervals) je globalna baza sveobuhvatnih pedijatrijskih referentnih intervala specifičnih za dob i spol. Cilj rada je verifikacija i pouzdana primjena baze podataka CALIPER za neonatološku populaciju Odjela neonatologije s intenzivnom njegom Kliničke bolnice Merkur.

**Materijali i metode:** Direktnom *a posteriori* metodom iz preostalih rutinskih uzoraka serumu novorođenčadi (odobrenje Etičkog povjerenstva Kliničke bolnice Merkur 03/1-4700) prikupljeno je ukupno 115 uzoraka seruma referentne novorođenčadi (novorođenčad s Apgar indeksom prilikom rođenja minimalno 9/10 i koncentracijom CRP-a i ukupnog bilirubina unutar referentnog intervala). Sukladno međunarodnim smjernicama CLSI 28-A3, provedena verifikacija referentnih intervala za 19 biokemijskih analita (kalij, natrij, kloridi, ukupni kalcij, ukupni magnezij, anorganski fosfati, glukoza, ureja, kreatinin, ukupni i konjugirani bilirubin, CRP, ukupni proteini, albumin,

## J-02

### Verification of the CALIPER (Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Pediatric Reference Intervals) reference intervals at Merkur University Hospital

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**Introduction:** The CALIPER (Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Paediatric Reference Intervals) database is a global database of comprehensive paediatric age-and-gender-specific reference intervals. The aim of this study was verification and reliable application of the CALIPER database for the neonatal population at the Department of Neonatology with Intensive Care at Merkur University Hospital.

**Materials and methods:** Using the direct *a posteriori* method from remaining routine newborn serum samples (approval by the Ethic committee of University Hospital Merkur 03/1-4700) a total of 115 samples of referent newborns were collected (newborns with Apgar index at birth minimal 9/10 and CRP and total bilirubin concentrations within the reference range). According to the CLSI 28-A3 international guidelines, verification of reference intervals for 19 biochemical analytes (potassium, sodium, chloride, calcium, magnesium, inorganic phosphorous, glucose, urea, creatinine, direct and total bilirubin, CRP,

AST, ALT, GGT, LD, ALP) obuhvatila je 20 uzoraka seruma referentne novorođenčadi. Uzorci su analizirani na biokemijskom analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU680 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD). Referentni interval bio je prihvaćen ukoliko se minimalno 18 od 20 rezultata nalazilo unutar CALIPER referentnih intervala. Za one analite za koje referentni intervali prema navedenom kriteriju nisu prihvaćeni u prvom setu uzoraka analiziran je novi set od dodatnih 20 uzoraka.

**Rezultati:** Nakon prvog seta mjerjenja prihvaćeno je 14 od 19 ispitivanih referentnih intervala. Drugi set od 20 uzoraka seruma ispitana je za 5 analita (kalij, natrij, kloridi, ukupni magnezij i konjugirani bilirubin). Rezultati dodatnih mjerjenja za natrij i kloride potom su bili unutar ispitivanog referentnog intervala, dok su rezultati za kalij, ukupni magnezij i konjugirani bilirubin i dalje bili nezadovoljavajući.

**Zaključak:** Primjena baze podataka pedijatrijskih referentnih intervala CALIPER je pouzdana i primjenjiva za većinu ispitivanih analita za ispitivanu populaciju, dok je za kalij, ukupni magnezij i konjugirani bilirubin neophodna izrada referentnih intervala *de novo*.

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total protein, albumin, AST, ALT, GGT, LD, ALP) was performed, including 20 referent newborn serum samples. Samples were analysed on the Beckman Coulter AU680 biochemical analyser (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). A reference interval was adopted if minimal 18 of 20 of the results were inside CALIPER reference intervals. For analytes for which this criterion was not met in the first set of samples, a new set of additional 20 samples were analysed.

**Results:** After the first set of measurements, 14 of 19 tested reference intervals were adopted for use. Another set of 20 samples was tested for 5 analytes (potassium, sodium, chloride, magnesium, and direct bilirubin). The results of the additional samples for sodium and chloride were within the examined reference interval, while the results for potassium, magnesium and direct bilirubin remained unsatisfactory.

**Conclusion:** The use of the CALIPER paediatric reference interval database is reliable and applicable to most of the tested analytes for the studied population, while *de novo* establishment of reference intervals for potassium, magnesium and direct bilirubin is required.

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### J-03

#### Usporedba intoksikacije alkoholom u pedijatrijskoj populaciji tijekom COVID-19 pandemijskih godina sa prethodne tri godine (2017.-2021.)

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### J-03

#### Comparison of alcohol intoxication in paediatric age during the COVID-19 pandemic years with previous three years (2017- 2021)

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**Uvod:** Početkom pandemije COVID-19 u ožujku 2020. te njenim poznatim negativnim psihološkim utjecajem na djecu, mogla se očekivati povećana konzumacija alkohola među adolescentima. Cilj ove studije je bio usporediti incidenciju intoksikacija alkoholom u djece koji su bili pregledani u Hitnoj službi Klinike za dječje bolesti Zagreb u periodu od 2017.- 2021. godine.

**Materijali i metode:** Podaci o djeci sa intoksikacijom alkoholom (etanol) izvadeni su iz laboratorijske baze podataka. U studiju su uključena samo djeca koja su namjerno konzumirala alkohol te su prikupljeni podaci o njihovoj dobi, spolu i koncentraciji etanola. Koncentracija etanola je izmjerena kinetičkom metodom sa alkohol dehidrogenazom (Thermo Scientific) na biokemijskom analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU680. Statistička analiza napravljena je MedCalc programom (verzija 19.5.3, Ostend, Belgija). Statističke razlike između pojedinih grupa su testirane Kruskal-Walisovim testom (uz razinu statističke značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** U razdoblju od 2017.-2021. bilo je 364 pacijenata s pozitivnim nalazom alkohola (referentni interval  $< 0,1 \text{ g/L}$ ), broj slučajeva po godini: 70, 93, 74, 58 i 69; omjer žensko/muško: 27/43; 33/60; 31/43; 28/30; 33/36. Rezultati vezani uz dob su prikazani kao medijan uz 95%-tni interval pouzdanosti (IP), (medijan, 95% IP): 16 (16-17), 16 (16-17); 16 (16-17); 16 (16-17) i 16 (15-16). Koncentracije etanola su izražene kao medijani, 95% IP. Vrijednosti medijana, 95% IP kroz 5 godina su bile: 1,9 (1,7-2,0); 2,0 (1,9-2,1); 2,1 (2,0-2,2); 2,0 (1,8-2,2) i 2,1 (1,8-2,2). Nije pronađena statistički značajna razlika između broja slučajeva ( $P = 0,41$ ), dobi ( $P = 0,20$ ), spola ( $P = 0,62$ ) niti koncentracije alkohola ( $P = 0,25$ ) između alkoholom intoksiciranih pacijenata tijekom ispitivanih godina.

**Zaključak:** Usprkos tezi da su COVID-19 pandemijske godine mogle imati negativan utjecaj na psihološko zdravlje djece i mladih koji bi se manifestirao povećanim uzimanjem alkohola, naša studija je pokazala da nije bilo statistički značajne razlike u broju intoksicirane djece, dobi, spolu te koncentraciji alkohola između dvije pandemijske u odnosu na tri prethodne godine.

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**Introduction:** With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and its negative psychological impacts on children, an increase in alcohol consumption among adolescents could be expected. The aim of this study was to compare the incidence of alcohol intoxication in children admitted to the Emergency Department of Children's hospital Zagreb during the period 2017-2021.

**Materials and methods:** Data on children with alcohol intoxication (ethanol) were retrieved from laboratory database. Only children who consumed alcohol on purpose were included and their age, gender and ethanol concentration were collected. Ethanol was determined by kinetic method with alcohol dehydrogenase (Thermo Scientific) on Beckman Coulter AU680 biochemical analyser. Statistical analysis was performed in the MedCalc program (version 19.5.3, Ostend, Belgium). The differences between data groups were tested with Kruskal-Wallis test (statistically significant P-value  $< 0.05$ ).

**Results:** There were 364 patients with positive alcohol test (reference interval  $< 0.1 \text{ g/L}$ ) during 2017-2021 with number of cases: 70, 93, 74, 58, 69, and female/male ratio: 27/43; 33/60; 31/43; 28/30; 33/36, respectively. Results regarding the age are expressed as medians and 95% confidence interval (CI): 16 (16-17), 16 (16-17); 16 (16-17) and 16 (15-16), respectively. Concentrations of ethanol are expressed as medians, 95% confidence interval (CI). Median, 95%CI for the five years were: 1.9 (1.7-2.0); 2.0 (1.9-2.1); 2.1 (2.0-2.2); 2.0 (1.8-2.2) and 2.1 (1.8-2.2), respectively. There were no statistically significant differences for number of cases ( $P = 0.41$ ), age ( $P = 0.20$ ), gender ( $P = 0.62$ ) and concentrations of alcohol ( $P = 0.25$ ) among alcohol intoxication in children during the five consecutive years.

**Conclusion:** Despite the assumption that COVID-19 pandemic years could have a negative psychological effect on children which could be manifested by an increased incidence of alcoholism among children, our study showed that there were no significant differences in number of intoxicated children, age, gender, and alcohol concentration between two COVID-19 pandemic and three previous years.

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J-04

## Aktivnost L-asparaginaze u pedijatrijskim hematoonkološkim bolesnika liječenih s pripravcima nativne i pegilirane asparaginaze - naša iskustva

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**Uvod:** L-asparaginaza (L-asp) sastavni je dio terapije za djecu s akutnom limfatičnom leukemijom (ALL) i non-Hodgkinovim limfomom (NHL) koja se provodi u ciklusima prema Protokolu liječenja. Djelovanje lijeka temelji se na smanjenju asparagine čime nezrele maligne stanice ostaju bez aminokiselina. Na Zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku Klinike za dječje bolesti Zagreb uspostavili smo prvi laboratorij za određivanje aktivnosti L-asp u Hrvatskoj. Cilj je predstaviti naša iskustva u praćenju aktivnosti L-asp s dva komercijalno dostupna lijeka izvedena iz *E. coli*: nativnom (N-asp) i pegiliranom asparaginazom (PEG-asp).

**Materijali i metode:** U prospективno istraživanje uključeno je 37 pacijenta (1-18 godina, 34 slučajeva ALL i 3 NHL) u razdoblju od ožujka 2018. do prosinca 2021. N-asp primjenjena je kod 30, a PEG-asp kod 7 pacijenata. Uzorci krvi prikupljeni su prije i tijekom liječenja. Serum je odvojen i zamrznut prije analize na  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Aktivnost L-asp mjerena je u preporučenim intervalima: N-asp 48 i 72 h, PEG-asp 7 i 14 dana nakon primjene (kod 5 pacijenta, PEG-asp određena je 21. ili 28. dan) spektrofotometrijskom indooksijskom metodom s L-aspartat-beta-hidroksamatom. Preporučena terapijska aktivnost L-asp je  $> 100 \text{ U/L}$ .

**Rezultati:** Od pacijenata liječenih N-asp, troje (10%) je razvilo alergiju, i četvero (13%) je pokazalo tihu inaktivaciju. Dva pacijenta od 7 liječenih s PEG-asp

J-04

## L-asparaginase activity in paediatric haematooncology patients treated with native and pegylated asparaginase - our experiences

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**Introduction:** L-asparaginase (L-asp) is an important therapy for children with acute lymphocytic leukaemia (ALL) and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Mechanism of action is reduction of asparagine in blood, which deprives immature malignant cells of amino acids. We have established the first laboratory for determining L-asp activity in Croatia (Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Children's Hospital Zagreb). The aim is to present our experiences in monitoring L-asp activity with two commercially available drugs derived from *E. coli*: native (N-asp) and pegylated asparaginase (PEG-asp).

**Materials and methods:** The prospective study included 37 patients (1-18 years, 34 ALL and 3 NHL cases) in the period from March 2018 to December 2021. N-asp was used to treat 30 and PEG-asp to 7 patients. Blood samples were collected before and during treatment. Serum was separated and frozen before analysis at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . L-asp activity was measured at the recommended intervals: N-asp 48 and 72 h, PEG-asp 7 and 14 days after application (4 patients treat with PEG-asp after 21 and one patient after 28 days) by spectrophotometric indoxin method with L-aspartate-beta-hydroxamate. The recommended therapeutic activity of L-asp is  $> 100 \text{ U/L}$ .

**Results:** Out of the patients treated with N-asp, three (10%) developed allergies, and four (13%)

razvilo je akutni pankreatitis. Srednja vrijednost aktivnosti L-asp kod pacijenata koji nisu razvili preosjetljivost na N-asp je 281,2 U/L nakon 48 h i 347,2 U/L nakon 72 h. Srednja vrijednost aktivnosti L-asp nakon terapije PEG-asp iznosila je: 1130,5 U/L nakon 7 dana, 662,2 U/L nakon 14 dana, a kod 4 pacijenta 408,1 U/L nakon 21 dan i kod jednog bolesnika 122,7 U/L nakon 28 dana.

**Zaključak:** Uz preporučene doze lijeka, vidljive su značajno veće aktivnosti L-asp kod liječenja s PEG-asp, stoga važnost praćenja aktivnosti L-asp nije samo u alergijskim reakcijama ili tijeku inaktivaciji lijeka već i u korigiranju doze u narednim ciklusima terapije kako bi smanjili izglede nuspojava.

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showed silent inactivation. Two patients out of 7 treated with PEG-asp developed acute pancreatitis. The mean L-asp activity (U/L) in patients without hypersensitivity to N-asp was: 281.2 after 48 h and 347.2 after 72 h. The mean value of L-asp activity (U/L) after PEG-asp therapy was: 1130.5, 662.2, 408.1 and 122.7 for 7, 14, 21 or 28 days, respectively.

**Conclusion:** In addition to the recommended doses, significantly higher L-asp activity is seen in treatment with PEG-asp, so the importance of monitoring L-asp activity is not only in allergic reactions or silent drug inactivation but also in dose adjustment in the following therapy cycles to reduce the likelihood of drug side effects.

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## K Laboratorijska toksikologija

### K-01

#### Ocjena referentnih intervala za selen i mangan u serumu određenih grafitnom tehnikom atomsko apsorpcijske spektrofotometrije

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**Uvod:** Prije uvođenja novih analiza u rutinski rad, uz ispitivanje analitičkih karakteristika metode, preporučuje se učiniti i ocjenu bioloških referentnih intervala, neovisno o tome primjenjuju li se harmonizirani referentni intervali ili preporučeni referentni intervali iz literaturnih izvora. Cilj ovog ispitivanja bio je ocijeniti harmonizirane referentne intervale (Harmonizacija laboratorijskih nalaza u području opće, specijalne i visokodiferentne medicinske bioķemije, 2007.)

## K Laboratory toxicology

### K-01

#### Verification of serum selenium and manganese reference intervals determined by graphite-furnace atomic absorption spectrometer

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**Introduction:** Before introducing new diagnostic test into laboratory routine, in addition to the verification of analytical characteristics, reference intervals should be verified regardless of their source. The aim of this study was to verify harmonized reference intervals (Harmonization of Laboratory Results in the Field of General, Specialist and Highly Differentiated Medical Biochemistry, 2007) for serum selenium (Se) and manganese (Mn) concentrations.

za koncentracije selena (Se) i mangana (Mn) u serumu. Naša je hipoteza bila da se harmonizirani referentni intervali mogu prihvati za rutinski rad.

**Materijali i metode:** U ispitivanje je uključeno 27 referentnih osoba (zaposlenika Kliničkog zavoda za kemiju i njihovih obitelji). Uključeni ispitanici nisu u trenutku uzorkovanja bili akutno ili kronično bolesni niti koristili lijekove i/ili dodatke prehrani. Krv je uzorkovana u epruvete za određivanje elemenata u tragovima (Vacutainer, BD, Franklin Lakes, USA). Koncentracije Se i Mn su određivane iz uzorka serumu na grafitnom atomsko-apsorpcijskom spektrofotometru 240Z AA (Agilent Technologies, Victoria, Australia). Nakon uklanjanja ekstremnih vrijednosti po Tukeyu ocjena referentnih intervala je provedena na 25 ispitanika (9 muškaraca i 16 žena; u dobi od 38 (22-59) godina). Statistička obrada je napravljena u programu MedCalc (Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Ispitane koncentracije Se imale su medijan od  $0,80 \mu\text{mol/L}$  (raspon  $0,64-1,09$ ) i svi ispitanici imali su koncentracije unutar ocjenjivanih referentnih intervala ( $0,64-1,52 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ). Ispitane koncentracije Mn imale su medijan od  $25 \text{ nmol/L}$  (raspon  $5-37 \text{ nmol/L}$ ), a samo 6 ispitanika je imalo koncentracije Mn unutar ocjenjivanih referentnih intervala ( $< 14 \text{ nmol/L}$ ). Nije utvrđena statistički značajna razlika u koncentracijama Se ( $P = 0,610$ ) i Mn ( $P = 0,446$ ) između muškaraca i žena.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati ocjene referentnih intervala za Se ukazuju da se ispitivani (harmonizirani) referentni interval za Se može prihvati za primjenu u rutinskom radu. Za Mn je potrebno izraditi novi referentni interval na većem broju ispitanika te utvrditi čimbenike koji uzrokuju više koncentracije Mn kod zdravih osoba u odnosu na prethodno ispitivanu referentnu populaciju.

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Our hypothesis was that harmonized reference intervals could be accepted for routine work.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 27 reference individuals (employees of the Clinical Department of Chemistry and their families). Subjects included were not acutely/chronically ill nor were using medications and/or dietary supplements. Blood was sampled into tubes for trace elements determination (Vacutainer, BD, Franklin Lakes, USA). Se and Mn concentrations were determined from a serum sample by 240Z AA graphite-furnace atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Agilent Technologies, Victoria, Australia). After removing the outliers according to the Tukey, the verification of the reference intervals was performed on 25 individuals (9 men/16 women; aged 38 (22-59) years). Statistical analysis was done in the MedCalc program (Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** The tested Se concentrations had a median of  $0.80 \mu\text{mol/L}$  (range  $0.64-1.09$ ) and all subjects had concentrations within the examined reference interval ( $0.64-1.52 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ). The tested Mn concentrations had a median of  $25 \text{ nmol/L}$  (range  $5-37$ ), and only 6 individuals had Mn concentrations within the examined reference interval ( $< 14 \text{ nmol/L}$ ). No statistically significant difference was found in the concentrations of Se ( $P = 0.610$ ) and Mn ( $P = 0.446$ ) between men and women.

**Conclusion:** The results of the verification indicate that the examined reference interval for Se can be accepted in routine work. For Mn, it is necessary to develop a new reference interval on a larger number of subjects and to determine the factors that cause higher concentrations in healthy individuals compared to the previously examined reference population.

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K-02

## Verifikacija EMIT metode za određivanje antiepileptika na uređaju DxC 700 AU

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati preciznost i mjeru nesigurnost EMIT metoda (eng. *enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique*) za određivanje koncentracije karbamazepina, fenobarbitona i valproata u serumu na uređaju DxC 700 AU (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA) te odrediti istinitost dobivenih vrijednosti prema ciljnim vrijednostima proizvođača kontrolnog materijala.

**Materijali i metode:** Verifikacija metode za određivanje karbamazepina, fenobarbitona i valproata provedena je prema CLSI EP15-A2 protokolu analizom komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka MAS ChemTRAK-H (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) u dvije koncentracijske razine u triplikatu kroz 5 dana. Određena je ponovljivost (preciznost u seriji), validacijska međupreciznost iz ponovljenih mjerena, unutarlaboratorijska preciznost i istinitost (bias). Mjerna nesigurnost izračunata je iz unutarlaboratorijske preciznosti ( $k = 2$ ) i uspoređena je s kriterijima vanjske procjene kvalitete, Croqalm (20%). RiliBäk kriteriji (valproat 11,5%, karbamazepin 12%, fenobarbiton 10%) korišteni su za procjenu bias-a (%).

**Rezultati:** Ponovljivost ( $CV\%$ ) iznosila je: za karbamazepin 5,66 i 2,57, za fenobarbiton 1,74 i 2,44, a za valproat 2,96 i 3,04. Validacijska međupreciznost ( $CV\%$ ) bila je: za karbamazepin 4,44 i 6,00, za fenobarbiton 2,65 i 2,37, a za valproat 1,43 i 1,57. Mjerna nesigurnost ( $U\%_{rel}$ ) iz podataka dobivenih verifikacijskim postupkom zadovoljila je postavljeni kriterij, a bila je za karbamazepin 12,81 i 12,71, za fenobarbiton 6,00 i 6,20, a za valproat 5,62 i 5,87. Dobiveno odstupanje za istinitost (%) bilo je najviše za karbamazepin (9,48 i 12,82), a za fenobarbiton 7,17 i 6,05 i za valproat 7,41 i 7,78.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacija EMIT metode za određivanje karbamazepina, fenobarbitona i valproata zadovoljila je kriterije vanjske procjene kvalitete, Croqalm u procjeni mjerne nesigurnosti. Dobivena odstupanja za istinitost u odnosu na ciljne vrijednosti proizvođača kontrolnog materijala potvrđuju preporuku pri-

K-02

## Verification of EMIT method for measuring anticonvulsants concentrations on DxC 700 AU analyser

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**Introduction:** The aim of our study was to examine precision and measurement uncertainty of EMIT method (enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique) for measuring the concentration of carbamazepine, phenobarbitone and valproate in serum sample on DxC 700 AU analyser (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). Trueness of measured values were determined according to the manufacturer's declared values of control material.

**Materials and methods:** The verification was performed according to EP15-A2 CLSI verification protocol, using two levels of MAS ChemTRAK-H control material (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) in triplicate during 5 days. The verification included determination of within-run precision (repeatability), between-run precision, intra-laboratory precision and trueness (bias). Measurement uncertainty was calculated from interlaboratory precision ( $k = 2$ ) and compared with external quality assessment criteria, Croqalm (20%). The RiliBäk criteria (valproate 11.5%, carbamazepine 12%, phenobarbitone 10%) were used to estimate bias (%).

**Results:** Coefficients of variation for within-run precision ( $CV\%$ ) were 5.66 and 2.57 for carbamazepine, 1.74 and 2.44 for phenobarbitone and 1.43 and 1.57 for valproate. Between-run precision was ( $CV\%$ ): 4.44 and 6.00 for carbamazepine, 2.65 and 2.37 for phenobarbitone and 1.43 and 1.57 for valproate. Measurement uncertainty ( $U\%_{rel}$ ) from the data obtained by the verification procedure fulfilled the criteria of external quality assessment, and it was 12.81 and 12.71 for carbamazepine, 6.00 and 6.20 for phenobarbitone, and 5.62 and 5.87 for valproate. The obtained bias (%) was the highest for carbamazepine (9.48 and 12.82), 7.17 and 6.05 for phenobarbitone, and 7.41 and 7.78 for valproate.

**Conclusion:** Verification of the EMIT method for the determination of carbamazepine, phenobarbitone and valproate met the criteria of external quality assessment, Croqalm in the assessment of measure-

zvođača kontrolnog materijala da svaki laboratorij provjeri/odredi svoje ciljne vrijednosti.

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ment uncertainty. The obtained deviations for true-ness regarding the manufacturer's declared values of control material confirm the manufacturer's recommendation that each laboratory has to check/determine its own target values.

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### K-03

#### **Postizanje terapijskih intervala pri primjeni neuroleptika kod bolesnika sa shizofrenijom**

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**Uvod:** Neuroleptici (antipsihotici) pripadaju skupini lijekova za liječenje psihoz različitih oblika i prvi su lijekovi izbora za liječenje pacijenata sa shizofrenijom. Suradljivost u uzimanju terapije kod ovih pacijenata je često otežana, stoga je cilj našeg rada bio utvrditi uspješnost postizanja terapije neuroleptima unutar terapijskog intervala za pacijente s dijagnozom shizofrenije.

**Materijali i metode:** U studiju je bilo uključeno 149 pacijenata, 68 muškaraca (dobi 19-78 godina) i 81 žena (dobi 20-78 godina), s dijagnozom shizofrenije na terapiji neurolepticima iz Klinike za psihijatriju, KBC Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb. Koncentracije lijekova u uzorcima seruma određivane su metodom tekućinske kromatografije s masenom spektrometrijom, na analizatoru LCMS-8050 (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) koristeći komercijalni reagens ClinMass Add-On set for Neuroleptics (Recipe, Munich, Njemačka). Svim pacijentima određivani su svi neuroleptici dostupni u komercijalnom reagensu, a to su redom amisulprid, sulpirid, paliperidon, risperidon, ziprasidon, olanzapin, haloperidol, kvetiapin, klozapin, sertindol, flufenazin, aripiprazol, levomepromazin, zuklopentiksol, prometazin. Svi terapijski intervali preuzeti su od proizvođača reagensa.

### K-03

#### **Neuroleptics therapeutic range achievement in patients with schizophrenia**

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**Introduction:** Neuroleptics (antipsychotics) are a class of drugs for the treatment of psychosis of various forms. They are first line therapy for patients with schizophrenia. Patient collaboration in therapy maintenance within this group of patients is often difficult. Therefore, the aim of our study was to determine neuroleptics therapeutic range achievement in patients with schizophrenia.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 149 patients, 68 male (age 19-78 years) and 81 woman (age 20-78 years), with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and on neuroleptic therapy from the Clinic of Psychiatry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb. Serum drug concentrations were analysed by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry on an LCMS-8050 analyser (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) using the commercial kit ClinMass Add-On Set for Neuroleptics (Recipe, Munich, Germany). Neuroleptics analysed in all patients' samples were amisulpride, sulpiride, paliperidone, risperidone, ziprasidone, olanzapine, haloperidol, quetiapine, clozapine, sertindole, fluphenazine, aripiprazole, levo-promazine, zuclopentixol and promethazine. All therapeutic ranges were taken from manufacturer.

**Rezultati:** Najviše pacijenata bilo je na terapiji klozapinom (46%), samo je 11/69 (0,16) pacijenata imalo koncentracije unutar terapijskog intervala. Drugi lijek po učestalosti bio je paliperidon (36%), 36/53 (0,66) pacijenata imalo je koncentracije unutar terapijskog intervala. Slijedio je aripiprazol (18%), 12/27 (0,44) pacijenata bilo je unutar terapijskog raspona. Četvrti lijek po učestalosti bio je olanzapin (17%), 17/26 (0,65) pacijenata imalo je koncentracije unutar terapijskog intervala. I peti lijek bio je kvetiapin (17%), samo je 7/25 (0,28) pacijenata bilo unutar terapijskog intervala. Slijedili su flufenazin i haloperidol (14%). Kod flufenazine samo je 1/21 (0,05) pacijent bio unutar terapijskog intervala, a na haloperidolu njih 15/21 (0,71).

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati su pokazali da je od određivanih neuroleptika najmanja uspješnost postizanja terapije unutar terapijskog raspona postignuta za flufenazin i klozapin, dok je najbolja uspješnost postizanja terapije bila kod pacijenata na haloperidolu i paliperidonu.

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**Results:** Most patients included in our study were on clozapine therapy (46%) and only 11/69 (0.16) achieved drug concentrations within therapeutic range. Second most used drug was paliperidone (36%), for 36/53 (0.66) patients drug concentrations were within therapeutic range. Next drug was aripiprazole (18%), 12/27 (0.44) patients achieved aripiprazole therapeutic range concentrations. The fourth most commonly used drug was olanzapine (17%), 17/26 (0.65) patients had therapeutic drug concentration achieved. Fifth most used drug was quetiapine (17%), and only 7/25 (0.28) patients achieved therapeutic concentrations. And finally, last two drugs were flufenazine and haloperidol (14%), with 1/21 (0.05) and 15/21 (0.71) patients with drug concentrations within therapeutic ranges.

**Conclusion:** Our results have shown that of all neuroleptics analysed with this commercial kit, the least successful therapeutic range achievement was for fluphenazine and clozapine. The best success in achieving therapeutic range was in patients on haloperidol and paliperidone.

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## L Molekularna dijagnostika

### L-01 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Uspostava metoda za izolaciju egzosoma iz plazme i njihovu karakterizaciju

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**Uvod:** Egzosomi su izvanstanične vezikule promjera 30-150 nm, bogate proteinima, RNA molekulama i dijelovima genomske DNA. Egzosomi imaju važnu ulogu u dijagnostici tumorskih bolesti primjenom tekuće biopsije, ali nanometarska veličina otežava njihovu izolaciju i karakterizaciju. Cilj ovoga rada bio je uspostaviti metodu za izolaciju egzosoma iz plazme bolesnika s kolorektalnim karcinomom (CRC).

**Materijali i metode:** Plazma je dobivena centrifuiranjem pune krvi 11 bolesnika s CRC-om. Izolacija egzosoma provedena je korištenjem dva komercijalno dostupna kompleta, miRCURY Exosome Serum/Plasma Kit (Qiagen, Njemačka) ili Invitrogen Total Exosome Isolation Kit (from plasma) (ThermoFisher Scientific, SAD). Egzosomi su lizirani RIPA puferom i sonikacijom. Koncentracija proteina utvrđena je kolorimetrijskom metodom s bicinkoniničnom kiselinom ili mjerenjem apsorbancije na 280 nm korištenjem DS-11 spektrofotometra (DeNovix, SAD). Uzorci egzosoma pripremljeni su za SDS-PAGE miješanjem s puferom za pripremu uzorka (s ili bez β-merkaptoetanola). Karakterizacija je provedena Western blot metodom uz upotrebu mišjih monoklonskih antitijela za CD9, HSC70, aktin i kalneksin (Invitrogen, SAD).

**Rezultati:** Određivanjem koncentracije proteina kolorimetrijskom metodom dobivena je zadovoljavaju-

## L Molecular diagnostics

### L-01 (Oral presentation)

#### Evaluation of methods for isolation of exosomes from plasma and their characterization

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**Introduction:** Exosomes are extracellular vesicles, 30-150 nm in diameter, rich in proteins, RNA and genomic DNA fragments. Exosomes play an important role in tumor diagnostics using liquid biopsy, but nanometer size makes their isolation and characterization difficult. The aim of this study was to establish a method for exosome isolation from plasma of patients with colorectal cancer (CRC).

**Materials and methods:** Plasma was obtained from 11 CRC patients. Exosome isolation was performed using two commercially available kits, miRCURY Exosome Serum/Plasma Kit (Qiagen, Germany) or Invitrogen Total Exosome Isolation Kit (from plasma) (ThermoFisher Scientific, USA). Exosomes were lysed by RIPA buffer and sonication. Protein concentration was determined by colorimetric method with bicinchoninic acid or measurement of absorbance at 280 nm using DS-11 spectrophotometer (DeNovix, USA). Exosome samples for SDS-PAGE were mixed with sample buffer (with/without β-mercaptoethanol). Characterization was performed by Western blot using mouse monoclonal antibodies for CD9, HSC70, actin and calnexin (Invitrogen, USA).

**Results:** Determination of protein concentration by colorimetric method had satisfactory repeatability (7.91%), accuracy (96.53%) and linearity ( $r = 0.996$ ),

ća preciznost u seriji (7,91%), točnost (96,53%) i linearnost ( $r = 0,996$ ), dok rezultati dobiveni mjerjenjem apsorbancije na 280 nm nisu bili prihvatljivi zbog nemogućnosti otklanjanja interferencije RIPA pufera. Sveukupni rezultati volumena i broja egzosoma te određivanja koncentracije proteina u egzosomima i njihovim vizualnim očitanjem na gelu za SDS-PAGE razvidno je da Qiagenov komplet daje bolji prinos egzosoma od ThermoFisherovog kompleta. U svim je uzorcima egzosoma Western blotom dokazana prisutnost njihovog biljega CD9, uz neredučirajuće uvjete (bez  $\beta$ -merkaptoetanol). U pojedinim je uzorcima dobiven signal za HSC70, a niti u jednom uzroku nije dokazan aktin. Odsutnost endoplazmatskog retikula u uzorcima dokazana je izostankom vrpce karakteristične za kalneksin.

**Zaključak:** Pokazano je da je za izolaciju egzosoma primjereno Qiagenov komplet, a za određivanje koncentracije proteina u uzorcima egzosoma s RIPA puferom kolorimetrijska metoda s bicinkoniničnom kiselinom.

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while the results obtained by measurement of absorbance at 280 nm were not acceptable due to inability to eliminate RIPA buffer interference. The overall results of the volume and number of exosomes, determination of protein concentrations in exosomes and visual reading of SDS-PAGE gel show that Qiagen kit gives a better yield of exosomes than ThermoFisher kit. Exosomal marker CD9 was demonstrated in all Western blot samples (without  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol). HSC70 signal was obtained in some samples, and actin was not detected at all. The absence of endoplasmic reticulum in the samples was demonstrated by the lack of calnexin signal.

**Conclusion:** Qiagen kit was proved to be suitable for exosome isolation, and colorimetric method with bicinchoninic acid for determination of protein concentration in exosome samples with RIPA buffer.

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## L-02 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Učestalosti alela i haplotipova polimorfizama u genu za P-selektin u hrvatskoj populaciji i usporedba s evropskim populacijama

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**Uvod:** P-selektin je adhezijska molekula koja ima ključnu ulogu u početnim fazama adhezije leukocita

## L-02 (Oral presentation)

### Allele and haplotype frequencies of P-selectin gene polymorphisms in the Croatian population and comparison with European populations

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**Introduction:** P-selectin is an adhesion molecule with a pivotal role in the initial phases of adhesion

na aktivirane trombocite i endotelne stanice tijekom fiziološke ili patološke upale i hemostaze. Do danas su opisani brojni polimorfizmi u genu za P-selektin (PSEL), ali raspodjela učestalosti polimorfizama može odstupati između različitih etničkih skupina. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je utvrditi učestalosti genotipova, alela i haplotipova četiri najučestalije varijante PSEL (S290N, N562D, V599L, T715P) u hrvatskoj zdravoj populaciji, te ih usporediti s učestalostima zabilježenim u drugim europskim populacijama.

**Materijali i metode:** Genotipovi PSEL S290N, N562D, V599L i T715P određeni su u 250 hrvatskih zdravih ispitanika (140 muškaraca i 110 žena) primjenom lančane reakcije polimeraze s ishodnicama specifičnog slijeda. Za analizu raspodjele genotipova prema spolu upotrijebljen je Hi-kvadrat test. Haplotipovi PSEL su izračunati pomoću web alata za analizu pojedinačnih nukleotidnih polimorfizama (SNP), SNPStats. Za ovo su istraživanje iz dosadašnjih objavljenih europskih etničkih istraživanja slučajevi-kontrole odabrane učestalosti alela i haplotipova zdravih kontrola, koje su uspoređene s našim rezultatima primjenom Z-testa dvaju omjera.

**Rezultati:** Učestalosti genotipova za sve ispitivane pojedinačne polimorfizme PSEL nisu se statistički razlikovali prema spolu osim za S290N. Genotip divljeg tipa SS290 bio je značajno zastupljeniji u muškaraca u odnosu na žene ( $P = 0,024$ ). Dobivene učestalosti dominantnih alela PSEL iznosile su: S290 (0,786), N562 (0,506), V599 (0,890) i T715 (0,924). Od ukupno utvrđenih deset haplotipova PSEL S290N/N562D/V599L/T715P, najčešći haplotipovi bili su: SDVT (0,374), SNVT (0,252), NDVT (0,097) i NNVT (0,095).

**Zaključak:** Dobivene učestalosti alela i haplotipova podudarale su se s učestalostima dobivenima u većini europske populacije. Podatci dobiveni u ovom istraživanju predstavljaju ishodište za buduća istraživanja genske podloge kardiovaskularnih i trombotičnih bolesti u hrvatskoj populaciji.

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of leukocytes on activated platelets and endothelial cells during physiological or pathological inflammation and haemostasis. To date, multiple polymorphisms in P-selectin gene (SELP) have been described, but the distribution of polymorphism frequencies can vary between different ethnic groups. The study aimed to estimate genotype, allele and haplotype frequencies of four most common SELP variants (S290N, N562D, V599L, T715P) in the Croatian healthy population and to compare them with the frequencies reported for other European populations.

**Materials and methods:** SELP S290N, N562D, V599L and T715P genotypes were determined in 250 Croatian healthy subjects (140 males and 110 females) using the polymerase chain reaction with sequence-specific primers. The distribution of genotypes according to gender was analysed using the Chi-Square test. SELP haplotypes were calculated using the web tool for single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis, SNPStats. For this study, allele and haplotype frequencies of healthy controls were selected from to date published European ethnic case-control studies and were compared with our results using a two proportions Z-test.

**Results:** For all investigated single SELP polymorphisms no difference of genotype frequencies was found according to gender, except for the S290N. The wild-type SS290 genotype was significantly more common in males than in females ( $P = 0.024$ ). Obtained SELP major allele frequencies were: S290 (0.786), N562 (0.506), V599 (0.890) and T715 (0.924). Among the ten identified SELP S290N/N562D/V599L/T715P haplotypes the most frequent haplotypes were: SDVT (0.374), SNVT (0.252), NDVT (0.097) and NNVT (0.095).

**Conclusion:** Obtained data of allele and haplotype frequencies are similar to the frequencies reported in most European populations. Data obtained in this study are essential and can be used in future investigations of the genetic background of cardiovascular and thrombotic diseases in the Croatian population.

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L-03

**Hrvatska zaklada za znanost  
uspostavni istraživački projekt: uloga  
farmakogenomike u predviđanju  
nuspojava kardiovaskularnih lijekova  
(PGx-CardioDrug)**

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**Uvod:** Za mnoge novije kardiovaskularne (KV) lijekove broj farmakogenomskihih (PGx) istraživanja je ograničen i nema jednoznačnih zaključaka. Cilj je istražiti ulogu farmakogena kao i višestruke interakcije lijek-lijek-gen i njihovu važnost za predviđanje nuspojava KV lijekova.

**Materijali i metode:** Ovaj projekt je planiran kao prospективno istraživanje „ugnjezđenih slučajeva i kontrola“ u trajanju od 60 mjeseci i uključit će 1200 konsekutivno uključenih ispitanika. Primarna kohorta uključuje pacijente s novopostavljenom indikacijom za primjenu direktnih oralnih antikoagulansa (DOAK: dabigatran eteksilat, apiksaban, rivaroksaban, edoksaban); inhibitora agregacije trombocita (klopidogrel, prasugrel, tikagrelor), i/ili inhibitora HMG-CoA reduktaze (simvastatin, atorvastatin, rosvastatin). Slučajevi obuhvaćaju ispitanike kojima se tijekom praćenja uoče nuspojave: krvarenja i pojava vaskularnih incidenata tj. neučinkovitost lijeka za DOAK-e i antitrombocitne lijekove, te miotoksičnost i hepatotoksičnost za statine. Kontrolnu skupinu čine oni ispitanici u kojih se tijekom trajanja istraživanja ne uoči razvoj nuspojava. Svi ispitanici su genotipirani metodom PCR u stvarnom vremenu za relevantne varijante gena ADME: CYP2C9\*2,\*3, CYP2C19\*2,\*3,\*17, CYP2D6\*3,\*4,\*5,\*6,\*9,\*10,\*41 i xN, CYP2J2\*7, CES1 (rs2244613, rs8192935), ABCB1 (c.1236C>T, c.2677G>T/A, c.3435C>T, rs4148738), ABCG2 c.421C>A, SLCO1B1 c.521T>C by Real-Time PCR metods, depending on the therapy, and were monito-

L-03

**Croatian science foundation installation  
research project: pharmacogenomics in the  
prediction of cardiovascular drugs adverse  
reactions - PGx-CardioDrug**

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**Introduction:** For many newer cardiovascular (CV) drugs, the number of PGx studies is limited and there are no unambiguous conclusions. The aim is to investigate the multiple drug-drug-gene interactions and their relevance for predicting cardiovascular drugs> adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

**Materials and methods:** This “nested case-control” prospective study will last 60 months and include 1,200 subjects. The primary cohort is represented by subjects who have a new indication for the administration of direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC: dabigatran, apixaban, rivaroxaban, edoxaban); platelet aggregation inhibitors (PAI: clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor), HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (simvastatin, atorvastatin, rosuvastatin). The cases represent subjects that developed ADRs during the follow-up period: bleeding from DOACs and PAIs, myotoxicity and hepatotoxicity from statins. Controls are recruited from the same cohort, among subjects with no ADRs from the enrolment. All subjects were genotyped for relevant ADME gene variants: CYP2C9\*2\*3, CYP2C19\*2\*3\*17, CYP2D6\*3\*4\*5\*6\*9\*10\*41 and xN, CYP2J2\*7, CES1 (rs2244613, rs8192935), ABCB1 (c.1236C>T, c.2677G>T/A, c.3435C>T, rs4148738), ABCG2 c.421C>A, SLCO1B1 c.521T>C by Real-Time PCR metods, depending on the therapy, and were monito-

(c.1236C>T, c.2677G>T/A, c.3435C>T, rs4148738), ABCG2 c.421C>A, SLCO1B1 c.521T>C, a praćeni su i klinički i laboratorijski parametri. Za interakcije lijekova (DDI) primijenjen je Lexicomp sustav.

**Rezultati:** Do sada je regrutirano 450 pacijenata (215 žena, 235 muškaraca). Genotipitacija je provedena ovisno o terapiji; CYP2C9 (N = 211; 47%), CYP2C19 (N = 262; 58%), CYP3A4 (N = 335, 74%), CYP3A5 (N = 299, 66%), CYP2D6 (N = 101, 22%), CES1 (N = 32, 7%), ABCB1 (N = 282, 63%), ABCG2 (N = 357, 79%), te SLCO1B1 (N = 214, 48%). Uočene nuspojave su: miotoksičnost (N = 84, 17%), hepatotoksičnost (N = 14, 3%), krvarenje (N = 36, 9%). Potencijalne interakcije lijekova otkrivene su u skupini statina (N = 39/182), DOAK (N = 133/135) i antiagregacijski lijekovi (N = 68/76).

**Zaključak:** Naši preliminarni podaci ukazuju na interakcije lijek-ljek-gen kao važan čimbenik rizika za kardiovaskularne nuspojave lijekova. Očekujemo da će rezultati projekta donijeti nova znanstvena saznanja o povezanosti farmakogena s učinkovitosti i sigurnosti primjene KV lijekova specifično u populaciji ispitanika s komorbiditetima i politerapijom.

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#### L-04

### Izolacija CD138+ stanica i I-FISH u uzorku koštane srži kod bolesnika s multiplim mijelomom

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**Uvod:** Multipli mijelom (MM) heterogena je bolest kod koje dolazi do infiltracije koštane srži malignim plazma stanicama koje luče monoklonske imunoglobuline. Prema najnovijim smjernicama, citogenetičke promjene važan su dio stratifikacije bolesnika te se zbog ograničenja metoda klasične citogenetike i prirode bolesti pojavila potreba za uvođenjem izolacije stanica koje sadržavaju stanični biljeg CD138 te

red for clinical and laboratory parameters. For drug-drug interactions (DDI), The Lexicomp® was applied.

**Results:** In total 450 patients were recruited (female = 215, male = 235). Among them were genotyped according to prescribed drug substrates for CYP2C9 (N = 211; 47%), CYP2C19 (N = 262; 58%), CYP3A4 (N = 335, 74%), CYP3A5 (N = 299, 66%), CYP2D6 (N = 101, 22%), CES1 (N = 32, 7%), ABCB1 (N = 282, 63%), ABCG2 (N = 357, 79%), SLCO1B1 (N = 214, 48%). ADRs observed were myotoxicity (N = 84, 17%), hepatotoxicity (N = 14, 3%), bleeding (N = 36, 9%). Potential DDI were found in statins (N = 39/182), DOACs (N = 133/135) and PAIs (N = 68/76).

**Conclusion:** Our preliminary data point to the drug-drug-gene interactions as an important risk factor for ADRs. We expect that the results of our project will lead to new knowledge about the relationship of pharmacogen with the efficacy and safety of the use of CV drugs specifically in the population of CV patients with comorbidities and polytherapy.

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#### L-04

### Isolation of CD138+ cells and I-FISH from bone marrow in patients with multiple myeloma

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**Introduction:** Multiple myeloma (MM) is a heterogeneous disease characterized by infiltration of patients' bone marrow with malignant plasma cells producing monoclonal immunoglobulins. According to recent guidelines, cytogenetic changes are important for patient stratification but due to disadvantages of classic cytogenetics methods and nature of disease, there is a need for isolation of CD138+ pla-

izvođenja interfazne flourescentne in situ hibridizacije (I-FISH) na njima kako bi te promjene mogli dokazati. Cilj rada bio je ispitati dijagnostičku točnost I-FISH metode s izolacijom CD138+ stanica u uzorku koštane srži.

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanje su uključeni bolesnici koji su u razdoblju od lipnja 2019. do siječnja 2022. obrađivani u Kliničkom bolničkom centru Zagreb zbog sumnje na novootkriveni ili MM u relapsu. Izolacija CD138+ stanica provedena je imunomagnetskom selekcijom (EasySep Human CD138 Positive Selection Kit II). Promjene genoma ispitane su I-FISH metodom kako bi se otkrile najčešće citogenetičke promjene kod MM te one s nepovoljnom prognozom: preuredba IGH gena, t(4;14), t(11;14), t(14;16), delecija p53 gena, duplikacija CKSB1, delecija CDKN2C gena.

**Rezultati:** Ukupno je uključeno 307 bolesnika s MM. Od toga, njih 64 nisu izolirana ovom metodom, a za sedam bolesnika nedostaju podatci. Od preostalih 236 bolesnika, njih 117 (50%) imalo je potvrđenu dijagnozu PHD-om ( $> 10\%$  plazma stanica). I-FISH-em detektirali smo promjene kod 202 bolesnika (86%). Trideset i četiri (14 %) bolesnika imala su uredan nalaz I-FISH-a, a potvrđenu dijagnozu PHD-om. Osjetljivost I-FISH-a je 71% (95% CI: 62–79), dok je specifičnost 84% (95% CI: 76–90). Površina ispod krivulje (AUC) I-FISH-a je 0,78 (95% CI: 0,72–0,83). Kapa koeficijent iznosi 0,55 (95% CI: 0,44–0,66).

**Zaključak:** Pri dijagnozi bolesnika s MM potrebno je dokazati i/ili isključiti promjenu radi stratifikacije liječenja. Ovim istraživanjem utvrdili smo da I-FISH na izoliranim CD138+ stanicama otkriva 86% patologije koja karakterizira MM, što je u skladu s literaturnim podacima.

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sma cells and for interphase fluorescent in situ hybridization (I-FISH) on isolated cells in order to better detect changes. The aim of the study was to assess diagnostic accuracy of the I-FISH method on isolated CD138+ cells.

**Materials and methods:** The study included UHC Zagreb patients who were in relapse or newly diagnosed with MM from June 2019 to January 2022. Isolation of CD138+ cells was performed using immunomagnetic principle of CD138+ plasma cells selection (EasySep Human CD138 Positive Selection Kit II). I-FISH was used for detection of the most frequent genome changes in MM and changes with unfavorable prognosis: rearrangement of IGH gene, t(4;14), t(11;14), t(14;16), deletion of p53 gene, duplication of CKSB1, and deletion of CDKN2C gene.

**Results:** A total of 307 patients with MM were included. Among them, 64 patients were not isolated and for seven data is not available. From the remaining 236 patients, in 117 (50%) MM diagnosis was confirmed by histopathological result ( $> 10\%$  plasma cells). I-FISH detected changes in 202 patients (86%). Thirty-four (14%) patients had no changes detected with I-FISH and had positive histopathological result. Sensitivity of I-FISH is 71% (95% CI: 62–79), and specificity 84% (95% CI: 76–90). Area under curve (AUC) of I-FISH is 0.78 (95% CI: 0.72–0.83). Weighted Kappa is 0.55 (95% CI: 0.44–0.66).

**Conclusion:** When diagnosing a patient with MM, it is important to detect changes in genome for stratification and therapy. Hereby we confirmed that I-FISH on isolated CD138+ cells detect 86% changes that are characteristic for MM, which is consistent with literature data.

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L-05

## Procjena relativne ekspresije miRNA u fetalno-placentalnoj jedinici u ovisnosti o majčinom pušenju

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**Uvod:** Sve se više istražuje primjena miRNA kao potencijalnih biomarkera bolesti i njihova moguća terapeutска uloga. Poznata je povezanost ekspresije nekoliko miRNA i pušenja cigareta. Cilj ovog istraživanja je bio procijeniti utjecaj majčinog pušenja na ekspresiju miRNA (miR-1537, miR-190b, miR-16, miR-21 i miR-146a) u tri odjeljka majčinog i fetalnog podrijetla.

**Materijali i metode:** Presječna studija je provedena u 72 para majka-novorođenče prikupljenih tijekom 2018. i 2019. godine u Kliničkoj bolnici Merkur (Zagreb, Hrvatska). mRNA obogaćena s miRNA je izolirana iz uzorka plazme majke i pupkovine i posteljice te je napravljena reverzna transkripcija u cDNA primjenom Qiagen reagenasa za izolaciju i transkripciju (Hilden, Njemačka). Ekspresija miRNA je kvantificirana pomoću RT-PCR sustava AB7500 (Applied Biosystems, SAD).

**Rezultati:** Relativna ekspresija 5 analiziranih miRNA izražena kao fold change ( $2^{-\Delta Ct}$ ) u pušačica i nepušačica je pokazala statistički značajnu razliku između različitih odjeljaka fetalno-placentalne jedinice ( $P < 0,001$ ) (testirano Friedmanovim i *post-hoc* Wilcoxonovim testom ekvivalentnih parova). Ekspresija miR-1537, miR-190b, miR-16 i miR-146a je bila značajno viša u tkivu posteljice u odnosu na plazmu majke ili pupkovine ( $P < 0,001$ ). Ekspresija miR-16 u nepušačica je bila značajno veća u plazmi pupkovine u odnosu na plazmu majke ( $P = 0,001$ ) dok je ekspre-

L-05

## Relative expressions of miRNAs across the feto-placental unit in relation to maternal smoking status

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**Introduction:** Potential of using miRNAs as biomarkers of disease and potential therapeutic targets is recently increasingly explored. Several miRNAs have been previously identified to be associated with cigarette smoke. The aim of this study was to investigate the association of maternal smoking status and expression of miRNAs (miR-1537, miR-190b, miR-16, miR-21, and miR-146a) in three compartments of maternal and fetal origin.

**Materials and methods:** Cross-sectional study included 72 mother-newborn pairs recruited during 2018 and 2019 at the Merkur University Hospital (Zagreb, Croatia). mRNA enriched with miRNA were isolated from maternal and cord blood plasma samples and placental tissue and reverse transcribed to cDNA using Qiagen kits for isolation and transcription (Hilden, Germany). Expression of miRNAs was quantified by RT-PCR on an AB7500 system (Applied Biosystems, USA).

**Results:** Relative expression of 5 miRNAs expressed as fold change ( $2^{-\Delta Ct}$ ) showed statistically significant difference between different compartments (tested by Friedman test and *post-hoc* Wilcoxon matched-pairs test) in groups of smokers and non-smokers ( $P < 0,001$ ). Expressions of miR-1537, miR-190b, miR-16 and miR-146a were significantly higher in placenta than in maternal or cord plasma ( $P < 0,001$ ). miR-16 expression in non-smokers was significantly higher in cord than in maternal blood plasma ( $P = 0,001$ ).

sija miR-146a u pušačica bila značajno veća u plazmi majke u odnosu na plazmu pupkovine ( $P = 0,006$ ). Pušačice su imale najveću ekspresiju miR-21 u plazmi majke sa statistički značajnom razlikom između plazme majke i posteljice ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Relativna ekspresija analiziranih miRNA pokazala je značajnu razliku između različitih odjeljaka fetalno-placentalne jedinice u pušačica i nepušačica. Pušačice u odnosu na nepušačice imaju veću ekspresiju miR-16 u plazmi majke i miR-146a u plazmi pupkovine te nižu ekspresiju miR-21 u posteljici. Obzirom da je promjena relativne ekspresije ispitivanih miRNA u različitim odjeljcima povezana s majčinim pušenjem, potrebno je analizirati sve odjeljke fetalno-placentalne jedinice kako bi se dobila potpuna slika. Rezultati su dobiveni u sklopu projekta HRZZ-IP-2016-06-1998.

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Expression of miR-146a was significantly higher in maternal plasma than in cord plasma of smokers ( $P = 0,006$ ). Smokers had the highest miR-21 expression in maternal plasma, with a statistically significant difference between maternal plasma and placenta ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Relative expression of each analysed miRNA showed significant difference between compartments of feto-placental unit whether in smokers or non-smokers. Smokers have higher expression of miR-16 in maternal and miR-146a in cord plasma, and lower expression of miR-21 in placenta than non-smokers. Given that maternal smoking was associated with alteration of miRNAs expression, all compartments of feto-placental unit should be analysed to obtain complete picture. Funding: Croatian Science Foundation Grant (HRZZ-IP-2016-06-1998).

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#### L-06 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **FLT3 mutacije – stratifikacija rizika i terapijska meta u dijagnostici i liječenju akutne mijeloične leukemije i mijelodisplazije**

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**Uvod:** Interna tandemska duplikacija (ITD) u *FLT3* genu poznata je kao loš prognostički biljež u bolesnika s akutnom mijeloičnom leukemijom (AML) i mijelodisplazijom (MDS). Razvojem novih tehnologija utvrđeno je da osim ITD mutacije u *FLT3* genu postoje i mutacije u tirozin kinaznoj domeni (TKD-mutacije), ujedno je dokazano da udio mutiranog alela *FLT3*-ITD utječe na stratifikaciju rizika. Uvođenjem *FLT3* inhibitora koji blokira djelovanje mutirane *FLT3* tirozin kinaze u terapiju ovih bolesti, postignut je bolji odgovor bolesnika s *FLT3* mutacijama. Postavljeni su i novi dijagnostički izazovi koji uključuju bržu

#### L-06 (Oral presentation)

#### **FLT3 mutations - risk stratification and therapeutic target in the diagnosis and treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplasia**

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**Introduction:** Internal tandem duplication (ITD) in *FLT3* gene is known as a poor prognostic marker in patients with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and myelodysplasia (MDS). With the development of new technologies, it has been established that in addition to *FLT3*-ITD mutations, there are also mutations in the *FLT3* tyrosine kinase domain (*FLT3*-TKD mutations). Additionally, it has been proven that proportion of mutated allele *FLT3*-ITD affects patients risk stratification. By introducing *FLT3* inhibitors in the treatment of these diseases, a better response of patients with *FLT3* mutations has been

analitičku metodu jer se lijek se dodaje u početku terapije, a za stratifikaciju rizika neophodan je i podatak o udjelu mutiranog alela

**Materijali i metode:** U periodu od siječnja 2020. do kraja lipnja 2022. godine primljeno je 336 uzoraka koštane srži bolesnika (AML/MDS) sa zahtjevom za *FLT3*-ITD/TKD. Svi uzorci su uzeti pri dijagnozi, DNA je izolirana automatiziranim metodom (MagNa Pure, Roche), umnožena lančanom reakcijom polimeraze za *FLT3*-ITD/TKD prema standardnom laboratorijskom protokolu. Analiza fragmenata učinjena je na uređaju GeneticAnalyser3130xl, Applied Biosystems. Bolesnici kojima je udio mutiranog alela < 0,5 klasificiraju se kao *FLT3* niski omjer, imaju bolju prognozu bolesti. Visoki omjer *FLT3* označava bolesnike s visokim udjelom mutiranog alela ( $\geq 0,5$ ) te pripadaju skupini visokog rizika.

**Rezultati:** Mutacija *FLT3* je dokazana u 61 od 336 analiziranih uzorka. Mutacija *FLT3*-ITD je dokazana u 49 bolesnika, a 12 bolesnika imalo je *FLT3*-TKD. Medijan omjera mutiranog alela *FLT3*-ITD iznosio je 0,69 (raspon: 0,05–7,39). Niski omjer *FLT3* imalo je 19 bolesnika dok je ostalih 30 imalo *FLT3* visoki omjer. Svi *FLT3*-ITD/TKD pozitivni bolesnici su kandidati za terapiju *FLT3* inhibitorom. Prosječno vrijeme izdavanja nalaza bilo je 48 sati (raspon: 6–72 sata).

**Zaključak:** Uvođenjem analize *FLT3*-ITD/TKD mutacija te određivanje omjera mutiranog alela u rutinsku molekularnu dijagnostiku unaprijeđena je dijagnostika i omogućena pravilna stratifikacija rizika i individualiziran terapijski pristup bolesnicima s AML i MDS.

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achieved. New diagnostic challenges include use of a faster analytical method and mutated allele ratio for risk stratification.

**Materials and methods:** From January 2020 to June 2022, 336 bone marrow AML/MDS samples were received with a request for *FLT3*-ITD/TKD. DNA was isolated by automated method (MagNa Pure, Roche, Germany), amplified by polymerase chain reaction according to standardized laboratory protocol for *FLT3*-ITD/TKD. Fragment analysis was performed on a GeneticAnalyser3130xl, Applied Biosystems.

**Results:** Mutation *FLT3* was detected in 61 of 336 analysed samples. *FLT3*-ITD was detected in 49 patients, and 12 patients had *FLT3*-TKD mutation. The median ratio of the *FLT3*-ITD mutant allele was 0.69 (range: 0.05–7.39). There were 19 patients with low mutated allele content (< 0.5). They have good prognosis and are classified as *FLT3* low. On the other hand, 30 patients had a high *FLT3* ratio ( $\geq 0.5$ ) and they belong to the high risk group - *FLT3* high. Both group of patients are candidates for *FLT3* inhibitor. Turnaround time for this analysis was 48 hours (range: 6–72 hours).

**Conclusion:** The introduction of *FLT3*-ITD/TKD mutation analysis and determination of the mutated allele ratio in routine molecular diagnostics has improved diagnostics, enabled proper risk stratification and individualized therapeutic approach for patients with AML and MDS.

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L-07

## Utjecaj različitih uvjeta pohrane uzorka pune krvi na količinu i kvalitetu izolirane genomske DNA

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**Uvod:** Za izolaciju DNA preporuča se svježi uzorak pune krvi. Hipoteza istraživanja je da se prinos, čistoća i/ili integritet DNA mijenjaju u različitim uvjetima pohrane. Cilj je ispitati utjecaj različitih uvjeta pohrane (temperatura i duljina pohrane) krvi na količinu i kvalitetu DNA.

**Materijali i metode:** U pilot istraživanje su uključena 2 ispitanika kojima je krv uzorkovana u 6 Vacutette® K<sub>3</sub>EDTA spremnika (Greiner Bio-One), a DNA izolirana kako slijedi: (i) odmah, (ii) nakon 1, 3, 7 i 15 dana pohrane na sobnoj temperaturi (ST), (iii) nakon 1, 3, 7, 15, 30 i 60 dana na 2-8 °C, (iv) nakon 15, 30 i 60 dana na - 20 °C. DNA je izolirana na kolonicama uz High Pure PCR Template Preparation Kit reagens (Roche). Prinos i čistoća su određeni mjerjenjem apsorbancije na 260, 280 i 230 nm na DS-11 FX+ spektrofotometru (DeNovix Inc). Brojčana vrijednost integriteta (DIN) i veličina vrpce određeni su elektroforetski Genomic DNA ScreenTape reagensom na 4200 TapeStation System (Agilent Technologies). Genotipizacija MTHFR C677T mutacije je određena analizom krivulje taljenja na LightCycler v1.5 (Roche) uz TibMolbiol® reagens. Kriteriji prihvatljivosti uključuju sve navedeno: (i) prinos 3,00-6,00 µg, (ii) čistoća A260/A230 = 1,8-2,4 i (iii) A260/A260 = 1,7-2,0, (iv) integritet DIN ≥ 7,0 i (v) veličinu vrpce > 48500 bp, (vi) uspješnost PCR umnažanja.

**Rezultati:** Prinos je bio prihvatljiv za sve uvjete, osim kod pohrane na - 20 °C (< 3,00 µg). Čistoća na A260/A280 je zadovoljavajuća za sve, dok su na A260/A230 neprihvatljivi uzorci izolirani nakon 30 i 60 dana na - 20 °C (> 2,4). Integritet i veličina vrpce nisu postignuti za uzorke izolirane nakon 7 i 15 dana na ST te 30 i 60

L-07

## Effect of different storage conditions on isolated genomic DNA quantity and quality

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**Introduction:** Fresh whole blood is the recommended sample for DNA extraction. The research hypothesis is that DNA yield, purity and/or integrity are depended on different storage conditions. The aim was to examine the effect of different storage conditions (temperature and time) on DNA quantity and quality.

**Materials and methods:** From each of the two healthy volunteers, 6 samples were collected in Vacutette® K<sub>3</sub>EDTA tubes (Greiner Bio-One). DNA was isolated as follows: (i) immediately, (ii) after 1, 3, 7 and 15 days at room temperature (RT), (iii) after 1, 3, 7, 15, 30 and 60 days on 2-8°C, (iv) after 15, 30 and 60 days on - 20 °C. DNA was isolated using High Pure PCR Template Preparation Kit (Roche). Yield and purity were measured by absorbance at 260, 280 and 230 nm on DS-11 FX+ spectrophotometer (DeNovix Inc). DNA Integrity Number (DIN) and band size were analysed by electrophoresis with Genomic DNA ScreenTape reagent (4200 TapeStation System, Agilent Technologies). Mutation MTHFR C677T was genotyped by melting curve analysis on LightCycler v1.5 (Roche) with TibMolbiol® reagent. Acceptance criteria include all of the following: (i) yield 3.00-6.00 µg, (ii) purity A260/A230 = 1.8-2.4 and (iii) A260/A260 = 1.7-2.0, (iv) integrity DIN ≥ 7.0 and (v) largest band size > 48500 bp, (vi) successful PCR amplification.

**Results:** The yield was acceptable for all conditions, except for storage at - 20 °C (< 3.00 µg). The A260/A280 purity is satisfactory for all samples, while A260/A230 purity was unacceptable in all samples after 30 days at - 20 °C (> 2.4). Integrity and large band were not confirmed in all samples after 7 days at RT and 30 days at 2-8 °C (DIN < 7.0; band < 48500

dana na 2-8 °C (DIN < 7,0; vrpca < 48500 bp). U svim izolatima dobiveni su očekivani genotipovi (TT i CC).

**Zaključak:** Dulja pohrana na ST i 2-8 °C dovodi do fragmentiranosti, a zamrzavanje rezultira manjim prinosom i smanjenom čistoćom DNA. Odabir uvjeta pohrane ovisit će o vrsti i specifičnosti primijenjenih metoda.

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bp). The expected genotypes (TT and CC) were determined in all isolates.

**Conclusion:** Prolonged storage at RT and 2-8 °C leads to fragmentation, while freezing lowers yield and reduces purity. Storage conditions will depend on the type and specificity of the applied methods.

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## L-08

### Molekularna analiza gena *BRCA1/2* – sekvenciranje sljedeće generacije, MPLA i sekvenciranje po Sangeru kao komplementarne metode

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**Uvod:** Patogene i vjerojatno patogene (P/LP) varijante u genima *BRCA1/2* najčešće su povezane s povećanim rizikom za razvoj raka dojke, jajnika, gušterače i prostate. Primjena tehnologije sekvenciranja sljedeće generacije (NGS) u kliničkoj praksi olakšala je molekularnu analizu navedenih gena i identifikaciju nositelja P/LP varijanti. Kako bi se osigurala osjetljivost i specifičnost potrebna za otkrivanje traženih varijanti dodatno se koriste metode MLPA i sekvenciranje po Sangeru kao zlatni standardi za potvrdu NGS rezultata te detekciju velikih insercija/deleacija u genima *BRCA1/2*.

**Materijali i metode:** Nakon genetičkog savjetovanja u KBC Zagreb, na genetičko testiranje su upućena 352 pacijenta sa sumnjom na nasljedni oblik raka dojke i jajnika, pet s rakom gušterače i jedan s rakom prostate. DNA je izolirana iz periferne krvi, a knjižnice su pripremljene korištenjem reagensa Illumina DNA Prep with Enrichment. Sekvenciranje je provedeno na uređaju MiSeq (Illumina) korištenjem komercijalnog multigenskog panela TruSight Hereditary Can-

## L-08

### Molecular analysis of *BRCA1/2* genes – NGS, MPLA and Sanger sequencing as complementary methods

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**Introduction:** Pathogenic and likely pathogenic (P/LP) variants in *BRCA1/2* genes are commonly associated with an increased risk of developing breast, ovarian, pancreatic, and prostate cancer. Application of NGS in clinical practice facilitates molecular analysis and identification of P/LP variant carriers. To ensure analytical sensitivity and specificity needed for variant detection, additional methods, MLPA and Sanger sequencing, are employed as gold standards for NGS result confirmation and large indel detection in *BRCA1/2* genes.

**Materials and methods:** After genetic counselling at the UHC Zagreb, a total of 352 patients with suspected hereditary form of breast and ovarian cancer, five with pancreatic, and one with prostate cancer underwent genetic testing. Library preparation was performed using DNA from peripheral blood, with the reagent kit Illumina DNA Prep with Enrichment. Sequencing was performed on MiSeq (Illumina) platform using a commercially available multi-gene panel TruSight Hereditary Cancer Panel. Anal-

cer Panel. Analiza jednonukleotidnih varijanti i malih insercija/delecija u genima *BRCA1/2* napravljena je korištenjem programskog paketa Variant Studio (Illumina) te pretraživanjem relevantnih baza podataka za interpretaciju varijanti. Uzorci u kojima nisu detektirane P/LP varijante u genima *BRCA1/2* metodom NGS dodatno su analizirani metodom MLPA (MRC Holland). Sve P/LP varijante potvrđene su metodom sekvenciranja po Sangeru.

**Rezultati:** Ukupno 358 pacijenata analizirano je metodom NGS. U 58 (16%) pacijenata otkrivene su P/LP varijante u genima *BRCA1/2* koje su potvrđene sekvenciranjem po Sangeru. Uzorci 275 pacijenata dodatno su analizirani metodom MLPA u svrhu dokazivanja većih insercija/delecija. Kod jedne pacijentice s bilateralnim karcinomom dojke otkrivena je delecija gena *BRCA1* veličine 1,9 Mb.

**Zaključak:** U uzorku naših bolesnika metodom NGS otkriven je očekivani udio P/LP varijanti u genima *BRCA1/2* uz apsolutnu potvrdu metodom sekvenciranja po Sangeru. Zbog poznatih ograničenja u analizi NGS rezultata, obavezno je koristiti komplementarne metode poput MLPA, što potvrđuje primjer pacijentice s velikom patogenom delecijom gena *BRCA1*.

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ysis of SNVs and small indels in *BRCA1/2* genes was performed by using Variant Studio (Illumina) software package and searching relevant variant databases. Additionally, patients without P/LP variants in *BRCA1/2* genes detected by NGS were analysed by MLPA method ((Multiplex-ligation dependent probe amplification, MRC Holland). All P/LP variants were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

**Results:** A total of 358 patients were analysed by NGS. In 58 (16%) patients P/LP variants were detected in *BRCA1/2* genes and confirmed by Sanger sequencing with 100% concordance. Additionally, samples of 275 patients were analysed by MLPA to detect large indels. One patient with bilateral breast cancer had a deletion in *BRCA1* gene 1.9 Mb in size.

**Conclusion:** The proportion of *BRCA1/2* gene P/LP variants in our patient sample, confirmed by Sanger sequencing with 100% concordance, is similar to that previously reported. The limitations in NGS analysis oblige us to use complementary methods like MLPA, which has been confirmed by the example of a patient with a large patogenic deletion of the *BRCA1* gene.

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**M Pretrage uz bolesnika****M-01****Usporedba C-reaktivnog proteina na uređaju Dymind DF50 CRP i DxC 700 AU**

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**Uvod:** C-reaktivni protein (CRP) jedan je od najosjetljivijih proteina akutne faze i ključna dijagnostička pretraga u hitnoj medicini, posebice u pedijatrijskim ambulantama. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati usporedivost rezultata CRP-a iz pune krvi na uređaju Dymind DF50 CRP, koji je namijenjen kao point-of-care analizator za Pedijatrijsku hitnu ambulantu, s rezultatima CRP-a u serumu na laboratorijskom uređaju DxC 700 AU.

**Materijali i metode:** Za usporedbu rezultata korišteni su rutinski uzorci pacijenata ( $N = 30$ ) pune krvi s K3EDTA i serumi s rasponom CRP koncentracija od 0,6 do 295,2 mg/L. CRP iz pune krvi analiziran je na uređaju Dymind DF50 CRP (Dymind Biotechnology Co, Shenzhen, China) metodom imunonefelometrije, a CRP iz serum-a analiziran je na uređaju DxC 700 AU (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA) metodom imuno-turbidimetrije. Učinjena je usporedba rezultata Passing Bablokovom regresijskom analizom korištenjem MedCalc statističkog softvera (verzija 10.0.2.0., Ostend, Belgija). Dobivena odstupanja rezultata uspoređena su s kriterijima vanjske procjene kvalitete, CROQALM (22%).

**Rezultati:** Passing Bablokova regresijska analiza pokazala je linearan odnos dviju metoda uz blagi nagib, tj. postojanje proporcionalnog odstupanja. Odsječak na y-osi bio je 0,593 (95% CI - 0,013 do 1,084), a koeficijent smjera pravca 0,842 (95% CI 0,811 do 0,886). U rasponu rezultata od 2,7 do 138 mg/L zadovoljeni su postavljeni kriteriji usporedivosti (22%), srednji bias - 9,50%, raspon - 19,23% do 19,74%. U rasponu rezultata od 166,8 do 295,2 mg/L odstupanje je bilo veće od 22%, srednji bias - 41,06%, raspon - 26,32 do -57,94%.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati CRP-a na Dymind DF50 CRP usporedivi su s rezultatima dobivenima na DxC 700 AU u rasponu koncentracija od 2,7 do 138 mg/L. Kod koncentracija viših od 150 mg/L rezultati nisu

**M Point of care testing****M-01****Comparison of C-reactive protein values on Dymind DF50 CRP and DxC 700 AU analysers**

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**Introduction:** C-reactive protein (CRP) is one of the most sensitive acute phase proteins and a key diagnostic test in emergency medicine, especially in paediatric clinics. The aim of this study was to compare CRP values measured in whole blood samples on analyser Dymind DF50 CRP, intended as a point-of-care analyser for the Paediatric Emergency Department with values in serum samples on biochemistry analyser DxC 700 AU, used in laboratory.

**Materials and methods:** Routine patient's samples ( $N = 30$ ) used for comparison were K2EDTA whole blood and serum with CRP concentration range from 0.6 to 295.2 mg/L. In whole blood samples, CRP was measured by immunonephelometric method on Dymind DF50 CRP analyser (Dymind Biotechnology Co, Shenzhen, China). In serum samples, CRP was measured by immunoturbidimetric method on DxC 700 AU (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). The results were statistically analysed with MedCalc statistical software (10.0.2.0. version, Ostend, Belgium). Passing-Bablok regression for method comparison was used. The obtained differences were compared with external quality assessment criteria, CROQALM (22%).

**Results:** Passing-Bablok regression analysis showed linear relation between the two methods with slight slope, i.e., proportional deviation. Intercept was 0.593 (95% CI - 0.013 to 1.084) and slope was 0.842 (95% CI 0.811 to 0.886). Results ranging from 2.7 to 138 mg/L met the comparison criteria of 22% as middle bias was - 9.50% and range was from - 19.23% to 19.74%. The results ranging from 166.8 to 295.2 mg/L did not meet the comparison criteria of 22% as middle bias was - 41.06% and range was from - 26.32% to - 57.94%.

**Conclusion:** C-reactive protein values measured on Dymind DF50 CRP are comparable with values measured on DxC 700 AU in concentration range from

usporedivo te se preporučuje određivanje CRP-a i praćenje takvih pacijenata na laboratorijskom uređaju DxC 700.

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2.7 to 138 mg/L. Values higher than 150 mg/L are not comparable, therefore in those patients, CRP values should be measured and followed on biochemistry analyser DxC700AU in laboratory.

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## M-02

### **OGTT – glukometar kao zamjena za određivanje glukoze natašte**

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**Uvod:** Za provedbu testa opterećenja glukozom (oGTT test) uzima se uzorak venske krvi u odgovarajuću epruvetu. Uzorkovanje se provodi minimalno dva puta dok se kod trudnica uzorkovanje provodi 3 puta u definiranim vremenskim intervalima. Cilj istraživanja je ispitati pouzdanost glukometra za mjerjenje glukoze natašte kod provođenja OGTT testa kao zamjenu za vensko uzorkovanja.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je provedeno u KBC-u Zagreb (Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku) tijekom rutinskog uzorkovanja krvi za OGTT test na 40 pacijenata. Prije venskog uzorkovanja uz suglasnost pacijenta provedeno je kapilarno određivanje krvi na glukometru Accu Chek Inform II nakon čega je uzorkovana venska krv u epruvetu s inhibitorom glikolize. Uzorci venske plazme analizirani su na biokemijskom uređaju Alinity c. Dobivene vrijednosti glukoze statistički su obrađene u programu MedCalc.

**Rezultati:** Vrijednosti glukoze u venskoj plazmi bile su u rasponu od 4,3 do 7,7 mmol/L. Dobiveni koeficijent korelaciјe iznosi 0,946 ( $P < 0,001$ ). Passing Bablok analizom dobiveni su odsječak na y-osi (mjera konstantne pogreške) i koeficijent smjera (mjera proporcionalne pogreške) regresijskog pravca s 95% intervalom pouzdanosti. 95%-tini intervali pouzdanosti odsječka i koeficijenta smjera iznose: 0,25-1,56 te 0,75-1,00 dok je srednji apsolutni bias 4,7%.

## M-02

### **OGTT – glucometer for measuring fasting value of glucose**

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**Introduction:** The oral glucose tolerance test is performed by sampling venous blood in an adequate vacutainer. Sampling is performed at least twice, while in pregnant women sampling is performed three times at defined time intervals. The aim of the study was to evaluate reliability of measuring fasting glucose using a glucometer as a substitute for venous sampling.

**Materials and methods:** The study was performed at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb (Department of Laboratory Diagnostics) during routine venepuncture for OGTT on 40 patients. Prior to venous sampling, with the patient's consent, a capillary blood test was performed on glucometer Accu Chek Inform II after which venous blood was sampled in a vacutainer with a glycolysis inhibitor. Venous blood samples were analysed on biochemistry analyser Alinity c. Statistical data analysis was performed using MedCalc statistical software.

**Results:** Glucose values in venous plasma ranged from 4.3 to 7.7 mmol/L. Method comparison study yielded coefficient of correlation 0.946 ( $P < 0.001$ ). Intercept and slope with 95% confidence interval (CI) according to Passing-Bablok regression analysis were: 0.25-1.56 (intercept) and 0.75-1.00 (slope) while mean absolute bias was 4.7%.

**Conclusion:** Statistical analysis of the data shows good correlation between fasting glucose measured on glucometer Accu Chek Inform II and biochemi-

**Zaključak:** Statistička obrada podataka pokazala je izvrsnu podudarnost vrijednosti glukoze natašte dobivene na glukometru Accu Chek Inform II i uređaju Alinity c. Određivanjem glukoze natašte na glukometru kod provođenja OGTT testa pacijentima bi se olakšao cijeli postupak uzorkovanja krvi, smanjio potrebn volumen krvi za analizu te broj venskog uzorkovanja čime se dodatno štede vene pacijenata. Naše istraživanje ukazuje da bi uvođenjem mjerena glukoze natašte na glukometru Accu Chek Inform II znatno pridonijeli većem zadovoljstvu naših pacijenata i njihovo ugodnije iskustvo kod samog uzorkovanja krvi.

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stry analyser Alinity c. The whole sampling process for OGTT could be made much easier for the patient by using glucometer Accu Chek Inform II for determination of fasting glucose. In this way we could reduce the volume of blood required for analysis and the number of venous blood samplings, which would eventually save patient's veins. Our study shows that using glucometer Accu Chek Inform II in protocol for OGTT would significantly contribute to increased satisfaction of our patients and their pleasant experience of the blood sampling itself.

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## N Sportska medicina

### N-01

#### Povezanost serumskog kalprotektina s pokazateljima fizičke spreme i biokemijskim biljezima kod dinamičkog praćenja vrhunskih sportaša tijekom jedne natjecateljske sezone

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**Uvod:** U sportu su prisutne brojne ozljede i pretreniranost sportaša. Zbog toga je bitno pravilno dozirati trening, prepoznati razinu kondicije i osigurati im vrijeme za potpuni oporavak. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je utvrditi potencijalnu ulogu kalprotektina i drugih biokemijskih biljega za praćenje kondicije sportaša.

## N Sports medicine

### N-01

#### Association of serum calprotectin with fitness indicators and biochemical markers in continuous dynamic monitoring of the top athletes during one competitive season

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**Introduction:** In sports, there are present numerous injuries and overtraining of athletes. Because of that, it is essential to properly dose training, recognize fitness levels and provide them time for a full recovery. The aim of this study was to determine the potential role of calprotectin and other biochemical biomarkers for athletes' fitness monitoring.

**Materijali i metode:** U ovu retrospektivnu studiju uključeno je 20 profesionalnih muških vaterpolista (srednja dob 21 godina (minimalno-maksimalno: 15-31 godina)). Tijekom jedne natjecateljske sezone mjereni su testovi fizičke spremnosti i koncentracije kalprotektina i kortizola u krvi u četiri vremenska razdoblja (rujan (I), prosinac (II), veljača (III) i svibanj (IV)). U analizi fizičke spremnosti proveden je test maksimalnog broja zgibova. Za statističku analizu korišten je Friedmanov ANOVA test s  $P < 0,05$  kao razinom značajnosti.

**Rezultati:** Uočena je tendencija smanjenja koncentracije kalprotektina (median (interkvartilni raspon (IQR)): I – 2,92  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (2,52–3,82), II – 2,35  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1,26–2,87), III – 2,26  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1,66–3,24) i IV – 1,47  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1,05–2,74) ( $P < 0,05$ )). Vrijednosti kortizola najveće su sredinom sezone, tijekom najjače razine treninga (median (IQR): I – 214 nmol/L (120–312), II – 385 nmol/L (208–468), III – 376 nmol /L (219–516) i IV – 351 nmol/L (219–416) ( $P < 0,05$ )). Ispitanici su na početku imali bolje rezultate u fizičkoj spremi nego na kraju sezone. Broj maksimalnih zgibova do neuspjeha: median (IQR): I – 11,00 (9,50–14,50), II – 9,00 (7,50–12,50), III – 7,00 (5,50–10,50) i IV – 6,00 (4,50–8,50) ( $P < 0,01$ ).

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati pokazuju da profesionalni sportaši dovode svoje tijelo do pretreniranosti tijekom sezone što se očituje padom pokazatelja kondicije i promjenama vrijednosti pojedinih biokemijskih biljega. Kalprotektin, kao potencijalno novi biljeg praćenja kondicije, pokazuje proporcionalnu tendenciju opadanja zajedno s pokazateljima fitnessa.

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**Materials and methods:** In this retrospective study, the 20 professional male waterpolo players were included (median age was 21 years (minimum-maximum: 15-31 years). During one competitive season, the physical fitness tests and concentrations of calprotectin and cortisol from blood were determined in four time periods (September (I), December (II), February (III), and May (IV)). The maximum number of pull-ups test was performed in analysing physical fitness. Friedman ANOVA test was used for statistical analysis, with  $P < 0.05$  as a significance level.

**Results:** The tendency of decrease calprotectin concentration was observed (median values (interquartile range (IQR)): I – 2.92  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (2.52–3.82), II – 2.35  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1.26–2.87), III – 2.26  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1.66–3.24) and IV – 1.47  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (1.05–2.74) ( $P < 0.05$ )). Cortisol values are highest in the middle of the season, during peak training level (median values (IQR): I – 214 nmol/L (120–312), II – 385 nmol/L (208–468), III – 376 nmol/L (219–516) and IV – 351 nmol/L (219–416) ( $P < 0.05$ )). Respondents had better physical fitness results at the beginning than at the end of the season. The number of maximum pull-ups until failure: median values (IQR): I – 11.00 (9.50–14.50), II – 9.00 (7.50–12.50), III – 7.00 (5.50–10.50), and IV – 6.00 (4.50–8.50) ( $P < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusion:** Our results show that professional athletes lead their bodies to overtraining during the season which is manifested by a decline in fitness indicators and changes in certain biochemical markers. Calprotectin, as a potential new marker of fitness monitoring, shows a proportional tendency to decline together with fitness indicators.

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## O Novi biomarkeri

### O-01 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Procjena dijagnostičke točnosti glijalnog fibrilarnog kiselog proteina (GFAP) i ubikvitin C-terminalne hidrolaze L1 (UCH-L1) u blagoj traumatskoj ozljedi mozga

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**Uvod:** Zlatni standard dijagnostike blage traumatske ozljede mozga (TOM) je kompjutorizirana tomografija (CT), međutim dokazane TOM nađe se u < 10% pacijenata. Cilj rada je ispitati dijagnostičku točnost određivanja glijalnog fibrilarnog kiselog proteina (GFAP) i ubikvitin C-terminalne hidrolaze L1 (UCH-L1) u pacijenta s mogućom TOM.

**Materijali i metode:** Studija Objedinjenog hitnog bolničkog prijema (OHPB) i Kliničkog zavoda za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku, KBC-a Rijeka provedena je u svibnju 2022. godine. Studija uključuje pacijente (> 18 g) zaprimljene unutar 12 sati od ozljede glave s vrijednošću Glasgow'ske ljestvice kome 13-15 i učinjenim CT-om. GFAP i UCH-L1 određivani su u serumu na uređaju Alinity-i (Abbott Laboratories, Illinois, SAD), a rezultati tumačeni sukladno graničnim vrijednostima proizvođača. GFAP ≥ 35,0 ng/L i/ili UCH-L1 ≥ 400,0 ng/L označavaju pozitivan nalaz, dok vrijednosti oba biljega ispod graničnih označavaju negativan nalaz. Statistička analiza dijagnostičke točnosti te ROC analiza učinjene su programom MedCalc (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

**Rezultati:** Ispitivanje uključuje 52 pacijenta (39 M), dobi 58 (18-93) godina. Uz prevalenciju od 9% pozitivnih CT-a za TOM, izračunate su (uz 95% CI): osjetljivost 100% (66-100%), specifičnost 30% (17-46%), pozitivna prediktivna vrijednost (PPV) 12% (10-15%),

## O New biomarkers

### O-01 (Oral presentation)

#### Evaluation of the diagnostic accuracy of glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase L1 (UCH-L1) in mild traumatic brain injury

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**Introduction:** Gold standard for diagnosis of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) is computed tomography (CT). CT-proven abnormalities are found in < 10% of patients. The aim was to investigate the diagnostic accuracy of glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase L1 (UCH-L1) in patients with mTBI.

**Materials and methods:** Emergency Department (ED) and Clinical Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics, CHC Rijeka conducted the study in May 2022. Patients (> 18 y) admitted within 12h after mTBI with Glasgow Coma Score of 13-15 and performed CT were included. Serum GFAP and UCH-L1 were determined using the Alinity-i instrument (Abbott Laboratories, Illinois, USA). Results were interpreted according to the manufacturer's cut-off values. GFAP ≥ 35.0 ng/L and/or UCH-L1 ≥ 400.0 ng/L indicate positive finding. Both markers below the cut-off indicate negative finding. Diagnostic accuracy (DA) and ROC analyses were performed using the MedCalc program (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** The study included 52 patients (39 M) aged 58 (18-93) years. With prevalence of 9% positive CTs for mTBI, following values were calculated (with 95% CI): sensitivity 100% (66-100%), specificity 30% (17-46%), positive predictive value (PPV) 12% (10-15%), negative predictive value (NPV) 100%, DA 37% (24-

negativna prediktivna vrijednost (NPV) 100%, dijagnostička točnost (DT) 37% (24-51%). ROC analiza za GFAP, AUC 0,822 (0,691-0,914) uz graničnu vrijednost od 79,5 ng/L za osjetljivost 89% (52-100%) i specifičnost 72% (56-85%). Za UCH-L1 AUC 0,848 (0,721-0,932), uz graničnu vrijednost od 550,3 ng/L za osjetljivost 100% (66-100%) i specifičnost 70% (54-83%). Koristeći izračunate granične vrijednosti prekodirani su rezultati i ponovljena analiza dijagnostičke točnosti. Prekodirane vrijednosti daju: osjetljivost 100% (66-100%), specifičnost 56% (40-71%), PPV 18% (14-24%), NPV 100%, DT 60% (45-73%).

**Zaključak:** Zbog izvrsne NPV mjerjenje GFAP i UCH-L1 pogodno je za isključivanje potrebe za CT-om kod blage TOM pri hitnom zbrinjavanju. Zbog niske specifičnosti, PPV i DT, test se ne smije koristiti za potvrdu TOM. Unaprjeđenje testa korigiranjem graničnih vrijednosti zahtjeva daljnje ispitivanje.

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## O-02 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Cirkulirajući kalprotektin kao rani biljeg smrtnog ishoda sepsa

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**Uvod:** Sepsa je značajan globalni klinički izazov zbog visoke stope smrtnosti. Uloga uobičajenih biljega upale, poput C-reaktivnog proteina (CRP), prokalcitonina (PCT) i interleukina-6 (IL-6), u ranom prepoznavanju sepsa i prognozi smrtnog ishoda je ograničena. Kalprotektin je heterodimer prisutan u citoplazmi neutrofila. Cirkulirajući kalprotektin

51%). ROC analysis for GFAP, AUC 0.822 (0.691-0.914) with a cut-off value 79.5 ng/L for sensitivity of 89% (52-100%) and specificity of 72% (56-85%). For UCH-L1 AUC 0.848 (0.721-0.932), with a cut-off value 550.3 ng/L for sensitivity of 100% (66-100%) and specificity of 70% (54-83%). Using the calculated cut-off values, we recoded the results and repeated DA analysis. The recoded values gained: sensitivity 100% (66-100%), specificity 56% (40-71%), PPV 18% (14-24%), NPV 100%, DA 60% (45-73%).

**Conclusion:** Because of excellent NPV, GFAP and UCH-L1 are suitable to rule out the need for CT in mTBI in ED. Because of low specificity, PPV, and DA, the test should not be used to confirm mTBI. Correction of cut-off values requires further testing.

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## O-02 (Oral presentation)

### Circulating calprotectin as early marker of sepsis mortality

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**Introduction:** Sepsis is a major global clinical challenge due to its high mortality rate. The role of common inflammatory biomarkers such as C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin (PCT), and interleukin-6 (IL-6), in sepsis onset recognition and mortality prognosis, is limited. Calprotectin is a heterodimer present in the cytoplasm of neutrophils. Circula-

(CircCPRO) jedan je od najranijih biljega upalnog odgovora na infekciju. Hipoteza našeg rada je da je CircCPRO rani prediktor smrtnog ishoda sepse. Cilj ove studije je odrediti ulogu CircCPRO i uobičajenih upalnih biljega u ranoj prognozi smrtnog ishoda sepse.

**Materijali i metode:** Bolesnici s potvrđenom sepsom ( $N = 106$ ) podijeljeni su u dvije skupine: skupinu preživjelih ( $N = 53$ ) i skupinu preminulih ( $N = 53$ ). Koncentracije CircCPRO, CRP, PCT i IL-6 mjerene su u uzorcima seruma koji su prikupljeni po prijemu u bolnicu. Cirkulirajući kalprotektin je određen na analizatoru BIO-FLASH (Inova Diagnostics, SAD), CRP je određen na biokemijskom analizatoru Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter, SAD), PCT na imunočemikaljskom analizatoru Cobas e411 (Roche Diagnostics, Njemačka), a IL-6 "sendvič" ELISA metodom (Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific, SAD). ROC analizom određena je optimalna granična vrijednost za ranu procjenu smrtnog ishoda sepse. Cox regresijskom analizom identificirani su nezavisni faktori rizika za smrtni ishod u 28 dana hospitalizacije.

**Rezultati:** U skupini pacijenata sa smrtnim ishodom sepsе medijan CircCPRO bio je 11,89 mg/L (8,05-14,88), dok je u skupini pacijenata s ishodom preživljena medijan mjereneh vrijednosti CircCPRO bio 5,94 mg/L (3,32-10,67),  $P < 0,001$ . Vrijednosti CRP, PCT i IL-6 nisu pokazale značajnu razliku između dvije ispitivane skupine, niti su se pokazale kao značajni prediktori smrtnog ishoda. CircCPRO pri graničnoj vrijednosti  $> 6,63$  mg/L predvidio je smrtni ishod s osjetljivosti od 87% (95% CI 73-96) i specifičnosti od 62% (95% CI 45-77). Relativni rizik smrtnog ishoda pacijenata primljenih sa sumnjom na sepsu koji su imali CircCPRO  $> 6,63$  mg/L bio je 2,05 (95% CI 2,01-2,09;  $P = 0,029$ ).

**Zaključak:** Cirkulirajući kalprotektin je bolji rani prognostički pokazatelj smrtnog ishoda sepse od uobičajenih laboratorijskih upalnih biljega.

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ting calprotectin (CircCPRO) is one of the earliest inflammatory response markers of infection. We hypothesized that CircCPRO is an early predictor of sepsis-related mortality. This study aimed to assess the predictive value of CircCPRO and common inflammatory biomarkers in early sepsis mortality prediction.

**Materials and methods:** Patients with confirmed sepsis ( $N = 106$ ) were divided into two groups: survivors ( $N = 53$ ) and non-survivors ( $N = 53$ ). In serum samples collected upon hospital admission, CircCPRO, CRP, PCT, and IL-6 were measured. Circulating calprotectin was determined by the CLIA method on analyser BIO-FLASH (Inova Diagnostics, USA), CRP was measured on biochemistry analyser Olympus AU680 (Beckman Coulter, USA), PCT on immunochemistry analyser Cobas e411 (Roche Diagnostics, Germany), and IL-6 using sandwich ELISA (Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). A ROC curve analysis was performed to calculate the optimal cut-off value for mortality outcome prediction. Independent risk factors for 28-day mortality were identified using Cox proportional-hazard regression analysis.

**Results:** In the non-survivors group median values of CircCPRO were 11.89 mg/L (8.05-14.88) and in survivors 5.94 mg/L (3.32-10.67),  $P < 0.001$ . There were no significant differences in CRP, PCT, and IL-6 levels between the two studied groups, nor did they significantly contribute to the prediction of mortality outcome. At a cut-off value of  $> 6.63$  mg/L for CircCPRO, showed a sensitivity of 87% (95% CI 73-96) and a specificity of 62% (95% CI 45-77) for early mortality prediction. The relative risk of mortality for patients with CircCPRO  $> 6.63$  mg/L upon hospital admission was 2.05 (95% CI 2.01-2.09;  $P = 0.029$ ).

**Conclusion:** Circulating calprotectin showed to be a better predictor of sepsis mortality than common inflammatory biomarkers.

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**O-03 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Procjena preciznosti i granične vrijednosti biljega PIVKA-II u bolesnika s kroničnom bolesti jetre**

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**Uvod:** Trenutno jedini dostupni tumorski biljeg u hepatologiji je AFP. Objavljeni radovi o proteinu PIVKA-II (eng. Protein Induced by Vitamin K Absence-II) ukazuju na moguću korisnost njegovog određivanja u bolesnika s kroničnom bolesti jetre (KBJ). Cilj ovog rada jest verificirati test za određivanje PIVKA-II te usporediti njegovu dijagnostičku vrijednost s AFP u bolesnika s KBJ.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitivanje preciznosti, ponovljivost i međupreciznost provedeno je u skladu s EP15-A3 dokumentom i ocjenjeno prema navodima proizvođača, KV = 1,50/3,50%. U serumu je određena koncentracija PIVKA-II na uređaju Cobas e801 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Njemačka) i AFP na Alinity ii (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, SAD). Bolesnici su kategorizirani na temelju stupnja kompenziranosti ciroze jetre uglavnom alkoholne etiologije (Child-Pugh klasifikacija, kompenzirana N = 38; dekompenzirana N = 39) te prisutnosti fokalnih lezija jetre (FLJ) (s lezijom N = 46; bez lezije N = 70). ROC analiza u programu MedCalc korištena je za procjenu graničnih vrijednosti uz dijagnostičku specifičnost od 90%.

**Rezultati:** Ponovljivost i međupreciznost PIVKA-II biljega su 1,29% / 1,74% za normalnu i 0,93% / 0,84% za patološku koncentraciju. ROC analizom utvrđena je koncentracija PIVKA-II od 6719,8 µg/L za razlikovanje kompenzirane od dekompenzirane ciroze jetre uz vrlo nisku osjetljivost od 8%, dok je za AFP dobivena osjetljivost od 15% pri koncentraciji od 2,0 µg/L. U skupini kategoriziranoj prema prisutnosti FLJ, PIVKA-II pokazala je veću (26%) i sličnu osjetljivost s AFP (24%) kod graničnih vrijednosti: PIVKA-II 979,0 µg/L, AFP 7,8 µg/L. Za obje podjele

**O-03 (Oral presentation)****Assessment of precision and cut-off value of the PIVKA-II in patients with chronic liver disease**

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**Introduction:** Currently, the only available tumor marker in hepatology is AFP. Published papers on the PIVKA-II (Protein Induced by Vitamin K Absence-II) indicate the possible usefulness of its determination in patients with chronic liver disease (CLD). The aim of this study was to verify the PIVKA-II assay and to compare its diagnostic value with AFP in patients with CLD.

**Materials and methods:** The precision testing was performed in accordance with EP15-A3 document and rated according to the manufacturer, CV = 1.50/3.50%. Serum PIVKA-II concentration was determined on Cobas e801 (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) and AFP on Alinity ii (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, USA). Patients were categorized based on the degree of liver cirrhosis compensation, mostly alcoholic aetiology (Child-Pugh classification, compensated N = 38; decompensated N = 39) and the presence of focal liver lesions (FLL) (with lesion N = 46; without lesion N = 70). MedCalc ROC analysis was used to estimate cut-off values with a diagnostic specificity of 90%.

**Results:** The reproducibility and intermediate precision were 1.29% / 1.74% in normal and 0.93% / 0.84% in pathological range. ROC analysis determined PIVKA-II of 6719.8 µg/L to differentiate compensated from decompensated liver cirrhosis with a low sensitivity of 8%, while for AFP a sensitivity of 15% was obtained at a concentration of 2.0 µg/L. In the group categorized according to the presence of FLL, PIVKA-II showed higher (26%) and similar sensitivity with AFP (24%) at the cut-off values: PIVKA-II 979.0 µg/L, AFP 7.8 µg/L. In both categorizations, the AUC for PIVKA-II (0.639/0.622) was greater than the AUC for AFP (0.619/0.612).

je površina ispod ROC krivulje za PIVKA-II (AUC = 0,639/0,622) bila veća od površine za AFP (AUC = 0,553/0,618), međutim razlika nije bila statistički značajna ( $P = 0,383 / P = 0,951$ ).

**Zaključak:** Ispitivan ECLIA test za određivanje PIVKA-II pokazao je prihvatljivu preciznost. Izrazito niska osjetljivost uz visoke PIVKA-II vrijednosti ograničava primjenu ovog biljega u skupini bolesnika s cirozom jetre. Rezultati ukazuju da PIVKA-II može biti osjetljiviji biljeg u detekciji FLJ, ali u ispitivanoj populaciji uz korekciju granične vrijednosti proizvođača od 31,2 µg/L.

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#### O-04

### Organске kiseline u selektivnom probiru manjka aromatske dekarboksilaze L-aminokiselina

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**Uvod:** Manjak aromatske dekarboksilaze L-aminokiselina (engl. Aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency, AADC) je rijetki nasljedni neurometabolički poremećaj manjka neurotransmitera koji se najčešće očituje u prvoj godini života. Klinička slika bolesti izrazito je heterogena, a neki od najčešćih simptoma su hipotonija, distonija te poremećaj u rastu i razvoju. Incidencija u Hrvatskoj i svijetu je nepoznata. Pravovremeno postavljanje dijagnoze i početak terapije ključni su za uspješno liječenje. Postavljanje dijagnoze manjka AADC temelji se na mjerenu aktivnosti AADC enzima u plazmi, određivanju koncentracije neurotransmitra u likvoru i molekularnoj dijagnostici. Vanillaktat (VLA), vanilmandelična kiselina (VMA) i njihov omjer VLA/VMA mogu se analizirati u sklopu analize organskih kiselina u urinu i smatraju se potencijalnim neinvazivnim biohemskim biljezima u postavljanju dijagnoze AADC. Određivanje re-

ter than the AUC for AFP (0.553/0.618), however, the difference was not statistically significant ( $P = 0.383 / P = 0.951$ ).

**Conclusion:** The ECLIA test for PIVKA-II showed acceptable precision. Extremely low sensitivity with high PIVKA-II values limits its use in the group with liver cirrhosis. The results indicate that PIVKA-II may be a more sensitive marker in the detection of FLL, but in the studied population with the correction of the manufacturer limit of 31.2 µg/L.

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#### O-04

### Organic acid analysis in selective screening for aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency

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**Introduction:** Aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) deficiency is a rare, inherited neurometabolic disorder with neurotransmitters deficiency that typically appears within the first year of life. Its clinical presentation is highly heterogeneous, with the most common symptoms at onset being hypotonia, dystonia and developmental delay. Its global, as well as incidence in the Croatian population, is unknown. Treatment outcomes depends on the timepoint when therapy started, making timely diagnosis crucial. Key diagnostic tests for AADC confirmation are measurement of plasma AADC enzyme activity, neurotransmitters in cerebrospinal fluid and genetic testing. Determination of vanillactic acid (VLA), vanillylmandelic acid (VMA) and VLA/VMA ratio as part of organic acid analysis in urine is considered a reliable approach using non-invasive biomarkers in the diagnosis of AADC. Establishment of accurate refer-

ferentnih intervala potonjih biljega preduvijet je za njihovo korištenje u selektivnom probiru.

**Materijali i metode:** Retrospektivnom analizom 165 uzoraka urina pacijenata suspektnih na neurometabolickе poremećaje, izmjerene su vrijednosti VLA, VMA i VLA/VMA. Pacijenti su podijeljeni u tri dobne skupine (0-1 godine, 1-10 godina i stariji od 10 godina). Uzorci su analizirani in-house metodom ekstrakcije organskih kiselina na sustavu za plinsku kromatografiju s masenom spektrometrijom.

**Rezultati:** Medijani koncentracija i 95%-ni intervali pouzdanosti za VLA, VMA i VLA/VMA u 41 pacijenta starosti do 1 godine iznosili su 0,137 (0,297-1,927) mmol/mol kreatinina, 50,581 (43,912-58,461) mmol/mol kreatinina i 0,031 (0,006-0,043). U 93 pacijenta starosti od 1 do 10 godina medijani koncentracija VLA, VMA i VLA/VMA iznosili su 0,100 (0,315-0,610) mmol/mol kreatinina, 41,741 (39,956-49,880) mmol/mol kreatinina i 0,003 (0,002-0,030). Medijani koncentracija VLA, VMA i VLA/VMA u 31 pacijenta starijih od 10 godina iznosili su 0,081 (0,120-0,307) mmol/mol kreatinina, 24,211 (20,029-34,217) mmol/mol kreatinina i 0,006 (0,006-0,012).

**Zaključak:** Određivanje referentnih intervala VLA, VMA i VLA/VMA u urinu u sklopu analize organskih kiselina može pomoći u diferencijalnoj dijagnostici neurometabolickih bolesti. Navedeni biljezi mogu se uključiti u selektivni probir na AADC i tako pridonijeti pravovremenom postavljanju dijagnoze.

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rence intervals is essential for the proper use of these biomarkers in routine practice.

**Materials and methods:** Retrospective analysis of urinary organic acids obtained from 165 patients suspected of neurometabolic disorders were used for determination of VLA, VMA and VLA/VMA ratio. Patients were divided into three groups depending on age (0-1, 1-10 and > 10 years). Organic acids in urine were measured using an in-house method by gas chromatography mass spectrometry.

**Results:** Median of VLA, VMA and VLA/VMA concentrations with corresponding 95% confidence intervals in 41 patients (up to 1 year of age) was 0.137 (0.297-1.927) mmol/mol creatinine, 50.581 mmol/mol creatinine (43.912-58.461) mmol/mol creatinine, 0.031 (0.006-0.043), in 93 patients (1-10 years) 0.100 (0.315-0.610) mmol/mol creatinine, 41.741 (39.956-49.880) mmol/mol creatinine, 0.003 (0.002-0.030) and in 31 patients (> 10 years) 0.081 (0.120-0.307) mmol/mol creatinine, 24.211 (20.029-34.217) mmol/mol creatinine and 0.006 (0.006-0.012).

**Conclusion:** Determination of reference intervals of VLA, VMA and VLA/VMA ratio in urine could differentiate neurometabolic patients with possible AADC deficiency from other neurometabolic disorders. This can aid in timely diagnosis and could be part of selective screening for neurometabolic disorders.

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**O-05****Verifikacija kalprotektina u serumu**

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**Uvod:** Kalprotektin u serumu je nedavno prezentiran kao informativni upalni biljeg u različitim bolestima. Upravo je zbog toga važno da je laboratorijski rezultat prikidan za precizno i točno određivanje koncentracije biljega. Cilj ove studije je ispitati imunoturbidimetrijski test za serumski kalprotektin (sKal) (Gentian Diagnostics ASA, Moss, Norveška) na Beckman Coulter AU 5800 analizatoru (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD).

**Materijali i metode:** Procjenili smo preciznost metode prema CLSI EP15 A2: User Verification of Performance for Precision and Trueness; Approved Guideline-Second Edition. Za procjenu preciznosti testirali smo dvije koncentracijske razine komercijalnog kontrolnog materijala (Gentian Calprotectin Control Kit): 1,00 (0,90-1,10) mg/L za kontrolu 1, i 10,00 (9,00-11,00) mg/L za kontrolu 2. Testirali smo kontrole u triplikatu kroz pet dana. Istinitost smo izračunali iz mjerena navedenih kontrolnih materijala odstupanja od ciljne vrijednosti.

**Rezultati:** Verifikacijskim postupkom dobiveni su podaci za profil preciznosti uključujući ponovljivost od CV 6,00 % i 7,00 % i unutarlaboratorijsku preciznost od CV 12,21 % i 1,20 %, za kontrolu 1 i kontrolu 2. Prosječni bias bio je 1,27 %.

**Zaključak:** Naši rezultati pokazali su zadovoljavajuću preciznost prema kriterijima proizvođača. S obzirom da trenutno nije dostupna organizirana vanjska kontrola kvalitete rada za sKAL, preciznost je glavna karakteristika kojom možemo definirati metodu. Stoga je provedena verifikacija potvrdila da se Gentian sKAL može koristiti za mjerjenja kalprotektina u serumu.

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**O-05****Performance verification of calprotectin in serum**

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**Introduction:** Calprotectin in serum has recently been introduced to clinical practice as an informative inflammatory marker in various diseases. Due to that, it is very important to have the appropriate laboratory results that determine the concentration precisely and accurately. The aim of this study was to evaluate the performance of immunoturbidimetric test for serum calprotectin (sKAL) (Gentian Diagnostics ASA, Moss, Norway), on Beckman Coulter AU 5800 analyser (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA).

**Materials and methods:** We evaluated the precision of our method according to CLSI EP15 A2: User Verification of Performance for Precision and Trueness; Approved Guideline-Second Edition. For assessment of precision, we tested two concentration levels of commercial control material (Gentian Calprotectin Calibrator Kit): 1.00 (0.90-1.10) mg/L for control 1, and 10.00 (9.00-11.00) mg/L for control 2. We tested the controls in triplicate for five days in a row. For assessment of trueness, we used calculations from the obtained concentrations of the control material.

**Results:** The verification procedure gained precision profile including repeatability (CV of 6.00% and 7.00%) and within-laboratory precision (CV 12.21% and 1.20%) for levels 1 and 2 respectively. Average bias was 1.27%.

**Conclusion:** Our results showed acceptable precision according to the specifications provided by the manufacturer. Considering that so far there is no international proficiency testing organized for sKAL, precision is the main performance characteristic defined for this method. Verification proved Gentian sKAL test kit to be suitable for reliable measurement of sKAL.

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**O-06 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Anti-p53 protutijela u bolestima jetre**

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**Uvod:** Tumor supresor p53 gen kodira protein koji ima važnu ulogu u regulaciji staničnog ciklusa, apoptozi, DNA popravku i angiogenezi. Mutacije u p53 genu dovode do nakupljanja mutiranog p53 proteina, koji djeluje kao antigen, stvarajući anti-p53 protutijela. Istraživanja su pokazala veću prisutnost anti-p53 protutijela u bolesnika s hepatocelularnim karcinomom (HCC). Cilj ovog istraživanja je ispitati prisutnost anti-p53 protutijela u serumu bolesnika s različitim bolestima jetre kao i u serumu zdravih ispitanika

**Materijali i metode:** U serumu 205 bolesnika (21-84 godine; median 60) s različitim bolestima jetre (33 s HCC, 51 s cirozom jetre, 43 s virusnim hepatitism B ili C, 50 s autoimunom bolesti jetre (ALD), 21 s NAFLD (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease) i 7 bolesnika s ne-definiranom bolesti jetre) te 30 zdravih kontrola, izmjerene su koncentracije anti-p53 protutijela s ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) metodom.

**Rezultati:** Koncentracije anti-p53 protutijela u serumu bolesnika s bolestima jetre bile su statistički značajno više (1,02 -72,7 pg/ml; median 3,12 pg/mL) od zdravih ispitanika (1,1-7,7; median 1,93; P = 0,003). Koncentracija anti-p53 protutijela u serumu bolesnika s HCC bila je viša u odnosu na druge bolesti jetre (ALD 1,8-2,7 pg/mL; median 1,96; NAFLD 1,02-72; median 2,91; virusni hepatitis A ili B 1,2-58,2 pg/mL; median 3,3; HCC 1,2-58,2 pg/mL; median 6,3; ciroza jetre 1-25 pg/mL; median 3,1). Utvrđili smo i statistički značajnu razliku u koncentraciji anti-p53

**O-06 (Oral presentation)****Anti-p53 antibodies in liver disease**

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**Introduction:** P53 tumor suppressor gene is coding a p53 protein, important in cell cycle regulation, apoptosis, DNA repair and angiogenesis. Mutations in p53 gene are responsible for accumulation of mutated p53 protein, acting as antigen causing production of anti-p53 antibodies. Recent research has documented the presence of anti-p53 antibodies in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The aim of this study was to investigate the presence of anti-p53 antibodies in serum of patients with various liver disease and healthy subjects.

**Materials and methods:** Concentration of anti-p53 antibodies was measured with ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) in sera of 205 patients (21-84 years old, median 60) with different liver disease (33 HCC, 51 liver cirrhosis, 43 viral hepatitis B or C, 50 autoimmune liver disease (ALD), 21 non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and 7 with undefined liver disease and 30 healthy controls).

**Results:** Concentration of anti-p53 antibodies was statistically significantly higher in serum of patients with liver diseases (1.02-72.7 pg/ml; median 3.12 pg/ml) than healthy subjects (1.1-7.7; median 1.93; P = 0.003). Anti p53 was higher in patients with HCC than all other liver diseases. Statistically significant difference in concentration of anti-p53 was determined between patients with ALD and NAFLD (P = 0.006); ALD and HCC (P = 0.01); ALD, viral hepatitis, and cirrhosis (P = 0.001).

između bolesnika s ALD i NAFLD ( $P = 0,006$ ); ALD i HCC ( $P = 0,010$ ); virusnim hepatitism i cirozom ( $P = 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Navedeno istraživanje upućuje na moguću vrijednost nalaza protutijela na p53 protein u serumu bolesnika s karcinomom jetre kao mogućeg biomarkera u ranom otkrivanju tumora.

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## P Nove tehnologije

### P-01

#### Automatizacija predobrade uzoraka – završni korak u rutinskoj primjeni određivanja vitamina D referentnom metodom (LC-MS/MS)

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**Uvod:** Tekućinska kromatografija visoke učinkovitosti spregnuta s dvojnom spektrometrijom masa (LC-MS/MS) je referentna metoda za određivanje koncentracije vitamina D čiju primjenu u rutinskom radu prijeće visoka cijena potrebne opreme, kompleksnost analize i zahtjevna predobrada uzoraka. Kako bismo smanjili opeterećenje osoblja i odgovorili na progresivno povećanje broja zahtjeva za određivanje koncentracije vitamina D tijekom pandemije bolesti COVID-19 pokrenuli smo automatizaciju preanalitičkih postupaka. Cilj ovog rada bio je verifikacija protokola za automatiziranu predobradu uzoraka pri određivanju koncentracije vitamina D u serumu LC-MS/MS metodom te usporedba rezultata pacijenata dobivenih manualnom i automatiziranom pripremom.

**Materijali i metode:** Za verifikaciju preciznosti pri automatiziranoj predobradi uzoraka (CLAM-2030, Shimadzu) prema smjernicama CLSI EP15-A3

**Conclusion:** Our investigation is suggesting the importance of determination of anti-p53 antibodies in patients with liver disease as clinically significant early biomarker of hepatocellular carcinoma.

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## P New technologies

### P-01

#### Automation of sample preparation - final step in application of reference method (LC-MS/MS) for vitamin D determination into routine workflow

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**Introduction:** Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) is a reference method for determination of vitamin D concentration, whose application to routine work is burdened by the high cost of equipment, complexity of analysis and demanding pre-treatment of samples. To reduce the staff workload and respond to the progressive increase of requests for vitamin D determination during the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched the automation of preanalytical procedures. The aim of this study was verification of protocol for automated pre-treatment of samples for determination of vitamin D concentration by LC-MS/MS method and compare patient results obtained automated vs. manual pre-preparation.

**Materials and methods:** Commercial control samples (RECIPE ClinChek) and reagent kit (RECIPE ClinMass® LC-MS/MS 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3) were used to verify precision of automated sample pre-

korišteni su komercijalni kontrolni uzorci (RECIPE ClinChek) i reagens (RECIPE ClinMass® LC-MS/MS 25-OH Vitamin D2/D3 Complete Kit), a za procjenu sustavne pogreške (BIAS) uzorci ( $N = 4$ ) neovisnog organizatora VKKR Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik. Usporedivost rezultata određivanja koncentracije vitamina D metodom LC-MS/MS (UPLC NEXERA X2-LCMS-8050, Shimadzu) nakon manualne i automatizirane predobrade uzorka ( $N = 48$ ) procijenjena je regresijskom analizom Passing-Bablok.

**Rezultati:** Statističkom obradom rezultata (MedCalc v19.0.6) dobiveni su rezultati (u dvije koncentracijske razine) za ponovljivost (5,6% i 5,3%), međupreciznost (3,4% i 3,8%) i ukupnu laboratorijsku preciznost (5,7% i 5,8%). Procjenjena je veličina sustavne pogreške kao prosječno odstupanje 3,9% od medijana skupine. Usporedba rezultata određivanja koncentracije vitamina D metodom LC-MS/MS pokazala je korelaciju između koncentracija dobivenih automatiziranim pripremom u odnosu na manualnu pripremu prema jednadžbi  $y = -1,2046 (-4,4904 \text{ do } 2,3555) + 1,1128(1,0471 \text{ do } 1,1696)x$ , uz prosječnu razliku od +8,9%.

**Zaključak:** Verifikacijom preciznosti dobiveni su rezultati koji zadovoljavaju postavljene kriterije za LC-MS/MS metode prema CLSI C62-A ( $CV \leq 15\%$ ). Analizom VKKR uzorka postignute su vrijednosti unutar dozvoljenih odstupanja ( $\leq 30\%$ ). Usporedbom različitih metoda pripreme uzorka dobivene razlike zadovoljavaju poželjne kriterije sukladno biološkoj varijabilnosti ( $CV_i = 6,8\%$  (4,7% do 12,8%)), što omogućava brzo uvođenje automatizirane predobrade uzorka u rutinski rad i potpunu automatizaciju procesa potrebnih za određivanje koncentracije vitamina D metodom LC-MS/MS.

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treatment (CLAM-2030, Shimadzu) according to CLSI EP15-A3 guidelines. Bias assessment was performed analysing EQA samples ( $N = 4$ ), provided by Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik. Comparison of vitamin D concentration in patients' samples ( $N = 48$ ), using different sample preparation methods (automated vs. manually), determined by the LC-MS/MS (UPLC NEXERA X2-LCMS-8050, Shimadzu) was assessed using Passing-Bablok linear regression.

**Results:** Statistical analysis (MedCalc v19.0.6) yielded results (at two concentration levels) for repeatability (5.6% and 5.3%), intermediate precision (3.4% and 3.8%) and within-laboratory precision (5.7% and 5.8%). Analysis of EQA samples showed average deviation of 3.9% from the median of the group. Comparison of concentrations obtained by automated preparation vs. manually showed correlation according to the equation  $y = -1.2046 (-4.4904 \text{ to } 2.3555) + 1.1128 (1.0471 \text{ to } 1.1696)x$ , with an average difference of +8.9%.

**Conclusion:** The results obtained for precision meet the set criteria for LC-MS/MS methods according to CLSI C62-A ( $CV \leq 15\%$ ). The analysis of EQA samples achieved values within the allowed deviations ( $\leq 30\%$ ). By comparing different methods of sample preparation, the obtained differences meet the desired criteria in accordance with biological variability ( $CV_i = 6.8\%$  (4.7% to 12.8%)), which allows rapid introduction of automated sample pre-treatment into routine work and full automation of processes required for determination vitamin D concentrations by LC-MS/MS method.

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**P-02 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Maseno-spektrometrijski slikovni prikaz prostorne distribucije neopterina u pojedinačnim mononuklearnim stanicama krvi**

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**Uvod:** Neopterin je pteridin kojeg sintetiziraju mononuklearne stanice krvi nakon stimulacije s interferonom γ kod upalnih i imunološki posredovanih stanja. Cilj istraživanja je s dovoljnom osjetljivosti zaobilježiti prostornu distribuciju neopterin-specifičnog signala i njome odrediti broj stimuliranih mononuklearnih stanica krvi.

**Materijali i metode:** Krv 10 zdravih dobrovoljnih darivatelja (5 muškaraca i 5 žena) nanešena je preko stakalca obloženog s indij kositom oksidom (ITO). Nakon kratke fiksacije metanolom i tretmana s hlapljivim puferom, α-cijano-4-hidroksicimetna kiselina je sublimirana i rekristalizirana na svakom stakalcu korištenjem iMLayer-a (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). Deset leukocita po svakom stakalcu (ukupno 100 leukocita) odabrano je, diferencirano i analizirano pomoću iMScope Trio (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) MALDI-TOF MSI uređaja s integriranim svjetlosnim mikroskopom. Razlike u intenzitetu MSI signala između mononuklearnih stanica i okolne plazme procijenjene su t-testom implementiranim u programu IMAGE-REVEAL v.1.1 (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan).  $P < 0,05$  smatra se značajnom. Prema The Human Metabolome Database m/z od 218.0608 Da odgovara adaktu neopterina ( $M+H-2H_2O$ ).

**Rezultati:** Od 100 odabranih leukocita, 29 su bili mononuklearne stanice. Omjer neopterin-specifičnog signala koji dolazi iz mononuklearnih stanica i plazme iznosio je 13,7 ( $P < 0,020$ ), što ukazuje na prihvatljivu osjetljivost. Signal neopterina bio je prisutan u 11 mononuklearnih stanica (38%). Dobiveni rezultat je u skladu sa zdravstvenim stanjem uključenih ispitanika.

**P-02 (Oral presentation)****Mass spectrometry imaging of neopterin in individual mononuclear blood cells**

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**Introduction:** Neopterin is a pteridine produced by mononuclear blood cells after interferon γ stimulation in inflammatory and immune-mediated disorders. The aim of the study is to record the spatial distribution of the neopterin-specific signal with sufficient sensitivity and to use it to determine the number of stimulated mononuclear blood cells.

**Materials and methods:** Blood of 10 healthy blood donors (5 male and 5 female) was smeared over indium tin oxide (ITO) glass slides. After a brief methanol fixation and volatile buffer treatment, α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid was sublimated and recrystallized on each slide using iMLayer (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). 10 white blood cells (WBC) per each slide (100 WBC in total) were selected, differentiated, and analysed using iMScope Trio (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) MALDI-TOF MSI device containing integrated light microscope. Differences in MSI signal intensity between mononuclear cells and surrounding plasma were assessed by a t-test implemented in IMAGEREVEAL v.1.1 software (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan).  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant. According to The Human Metabolome Database m/z of 218.0608 Da corresponds to the neopterin adduct ( $M+H-2H_2O$ ).

**Results:** 29 of selected WBC were mononuclear cells. The ratio of neopterin-specific signal coming from the mononuclear cells and plasma was calculated to be 13.7 ( $P < 0.020$ ), which indicates acceptable sensitivity. The neopterin signal was present in 11 mononuclear cells (38%). Obtained result is in concordance with the health status of the enrolled subjects.

**Zaključak:** MALDI TOF-MSI ima zadovoljavajuću osjetljivost za vizualizaciju prostorne distribucije neopterina i sukladno tome, za određivanje broja stimuliranih mononuklearnih stanica krvi.

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#### P-03 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Sekvenciranje sljedeće generacije multigeniskim panelom u dijagnostici nasljednog raka – probir patogenih i vjerojatno patogenih varijanti u populaciji hrvatskih pacijenata

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**Uvod:** Sekvenciranje sljedeće generacije (NGS) omogućava probir pacijenata s nasljednim patogenim i/ili vjerojatno patogenim (P/LP) varijantama u genima povezanim s povećanim rizikom nasljeđivanja raka. Udio varijanti razlikuje se između populacija. Ovdje iznosimo rezultate našeg višegodišnjeg iskustva genetičkog testiranja hrvatskih pacijenata multigeniskim panelom za nasljedne oblike raka.

**Materijali i metode:** Nakon genetičkog savjetovanja u KBC Zagreb ukupno 528 pacijenata sa sumnjom na nasljeđivanje raka upućeno je na genetičko testiranje: 399 s dijagnozom i 129 bez dijagnoze raka. Knjižnice za sekvenciranje pripremljene su iz DNA izolirane iz periferne krvi pacijenata, korištenjem kompleta reagensa *Illumina DNA Prep with Enrichment*. Sekvenciranje je napravljeno na uređaju MiSeq (Illumina) uz korištenje komercijalnog multigeniskog panela *TruSight Hereditary Cancer Panel* koji obuhvaća 113 gena povezanih s nasljednim oblicima raka. Analiza podataka napravljena je korištenjem programskog paketa Variant Studio (Illumina) i pretraživanjem relevantnih baza podataka.

**Conclusion:** MALDI TOF-MSI has satisfactory sensitivity for the visualization of neopterin spatial distribution and, consequently, for the determination of stimulated mononuclear blood cells count.

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#### P-03 (Oral presentation)

### Next-generation sequencing using a multigene panel testing for hereditary cancer – screening of pathogenic and likely pathogenic variants in the population of patients in Croatia

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**Introduction:** Next-generation sequencing (NGS) allows screening of patients with inherited pathogenic and likely pathogenic (P/LP) variants in genes associated with an increased risk of inheriting cancer. The proportion of variants varies between populations. Here we present our multi-year results of multigene panel testing of patients in Croatia.

**Materials and methods:** After genetic counselling at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb, a total of 528 patients with suspected cancer inheritance underwent genetic testing: 399 with cancer and 129 without cancer but positive family history. Library preparation was performed using patient DNA, isolated from peripheral blood, using the reagent kit *Illumina DNA Prep with Enrichment*. Sequencing was performed on MiSeq (Illumina) platform using a commercially available multigene panel *TruSight Hereditary Cancer Panel* covering 113 high-risk cancer susceptibility genes. Data analysis was performed by using Variant Studio (Illumina) software package and searching relevant variant databases.

**Rezultati:** Od 344 pacijenta s rakom dojke u 88 (25,6%) je otkrivena P/LP varijanta, najčešće u genima: *BRCA1* (N = 34), *BRCA2* (N = 19), *CHEK2* (N = 8), *NBN* (N = 5), *ATM* (N = 5), *FANCM* (N = 3), *PALB2* (N = 2), *TP53* (N = 2) i *BARD1* (N = 1). Od 8 pacijenata s rakom jajnika u 5 (62,5%) je otkrivena P/LP varijanta u genima *BRCA1* (N = 4) i *BRCA2* (N = 1), a od 6 pacijenata s rakom dojke i jajnika u 5 (83,3%) su otkrivene varijante *BRCA2* (N = 3) i *BRCA1* (N = 2). U 41 pacijenata s drugim oblicima raka u 14 (34,1%) je otkrivena P/LP varijanta. Od 129 neonkoloških pacijenata u 31 (24,0%) je otkrivena P/LP varijanta, najčešće u genima: *BRCA1* (N = 6), *BRCA2* (N = 5), *MUTYH* (N = 4), *RAD51D* (N = 4), *APC* (N = 3) i *NTHL1* (N = 3).

**Zaključak:** Najčešće P/LP varijante u uzorku naših pacijenata otkrivene su u genima *BRCA1* i *BRCA2*, s najvećim udjelom u skupini pacijenata s rakom dojke i jajnika. Visok udio P/LP varijanti u neonkoloških pacijenata s pozitivnom obiteljskom anamnezom potvrđuje važnost genetičkog testiranja u svrhu prevencije nasljednih oblika raka.

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**Results:** Of 344 patients with breast cancer, 88 (25.6%) had P/LP variants, predominantly in genes: *BRCA1* (N = 34), *BRCA2* (N = 19), *CHEK2* (N = 8), *NBN* (N = 5), *ATM* (N = 5), *FANCM* (N = 3), *PALB2* (N = 2), *TP53* (N = 2) and *BARD1* (N = 1). Of 8 patients with ovarian cancer, 5 (62.5%) had P/LP variants: *BRCA1* (N = 4) and *BRCA2* (N = 1), and of 6 patients with both breast and ovarian cancer, 5 (83.3%) had P/LP variants: *BRCA2* (N = 3) and *BRCA1* (N = 2). Of 41 patients with other types of cancer, 14 (34.1%) had P/LP variants. Of 129 non-oncological patients, 31 (24.0%) had P/LP variants, predominantly in genes: *BRCA1* (N = 6), *BRCA2* (N = 5), *MUTYH* (N = 4), *RAD51D* (N = 4), *APC* (N = 3) and *NTHL1* (N = 3).

**Conclusion:** The most common P/LP variants found in our patients were detected in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes, with the highest occurrence in patients with both breast and ovarian cancer. The high proportion of P/LP variants in patients without cancer, but with a positive family history, confirms the importance of genetic testing in preventing hereditary forms of cancer.

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#### P-04

#### Računalna analiza sjemene tekućine

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**Uvod:** U dijagnosticiranju muške neplodnosti ključnu ulogu ima analiza kvalitete sjemena (spermogram). Zbog subjektivnosti u standardnom načinu izrade spermiograma, gotovo ih je nemoguće uspoređivati između različitih laboratoriјa. Uvođenjem računalno potpomognute mikroskopske analize sjemene tekućine u laboratorijsku praksu (Computer Assisted Semen Analysis, CASA), nastoji se postići objektivnost i podići razinu kvalitete analize.

**Materijali i metode:** CASA (Microptic, Španjolska) je modularni automatski računalni sustav koji sadrži rutinske i istraživačke module: koncentracija i pokretljivost, morfologija, fragmentacija DNA, vital-

#### P-04

#### Computer assisted semen analysis

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**Introduction:** Semen quality analysis (spermogram) plays a key role in diagnosing male infertility. Due to subjectivity of the standard way of spermogram analysis, it is almost impossible to compare results between different laboratories. By introducing computer-assisted microscopic analysis of semen (CASA) into laboratory practice, we aim to achieve objectivity and raise the level of quality.

**Materials and methods:** CASA (Microptic, Spain) is modular automated computer system containing routine and research modules: concentration and motility, morphology, DNA fragmentation, vitality, acrosome reaction and recognition of peroxidase-

nost, akrosomska reakcija spermija i prepoznavanje peroksidazno-pozitivnih stanica; leukocita, prema kriterijima Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije (SZO). U našem laboratoriju uveli smo module za koncentraciju i pokretljivost (Leja komorica 10 mikrona uz fazno-kontrastnu mikroskopiju), morfologiju (komercijalna prethodno obojana stakalca bojom SpermBlue), vitalnost (u slučaju pokretljivosti spermija manjoj od 42% uz reagens BrightVit) i prepoznavanje peroksidazno-pozitivnih stanica; leukocita (iznimno uz poseban kit reagenasa kada je broj okruglih staniča u ejakulatu veći od  $10^6/\text{mL}$ ).

**Rezultati:** Od uvođenja sustava u veljači 2022. obrađeno je 70 uzoraka, od čega je 45 nalaza izvan SZO definiranih kriterija. CASA automatski prepoznaje i kategorizira spermije po brzini i pokretljivosti prema SZO-u u šest kategorija. Izvedba analize je brza i moguće je analizirati nekoliko pacijenata u isto vrijeme uz mogućnost naknadnog pregledavanja vidnih podataka. Pouzdano razlikuje spermije od ostalih staničnih elemenata iako uz jako niske i jako visoke koncentracije spermija, te abnormalnu viskoznost zahtjeva nadzor i intervenciju educiranog laboratorijskog osoblja. Zapisi se pohranjuju u bazu podataka i imaju mogućnost povezivanja s laboratorijskim informacijskim sustavom. Izvješća se mogu izravno ispisivati iz softvera.

**Zaključak:** CASA sustav analize spermija je računalni program zadnje generacije analizatora spermiograma i kao takav postavlja zlatne standarde u liječenju neplodnosti muškaraca. Uvođenjem CASA sustava sveli smo subjektivne razlike u izradi spermiograma među laboratorijskim osobljem na minimum, ubrzali postupak izrade spermiograma bez utjecaja na kvalitetu izdanog nalaza i pohranili rezultate u bazi podataka softvera.

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positive cells; leukocytes, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria and protocol. In our laboratory we introduced modules for concentration and motility (Leja chamber 10 microns with phase-contrast microscopy), morphology (commercial prestained SpermBlue slides), vitality (if motility is < 42%; BrightVit reagent) and recognition of leukocytes (special kit of reagents when number of round cells is  $> 10^6/\text{mL}$ ).

**Results:** From the introduction of the system in February 2022, 70 samples were processed, out of which 45 were out of WHO defined criteria. CASA automatically recognizes and categorizes sperm by speed and motility into six categories according to the WHO. The analysis is performed quickly, and it is possible to analyse several patients at the same time with the possibility of subsequent examination. It reliably distinguishes sperm from other cellular elements, although with very low or very high sperm concentrations and abnormal viscosity, it requires the intervention of trained laboratory staff. Records are stored in a software database and have the ability to connect to Laboratory Information System.

**Conclusion:** CASA sperm analysis system is a computer program of the latest generation of sperm analysers and sets gold standards in treatment of male infertility. With the introduction of the CASA system, we reduced the subjective differences in semen analysis among laboratory staff to a minimum, accelerated the process without affecting the quality of the issued results.

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## R Prikaz slučaja

### R-01 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### **Tip 1 von Willebrandove bolesti uzrokovani velikom heterozigotnom delecijom egzona 1 do 6 – uloga metode višestrukog umnažanja vezanih proba**

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**Uvod:** Von Willebrandova bolest (VWB) najčešći je nasljedni poremećaj zgrušavanja uzrokovani mutacijama u genu za von Willebrandov faktor (VWF). Do danas je poznato više od 700 mutacija koje su rasprostranjene duž čitavog gena na kromosomu 12, a najveći udio se odnosi na točkaste mutacije, dok su velike delecije i duplikacije rijetke. Tehnologija sekvenciranja sljedeće generacije (NGS) omogućava sekvenciranje čitavih gena i pouzdano otkrivanje točkastih mutacija te malih pomaka okvira čitanja, dok se za dokazivanje velikih delecija i duplikacija primjenjuje metoda višestrukog umnažanja vezanih proba (MLPA). Ovaj slučaj prikazuje bolesnika s kliničkom slikom i koagulacijskim nalazima karakterističnim za VWB-a koji je podvrgnut genetičkom testiranju.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Muško dijete od 6 godina, bez pozitivne obiteljske anamneze na poremećaje krvarenja, obrađuje se zbog epistaksi i učestale pojave modrica. Koagulacijska obrada obuhvatila je određivanje kapaciteta primarne hemostaze na uređaju PFA-200 pomoću kolagena i adrenalina (COL/EPI), odnosno adenozin-difosfata (COL/ADP), aktiviranog parcijalnog tromboplastinskog vremena (APTV), aktivnosti (VWF-akt) i antiga VWF-a (VWF:Ag), sposobnosti vezanja kolagena (VWF:CB) te analizu multimeru. Tehnologijom NGS-a sekvencirano je svih 52 egzona, bočne intronske regije i promotorska regija gena za VWF-a na uređaju

## R Case report

### R-01 (Oral presentation)

#### **Type 1 von Willebrand disease caused by a large heterozygous deletion of exons 1 to 6 - the role of multiple ligation-dependent probe amplification**

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**Introduction:** Von Willebrand disease (VWD) is the most common inherited bleeding disorder caused by mutations within the von Willebrand factor (VWF) gene. To date, more than 700 mutations have been discovered throughout the whole VWF gene, the majority of them being point mutations, while deletions and duplications are rare. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) is used for complete gene analysis and can reliably detect point and small frameshift mutations. For detection of large deletions and duplications, multiple ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA) should be performed. Hereby we present a case of a patient with bleeding symptoms and coagulation testing results indicative of VWD, who underwent genetic testing.

**Case report:** A 6-years old male patient presented with epistaxis and excessive bruising. Coagulation testing included determination of primary haemostasis capacity mediated by collagen and epinephrine (COL/EPI), and adenosine-diphosphate (COL/ADP) on PFA-200 analyser, activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), VWF activity (VWF-act) and antigen (VWF:Ag), collagen binding activity (VWF:CB) and multimeric analysis. Genetic testing included analysis of all 52 exons, intronic flanking regions and promoter region of VWF gene by NGS on MiSeq (Illumina, San Diego, USA). Targeted analysis of all VWF gene exons was performed by MLPA us-

MiSeq (Illumina, San Diego, SAD). MLPA analiza svih egzona gena za VWF-a provedena je pomoću kompleta proba SALSA MLPA VWF P011 i P012 (MRC Holland, Amsterdam, Nizozemska).

**Rezultati:** Rezultati koagulacijskih pretraga upućivali su na tip 1 VWB-a. PFA-200 COL/EPI i COL/ADP bili su nemjerljivo produljeni ( $> 300$  s), APTV je iznosio 32,9 s, VWF-akt 23,6%, VWF:Ag 24,7% i VWF:CB 24,2%. Analizom multimerica VWF-a utvrđena je uredna raspodjela uz jednakomjerno snižen intenzitet svih frakcija. NGS-om nije dokazana prisutnost mutacija, dok je MLPA analizom utvrđena heterozigotna delecija koja zahvaća područje egzona 1 do 6.

**Zaključak:** MLPA metoda bila je ključna za dokazivanje genske osnova tipa 1 VWB-a u ovom slučaju, koja bi ostala neotkrivena primjenom samo sekvenciranja gena tehnologijom NGS-a.

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ing SALSA MLPA Probemix VWF P011 and P012 (MRC Holland, Amsterdam, Holland).

**Results:** Coagulation testing indicated the diagnosis of type 1 VWD. Both PFA-200 COL/EPI and COL/ADP were unmeasurably prolonged ( $> 300$  s), aPTT was 32.6 s, VWF-act 23.6%, VWF:Ag 24.7% and VWF:CB 24.2%. Multimeric analysis showed normal distribution with equally decreased intensity of all fractions. NGS analysis did not detect causative mutations, while MLPA revealed the presence of a heterozygous deletion spanning exons 1 to 6.

**Conclusion:** The use of MLPA was crucial for revealing the genetic basis of type 1 VWD in this case, which would remain undetected if only NGS was used.

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## R-02

### Anaplastični velikostanični limfom s aberantnim izražajem mijeloidnog antiga CD13: prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Anaplastični velikostanični limfom (ALCL) je non-Hodgkinov limfom visokog stupnja maligniteta karakteriziran proliferacijom pleomorfnih velikih limfoidnih stanica. Maligne stanice izražavaju različite imunofenotipove, ali su uvijek jako pozitivne na CD30 antigen. Promjene u fenotipu, kao što su odsutnost površinskih markera T-limfocita i aberantni izražaj mijelomonocitnih antigena ili antigena povezanih s NK-stanicama, može učiniti dijagnozu ALCL-a komplikiranom.

**Prikaz slučaja:** 55-godišnjakinja je obrađena od strane hematologa u KBC Osijek radi pojave velike ingvinalne mase na desnoj strani. Žalila se na sla-

## R-02

### Anaplastic large cell lymphoma with aberrant expression of myeloid antigen CD13: case report

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**Introduction:** Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) is a highly malignant non-Hodgkin's lymphoma characterized by the proliferation of pleomorphic large lymphoid cells. Malignant cells express various immunophenotypes but are always strongly positive for CD30 antigen. An unusual phenotype, such as the absence of T-cell surface markers and expression of myelomonocyte antigens or antigens associated with NK-cells, can make the diagnosis of ALCL complicated.

**Case report:** The 55-year-old woman was presented to a haematologist at the University Hospital Center Osijek to assess the large inguinal mass on the right

bost, temperaturu i gubitak težine. Kompjutorizirana tomografija potvrdila je prisutnost generalizirane limfadenopatije i ingvinalne limfadenopatije veličine 4-5 cm. Učinjena je aspiracijska biopsija tankom iglom, te je zatražena imunofenotipizacija protočnom citometrijom. Također, zatražena je i patohistološka analiza biptata tkiva. Analiza imunofenotipa je provedena korištenjem antitijela izravno obilježenih fluorokromom (BD, Biosciences) i analizirana na FACSCalibur protočnom citometru s 4 detektora (BD) korištenjem CellQuest softvera.

**Rezultati:** Imunološka fenotipizacija aspirata limfnih čvorova pokazala je prisutnost atypične populacije velikih stanica koje imaju biljeg CD45 visokog intenziteta izražaja, pri čemu je većina stanica lokalizirana u ogradi monocita. Stanice su bile pozitivne na antigene CD2, CD4, CD13, djelomično CD56, CD25 i CD30. Ovaj imunofenotip odgovara dijagnozi ALCL T-limfocitne loze. Dijagnoza ALCL(ALK+) potvrđena je histološkom i imunohistokemijskom analizom.

**Zaključak:** ALCL se uobičajeno dijagnosticira histološkim i imunohistokemijskim metodama u uzorci ma biopsije tkiva. Za analizu uzoraka dobivenih aspiracijom pomoću tanke igle, protočna citometrija je vrlo korisna metoda koja nudi visoku osjetljivost i kratko vrijeme analize. Također, ova metoda je ključna za analizu složenih slučajeva ALCL-a s aberantnim izražajem biljega drugih staničnih linija.

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side. She complained of weakness, fever, and weight loss. Computed tomography scan confirmed the presence of generalized lymphadenopathy and inguinal lymphadenopathy up to 4-5 cm. A fine-needle aspiration (FNA) biopsy was performed and flow cytometry immunophenotyping (FCI) was requested. Pathohistological analysis was performed on tissue biopsy samples. FCI analysis was performed on a sample using directly conjugated antibodies (BD, Biosciences) and analysed on a 4-color FACSCalibur flow cytometer (BD) using the CellQuest software.

**Results:** FCI analysis of lymph node aspirates showed the presence of an atypically large cell population which express bright CD45, with most cells falling in the monocyte region. These cells were positive for antigens CD2, CD4, CD13, partly CD56, CD25, and CD30. This immunophenotype corresponds to ALCL of T-cells origin. Diagnosis of ALCL(ALK+) was confirmed by histological and immunohistochemical analysis.

**Conclusion:** ALCL is usually diagnosed by histological and immunohistochemical analysis of tissue biopsy samples. For analysis of samples obtained by FNA, flow cytometry is a very useful method that offers high sensitivity and a short turnaround time. Also, FCI is a crucial method for the analysis of unusual cases of ALCL with aberrant expression of markers of other cell lineages.

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## R-03

### Interferencija krioglobulina s brojem trombocita – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Krioglobulini su cirkulirajući imunoglobulini ili imunoglobulinski kompleksi koje karakterizira reverzibilna, hladnoćom izazvana precipitacija. Krioglobulini uzrokuju analitičku interferenciju prilikom mjerjenja parametara krvne slike na hematološkim

## R-03

### Cryoglobulins interference with platelet count - a case report

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**Introduction:** Cryoglobulins are circulating immunoglobulins or immunoglobulin complexes characterized by reversible, cold-induced precipitation. Cryoglobulins are the cause of analytical interferences in the measurement of CBC on haematology

analizatorima (HA), što dovodi do lažno povećanih rezultata, uglavnom broja Lkc i/ili Trc.

**Prikaz slučaja:** 82-godišnji muškarac primljen je u našu bolnicu zbog purpure, slabosti, oticanja u obje noge i značajne proteinurije i hematurije. Tijekom boravka u bolnici, pacijentu su kvalitativno detektirani krioprecipitati u serumu te su uočene neobjašnjive promjene u broju Trc tijekom nekoliko uzastopnih mjerena.

**Rezultati:** Prikazujemo rezultate istog uzorka izmjereno na Advia 2120i HA u istom danu, prema sljedećem redoslijedu: 1) odmah po prijemu u laboratoriju: TRC  $158 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 10,0 fL; 2) 1,5h po prijemu, čuvano na sobnoj temperaturi (ST): TRC  $314 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 14 fL; 3) nakon zagrijavanja na  $37^\circ C$  30 min i neposrednog mjerena: TRC  $132 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 9,1 fL; 4) 45 min nakon zagrijavanja, čuvano na ST: TRC  $279 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 13,6 fL; 5) 3h nakon zagrijavanja, čuvano na ST: TRC  $398 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 16,3 fL. Trc citogram je bio prepun čestica u području šuma trombocitnog porijekla i HA je generirao pripadajuće upozorenje. Histogram distribucije trombocita po volumenu je pokazivao rastezanje prema većem volumenu kod uzoraka koji su stajali na ST. Razmazi venske krvi napravljeni su neposredno nakon mjerena 3,4 i 5 te obojani MGG tehnikom. Uočene su ekstracelularne nakupine blago ružičastog amorfog materijala u razmazima 4 i 5.

**Zaključak:** Prepoznavanje interferencija povezanih s krioglobulinima kod mjerena parametara krvne slike može biti vrlo izazovno u rutinskoj laboratorijskoj praksi. Njihova interferencija kod HA ovisi o veličini, nije dosljedna ili relativna u odnosu na količinu krioglobulina ili njegovu prirodu. Svako odstupanje u broju Trc ili Lkc u nekoliko uzastopnih mjerena ili iz dana u dan trebalo bi potaknuti sumnju na interferenciju krioglobulina.

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analysers (HA), leading to spuriously increased results, mainly WBC and/or PLT count.

**Case report:** A 82-year-old man was admitted to our hospital because of purpura, weakness, swelling in both legs, marked proteinuria and haematuria. During his hospital stay, serum cryoglobulins were qualitatively detected and unexplained changes in PLT count were observed over several consecutive CBC measurements.

**Results:** We present the results of the same sample measured on Advia 2120i HA on the same day in the following order: 1) immediately upon admission to the laboratory: PLT  $158 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 10.0 fL; 2) 1,5 h upon admission, stored at room temperature (RT): PLT  $314 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 14 fL; 3) after heating at  $37^\circ C$  for 30 min followed by rapid analysis: PLT  $132 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 9.1 fL; 4) 45 min after heating, stored at RT: PLT  $279 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 13.6 fL; 5) 3 h after heating, stored at RT: PLT  $398 \times 10^9/L$ , MPV 16.3 fL. The PLT cytogram was overflowed with particles in the platelet origin noise area and analyser generated platelet origin noise flag. The platelet volume histogram showed stretching to the larger size with the time. Blood smears were made immediately after measurements 3, 4 and 5 and MGG stained. Extracellular globules of amorphous lightly pink material were identified in smears 4 and 5.

**Conclusion:** Recognition of cryoglobulins related interference on CBC measurements can be very challenging in routine laboratory practice. Their interference on HA is size-dependent, it is not consistent or relative to the amount of cryoglobulin or its nature. Any discrepancy in the PLT or WBC count over several consecutive blood counts or from day to day should rise the suspicion of cryoglobulins interference.

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R-04

## Pseudohiponatrijemija uslijed asparaginazom inducirane hipertrigliceride-mije – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Asparaginaza pripada skupini citostatika koji se koriste za liječenje akutne limfobastične leukemije (ALL). Jedna od opisanih nuspojava terapije asparaginazom je pojava hipertrigliceridemije koja može dovesti do značajne lipemije uzorka. Lipemija na nekoliko načina interferira u određivanju niza laboratorijskih pretraga. Jedna od poznatih interferencija je utjecaj lipemije na određivanje koncentracija elektrolita metodom indirektnog potenciometrija. Cilj ovoga rada je prikazati slučaj pseudohiponatrijemije uslijed asparaginazom inducirane hipertrigliceridemije kod 25-godišnje bolesnice oboljele od ALL.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Uzorci seruma bolesnice analizirani su u Kliničkom zavodu za kemiju KBC-a Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb. Biokemijske pretrage u serumu (indeks lipemije (L), natrij, triglyceridi, kolesterol, HDL kolesterol, LDL kolesterol) određivane su na analizatoru Abbott Architect c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, SAD) u skladu s uputama proizvođača. Dodatno je koncentracija natrija, nakon postavljene sumnje na pseudohiponatrijemiju, određena na analizatoru Radiometer ABL90 Flex (Radiometer Medical Aps, Brønshøj, Danska) metodom direktnog potenciometrije.

**Rezultati:** 21. dan nakon uvođenja terapije asparaginazom, bolesnici je laboratorijskim pretragama verificirana značajna hipertrigliceridemija (triglyceridi: 21,8 mmol/L, kolesterol: 7,2 mmol/L, HDL kolesterol: < 0,13 mmol/L, LDL kolesterol: 3,8 mmol/L) uz lipemiju uzorka seruma (L indeks: 8,35). Izmjerena koncentracija natrija iznosila je 129 mmol/L koja nije odgovarala kliničkoj slici bolesnice. Nakon konzultacije liječnika i laboratorija postavljena je sumnja na pseudohiponatrijemiju uslijed lipemije seruma te je koncentracija natrija u istom uzorku određena na analizatoru Radiometer ABL90 Flex. Izmjerena koncentracija natrija iznosila je 136 mmol/L.

R-04

## Pseudohyponatraemia due to asparaginase-induced hypertriglyceridaemia: - a case report

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**Introduction:** Asparaginase is a cytostatic drug used for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) treatment. One of described side effects of asparaginase therapy is hypertriglyceridemia, which can lead to significant lipemia sample. Lipemia interferes in several ways in laboratory tests. One of the known interferences is lipemia influence on electrolyte concentrations measured by indirect potentiometry method. The aim of this study was to present a case of pseudohyponatraemia due to asparaginase-induced hypertriglyceridemia in a 25-year-old patient with ALL.

**Case report:** The patient's serum samples were analysed at Department of Clinical Chemistry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb. Serum biochemical tests (lipemia index (L), sodium, triglycerides, cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol) were measured on Abbott Architect c8000 analyser (Abbott, Abbott Park, USA) according to manufacturer's declarations. Additionally, the sodium concentration, after pseudohyponatraemia suspicion, was measured on Radiometer ABL90 Flex analyser (Radiometer Medical Aps, Brønshøj, Denmark) by direct potentiometry method.

**Results:** On the 21st day of asparaginase therapy, the patient's laboratory findings showed significant hypertriglyceridemia (triglycerides: 21.8 mmol/L, cholesterol: 7.2 mmol/L, HDL cholesterol: < 0.13 mmol/L, LDL cholesterol: 3.8 mmol/L) with lipemia serum sample (L index: 8.35). The measured sodium concentration was 129 mmol/L, which was not consistent with patient's clinical picture. After physician and laboratory consulting, pseudohyponatraemia was suspected and sodium concentration in the same sample was determined on Radiometer ABL90 Flex analyser. The measured sodium concentration was 136 mmol/L.

**Zaključak:** Pseudohiponatrijemija označava lažno sniženu izmjerenu koncentraciju natrija. U lipemičnim uzorcima ona može biti posljedica smanjenog udjela vodene faze što interferira u metodama koje mjere koncentraciju elektrolita u ukupnom volumenu plazme (seruma) (indirektna potenciometrija; Abbott Architect c8000), dok je u metodama koje mjere koncentraciju elektrolita samo u vodenoj fazi (direktna potenciometrija; Radiometer ABL90 Flex) takva interferencija izbjegnuta. Pseudohiponatremiju treba prepoznati jer može dovesti do nepotrebne terapije za pacijenta, kao i mogućih komplikacija.

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**Conclusion:** Pseudohyponatremia is a falsely decreased measured sodium concentration. In lipemic samples it may be due to a reduced aqueous phase which interferes in methods measuring electrolyte concentration in total plasma (serum) volume (indirect potentiometry; Abbott Architect c8000), while in methods measuring electrolyte concentration only in aqueous phase (direct potentiometry; Radiometer ABL90 Flex) such interference is avoided. Pseudohyponatremia should be recognized because it can lead to unnecessary patient therapy, as well as possible complications.

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## R-05

### Agresivni IgD lambda multipli mijelom (IgD $\lambda$ MM): prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** IgD $\lambda$  MM je češći podtip IgD MM (82%). IgD MM je rijetka bolest s incidencijom < 2% u odnosu na druge izotipove MM. Češći je kod muškaraca (63%) i detektira se u uznapredovaloj fazi s lošim ishodom.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Prikazali smo bolesnicu u dobi od 82 godine koja je u srpnju 2020. godine zaprimljena u KBC Rijeka nakon primarne obrade u Objedinjenom hitnom medicinskom prijemu u koji se javila radi opće slabosti, bolova u desnom hemiabdomenu i osjećaju nedostatka zraka. U laboratorijskim nalazima evidentirana je leukocitoza uz prisutnost blasta, prijelaznih stanica mijeloidne loze, trombocitopenije i izražena proteinurija. Daljinjom laboratorijskom obradom izmjerena je visoka koncentracija slobodnog lakog lanca lambda u serumu ( $SLL\lambda = 1250\text{mg/L}$ ) uz sniženi omjer  $SLL\kappa/SLL\lambda$ . Izmjerene su povišene koncentracije  $\beta$ -2-mikroglobulina, Ca, urata i LDH, snižene koncentracije imunoglobulina G, A i M, dok su ukupni proteini i sedimentacija bili unutar referentnog intervala. Kapilarnom elektroforezom serumskih proteina uočena su dva oštra

## R-05

### Aggressive IgD lambda multiple myeloma (IgD $\lambda$ MM): a case report

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**Introduction:** IgD $\lambda$  MM is a more common subtype of IgD MM (82%). IgD subtype MM is a rare disease with an incidence lower than 2%. It is more common in men (63%), usually detected in advanced stage of disease and has poor prognosis.

**Case report:** We report the case of an 82-year-old woman who was admitted to CHC Rijeka in July 2020 after the primary treatment in the Emergency Department for general weakness, pain in right hemiabdomen and shortness of breath. Laboratory tests showed leukocytosis with the presence of blasts, myeloid cells, thrombocytopenia, and proteinuria. Serum free light chain (LC) test showed a high level of free lambda ( $FLC\lambda = 1250\text{mg/L}$ ), with reduced  $FLC\kappa/FLC\lambda$  ratio. Elevated serum levels of  $\beta$ -2-microglobulin, Ca, uric acid and LDH, and decreased levels of immunoglobulins G, A and M were measured. Total protein concentration, IgE and ESR were within reference interval. The serum protein capillary electrophoresis showed two monoclonal spikes in the  $\gamma$ -globulin zone. Monoclonal bands

šiljka u zoni  $\gamma$ -globulina. Imunofiksacijskom elektroforezom (IFE) na agaroznom gelu dobivene su dvije monoklonske frakcije u području precipitacije s antiserumom specifičnim protiv  $\lambda$  (slobodnih i vezanih) LL, dok u području teških lanaca  $\gamma$ ,  $\alpha$  i  $\mu$  nije uočena monoklonska frakcija. Koncentracija IgE bila je unutar referentnog intervala. Dodatnom IFE primjenom antiseruma divalentnog anti-teškog lanca  $\delta$  i  $\epsilon$ , monovalentnog anti-teškog lanca  $\delta$  i anti-slobodnog  $\lambda$  LL, dobivena je jedna dominantna monoklonska frakcija IgD $\lambda$  tipa i druga monoklonska frakcija SLL $\lambda$  tipa pomaknuta prema području  $\beta$ -globulina. Koncentracija IgD izmjerena metodom radijalne-imuno-difuzije bila je  $> 25,5$  g/L. IFE-om proteina u mokraći detektirana je monoklonska frakcija SLL $\lambda$  tipa koja je potvrđena kvantitativnim mjeranjem (SLL $\lambda$  = 3520 mg/L). Citološkom obradom punktata koštane srži, periferne krvi i biopsijom kosti potvrđena je dijagnoza plazmastanične bolesti. Osmog dana boravka dolazi do naglog pogoršanja kliničkog stanja bolesnice s fatalnim ishodom.

**Zaključak:** Ovo je prvi zabilježeni slučaj MM IgD $\lambda$  tipa u KBC Rijeka u periodu od 2011 do 2022 godine.

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## R-06

### Nesvakidašnja elektroforeza hemoglobina novorođenčeta

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**Uvod:** Tip I nasljedne methemoglobinemije rijetka je bolest uzrokovana mutacijama gena CYB5R3 koji ima ulogu u stvaranju enzima citokrom b5 reduktaze 3 koji kodira NADH-citokrom b5 reduktazu u

were identified by immunofixation electrophoresis (IFE) in the precipitation area with specific antiserum  $\lambda$  (free and bound) LC. Monoclonal band in the heavy chain region  $\gamma$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  were not detected. Using bivalent anti-heavy chain  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ , monovalent anti-heavy chain  $\delta$  and anti-FLC $\lambda$  antisera in the  $\gamma$ -globulin zone the dominant monoclonal component of IgD $\lambda$  was detected and in the  $\beta$ -globulin zone monoclonal component of FLC $\lambda$ . The concentration of IgD measured by the radial-immunodiffusion was  $> 25,5$  g/L. Monoclonal component of FLC $\lambda$  was detected by urine IFE and confirmed by quantitative measurement (FLC $\lambda$  = 3520 mg/L). Cytology examination of bone marrow punctures, peripheral blood and bone biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of plasma cell disease. On the eighth day, clinical deterioration of the patient results with a fatal outcome.

**Conclusion:** From 2011 to 2022, this was the first recorded case of MM IgD $\lambda$  type in CHC Rijeka.

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## R-06

### Unusual hemoglobin electrophoresis of newborn

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**Introduction:** Type I hereditary methemoglobinemia is a rare disease caused by mutations in the CYB5R3 gene. It is clinically manifested by mild cyanosis and low saturation, and most often symptoms do

eritrocitima. Klinički se očituje blagom cijanozom i niskom saturacijom, a najčešće simptomi se ne pojavljuju dok razina methemoglobin ne prijeđe 25% ukupnog hemoglobina.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Naša je pacijentica tek rođena zdrava djevojčica, prvo dijete u obitelji, negativna na COVID-19 virus, dok je majka pozitivna na isti virus. U dobi od 4 sata života djevojčici je izmjerena saturacija kisika manja od 92%; mjerjenje je ponovljeno nakon nekoliko sati, a saturacija je bila jednake vrijednosti zbog čega su učinjene osnovne laboratorijske pretrage koje su bile uredne. Drugog dana života dolazi do porasta CRP-a (15,7 mmol/L), pa se novorođenče smješta u inkubator na oksigenoterapiju i započinje se empirijska antibiotička terapija. Nakon tri dana upalni su parametri uredni, ali saturacija kisika i dalje je ispod 92%.

**Rezultati:** Djevojčica je klinički zdrava, povremeno diskretna pojava cijanoze, no zbog niske saturacije kisika (88-97%) učinjena je proširena obrada. Svi nalazi bili su uredni osim elektroforeze hemoglobina koja je dokazala prisutnost hemoglobina F (67,7%), hemoglobina A (27,7%), hemoglobina A2 (0,2%) te 5,3% methemoglobina. Naknadno određivan methemoglobin u acido-baznom statusu bio je 16,8%-18,3%.

**Zaključak:** Pacijentici su isključene razvojne mane srca, bolesti pluća i živčanog sustava. Rijetki uzrok cijanoze novorođenčeta može biti nasljedna methemoglobinemija kao što je u ovom slučaju. Djevojčici je uvedena askorbinska kiselina parenteralno uz riboflavin čime se postigla redukcija methemoglobina te više nije bilo značajne desaturacije niti cijanoze. Kako je posrijedi autosomno recesivni oblik nasljeđivanja, učinjene su analize razine methemoglobina kod oca i majke te su one iznosile 0,2%. Uzorak DNK poslan je na analizu te je potvrđeno da se radi o mutaciji gena CYB5R3.

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not appear until methemoglobin levels exceed 25% of total haemoglobin.

**Case report:** Our patient is a newborn healthy girl, the first child in the family and negative for the COVID-19 virus, while the mother was positive for the same virus. At the age of 4 hours of life, the girl's oxygen saturation was measured to be less than 92%. This was repeated after a few hours and the same value was obtained, which is why basic laboratory tests were performed, which were normal. On her second day of life, there is an increase in CRP (15.7 mmol/L) and the newborn is placed in an incubator for oxygen therapy and empirical antibiotic therapy is started. After 3 days the inflammatory parameters are normal, but oxygen saturation is still below 92%.

**Results:** The girl is clinically healthy, occasionally discrete cyanosis, but due to low oxygen saturation (88-97%) extended treatment was done. All findings were normal except for haemoglobin electrophoresis which proved the presence of 5.3% of methaemoglobin. Extended acid-base statuses were also performed, indicating 16.8%-18.3% methaemoglobin.

**Conclusion:** Diagnoses that were eliminated for the patient are congenital heart failure, lung and nervous system diseases. A rare cause of neonatal cyanosis may be hereditary methemoglobinemia as in this case. The girl was introduced ascorbic acid with riboflavin, which reduced methaemoglobin and there was no significant desaturation or clinical changes in skin colour. As it is an autosomal recessive disorder, analyses of methaemoglobin levels in father and mother blood samples were performed and they were normal. A DNA sample was sent for analysis, and it was confirmed that it was a mutation in the CYB5R3 gene.

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R-07

## Neočekivana elektroforeza hemoglobina - hemoglobin C

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**Uvod:** Hemoglobin C varijanta je hemoglobina kod koje je glutaminska kiselina na poziciji 6 b-globulin-skog lanca zamijenjena lizinom za što je odgovorna točkasta mutacija u HBB genu koja se nasljeđuje autosomno recessivno. Heterozigotni nositelji najčešće imaju 28–44% hemoglobina C i ne razvijaju simptome, dok je kod homozigota prisutnost hemoglobina C u većem postotku što dovodi i do pojave simptoma kao što su blaga hemolitička anemija, žutica i splenomegalija te se to stanje naziva bolest hemoglobina C.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Naša je pacijentica žena, 66 godina, koja boluje od arterijske hipertenzije i kroničnog gastritisa. Prilikom pregleda hematologa upućena je na elektroforezu hemoglobina zbog eritrocitoze.

**Rezultati:** Elektroforezom hemoglobina određena je prisutnost 56,9% hemoglobina A, 2,15% hemoglobina A2, < 0,9% hemoglobina F i 40,17% hemoglobina C na V8 Nexus (Helena Biosciences, UK) uređaju za kapilarnu elektroforezu. Elektroforeza je ponovljena i potvrđena iz istog uzorka na Sebia Minicap (Sebia, Francuska) uređaju za kapilarnu elektroforezu gdje je prisutno 36,4% hemoglobina C. Učinjena je i elektroforeza imunoglobulina te su određeni i eritropoetin, haptoglobin, željezo, feritin, jetreni enzimi i bilirubin i učinjen ultrazvuk abdomena te su svi našli bili unutar referentnih vrijednosti. Pacijentica je bila bez znakova hemolize i ultrazvuk nije ukazivao na splenomegaliju.

**Zaključak:** Prisutnost hemoglobina C pripada u skupinu benignih hemoglobinopatija koje su često asimptomatske ili s blagim simptomima. Poremećaj

R-07

## Unexpected discovery of haemoglobin C

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**Introduction:** Haemoglobin C is a variant of haemoglobin in which glutamic acid at position 6 of the b-globulin chain is replaced by lysine, which is responsible for a point mutation in the HBB gene that is passed on through autosomal recessive inheritance. Heterozygous carriers usually have 28–44% haemoglobin C and do not develop symptoms, while homozygotes have a higher percentage of haemoglobin C, which leads to symptoms such as mild haemolytic anaemia, jaundice and splenomegaly, and this condition is called haemoglobin C disease.

**Case report:** Our patient is a 66-year-old woman suffering from arterial hypertension and chronic gastritis. During the internist's control she was referred for haemoglobin electrophoresis due to long-lasting erythrocytosis.

**Results:** Haemoglobin electrophoresis determined the presence of 56.9 % haemoglobin A, 2.15% haemoglobin A2, < 0.9% haemoglobin F and 40.17% haemoglobin C on a V8 Nexus (Helena Biosciences, UK) capillary electrophoresis device. Electrophoresis was repeated from the same sample on a Sebia Minicap (Sebia, France) capillary electrophoresis device where 36.4% haemoglobin C is present. Immunoglobulin electrophoresis, erythropoietin, haptoglobin, iron, ferritin, liver enzymes, bilirubin and an abdominal ultrasound were also performed and were within the reference range. The patient had no signs of haemolysis, and the ultrasound did not indicate splenomegaly.

**Conclusion:** The presence of haemoglobin C belongs to the group of benign hemoglobinopathies that

ne zahtjeva liječenje. Hemoglobin C se u eritrocitima kristalizira te čini eritrocite manje pokretnima i više podložnim raspadu što posljedično može dovesti do poremećaja u cirkulaciji i hemolitičke anemije. S obzirom na to da kod naše pacijentice nema kliničkih simptoma bolesti hemoglobina C, anemije, hemolize i splenomegalije, liječenje nije potrebno. Naša je pacijentica prva u obitelji s dokazanom prisutnošću hemoglobina C.

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are often asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. The disorder does not require treatment. Haemoglobin C in erythrocytes crystallizes and makes erythrocytes less mobile and degradable, which in turn can lead to circulatory disorders and haemolytic anaemia. Since our patient has no clinical symptoms of haemoglobin C disease, anaemia, haemolysis and splenomegaly, no treatment is required. Our patient is the first in the family with a proven presence of haemoglobin C.

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## R-08

### Imunofiksacija u praćenju bolesnika s Castlemanovom bolesti plazmastaničnog tipa i multiplim mijelomom – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Castelmanova bolest je rijetka bolest nejasne etiologije koja se javlja u dvije kliničke forme, unicentrično i multicentrično, a prema histološkom tipu kao hijalino-vaskularni, mješoviti ili plazma stanični tip koji je prisutan u 10% bolesnika.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Prikazan je slučaj 68-godišnjeg bolesnika s Castelmanovom bolesti (CB) i multiplim mijelomom (MM) hospitaliziranim zbog revizije i sumnje na relaps bolesti. Revizija je uključivala ponovno zahtijevanje postavljanja imunofiksacije. Prikazan je razvoj bolesti te rezultati imunofiksacija na Hydrasys scan aparatu (Sebia, Lisses, Francuska) tijekom godina.

**Rezultati:** 2014. godine je postavljena dijagnoza CB plazmastaničnog tipa bez utvrđenog prisustva monoklonskog proteina. 2016. je uočen recidiv na vratu uz monotipsku ekspresiju lakih lanaca kapa tipa. 2018. uočena je lezija na sternumu i postavljena je dijagnoza MM s ekspresijom monoklonskih slobodnih lakih lanaca (SLL) lambda tipa. U atipičnim plazma stanicama nađena je ekspresija SLL kapa koji odgo-

## R-08

### Immunofixation in the follow-up of patient with Castleman plasma cell disease and multiple myeloma - a case report

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**Introduction:** Castelman's disease is a rare disease of unclear etiology that occurs in unicentric and multicentric clinical forms, and according to histological type as hyaline-vascular, mixed or plasma cell type present in 10% of patients.

**Case report:** A case of a 68-year-old patient with Castelman's disease (CD) and multiple myeloma (MM) hospitalized for revision and suspected relapse is presented. The revision included re-requesting the immunofixation analysis. We present the development of the disease and the results of immunofixation on a Hydrasys Scan analyser (Sebia, Lisses, France) over the years.

**Results:** In 2014, a diagnosis of CD of the plasma cell type was made without the presence of a monoclonal protein. In 2016, a neck recurrence was observed with monotypic expression of kappa-light chains. In 2018, a sternum lesion was observed and a diagnosis of MM with expression of lambda-type monoclonal free light chains (SLL) was made. In atypical plasma cells the expression of SLL chains

varaju tipu Castelmanove bolesti. 2021. je u serumu nađena samo vrpca SLL lambda tipa što je pratilo dijagnozu MM. 2022.g slikovnim tehnikama nađena su nakupljanja na vratu sternumu, skapuli i kraljećima te je započeto liječenje prema DRD protokolu. U serumu je utvrđena prisutnost monoklonskog IgG kapa tipa što je odražavalo aktivnost CB. Istovremeno dolazi do porasta koncentracije interleukina-6 što odgovara relapsu CB.

**Zaključak:** Tijekom praćenja bolesnika ukupno je postavljeno 9 imunofiksacija koje su samo u dva postavljanja prikazale ekspresiju SLL lambda tipa dok su ostali rezultati odražavali ekspresiju monoklonskog IgG kapa tipa i pojačanu aktivnost CB. Upravo je rezultatima imunofiksacije moguće je pratiti tijek i dinamiku aktivnosti dvije postavljene dijagnoze koje se zajedno pojavljuju izuzetno rijetko, pri čemu je laboratorijska dijagnostika ranije pokazala promjene i doprinijela boljem zbrinjavanju bolesnika.

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corresponding to the type of CD was found. In 2021, only lambda-type SLL band was found in the serum that corresponded to the diagnosis of MM. In 2022, imaging techniques showed neck, sternum, scapula and vertebrae accumulations, and treatment according to the DRD protocol was started. The presence of monoclonal IgG kappa type was detected in the serum, which reflected the activity of CD. At the same time, the concentration of interleukin-6 increased, that corresponded to CD relapse.

**Conclusion:** During follow-up, a total of 9 immunofixations were performed, and only two tests showed lambda-type SLL expression, while other results reflected monoclonal IgG kappa-type expression and enhanced CD activity. It is the results of immunofixation that make it possible to monitor the course and dynamics of the activity of two diagnoses that rarely occur together, while laboratory diagnostics showed changes before other diagnostic procedures and contributed to better patient care.

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## R-09

### Nesvakidašnji slučaj interferencije u analizi kompletne krvne slike

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**Uvod:** Prisutnost hladnih aglutinina u uzorku pune krvi predstavlja interferenciju koji dovodi do grešaka u rezultatima kompletne krvne slike (KKS). Najčešće se uočava kao smanjeni broj eritrocita uz znatno uvećanu prosječnu koncentraciju hemoglobina u eritroцитu (MCHC od engl.mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration). Cilj rada je prikazati slučaj nesvakidašnje interferencije hladnih aglutinina na KKS kod pacijenta u hitnoj obradi.

## R-09

### An unusual case of interference in the complete blood count analysis

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**Introduction:** The presence of cold agglutinins in a whole blood sample is an interference that leads to errors in complete blood count (CBC) results. It is most often observed as a decreased number of erythrocytes with a significantly increased mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration (MCHC). The aim is to present a case of unusual interference with cold agglutinins on CBC in an urgent patient.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentica u dobi od 34 godine javlja se u hitnu internističku ambulantu zbog bolova u epigastriju. Tijekom obrade zatražena je kompletna krvna slika. EDTA uzorak krvi je uzorkovan u ambulantni i hitno dostavljen u laboratorij. Analiziran je na hematološkom analizatoru XN 2000 neposredno nakon dolaska u laboratorij. Numerički i histogramski rezultati su pregledani i uočena je dimorfna populacija eritrocita u histogramu bez jasnog anamnističkog razloga. Uzorak je inkubiran 30 minuta na 37 °C i ponovno analiziran.

**Rezultati:** KKS prije inkubacije: Leukociti - 13,11  $\times 10^9/L$ ; eritrociti - 3,83  $\times 10^{12}/L$ ; hemoglobin - 131 g/L; hematokrit - 0,414; MCV - 108,1 fL, MCF1 - 85,5 fL; MCF2 - 164,9 fL; MCH - 34,2 pg; MCHC - 316 g/L; trombociti - 162  $\times 10^9/L$ . KKS nakon inkubacije: Leukociti - 13,0  $\times 10^9/L$ ; eritrociti - 4,20  $\times 10^{12}/L$ ; hemoglobin - 129 g/L; hematokrit - 0,371; MCV - 88,3 fL, MCF - 88,6 fL; MCH - 30,7 pg; MCHC - 348 g/L; trombociti - 271  $\times 10^9/L$ .

**Zaključak:** U prvim rutinski mjerenim rezultatima KKS-a prisutne su dvije populacije eritrocita s prosječnim volumenom eritrocita (MFV od engl. most frequent volume) od 85,5 fL i 164,9 fL. Populacija eritrocita s većim MFV-om potpuno je nestala nakon inkubacije na 37 °C. Ovo se može objasniti pojmom agregata eritrocita unutar mjernog područja zbog prisustva hladnih aglutinina. Agregati eritrocita doprinose većem MCV-u i nižem hematokritu i MCHC-u. Volumen aggregata eritrocita najčešće znatno premašuje mjerno područje instrumenta ali treba imati na umu da se neki od aggregata mogu naći i unutar mjernog područja.

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**Case report:** A 34-year-old patient admitted to the emergency department with epigastric pain. An urgent CBC was requested during examination. The EDTA sample was collected, delivered to the laboratory, and analysed on the haematology analyser Sysmex XN2000 immediately upon arrival at the laboratory. Numerical results and histogram were reviewed, and a dimorphic erythrocyte population was observed in the histogram without a clear anamnestic reason. The sample was incubated 30 minutes at 37 °C and reanalysed.

**Results:** CBC before incubation: WBC - 13.11  $\times 10^9/L$ ; RBC - 3.83  $\times 10^{12}/L$ ; haemoglobin - 131 g/L; haematocrit - 0.414; MCV - 108.1 fL, MCF1 - 85.5 fL; MCF2 - 164.9 fL; MCH - 34.2 pg; MCHC - 316 g/L; PLT - 162  $\times 10^9/L$ . CBC after incubation: WBC - 13.0  $\times 10^9/L$ ; RBC - 4.20  $\times 10^{12}/L$ ; haemoglobin - 129 g/L; haematocrit - 0.371; MCV - 88.3 fL, MCF - 88.6 fL; MCH - 30.7 pg; MCHC - 348 g/L; PLT - 271  $\times 10^9/L$ .

**Conclusion:** The first CBC results measured routinely show two RBC populations with the mean frequent volumes (MFV) of 85.5 fL and 164.9 fL respectively. The RBC population with larger MFV completely disappeared after incubation at 37 °C. This can be explained by the presence of cold agglutinins and RBC aggregates within measuring range. The aggregates completely disappeared by heating. The RBC aggregates contributes to higher MCV and lower haematocrit and MCHC. The volume of erythrocyte aggregates usually significantly exceeds the measuring range of the instrument, but it should be kept in mind that some of the aggregates can also be found within the measuring range.

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**R-10****Cistinurija - prikaz slučaja****Katarina Čepić, Dijana Dževrnja Viro**

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**Uvod:** Prikazan je slučaj cistinurije. To je autosomno recesivna bolest kod koje postoji poremećaj resorpcije cistina u proksimalnom dijelu bubrežnih tubula te dolazi do povećanog izlučivanja cistina mokraćom što dovodi do njegove kristalizacije i stvaranja cistinskih kamenaca. U algoritam obrade uključena je i mikroskopska analiza sedimenta mokraće. Cilj je prikazati rezultate kvalitativne analize mokraće i slike kristala cistina u nativnom preparatu te naglasiti važnost mikroskopske analize mokraće kod pacijenata sa urolitijazom.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Ispitanica je djevojčica, stara 3 godine, zaprimljena u Kliniku za dječje bolesti sa simptomima hematurije i ponavljajućih infekcija mokraćnog sustava. U sklopu rutinske obrade zatražena je i kvalitativna analiza mokraće.

**Rezultati:** Fizikalno-kemijski pregled mokraće: izgled zamućen, boja žuta, pH 6.0, specifična težina 1.016, eritrociti/hemoglobin 2+, proteini 1+, nitriti negativni, leukocitna esteraza 3+, mikroskopski pregled nativnog sedimenta: nađeno je 10-15 leukocita te 30-35 eritrocita na vidnom polju (x 400), nešto bakterija, nešto sluzi, te su viđeni kristali cistina karakterističnog oblika pravilnih šesterokuta, izoliranih kao tanke pločice i u preklopnim nakupinama razne veličine. Ultrazvučnim pregledom potvrđena je sumnja na prisutnost odljevnog kamenaca u kanalnom sustavu lijevog bubrega, a cistinurija je potvrđena određivanjem koncentracije cistina u 24 h mokraći. Kamenci su zatim odstranjeni kirurški te je učinjena analiza metodom infracrvene spektrometrije koja je pokazala da je ovojnica cistin, a jezgra amonijev magnezijev fosfat heksahidrat (struvit).

**Zaključak:** Dijagnostičkom obradom u opisane ispitnice potvrđena je sumnja na urolitijazu te je dokzano da se radi o cistinskim kamencima. Kod cistinurije liječenje je doživotno te su potrebne česte kontrole. Želimo naglasiti važnost stalne edukacije u mikroskopskoj analizi sedimenta mokraće jer prepoznavanje patoloških elemenata doprinosi bržem postavljanju dijagnoze, a samim tim i pravovremenom liječenju.

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**Introduction:** A case of cystinuria is presented. Cystinuria is an inherited autosomal recessive disorder, characterised by impaired reabsorption of cystine in the proximal tubules of the kidney causing an increased urinary excretion, resulting in a risk of kidney stone formation, due to a low solubility of cystine in urine. Diagnostic algorithm includes microscopic analysis of urine sediment. The aim is to present the results of qualitative urine analysis and to show microscopic images of cystine crystals. The goal is also to emphasize the importance of microscopic urinalysis in patient with urolithiasis.

**Case report:** A 3-year-old girl was admitted to hospital presenting with haematuria and recurrent urinary tract infections. Laboratory tests included routine urinalysis.

**Results:** Urinalysis showed cloudy, yellow urine with pH of 6.0, specific gravity 1.016, blood 2+, protein 1+, nitrites negative, leukocyte esterase 3+. Microscopic examination of sediment showed 10-15 leukocytes, 30-35 red blood cells per high-power field (x 400), some bacteria, mucus and cystine crystals. Crystals were shown as characteristic hexagonal plates, either isolated or in large aggregates. Ultrasound examination confirmed presence of stones in the left renal canal system. Cystinuria was confirmed by measuring cystine concentration in 24 h urine. The stones were removed surgically. Infrared spectroscopy analysis showed that main substance in the stones was cystine in the outer region and magnesium ammonium phosphate hexahydrate (struvite) in the central area.

**Conclusion:** Diagnostic treatment of described subject confirmed the suspicion of urolithiasis caused by cystine stones. The treatment of cystinuria is life-long and condition requires frequent controls. We want to emphasize the importance of constantly educating in the field of urinalysis in clinical laboratories. Recognition of pathological elements in urine sediment contributes early diagnosing of kidney injury. It can help delay or prevent the development of end stage renal disease.

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R-11

## Trombocitopenija/pseudotrombocitopenija - pitanje je sad!

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**Uvod:** Trombocitopenija je čest laboratorijski nalaz u kojem je potrebno razlikovati pravu trombocitopeniju od pseudotrombocitopenije. Ovaj rad predstavlja dva prikaza slučaja trombocitopenije.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Kompletna krvna slika (KKS) u kapilarnoj i venskoj krvi, uzrokovanim na EDTA i Na-citrat antikoagulans, određena je na hematološkim brojačima Dymind D7-CRP i Sysmex XN-1000. Morfološki pregled trombocita odrađen je u obojenom razmazu periferne krvi.

**Rezultati:** Pacijent A: muško dojenče u dobi od 9 mjeseci zaprimljeno na Hitni bolnički prijem zbog febrilnih konvulzija. Broj trombocita u kapilarnom EDTA uzorku iznosi  $293 \times 10^9/L$ . Dijete je zaprimljeno na odjel zbog febrilnih konvulzija i respiratornog infekta te prima terapiju: paracetamol, ceftriaxon i vankomicin. U kontrolnoj KKS, nakon 4 dana, broj trombocita u venskom EDTA uzorku iznosi  $53 \times 10^9/L$ . U ponovljenom EDTA kapilarnom uzorku broj trombocita iznosi  $47 \times 10^9/L$ , a u venskom Na-citrat uzorku  $37 \times 10^9/L$ . Nalaz trombocita upućuje na trombocitopeniju, a mogući mehanizam je trombocitopenija uzrokovana lijekovima ili idiopatska trombocitopenična purpura. Broj trombocita normalizirao se nakon 6 dana i iznosio je  $201 \times 10^9/L$ . Pacijent B: Djevojčica u dobi od 12 godina zaprimljena na Hitni bolnički prijem zbog bolova u trbuhi i zdjelici. Broj trombocita u kapilarном EDTA uzorku iznosi  $67 \times 10^9/L$  uz napomenu na analizatoru da su prisutne nakupine trombocita. Broj trombocita u venskom EDTA uzorku bio je  $70 \times 10^9/L$ , a u Na-citrat uzorku  $162 \times 10^9/L$ . Mikroskopskim pregledom EDTA uzoraka potvrđene su nakupine trombocita čime je potvrđena EDTA-inducirana pseudotrombocitopenija.

**Zaključak:** Trombocitopenija može biti posljedica različitih patoloških stanja i predanalitičkih čimbenika, pa je za pouzdanu interpretaciju rezultata važna diferencijalna dijagnostika.

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R-11

## Thrombocytopenia/pseudothrombocytopaenia - that's the question!

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**Introduction:** Thrombocytopenia is a common laboratory result that's why it is necessary to distinguish true thrombocytopenia from pseudothrombocytopaenia. This paper presents two cases of thrombocytopenia.

**Case report:** Complete blood count (CBC) in capillary and venous blood, withdrawn in the EDTA and Na-citrate tube, was measured on haematological analysers Dymind D7-CRP and Sysmex XN-1000. Platelet morphology analysis was performed in a stained peripheral blood smear.

**Results:** Patient A: A 9-month-old male infant was admitted to the Emergency hospital department due to febrile convulsions. The platelet count in the capillary EDTA sample was  $293 \times 10^9/L$ . The child was admitted to the hospital ward due to febrile convulsions and respiratory infection and received paracetamol, ceftriaxone, and vancomycin therapy. In the control CBC, after 4 days, the platelet count in the venous EDTA sample was  $53 \times 10^9/L$ . In the additional EDTA capillary sample, the platelet count was  $47 \times 10^9/L$ , and in the venous Na-citrate sample  $37 \times 10^9/L$ . Platelet count results indicate thrombocytopenia, and possible mechanisms are drug-induced thrombocytopenia or idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Platelet count normalized after 6 days, and it was  $201 \times 10^9/L$ . Patient B: A 12-year-old girl was admitted to the Emergency hospital department for abdominal and pelvic pain. The platelet count in the capillary EDTA sample was  $67 \times 10^9/L$  with a flag on the analyser that platelet aggregates are present. The platelet count in the venous EDTA sample was  $70 \times 10^9/L$ , and in the Na-citrate sample  $162 \times 10^9/L$ . Microscopic examination of EDTA samples confirmed platelet aggregation, which confirmed EDTA-induced pseudothrombocytopaenia.

**Conclusion:** Thrombocytopenia can be caused by a variety of pathological conditions and preanalytical factors therefore differential diagnosis is important for reliable interpretation of results.

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R-12

## Interferencija monoklonskog imunoglobulina u određivanju željeza i nezasićenog kapaciteta vezanja željeza (UIBC) – prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog prikaza je opisati slučaj analitičke interferencije u mjerenu serumskog željeza i nezasićenog kapaciteta vezanja željeza uslijed prisutnosti monoklonskog imunoglobulina te opisati način kako prepoznati takvu vrstu interferencije.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijent u dobi od 74 godine hospitaliziran je u Kliničkoj bolnici Dubrava zbog pogoršanja renalne insuficijencije. Biokemijski parametri određeni su standardiziranim metodama na Beckman Coulter analizatorima (AU 5800 i DxC 700). Metoda za određivanje željeza je fotometrijska kolorimetrijska metoda s 2,4,6-Tri-(2-piridil)-5-triazinom (TPTZ) kao kromogenom. UIBC se određuje fotometrijskom metodom s 2-Nitroso-5-(N-n-propyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino)phenolom (Nitroso-PSAP).

**Rezultati:** U laboratorijskim nalazima uočena je anemija, povišene vrijednosti kreatinina, ureje i mokraće kiseline. Koncentracija ukupnih proteina bila je 86 g/L, a IgG 45,4 g/L. Vrijednosti željeza i UIBC nisu bile mjerljive što je potvrđeno ponavljanjem i razrjeđenjem uzorka. Nakon serije dilucija (1:2, 1:5 i 1:10) vrijednosti nisu pratile linearna razrjeđenja. Također, promjene reakcijske krivulje za željezo s padom apsorbancije u reakciji upućivale su na interferenciju. Za UIBC nije bilo značajnijih pomaka u reakcijskoj krivulji. Zbog toga rezultati za željezo i UIBC nisu izdani uz napomenu o mogućem utjecaju analitičke interferencije. Elektroforezom serumskih proteina i imunofiksacijom dokazana je prisutnost IgG monoklonskog proteina kappa tipa. Zbog prisutnosti monoklonskog proteina u serumu pacijenta, napravljena je kompletna hematološka obrada i postavljena je dijagnoza multiplog mijeloma.

**Zaključak:** U ovom slučaju interferencija je uzrokovana precipitacijom proteina i posljedičnim povećanjem zamućenja otopine koja dovodi do povećanja apsorbancije uslijed raspršenja svjetlosti. Dobiveni rezultati za željezo potvrdili su specifikacije proizvo-

R-12

## Monoclonal immunoglobulin interference on iron and unsaturated iron binding capacity (UIBC) measurement - a case report

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**Introduction:** Our aim was to describe and recognise analytical interference in serum iron and UIBC measurement caused by monoclonal immunoglobulins.

**Case report:** A 74-year-old man was admitted to University Hospital Dubrava for worsening renal failure. Biochemical parameters were determined with standardized methods on Beckman Coulter analysers (AU 5800 and DxC 700). Iron was determined with a photometric colorimetric method with 2,4,6-Tri-(2-pyridyl)-5-triazine (TPTZ) as chromogen and UIBC by a photometric method with 2-Nitroso-5-(N-n-propyl-N-(3-sulfopropyl)amino)phenol (Nitroso-PSAP).

**Results:** Laboratory results showed anaemia, high levels of creatinine, urea and urates. Total protein were 86 g/L and IgG 45.4 g/L. Iron and UIBC showed negative values which was confirmed by repeating and diluting the sample. Serial dilutions with saline were prepared as follows: 1:2, 1:5 and 1:10. These diluted samples did not provide linear dilution. Also, changes in the reaction curve for iron with a decline in final absorbance indicated the presence of interference. There were no significant shifts in the reaction curve for UIBC. Therefore, results of iron and UIBC were not released by the laboratory, but a remark was written on the laboratory report about possible analytical interference. Serum protein electrophoresis and immunofixation showed a monoclonal IgG kappa protein. Further haematological examination confirmed the diagnosis of multiple myeloma.

**Conclusion:** In this case the interference was caused by paraprotein precipitation, causing increased turbidity and light absorbance in iron measurement due to light scattering. The results obtained for iron confirmed the manufacturer's specifications that extremely high concentrations of monoclonal immu-

đača da iznimno visoke koncentracije monoklonskih imunoglobulina mogu uzrokovati zamućenje u reakcijskoj epruveti te davati nepouzdane rezultate. U specifikacijama za UIBC proizvođač nije naveo utjecaj monoklonskog imunoglobulina no unatoč tome rezultat nije izdan jer dilucijama nisu dobiveni reproducibilni rezultati. Stoga je potreban oprez prilikom interpretacije i izdavanja takvih rezultata.

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noglobulins may cause turbidity in the reaction cuvette and unreliable results. In the specifications for UIBC the manufacturer did not provide information about possible analytical interference of paraproteins, but the result has not been released because the values from the dilutions were not reproducible. Therefore, such results must be interpreted with caution.

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## R-13

### Važnost laboratorijske dijagnostike u praćenju komplikacija liječenja pedijatrijskog bolesnika s akutnom limfoblastičnom leukemijom

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**Uvod:** Akutna limfoblastična leukemija (ALL) najčešća je pedijatrijska neoplazma, s udjelom od 25% svih malignih bolesti u djece mlađe od 15 godina. Primjena kombinirane kemoterapije u čijem je sastavu L-asparaginaza, rezultira izlječenjem u 80% bolesnika, uz rizik brojnih komplikacija liječenja. Prema dostupnim literaturnim podacima, incidencija razvoja hepatotoksičnosti kod pedijatrijskih bolesnika je 19,4%. Cilj je prikazati laboratorijsko praćenje razvoja kolesterolatske jetrene bolesti po završetku indukcijskog kemoterapijskog liječenja.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Djevojčica (dob 5 godina) s dijagnozom ALL, pre-B imunofenotip; liječena prema ALL-IC BFM 2009 protokolu, po završetku indukcijske terapije (protokol IA) ulazi u remisiju. Deseti dan po završetku liječenja, premješta se s odjela Onko-

## R-13

### Importance of laboratory diagnostics in monitoring complications of treatment in paediatric patient with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

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**Introduction:** Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is the most common paediatric neoplasm, representing 25% of all malignancies in children under 15 years of age. The use of combination chemotherapy, containing L-asparaginase, achieves remission in 80% of patients, with risk of numerous side effects. According to latest data, the incidence of L-asparaginase induced hepatotoxicity in paediatric patients is 19,4%. Objective is to present laboratory monitoring of cholestatic liver disease after finishing induction chemotherapy.

**Case report:** A child (5-year-old) diagnosed with ALL, pre-B immunophenotype; treated according to the ALL-IC BFM 2009 protocol, achieves remission after completion of induction therapy (protocol IA). Tenth day after finishing treatment, she was admitted to

hematologije u Jedinicu intenzivnog liječenja zbog pogoršanja općeg stanja u fazi aplazije s febrilnom neutropenijom i progredirajućom kolestatskom hiperbilirubinemijom. U sklopu laboratorijske obrade svakodnevno su praćeni: kompletna krvna slika (Sysmex, XN1000), biljezi kolestaze, funkcije jetre i upale (Beckman Coulter, AU680; Roche, Cobas e411), a od koagulacijskih biljega fibrinogen i antitrombin (Sysmex, CS-2500).

**Rezultati:** Neposredno nakon završetka liječenja, tijekom svakodnevnog laboratorijskog praćenja u periodu od 20 dana, uočava se kontinuirani pad parametara kompletne krvne slike i koagulacije u rasponu vrijednosti – trombociti:  $169.7 \times 10^9/L$ ; leukociti:  $0.88-0.20 \times 10^9/L$ ; hemoglobin:  $124-79 g/L$ ; protrombinsko vrijeme: 85-41%; fibrinogen: 1.3-0.9 g/L; antitrombin: 89.7-39.4%, uz porast kolestatskih i upalnih biljega - ukupni bilirubin:  $22-410 \mu\text{mol}/L$ ; direktni bilirubin:  $25-286 \mu\text{mol}/L$ ; gama-glutamyl transferaza: 411-602 U/L; C reaktivni protein: 2.2-161.9 mg/L; prokalcitonin: 0.38-26.25 ng/ml. Istači se i blaži porast jetrenih enzima: alanin aminotransferaza do 159 U/L; aspartat aminotransferaza do 91 U/L.

**Zaključak:** Obrada onkološkog pedijatrijskog pacijenta zahtijeva multidisciplinarni pristup različitim područja medicine pri dijagnozi, praćenju tijeka liječenja i ishoda bolesti. U timskom radu, nezaobilazna je prisutnost laboratorijske dijagnostike pod nadzorom biokemičara, prvenstveno rutinskih hematoloških, biokemijskih i koagulacijskih analiza, koje su svakodnevne, a osiguravaju brzo otkrivanje i zbrinjavanje komplikacija liječenja onkološke bolesti.

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#### R-14

#### Kronična mijeloična leukemija *BCR::ABL1* i *JAK2 V617F* pozitivna – prikaz slučaja

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the Intensive Care Unit due to clinical deterioration in the aplastic phase with febrile neutropenia and progressive cholestatic hyperbilirubinemia. As part of laboratory monitoring, the following parameters were tested daily: complete blood count (Sysmex, XN1000), cholestasis, liver function and inflammation markers (Beckman Coulter, AU680; Roche, Cobas e411), as well as coagulation markers fibrinogen and antithrombin (Sysmex, CS-2500).

**Results:** During 20 days long daily laboratory monitoring, continuous decrease in parameters of complete blood count and coagulation was observed, in the range of values – platelets:  $169.7 \times 10^9/L$ ; leukocytes:  $0.88-0.20 \times 10^9/L$ ; haemoglobin:  $124-79 g/L$ ; prothrombin time: 85-41%; fibrinogen: 1.3-0.9 g/L; antithrombin: 89.7-39.4%, with an increase in cholestatic and inflammatory markers - total bilirubin:  $22-410 \mu\text{mol}/L$ ; direct bilirubin:  $25-286 \mu\text{mol}/L$ ; gamma-glutamyl transferase: 411-601 U/L; C reactive protein: 2.2-161.9 mg/L; procalcitonin: 0.38-26.25 ng/ml, as well as liver enzymes - alanine aminotransferase: up to 159 U/L and aspartate aminotransferase: up to 91 U/L.

**Conclusion:** Multidisciplinary approach in diagnosis, course of treatment and outcome of paediatric oncology patients is necessary. Daily accessible laboratory diagnostics under the supervision of biochemist, primarily routine haematological, biochemical and coagulation analyses, are unavoidable in rapid detection and management of antineoplastic treatment complications.

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#### R-14

#### Chronic myeloid leukaemia *BCR::ABL1* positive with concomitant *JAK2 V617F* mutation – a case report

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**Uvod:** Konične mijeloproliferativne neoplazme (MPN) se u načelu dijele na koničnu mijeloičnu leukemiju (KML) Ph-pozitivnu(Ph+) karakteriziranu translokacijom t(9;22) i posljedično fuzijskim prijepisom *BCR::ABL1* te Ph-negativne(Ph-) mijeloproliferativne neoplazme koje u glavnini karakterizira prisutnost točkaste mutacije *JAK2 V617F*. Iako je dokazano da se fuzijski prijepis *BCR::ABL1* i *JAK2 V617F* mutacija međusobno isključuju, u literaturi je prikazano nekoliko slučajeva pozitivne *JAK2 V617F* mutacije kod bolesnika s Ph+KML-om.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Muškarac starosti 75 godina javlja se s općim simptomima slabosti te značajnog gubitaka tjelesne težine i pojačanog noćnog znojenja. U laboratorijskim nalazima je prisutna leukocitoza ( $33.4 \times 10^9/L$ ) s neutrofilijom te skretanjem u lijevo do stadija mijelocita. Kliničkim pregledom uočena je hepatosplenomegalija te uvidom u nalaze postavljenia sumnja na MPN.

**Rezultati:** Obzirom da citomorfološki nalaz koštane srži upućuje na KML, učinjena je citogenetska analiza kojom se dokazuje hiperdiploidni klon s translokacijom t(9;22), dodatni derivirani kromosom 22 te aneuploidija kromosoma 8, 17 i 19. Potvrda dijagnoze Ph+KML zaokružena je dokazivanjem fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR::ABL1(M-bcr-e13a2)* u koštanoj srži. Diferencijalno dijagnostički tražena je i analiza točkaste mutacije *JAK2 V617F* iz periferne krvi koja je također dokazana. Radi potvrde ove rijetke kombinacije molekularnih biljega reanalizirani su uzorci na oba biljega te je potvrđeno prisustvo obje mutacije i u koštanoj srži i u perifernoj krvi. Bolest je klasificirana kao Ph+KML visokog rizika s pozitivnom mutacijom *JAK2 V617F* te je uvedena terapija imatinibom. Nekoliko tjedana od početka terapije dolazi do pojave sekundarne anemije, trombocitopenije, perifernih edema, ali i do smanjenja leukocitoze i regresije splenomegalije. Ujedno je standardiziranim praćenjem mjerljive ostatne bolesti fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR::ABL1* potvrđen dobar terapijski odgovor (*BCR::ABL1/ABL1* je 0.0004%IS). Terapija imatinibom se nastavlja uz kvantitativno praćenje fuzijskog prijepisa *BCR::ABL1*.

**Zaključak:** Temeljem ovog slučaja nameće se zaključak kako je uvijek korisno provesti kompletnu diferencijano-dijagnostičku obradu, čime je omogućeno postavljanje potpune dijagnoze, što je osnova za primjenu najbolje moguće terapije.

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**Introduction:** Chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) are divided into chronic myeloid leukaemia Ph positive (Ph+CML) characterized by translocation t(9;22) and consequently by *BCR::ABL1* fusion transcript, and Ph-negative (Ph-) myeloproliferative neoplasms mainly characterized by the presence of *JAK2 V617F* point mutation. Although it has been shown that the *BCR::ABL1* fusion transcript and *JAK2 V617F* are mutually exclusive, several cases of positive *JAK2 V617F* mutation in patients with Ph+CML have been reported in literature.

**Case report:** A 75-years old male patient presented with symptoms of general weakness, significant weight loss and excessive night sweating. Laboratory findings showed leukocytosis ( $33.4 \times 10^9/L$ ) with neutrophilia and "left shift" to the stage of myelocyte. Clinical examination revealed hepatosplenomegaly and, together with other findings, diagnosis of MPN was suspected.

**Results:** Since cytological finding of the bone marrow indicated CML, cytogenetic analysis was performed and a hyperdiploid clone with translocation t(9;22) was detected. Detection of the *BCR::ABL1* fusion transcript in bone marrow confirmed the diagnosis. Differential diagnostics included analysis of the *JAK2 V617F* from peripheral blood, which was also found to be positive. To confirm this rare combination of molecular markers, samples on both markers were reanalysed and the presence of both mutations in both bone marrow and peripheral blood was confirmed. The disease was classified as high-risk Ph+CML with a positive *JAK2 V617F* and imatinib therapy was introduced. A few weeks after the beginning of therapy, a good therapeutic response was confirmed by standardized monitoring of measurable residual disease with *BCR::ABL1* fusion transcript expression (*BCR::ABL1/ABL1* was 0.0004%IS). Imatinib therapy is continued with quantitative monitoring of the *BCR::ABL1* fusion transcript.

**Conclusion:** This case emphasizes that complete differential diagnostic evaluation is essential in each patient undergoing diagnostic management for haematological malignancies, in order to establish the right diagnosis, and thus provide the best possible therapy for the patient.

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R-15

## Serumska koncentracija infliksimaba kod djeteta majke na terapiji infliksimabom i sigurnost cijepljenja

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**Uvod:** Terapeutsko monoklonsko antitijelo infliksimab (IFX) može proći posteljicu i kod trudnica s upalnim bolestima cjeva (UBC) uzrokovati izloženost djeteta lijeku nakon poroda. Ova novorođenčad ima veći rizik za ozbiljnu, po život opasnu, diseminiranu infekciju nakon primjene živih cjepiva poput Bacillus Calmette Guérin (BCG) cjepiva. Cilj ovog rada je odrediti koncentraciju IFX u serumu novorođenčeta majke koja boluje od UBC i tijekom trudnoće je primala biološki lijek IFX.

**Materijali i metode:** Koncentracija IFX određena je imunokromatografskim testom (Buhmann Laboratories AG, Švicarska) i kvantificirana metodom reflektometrije. Antitijela na IFX određena su ELISA metodom (Theradiag, Francuska). Koncentracija fekalnog kalprotektina određena je metodom kemiluminiscencije na analizatoru Bioflash (Inova Diagnostics, SAD).

**Prikaz slučaja:** Ženi u dobi od 23 godine dijagnosticiran je ulcerozni kolitis i liječena je primjenom 3 lag lijeka infliksimaba svaka 4 tjedna. Nakon godinu dana pacijentica je zatrudnjela. U prvom tromjesečju trudnoće koncentracija fekalnog kalprotektina porasla je na 802 µg/g i kolonoskopijom je dokazan relaps bolesti. Koncentracija IFX bila je < 0.4 µg/L bez prisutnih antitijela. Doza IFX povećana je na 4 lag svaka 4 tjedna. Bolest je ušla u fazu remisije i u četrdesetom tjednu trudnoće pacijentica je porodila zdravo žensko novorođenče. Dijete nije dojila. Nakon poroda pacijentici je mjerena koncentracija IFX > 20,0 µg/L. Sedam mjeseci nakon poroda određena

R-15

## Serum concentration of infliximab in a child born to mother treated with infliximab and vaccination safety

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**Introduction:** The therapeutic monoclonal antibody infliximab (IFX) crosses the placenta, causing antenatal exposure to drug in children born to mothers with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). These infants may be at an increased risk of serious life-threatening disseminated infection after administration of live vaccines, such as the Bacillus Calmette Guérin (BCG) vaccine. The aim of this case report was to examine the IFX concentration in infant born to mother with IBD who received IFX therapy during pregnancy.

**Materials and methods:** IFX concentration was determined using an immunochromatography test (Buhmann Laboratories AG, Switzerland) with reflectometry-based quantification and antibodies to IFX using ELISA assay (Theradiag, France). Faecal calprotectin was determined using a chemiluminescence assay on the analyser Bioflash (Inova Diagnostics, USA).

**Case report:** A 23-year-old woman was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and treated with 3 lag of IFX therapy every four weeks. One year later, she became pregnant. In the first trimester of pregnancy, her faecal calprotectin level increased to 802 µg/g, and colonoscopy showed a disease relapse. IFX concentration was < 0.4 µg/L with no antibodies present. The dose of IFX was increased to 4 lag every four weeks. The patient was successfully treated with IFX and in the 40th week of gestation she delivered a healthy female child. The infant had not breastfed. The mother's serum IFX level was > 20.0

je koncentracija IFX u serumu djeteta zbog potreba cijepljenja. Mjerena je koncentracija od 4.3 µg/L (terapijski raspon za UBC je 3,0-7,0 µg/L), što potvrđuje značajan prijenos IFX kroz posteljicu i produženi poluživot lijeka u serumu novorođenčadi.

**Zaključak:** Ovaj slučaj pokazuje mjerljivu vrijednost lijeka IFX u serumu djeteta i do 7 mjeseci nakon poroda. Prema smjernicama Europske agencije za lijekove (EMA), djeca koja su *in utero* bila izložena biološkom lijeku IFX, ne bi trebala primiti živa cjepiva, poput BCG cjepiva, do navršenih 12 mjeseci života.

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µg/L after birth. Seven months later, the IFX concentration in the child's serum was determined due to the need for vaccination. The measured IFX concentration was 4.3 µg/L (therapeutic range for IBD 3.0–7.0 µg/L), proving a significant placental transfer and prolonged half-life of the medication in newborns.

**Conclusion:** In our case report, IFX in an infant's serum was measurable even six months after birth. According to the guidance from European Medicines Agency (EMA), live vaccines like BCG, should not be given to infants with *in utero* exposure to IFX for 12 months after birth.

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## R-16 (Usmeno izlaganje)

### Teški slučaj akutne porfirije

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**Uvod:** Akutne porfirije dijagnostički su veliki izazov kliničkom osoblju zbog prisutnosti nespecifičnih neurovisceralnih simptoma pri prijemu bolesnika.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Slučaj prikazuje 28-godišnju bolesnicu koja je zaprimljena u jedinicu intenzivne skrbi zbog opetovanih bolova u trbuhi. Na dan prijema bolesnica je imala rhabdomiolizu (CK > 10,000 U/L) uz akutnu ozljedu bubrega (kreatinin 549 µmol/L). Jetreni enzimi također su bili površeni, što je vjerojatno bilo povezano s rhabdomiolizom (ALT 782 U/L, AST 4021 U/L), a utvrđena je i umjereni hiponatrijemija (127 mmol/L). Bolesnica je imala umjerenu mišićnu slabost na području ramenoga i bedrenog pojasa. Hemodijaliza je započeta zbog oligurijske akutne ozljede bubrega. Zbog nejasne

## R-16 (Oral presentation)

### A severe case of acute porphyria

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**Introduction:** Acute porphyrias present a great diagnostic challenge for clinicians due to the non-specific neurovisceral symptoms with which patients usually present.

**Case report:** A 28-year-old female was admitted to the ICU after several visits to the Emergency Department due to repeated bouts of abdominal pain. On the day of admission, the patient had rhabdomyolysis (CK > 10,000 U/L) complicated by acute kidney injury (AKI; creatinine 549 µmol/L). Liver enzymes were also elevated, probably in the context of rhabdomyolysis (ALT 782 U/L, AST 4021 U/L), along with a moderate hyponatremia (127 mmol/L). A moderate shoulder and hip girdle muscle weakness was present while the rest of the physical

etiologije rabdomiolize i progresije mišićne slabosti pacijentica je premještena u jedinicu intenzivne skrbi Kliničkoga bolničkog centra. Nakon nekoliko dana mišićna slabost progredirala je u tetraparezu, respiracijsku mišićnu slabost i unilateralnu ptozu, uz pojavu halucinacija te crvenog urina bez hematurije. S obzirom na to da je bolesnica imala skup ranije navedenih nalaza, postavljena je sumnja na porfiriju te je indicirano mjerjenje porfirina i njihovih prethodnika iz slučajnog uzorka urina. Navedene analize učinjene su na HPLC-u s fluorescentnim detektorom i spektrofotometrijom uz prethodnu ekstrakciju na kolonama.

**Rezultati:** Dijagnoza porfirije potvrđena je visokim vrijednostima:  $\delta$ -aminolevulinska kiselina 17,0 mmol/mol kreatinin (referentni interval (RI) < 2,5); porfobilinogen 26,00 mmol/mol kreatinin (RI < 1,25) i uroporfirin 1538,0  $\mu$ mol/mol kreatinin (RI < 3,9). Istodobno je u sklopu neurološke obrade učinjena analiza antigangliozidnih protutijela te je dobiven pozitivan nalaz za GQ1b protutijela.

**Zaključak:** Akutni napadaj porfirije rijedak je, ali važan uzrok rabdomiolize i progresivne mišićne slabosti koji se može liječiti. U terapiji je uveden hemin, parenteralna glukoza i intravenski imunoglobulin, što je zaustavilo napredak mišićne slabosti te je započeo spori oporavak. Suradnja između kliničara i medicinskih biokemičara ključna je za postavljanje dijagnoze i uspješno liječenje.

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examination was normal. Haemodialysis was started for oliguric AKI. Since the cause of rhabdomyolysis was unclear and the muscle weakness progressed, the patient was transferred to the University Hospital Centre ICU. During several days the muscle weakness progressed to severe tetraparesis, respiratory muscle weakness and unilateral ptosis. She developed hallucinations and the urine was red without haematuria. Considering the aforementioned constellation of findings, a workup for porphyria was ordered on a random urine sample. Measurement of porphyrins and precursors was made using HPLC with fluorescence and spectrophotometry with previous column extraction.

**Results:** Diagnosis was confirmed by high levels of metabolites:  $\delta$ -aminolevulinic acid 17.0 mmol/mol creatinine (reference interval-RI < 2.5); porphobilinogen 26.0 mmol/mol creatinine (RI < 1.25) and uroporphyrin 1538.0  $\mu$ mol/mol creatinine (RI < 3.9). Simultaneously, as a part of neurological workup, a test for antiganglioside antibodies was requested and was positive for antibodies to GQ1b.

**Conclusion:** Acute porphyria attack is a rare but important and treatable cause of rhabdomyolysis and progressive muscle weakness. The initiation of treatment with hemin, parenteral glucose and intravenous immunoglobulin stopped the progression of muscle weakness with subsequent slow and ongoing recovery. Collaboration between clinicians and clinical biochemists is essential for the diagnosis and effective therapy.

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## R-17

### Manjak karnitinskog nosača otkriven kod majke kroz novorođenački probir u Hrvatskoj

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## R-17

### First case of maternal carnitine uptake deficiency detected through newborn screening in Croatia

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**Uvod:** Manjak karnitinskog nosača je autosomno recesivni metabolički poremećaj do kojeg dolazi zbog mutacija u genu *SLC22A5*. Bolest se može manifestirati u dojenačkom razdoblju encefalopatijom, kardiomiopatijom i iznenadnom smrti djeteta, dok mali broj nedijagnosticiranih pacijenata ostane asimptomatski čak i u odrasloj dobi. Ukoliko se bolest otkrije provođenjem novorođenačkog probira u prvim danima života, doživotna suplementacija karnitinom može spriječiti ozbiljne posljedice. U ovom radu prikazali smo dijagnostiku majčinog manjka karnitinskog nosača koji se očitovao u niskoj koncentraciji slobodnog karnitina njenog djeteta u redovnom novorođenačkom probиру.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci za novorođenački probir pripremljeni su koristeći reagense tvrtke Recipe ClinSpot® za aminokiseline i acil-karnitine u suhoj kapi krvi na tandemskom spektrometru masa spregnutom s tekućinskom kromatografijom visoke djelotvornosti (LC-MS/MS 8050 spregnut sa UPLC Nexerom, tvrtka Shimadzu). Koncentracije pojedinačnih aminokiselina i acil-karnitina izračunate su koristeći izotopno obilježene standarde poznatih koncentracija za svaki analit.

**Prikaz slučaja:** U novorođenačkom uzorku suhe kapi krvi ženskog djeteta uzetom 70 sati nakon rođenja, nađena je izolirano niska koncentracija slobodnog karnitina,  $C_0 = 3,0 \mu\text{mol/L}$  ( $N > 8,8$ ). Kao potvrđni testovi rađeni su profil acil-karnitina u plazmi i profil acil-karnitina u suhoj kapi krvi djeteta i majke. U majčinom profilu suhe kapi krvi zabilježena je vrlo niska koncentracija slobodnog karnitina,  $C_0 = 1,2 \mu\text{mol/L}$  ( $N > 10$ ). Niske koncentracije slobodnog karnitina u plazmi i suhoj kapi krvi izmjerene su i kod djeteta. Dodatne metaboličke pretrage potvrđile su sniženu koncentraciju slobodnog karnitina u plazmi majke te je konačna dijagnoza potvrđena analizom gena *SLC22A5*. Dodatni testovi za dijete su bili uredni.

**Zaključak:** U redovnom novorođenačkom probiru djeteta, otkrivena je asimptomatska majka s manjkom karnitinskog nosača. Obzirom na ozbiljne posljedice koje može imati ta bolest, ovaj slučaj potvrđuje dodatnu prednost proširenog novorođenačkog probira gdje se mogu otkriti i bolesne majke zdrave novorođenčadi.

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**Introduction:** Carnitine uptake deficiency (CUD, OMIM #212140) is an autosomal recessive inborn error of metabolism caused by mutation in the *SLC22A5* gene and is usually detected through newborn screening. It presents during infancy or early childhood and can result in encephalopathy, cardiomyopathy and sudden death. However, a small group of untreated CUD patients remains asymptomatic, even in adult life. If diagnosed early, all phenotypic manifestations can be reversed by lifetime supplementation of carnitine. In this case, we describe a woman with carnitine uptake deficiency detected through low carnitine level in her infant's routine newborn screening.

**Materials and methods:** Newborn screening samples were prepared using Recipe reagent kit ClinSpot® for amino acids and acylcarnitines in dried blood spots (DBS) on tandem mass spectrometer coupled with high performance liquid chromatography (Shimadzu LC-MS/MS 8050 coupled with Shimadzu UPLC Nexera). Concentrations of individual amino acids and acylcarnitines were calculated using isotope-labelled internal standards of known concentration for each analyte.

**Case report:** Isolated low free carnitine concentration,  $C_0 = 3.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$  (cut-off  $> 8.8$ ), was found in newborn screening sample of a female infant taken 70 hours after birth. Confirmation tests included plasma and DBS acylcarnitine profile for infant and her mother. The maternal acylcarnitine DBS profile showed markedly decreased free carnitine ( $C_0 = 1.2 \mu\text{mol/L}$ , cut-off  $> 10$ ). Free carnitine levels were very low in infant's DBS and plasma profile as well. Additional metabolic tests for the mother revealed decreased level of plasma free carnitine. The diagnosis was confirmed by molecular analysis of *SLC22A5* gene. The follow-up tests for the infant were normal.

**Conclusion:** An asymptomatic woman with CUD was detected through her infant's newborn screening. Given the severe consequences of the disease, this finding proves the additional benefit of expanded newborn screening by identifying maternal metabolic disorder via their healthy newborn.

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R-18

## Preporuke za korištenje prebiotika bazirane na metagenomskoj analizi crijevnog mikrobioma kao dodatni alat u liječenju psorijatičnog artritisa

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**Uvod:** Psorijatični artritis (PsA) je sistemska, kronična, upalna reumatska bolest nepoznata uzroka. Razvoj PsA se povezuje s imunosnim, genetskim i okolišnim čimbenicima. Kako samo neki bolesnici s psorijazom obolijevaju od PsA, postavlja se pitanje koji ostali čimbenici (virusna infekcija, debljina, mikrotrauma enteze, disbioza crijevne mikrobiote) određuju hoće li se razviti artritis. Potencijalna "os crijeva-zglob" dobiva sve više na značaju u razumijevanju patogeneze PsA što otvara puteve novim istraživanjima i mogućnostima liječenja. Disbioza (promjena normalne ravnoteže) crijevne mikrobiote također je povezana i korelira s upalnim bolestima crijeva, sindromom iritabilnog kolona, astmom, metaboličkim sindromom, depresijom i drugim.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Pacijentici sa seboroičnim dermatitisom u dobi od 26 godina je dijagnosticiran PsA. Kao terapija je uvedena Arcoxia i vitamin D u periodu od 1,5 mjeseca. Pri slijedećem pregledu uveden je Metotrexat, Folacin i Celixib nadalje, a prije početka korištenja te terapije pacijentica je obavila analizu crijevne mikrobiote. Iz uzorka stolice, metagenomskim sekvenciranjem cijelog genoma (myBIOME platforma, SYNLAB) provodi se analiza crijevne mikrobiote. Testom se utvrđuje kompletan profil svih mikroorganizama u uzorku (bakterije, arheje, eukarioti (gljivice, paraziti, kvasci)) te njihov potencijal za proizvodnju metabolita povezanih sa upalom.

**Rezultati:** Izmjerena razina raznolikosti crijevnog mikrobioma odgovara rasponu osoba koji nemaju potvrđenu bolest. Među detektiranim vrstama na-

R-18

## Prebiotic recommendations from metagenomic analysis of the gut microbiome to assist the treatment of psoriatic arthritis

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**Introduction:** Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is systemic, chronic, inflammatory rheumatic disease with unknown aetiology. PsA development is associated with genetic, immune and environmental factors. Only some of patients with psoriasis develop PsA, and it's not understood which factors (viral infection, obesity, enthesis microtrauma, intestinal microbiota dysbiosis) are causative. The potential "gut-joint axis" is becoming increasingly implicated in PsA pathogenesis. This discovery provides potential for new research and treatment options. Gut microbiota dysbiosis (change of balanced microbial community) is associated and correlates with inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, metabolic syndrome, depression, and others.

**Case report:** A 26-year-old patient with seborrheic dermatitis was PsA diagnosed. Arcoxia and vitamin D were introduced as initial therapy for 1.5 month and switched to Folacin, Celixib and Methotrexate for further use. Before starting with this therapy gut microbiome was analysed. A stool sample obtained from the patient was analysed using whole-genome metagenomic sequencing (myBIOME platform, SYNLAB). The composition of microbiome is analysed to build complete profile of all species in the sample (bacteria, archaea, eukaryotes (fungi, parasites, yeasts)), and their metabolic potential to produce compounds linked inflammation.

**Results:** Measured diversity level of gut microbiome was observed at similar range to people with no reported disease. The species profiles indicated presence of several pro-inflammatory organisms in-

laze se *Eggethella lenta* (povezana sa reumatoidnim artritisom) te *Escherichia coli* (stvara upalne molekule heksa-lipopolisaharidi (hLPS)). Potencijal crijevnog mikrobioma za stvaranje beta-glukuronidaze je povišen kao i kapacitet za razgradnju proteina i protektivnog mukuznog sloja crijeva što dovodi do upale i povezano je sa lošijim zdravstvenim ishodom. Temeljem ovih rezultata izrađena je personalizirana lista namirnica koja sadrži prebiotike za ciljanu vrstu bakterija, a kao ključno je pacijentici preporučeno povećati unos složenih vlakana i smanjiti unos životinjskih proteina. O rezultatima liječenja planiramo izvjestiti u narednom periodu.

**Zaključak:** Pored konvencionalne terapije za liječenje PsA od značajne koristi može biti i uvođenje personalizirane prehrane temeljene na analizi crijevne mikrobiote.

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cluding *Eggerthella lenta* (associated with rheumatoid arthritis) and *Escherichia coli* (produces hexa-acetylated lipopolysaccharide). The patient's microbiome showed high potential to produce beta-glucuronidase and high capacity to degrade proteins and the protective mucus layer of the gut, which can promote inflammation. Patient received personalized list of foods containing specific prebiotics that target beneficial bacteria, including recommendations to increase consumption of complex fibres and reduce the protein amount in diet. Patient's outcomes will be reported afterwards.

**Conclusion:** The introduction of personalized diet based on gut microbiota analysis may be of significant benefit in addition to conventional therapy.

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## R-19

### Parainfektivni encefalitis u COVID-19 bolesnika - prikaz slučaja

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**Uvod:** COVID-19 je infekcija koja može izazvati ozbiljne komplikacije.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Bolesnik u dobi od 53 godine s COVID-19 pneumonijom, zbog pojave mioklonizma po epileptičkom napadu i sumnje na virusni encefalitis, u rujnu 2021. godine premješten je iz opće bolnice Gospić na Odjel za intenzivno liječenje COVID bolesnika u Klinički bolnički centar Rijeka. Kod prijema bolesnik je disao spontano uz suplementaciju kisikom, međutim tijekom noći zbog respiratornog pogoršanja priključen je na mehaničku ventilatornu potporu. Inicijalnom obradom bolesniku je učinjena lumbalna punkcija. Citološkom i biokemijskom analizom likvora dobiven je normalan broj leukocita ( $L_{CSF} = 1/\text{mm}^3$ ), kvocijent albumina i kvocijent IgG, te povišena koncentracija ukupnih protein (TProt<sub>CSF</sub> =

## R-19

### Parainfectious encephalitis in a COVID-19 patient - case report

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**Introduction:** COVID-19 is an infection that can cause serious complications.

**Case report:** In September 2021, a 53-year-old patient with COVID-19 pneumonia was transferred from the General Hospital Gospić to the COVID Intensive Care Unit at the Clinical Hospital Rijeka, due to myoclonic epilepsy and suspected viral encephalitis. On admission, the patient was breathing spontaneously with oxygen supplementation. However, during the night, due to respiratory deterioration he was connected to a mechanical ventilator support. During the initial treatment the lumbar puncture was performed. Cytological and biochemical analysis of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) showed normal white blood cell count ( $\text{WBC}_{CSF} = 1/\text{mm}^3$ ), albumin and IgG quotient, but total protein concentration was

412 mg/L). Procjena funkcije hematolikvorske barijere (matematički model po Rieber-u) i intratekalna sinteza IgG ukazivale su da nije narušen integritet barijere, dok je analizom likvora i seruma visoko-diferentnom metodom izoelektričnog fokusiranja ustanovljeno prisustvo više jače izraženih identičnih oligoklonskih IgG vrpci u likvoru i serumu "tip ogleđala" (Tip IV). PCR panel na neurotropne patogene u likvoru bio je negativan kao i serologija na krpeljni meningoencefalitis i Borreliu burgdorferi. Anti-neuronska i anti-gangliozidna antitijela u serumu su bila negativna. Serumska koncentracija IL-6 bila je 87.64 ng/L, ferritina 1142 µg/L i prokalcitonina 0.192 µg/L. Albuminsko-citološka disocijacija u likvoru ukazivala je na akutnu upalnu polineuropatiju. Oligoklonske IgG vrpce Tip IV ukazivale su na sistemski, kontinuirani upalni proces, te se posumnjalo na parainfektivni encefalitis uzrokovan COVID-19 infekcijom. Ponovaljenom puncijom likvora, 13 dana kasnije, broj  $L_{csf}$  koncentracija TProt<sub>csf</sub> i kvocijent albumina bili su normalni. Kvocijent IgG ( $5.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ) bio je povišen, intratekalna sinteza IgG<sub>if</sub> bila je 10%, a procjena funkcije hematolikvorske barijere ukazivala je na sigurnu sintezu IgG unutar središnjeg živčanog sustava (SŽS). Potvrđeno je više slabije izraženih identičnih oligoklonskih IgG vrpci u likvoru i serumu (Tip IV).

**Zaključak:** Nalazi su ukazivali na sistemski upalni proces u SŽS-u te je 15-dana od prijema započeta terapija s humanim imunoglobulinima kojom se stanje bolesnika stabiliziralo.

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#### R-20 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Evolucija malignog klona u ranom relapsu pedijatrijske akutne limfoblastične leukemije dokazana metodom oligonukleotidne komparativne genomske hibridizacije-prikaz slučaja

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increased ( $TProt_{CSF} = 412\text{mg/L}$ ). Assessment of the blood-brain barrier (BBB), based on Riebergram, and intrathecal IgG synthesis showed that the integrity of the BBB was not impaired. Detection of oligoclonal IgG bands (OCB IgG) in the CSF was performed by highly-differential isoelectric focusing method. Patient had several identical OCB IgG in CSF and serum (Type IV). PCR panel of neurotropic pathogens in CSF and serological tests on tick-borne encephalitis and neuroborreliosis were negative. Serum anti-neuronal and anti-ganglioside antibodies were also negative. Serum concentration of IL-6 was 87.64ng/L, ferritin was 1142 µg/L and procalcitonin was 0.192 µg/L. Albumin-cytological dissociation in the CSF indicated acute inflammatory polyneuropathy and OCB IgG Type IV indicated a systemic, continuous inflammation. These results indicated parainfectious COVID-19 encephalitis. 13 days later, re-puncture of CSF showed normal WBC<sub>csf</sub> count, TProt<sub>csf</sub> concentration and albumin quotient. Examination of CSF and serum showed several slightly identical OCB IgG (Type IV), with increased IgG quotient ( $5.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ), intrathecal IgG synthesis was 10%, and BBB function indicated IgG synthesis within the central nervous system (CNS).

**Conclusion:** These results indicated a systemic inflammatory process in the CNS. On the 15th day of admission, human immunoglobulin therapy was administered which led to the stabilization of the patient clinical condition.

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#### R-20 (Oral presentation)

#### Evolution of a malignant clone in early relapse paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia established with array comparative genomic hybridization - a case report

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**Uvod:** Akutna limfoblastična leukemija (ALL) hematološka je maligna bolest u kojoj dolazi do poremećaja mehanizma regulacije, te prekomerni rast nezrelih limfocita. Metoda oligonukleotidne komparativne genomske hibridizacije na mikročipu (aCGH) dijagnostički je svrhovita metoda kod onih oblika bolesti kod kojih se relevantne promjene u genomu pretežito svode na mikrodelekcije, mikroduplikacije i amplifikacije genetskog materijala. Ovaj slučaj prikazuje bolesnicu kojoj je dijagnosticirana ALL te je doživjela relaps.

**Prikaz slučaja:** Žensko dijete u dobi od tri godine obrađuje se zbog teške anemije i trombocitopenije te sumnje na limfoproliferativnu bolest. Pri hematološkoj obradi, provedena je klasična citogenetička analiza te klinički bitne promjene metodom interfazne fluorescentne in situ hibridizacije (I-FISH). aCGH se izvodi na GenetiSure Cancer Research CGH+SNP Microarray (2x400K) (Agilent, USA). Nakon godinu dana bolesnica je ušla u relaps osnovne bolesti te je ponovno učinjena kompletan hematološka obrada.

**Rezultati:** Bolesnica je pri dijagnozi imala normalan ženski kariotip u 15 metafaza. Metodom I-FISH dokazana je trisomija kromosoma 21 u 44% interfaznih jezgara. U uzorku DNA koštane srži aCGH-om dokazana je trisomija kromosoma 21 s intragenskom delecijom ERG gena u dvije kopije kromosoma 21. Nakon godinu dana i ulaska u relaps bolesti, bolesnica ima normalan ženski kariotip u 10 metafaza. I-FISH-em je dokazana trisomija kromosoma 21 u 90% interfaznih jezgara. U uzorku DNA koštane srži aCGH-om su dokazane strukturne promjene kromosoma 2, 5, 8, 13, 21 i X te trisomija kromosoma 21. Usporedbom nalaza aCGH zaključeno je da je uzrok relapsa izvorni klon jer u oba nalaza postoji intragenska delecija ERG gena. Delecija Nr3c1 se često javlja kod relapsa ALL-a, uzrokovana je terapijom, jer maligne stanice razvijaju rezistenciju na kemoterapiju.

**Zaključak:** Izvorni maligni klon razvio je dodatne strukturne promjene, koje nismo mogli odrediti klasičnom citogenetikom i FISH-em, a među njima i klinički važnu deleciju Nr3c1 gena. Zbog te delecije, minimal residual disease (MRD) je perzistirao, te je učinjena alotransplantacija koštane srži.

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**Introduction:** Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is a hematologic malignant disease characterized by disorder of the regulatory mechanism and excessive growth of immature lymphocytes. Array comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) has diagnostic significance in diseases where clinically important genome changes are microdeletions, micro-duplications and amplifications of genetic material. This case report is about patient with diagnosed ALL who had an early relapse.

**Case report:** A 3-year-old female patient was presented with anaemia and thrombocytopenia with suspicion of lymphoproliferative disease. During haematological workup, patient karyotype was obtained, and screening for clinically relevant genomic changes was done with fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH). aCGH was performed on GenetiSure Cancer Research CGH+SNP Microarray (2x400K) (Agilent, USA). After one year the patient went into early relapse.

**Results:** The patient was diagnosed with normal female karyotype in 15 metaphases. I-FISH detected trisomy of chromosome 21 in 44% of interphase nuclei. In a bone marrow sample, aCGH detected trisomy of chromosome 21 and intragenic deletion of ERG gene in two copies of chromosome 21. After a year, the patient had an early relapse with normal female karyotype in 10 metaphases. I-FISH was used to detect trisomy of chromosome 21 in 90% interphase nuclei. In bone marrow DNA sample aCGH detected structural changes in chromosomes 2, 5, 8, 13, 21 and X and trisomy of chromosome 21. On comparison of aCGH results it was concluded that the cause of relapse is the original clone because there is intragenic deletion of ERG gene in both analyses. In relapse, we found deletion of Nr3c1 gene, usually seen in relapse of ALL. Deletion of this gene is caused by chemotherapy because malignant cells develop resistance.

**Conclusion:** Original clone developed additional structural changes, which could not be detected with classical cytogenetics and I-FISH. One of clinically relevant deletion of NR3c1 gene was cause of persistent minimal residual disease, so she was allotransplanted bone marrow.

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R-21

## Rijedak slučaj B-kronične limfocitne leukemije s CD20-negativnim imunofenotipom: izazov za terapijsku strategiju

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**Uvod:** B-non Hodgkinovi limfomi s CD20-negativnim imunofenotipom (CD20-negativni B-NHL) jako su rijetki i javljaju se u samo 1-2% svih humanih zrelih B-limfocitnih neoplazmi. Karakterizira ih atipična morfologija, agresivan klinički tijek, rezistencija na standardnu terapiju i loša prognoza. Molekula CD20 je glikozilirani fosfoprotein koji se nalazi na površini zrelijih oblika normalnih i patoloških B-limfocita. Monoklonsko antitijelo anti-CD20 (rituksimab) predstavlja zlatni standard za liječenje B-NHL-a. Metodom protočne citometrije najjednostavnije je odrediti prisutnost i jačinu izražaja CD20. U slučaju B-kronične limfocitne leukemije (B-KLL), za razliku od drugih podtipova B-NHL-a, razina izražaja CD20 je vrlo niska. Ovdje smo prikazali slučaj B-KLL-a kod kojeg je izražaj CD20 potpuno izostao.

**Prikaz slučaja:** 70-godišnji muškarac upućen je na hematološku obradu u KBC Osijek. Žalio se na bолове u natkoljenicama, opću slabost, gubitak na težini i danonoćno preznojavanje. Kliničkim pregledom su utvrđeni limfadenopatija i hepatosplenomegalija. Analizom KKS-a utvrđena je lekocitoza s limfocitom, normocitna normokromna anemija i trombocitopenija. Zbog sumnje na B-NHL, tražena je analiza imunofenotipa stanica periferne krvi protočnom citometrijom, koja je rađena na citometru FACSCalibur u softveru CellQuest (Becton Dickinson). Naknadno je zatražena citološka punkcija koštane srži i limfnih čvorova uz imunofenotipizaciju.

**Rezultati:** Analizom stanica u uzorku krvi, unutar ograde limfocita je nađeno 5% stanica imunofenotipa T-limfocita i 95% stanica imunofenotipa CD5+CD19+CD20-CD22±CD23+, uz pozitivan površinski laki lanac imunoglobulina kappa sniženog intenziteta izražaja, koji odgovara CD20-negativnim

R-21

## A rare case of B-chronic lymphocytic leukaemia with CD20-negative immunophenotype: a challenge for therapeutic strategy

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**Introduction:** B non-Hodgkin's lymphomas with CD20-negative immunophenotype (CD20-negative-B-NHL) are very rare and occur in 1-2% of all human mature B-lymphocyte neoplasms. This entity is characterized by atypical morphology, aggressive clinical course, resistance to standard therapy and poor prognosis. The CD20 molecule is a glycosylated phosphoprotein found on the surface of mature forms of normal and pathological B-lymphocytes. Anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab) is the gold standard for the treatment of B-NHL. Flow cytometry immunophenotyping (FCI) is the easiest method to determine the presence and intensity of CD20 expression. Unlike other B-NHL subtypes, CD20 expression in B-chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (B-CLL) is very weak. Here, we present a case of B-CLL with complete lack of CD20 expression.

**Materials and methods:** A 70-year-old man was referred to the haematologist at the University Hospital Center Osijek. He complained of pain in the thighs, weakness, weight loss and constant sweating without fever. General examination revealed lymphadenopathy and hepatosplenomegaly. Laboratory analysis showed leucocytosis with lymphocytosis, normocytic normochromic anaemia, and thrombocytopenia. FCI analysis of peripheral blood cells was performed on FACSCalibur cytometer in CellQuest software (Becton Dickinson). Subsequently, cytological and FCI analysis of bone marrow and lymph node aspirates were requested.

**Results:** In the lymphocyte gate, FCI analysis of all samples showed 5% of T-cells and 95% of cells with aberrant immunophenotype CD5+CD19+CD20-CD22±CD23+, and positive slg kappa light chain of weak intensity of expression, corresponding to

monoklonskim kappa+ B-limfocitima u B-KLL-u. Stanice identičnog imunofenotipa nađene su analizom stanica punktata koštane srži i limfnih čvorova. Citoromfološkom analizom koštane srži utvrđena je proliferacija zrelih limfocita atipične morfologije i postavljena je dijagnoza limfoproliferativne bolesti-B-KLL, ali tek analizom imunofenotipa postavljena je prava dijagnoza CD20-negativnog B-KLL-a.

**Zaključak:** Imunofenotipizacija stanica protočnom citometrijom ključna je metoda u dijagnostici CD20-negativnih zrelih B-limfocitnih neoplazmi jer njihova terapijska strategija ne ide u uobičajenom smjeru biološke terapije rituksimabom. U ovom slučaju za terapiju je odabran BCL-2 inhibitor venetoclax.

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monoclonal kappa+ B-lymphocytes and CD20-negative-B-CLL. Bone marrow cell analysis by cytologists determined the proliferation of mature lymphocytes of atypical morphology, referring to diagnosis of lymphoproliferative disease-B-CLL, but only the FCI analysis established the true diagnosis of CD20-negative-B-CLL.

**Conclusion:** FCI is a key method in the diagnosis of CD20-negative-B-NHL because here the therapeutic strategy does not follow the usual anti-CD20 immunotherapy approach. In this case, the BCL-2 inhibitor venetoclax was chosen as an alternative therapy.

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## S Izvananalitička faza

### S-01

**Utjecaj TEMPUS600 sustava za pneumatski transport uzoraka na uzorke onkoloških pacijenata i pacijenata na dijalizi**

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**Uvod:** S ciljem optimizacije predanalitičke faze laboratorijskog rada u Općoj bolnici Varaždin implementiran je sustav za pneumatski transport uzoraka TEMPUS600 (Sarstedt, Danska) koji je gotovo u potpunosti zamijenio ručnu dostavu uzoraka. Vanjski stres poput onog u PTS sustavu može uzrokovati hemolizu koja dovodi do interferencije u mjerenu brojnih analita. Koncentracija kalija i LDH važne su u dijagnostici i liječenju onkoloških pacijenata i pacijenata na dijalizi, a osjetljivi su na hemolizu što često dovodi do potrebe za ponovljenim vađenjem krvi. Kako bi izbjegli nepotrebna ponovljena vađenja ispitali smo utjecaj PTS na uzorke onkoloških pacijenata i pacijenata na dijalizi.

## S Extranalytical phase

### S-01

**Effect of TEMPUS600 pneumatic tube system on samples of oncology patients and patients on dialysis**

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**Introduction:** In order to optimize preanalytical phase of laboratory process, we implemented TEMPUS600 (Sarstedt, Denmark) pneumatic tube system (PTS) in General hospital Varau017edin which has replaced manual delivery of the samples to the laboratory. External stress like the one in PTS can cause haemolysis that causes interference in measurement. Potassium and LDH are important diagnostic factor for patients on dialysis and oncology patients. These tests are sensitive to haemolysis which often leads to blood redraws in these patients. To avoid redraw of blood caused by hemolysis we aimed to determine the effect of PTS on samples of oncology patients and patients on dialysis.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci krvi 10 onkoloških pacijenata i 10 pacijenata na dijalizi izvađeni su u dvije 2 mL K3-EDTA i dvije 2 mL Clot activator (CAT) epruvete (Becton, Dickinson and Company, USA). Po jedna od svake vrste epruvete je nakon vađenja dostavljena ručno u laboratorij, a druge dvije su poslane preko PTS. Nakon dostave u laboratorij uzorci vađeni na CAT epruvete su centrifugirani i parametri LDH, AST, kalcij, kalij i indeks hemolize (HI) su mjereni na Alinity c biokemijskom analizatoru (Abbott, SAD). K3-EDTA uzorci analizirani su na hematološkom analizatoru Advia 2120 (Siemens, Njemačka). Izračunata su odstupanja u parovima uzoraka izražena u postotcima. Za usporedbu grupa korišten je Wilcoxonov test rangiranja.  $P < 0.05$  smatra se statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** Nije bilo statistički značajnog odstupanja u broju leukocita ( $P = 0,595$ , bias = -1,0%), eritrocita ( $P = 0,468$ , bias = 0,3%) i trombocita ( $P = 0,404$ , bias = -0,8%) između ručno dostavljenih uzoraka i uzoraka poslanih preko PTS. Nije bilo statistički značajne razlike u mjerenu HI ( $P = 0,832$ ) kao ni AST ( $P = 0,843$ , bias = -0,47%), LDH ( $P = 0,105$ , bias = -3,42%), kalcija ( $P = 0,244$ , bias = 0,45%), i kalija ( $P = 0,240$ , bias = -0,44%).

**Zaključak:** Nema statistički značajne razlike između uzoraka dostavljenih ručno i dostavljenih preko PTS u analiziranim parametrima onkoloških pacijenata i pacijenata na dijalizi.

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## S-02

### Utjecaj temperature i svjetla na stabilnost 25-OH-vitamina D

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**Materials and methods:** Blood samples of 10 oncology and 10 patients on dialysis were collected in two 2 mL K3-EDTA and two 2 mL Clot activator (CAT) vacutainers (Becton, Dickinson and Company, USA). One of each vacutainer was manually transported and the other pair of tubes was sent through PTS to the laboratory. Upon arrival CAT tubes were centrifuged and potassium, LDH, AST, calcium, and haemolysis index (HI) were measured on Alinity c biochemistry analyser (Abbott, USA). Leukocytes, erythrocytes and thrombocytes were measured in K3-EDTA samples on Advia 2120 (Siemens, Germany) haematology analyser. Biases relative to values in paired samples were calculated. Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used for group comparisons and  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** There was no statistically significant difference in number of leukocytes ( $P = 0.595$ , bias = -1.0%), erythrocytes ( $P = 0.468$ , bias = 0.3%) and thrombocytes ( $P = 0.404$ , bias = -0.8%) between manually delivered sample and the one sent through PTS. The HI showed no statistically significant difference between analysed samples ( $P = 0.832$ ) as well as AST ( $P = 0.843$ , bias = -0.47%), LDH ( $P = 0.105$ , bias = -3.42%), calcium ( $P = 0.244$ , bias = 0.45%), and potassium ( $P = 0.240$ , bias = -0.44%).

**Conclusion:** There was no statistically significant difference in measured values obtained from samples that were manually delivered compared to the samples delivered through PTS.

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## S-02

### Influence of temperature and light on the stability of 25-OH-vitamin D

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**Uvod:** Utjecaj temperature i svjetla na stabilnost 25-OH-vitamina D predstavlja važan predanalitički faktor u uvjetima transporta uzorka iz udaljenih ambulanti i suradnih laboratorija. Stoga je cilj ovog rada bio ispitati utjecaj temperature na stabilnost vitamina D u uzorcima seruma pohranjenih u hladnjaku do 72 sata i na sobnoj temperaturi do 48 sati.

**Materijali i metode:** Istraživanje je uključilo 12 pacijenata s vrijednostima vitamina D (nmol/L) duž cijelog mjernog područja (Abbott Alinity i, CMIA). Nulta vrijednost ( $t_0$ ) određena je unutar sat vremena od uzorkovanja, nakon čega je uzorak podijeljen u 2 alikvota. Jedan je pohranjen na sobnoj temperaturi na svjetlu i ponovno analiziran nakon 8 ( $t_8$ ), 24 ( $t_{24}$ ) i 48 ( $t_{48}$ ) sati, a drugi u hladnjaku i analiziran nakon 24 ( $t_{24hl}$ ) i 72 ( $t_{72hl}$ ) sata. Izračunato je odstupanje prema  $t_0$  te su rezultati statistički obrađeni neparametrijskim Wilcoxonovim parnim testom te Friedman ANOVA-om u Medcalc 20.104 programu. P-vrijednost  $< 0,05$  smatrana je statistički značajnom, a odstupanje  $> 6,7\%$  klinički značajnim (EFLM kriterij za poželjno odstupanje).

**Rezultati:** Medjani (interkvartilni rasponi) koncentracija vitamina D su:  $t_0$  55,4 (31,7-96,3),  $t_8$  55,3 (30,3-97,9),  $t_{24}$  54,9 (31,9-93,3),  $t_{48}$  53,1 (31,0-90,4),  $t_{24hl}$  57,3 (32,8-95,1) i  $t_{72hl}$  57,1 (31,5-97,1). P-vrijednost i srednja odstupanja (95% CI) prema nultoj vrijednosti iznosila su:  $t_8$   $P = 0,520$ ; 0,2% (-2,4-2,8),  $t_{24}$   $P = 0,043$ ; -1,8% (-3,9-0,3),  $t_{48}$   $P = 0,012$ ; -3,0% (-5,2-(-0,7)),  $t_{24hl}$   $P = 0,465$ ; 1,9% (-0,8-4,5),  $t_{72hl}$   $P = 0,970$ ; 0,5% (-1,8-2,9). Friedman ANOVA pokazala je statistički značajnu razliku između odstupanja u različitim vremenskim točkama ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Zaključak:** Iako postoji statistički značajno odstupanje u uzorcima pohranjenim na sobnoj temperaturi 24 i 48 sati, ono nije klinički značajno te je vitamin D pokazao prihvatljivu stabilnost u ispitivanim uvjetima.

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**Introduction:** The influence of temperature and light on the stability of 25-OH-vitamin D is an important pre-analytical factor in the conditions of sample transport from distant sampling locations. Therefore, the aim of this study was to examine the effect of temperature on the stability of vitamin D in serum samples stored in a refrigerator for up to 72 hours and at room temperature for up to 48 hours.

**Materials and methods:** The study included 12 patients with vitamin D values (nmol/L) covering the entire measuring range (Abbott Alinity i, CMIA). The zero value ( $t_0$ ) was determined within one hour from sampling, after which the sample was divided into 2 aliquots. One was stored at room temperature on the light and re-analysed after 8 ( $t_8$ ), 24 ( $t_{24}$ ) and 48 ( $t_{48}$ ) hours and the other one in the refrigerator and analysed after 24 ( $t_{24hl}$ ) and 72 ( $t_{72hl}$ ) hours. Biases from  $t_0$  were calculated and results statistically analysed by the nonparametric Wilcoxon test for paired samples and Friedman ANOVA using the Medcalc 20.104 program. P-value  $< 0,05$  and bias  $> 6,7\%$  were considered as statistically and clinically (EFLM criterion for desirable bias) significant, respectively.

**Results:** Medians (interquartile ranges) of vitamin D concentrations were:  $t_0$  55.4 (31.7-96.3),  $t_8$  55.3 (30.3-97.9),  $t_{24}$  54.9 (31.9-93.3),  $t_{48}$  53.1 (31.0-90.4),  $t_{24hl}$  57.3 (32.8-95.1) and  $t_{72hl}$  57.1 (31.5-97.1). P-value and mean bias (95% CI) from zero value were:  $t_8$   $P = 0,520$ ; 0,2% (-2,4-2,8),  $t_{24}$   $P = 0,043$ ; -1,8% (-3,9-0,3),  $t_{48}$   $P = 0,012$ ; -3,0% (-5,2-(-0,7)),  $t_{24hl}$   $P = 0,465$ ; 1,9% (-0,8-4,5),  $t_{72hl}$   $P = 0,970$ ; 0,5% (-1,8-2,9). Friedman ANOVA showed a statistically significant difference between biases at different time points ( $P < 0,001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Although there is a statistically significant difference in samples stored at room temperature for 24 and 48 hours, biases aren't clinically significant, and vitamin D showed acceptable stability under the tested conditions.

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S-03

## Usporedba stabilnosti koncentracije homocisteina u VACUETTE® K3EDTA i VACUETTE® Homocysteine epruveti

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**Uvod:** Nakon uzorkovanja homocistein dodatno nastaje razgradnjom metionina što dovodi do lažno povišenih rezultata. Reakcija se zaustavlja stavljanjem na led ili niskim pH. Cilj rada je bio usporediti stabilnost homocisteina uzorkovanog u epruvetu s antikoagulansom K3EDTA na ledu i u epruvetu sa citratnim puferom (pH = 4,2) na sobnoj temperaturi. Naša je hipoteza da nema statistički značajne razlike u određenoj koncentraciji homocisteina između navedenih epruveta.

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanje su uključena 33 bolesnika upućena na određivanje homocisteina u Klinički zavod za kemiju, KBC Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb. Svakom su bolesniku uzorkovane dvije epruvete: VACUETTE® K3EDTA i Homocysteine (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Kremsmünster, Austria). Odmah nakon uzorkovanja, uzorci su centrifugirani. Uzorci su analizirani odmah nakon centrifugiranja (0h), nakon 2 sata, a uzorak sa citratom dodatno i nakon 6 sati na analizatoru Abbott Architect i2000SR (Abbott, Abbott Park, USA) koristeći originalni reagens za homocistein. Bland-Altmanovom analizom i Passing-Bablokovom regresijom uz kriterij prihvatljivosti od 15,48% (prema Ricocs i sur.) uspoređena su odstupanja između vrsta epruveta i vremena uzorkovanja. Statistička obrada je napravljena u programu MedCalc (Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Bland-Altmanova analiza pokazala je da nema statistički značajnog konstantnog i proporcionalnog odstupanja u koncentraciji homocisteina između K3EDTA i epruvete sa citratom uspoređivane u nultom vremenu (0h). Passing-Bablokova analiza potvrdila je isto ( $y = 0,06 (-0,66-0,74) + 1,01(0,94-1,10)x$ ). Razlika između epruveta nije uočena niti nakon 2 sata na sobnoj temperaturi ( $y = 0,36(0,17-0,84) + 0,96(0,91-1,02)x$ ). Srednje odstupanje od početne

S-03

## Comparison of stability of homocysteine concentration in VACUETTE® K3EDTA and VACUETTE® Homocysteine tubes

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**Introduction:** After sampling, homocysteine is additionally formed by degradation of methionine, which leads to falsely elevated results. Reaction can be stopped by placing the tube on ice or low pH. The aim of this study was to compare the stability of homocysteine sampled in tube with the anticoagulant K3EDTA placed on ice and in tube with citrate buffer (pH = 4.2) at room temperature. Our hypothesis is that there is no statistically significant difference in homocysteine concentration.

**Materials and methods:** Study included 33 patients referred to the Department of Clinical Chemistry for homocysteine measurement. Two tubes were sampled for each patient: VACUETTE® K3EDTA and Homocysteine (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Austria). Samples were centrifuged and analysed immediately after sampling (0h), after 2 hours, and sample with citrate additionally after 6 hours on analyser Abbott Architect i2000SR (Abbott, Abbott Park, USA). Deviations between tubes and sampling times were compared by Bland-Altman analysis and Passing-Bablok regression with acceptance criteria of 15.48% (according to Ricocs et al.). Statistical analysis was performed using MedCalc software (Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Bland-Altman analysis showed that there was no statistically significant constant and proportional difference in homocysteine concentration between K3EDTA and citrate tube compared at zero time (0h). Passing-Bablok analysis confirmed the same ( $y = 0,06 (-0,66-0,74) + 1,01 (0,94-1,10)x$ ). The difference between the tubes was not observed even after 2 hours at room temperature ( $y = 0,36 (0,17-0,84) + 0,96 (0,91-1,02)x$ ). The mean deviation from baseline for the K3EDTA tube was -1.8% (after 2 hours) and for the citrate tube -0.7% (after 2 hours) and -2.5% (after 6 hours).

vrijednosti za K3EDTA epruvetu iznosilo je -1,8% (nakon 2 sata) te za epruvetu sa citratom -0,7% (nakon 2 sata) i -2,5% (nakon 6 sati).

**Zaključak:** Nije uočena statistički značajna razlika između K3EDTA plazme uzorkovane na ledu i epruve te sa citratom 2 sata nakon uzorkovanja, a epruveta sa citratom stabilna je do 6 sati nakon uzorkovanja čime je potvrđena hipoteza istraživanja. Epruveta sa citratom uklanja potrebu za uzorkovanjem uzoraka na ledu.

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#### S-04

### Ispitivanje stabilnosti bikarbonata u serumu na sobnoj temperaturi – utjecaj vremena do centrifugiranja i izloženosti zraku na mjerjenje bikarbonata

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**Uvod:** Predanalitički uvjeti značajno utječu na određivanje koncentracije bikarbonata. Cilj studije je bio ispitati stabilnost bikarbonata u serumu na sobnoj temperaturi, ovisno o vremenu do centrifugiranja i izloženosti zraku.

**Materijali i metode:** Studija stabilnosti provedena je u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku Kliničkog bolničkog centra Rijeka u siječnju i veljači 2022. Uzeti su uzorci 10 zdravih dobrovoljaca (9 žena), medijana dobi 35 (22-59) godina te su analizirani istog dana. Svakom ispitniku uzorkovano je 5 uzoraka krvi od 3,5 mL u Vacuette gel epruvete s aktivatorom zgrušavanja (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Kremsmünster, Austria, REF 454067). Serumski bikarbonati izmjereni su na uređaju Beckman Coulter AU480 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, SAD). Tri epruvete stajale su na sobnoj temperaturi 30 min, četvrta epruveta 2 sata, a peta

**Conclusion:** No statistically significant difference was observed between K3EDTA plasma sampled on ice and citrate tube 2 hours after sampling. Citrate tube was stable up to 6 hours after sampling, which confirmed our hypothesis. The citrate tube eliminates need of putting samples on ice.

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#### S-04

### Serum bicarbonate stability study at room temperature – influence of time to centrifugation and air exposure on bicarbonate measurement

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**Introduction:** Bicarbonate measurement is affected by pre-analytical conditions. The aim was to assess the stability of serum bicarbonate at room temperature, depending on time to centrifugation and air exposure.

**Materials and methods:** The stability study was conducted at the Clinical Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, Rijeka Clinical Hospital Center, in January/February 2022. Samples were obtained from 10 healthy volunteers (9 female), median age 35 (22-59) years and analysed the same day. Five samples were collected from each participant in 3.5 mL Vacuette clot activator gel tubes (Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Kremsmünster, Austria, REF 454067). Serum bicarbonate was measured on Beckman Coulter AU480 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, USA). Three tubes were left at room temperature for 30 minutes, fourth tube for

epruveta 4 sata do centrifugiranja. Bikarbonati u prvoj epruveti (osnovna koncentracija) izmjereni su odmah nakon centrifugiranja. Ostala mjerena izražena su kao postotna promjena ( $PD\% = ((\text{uzorakx-uzorakosnovno}/\text{uzorakosnovno}) \times 100)$ ) od osnovne koncentracije. Prva epruveta je ostavljena otvorena i mjerjenje je ponovljeno nakon 1 i 2 sata (OT\_0h\_1h; OT\_0h\_2h). Druga i treća epruveta otvorene su 1 i 2 sata nakon centrifugiranja (C\_0h\_1h; C\_0h\_2h). Četvrta i peta epruveta analizirane su nakon odgode centrifugiranja od 2 i 4 sata (WB\_2h; WB\_4h). Sva mjerena napravljena su u triplikatu. PD% je procijenjen prema maksimalnom dozvoljenom odstupanju (MPD = 5,69%) izračunatom prema:  $MPD = ((2,77 \times CVa)^2 + (0,5 \times CVb)^2)^{1/2}$  gdje je  $CVa = 1,91\%$  analitički koeficijent varijacije komercijelnog kontrolnog uzorka (BioRad Liquid Assayed Multiqual) i  $CVb = 4,2\%$  intraindividualna varijacija prema EFLM bazi biološke varijacije. Podaci su analizirani koristeći MedCalc statistički program (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Srednja vrijednost osnovne koncentracije bikarbonata (raspon) je 27,3 (23,4-29,6) mmol/L. Dobiveni PD% (95%CI) je: C\_0h\_1h 0,46(- 1,21 ; 2,12); C\_0h\_2h 0,18(-2,22 ; 2,57); OT\_0h\_1h -6,46(- 7,57 ; - 5,36); OT\_0h\_2h -10,67(- 12,13 ; -9,21); WB\_2h -0,15(- 2,04 ; 1,74); WB\_4h -0,85(- 3,28 ; 1,58).

**Zaključak:** Bikarbonati u serumu stabilni su u zatvorenoj necentrifugiranoj epruveti 4 sata, u zatvorenoj centrifugiranoj epruveti 2 sata, a nestabilni su u otvorenoj epruveti unutar jednog sata od uzorkovanja krvi.

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2 hours, and fifth tube for 4 hours until centrifugation. First tube (baseline concentration) was measured immediately after centrifugation. Other measurements were expressed as percentage deviation ( $PD\% = ((\text{samplex-samplebaseline}/\text{samplebaseline}) \times 100)$ ) from baseline. First tube was left open and re-measured after 1 and 2 hours (OT\_0h\_1h; OT\_0h\_2h). Second and third tubes were opened 1 and 2 hours after centrifugation (C\_0h\_1h; C\_0h\_2h). Fourth and fifth tubes were opened after centrifugation delay of 2 and 4 hours (WB\_2h; WB\_4h). All measurements were made in triplicate. PD% was evaluated according to Maximum Permissible Difference (MPD = 5.69%) calculated according to:  $MPD = ((2.77 \times CVa)^2 + (0.5 \times CVb)^2)^{1/2}$  where  $CVa = 1.91\%$  is analytical coefficient of variation for quality control (BioRad Liquid Assayed Multiqual) and  $CVb = 4.2\%$  is within-subject variation according to the EFLM Biological Variation Database. Data was analysed using MedCalc statistical software (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Bicarbonate baseline mean value (range) was 27.3 (23.4-29.6) mmol/L. Obtained PD% (95%CI) were: C\_0h\_1h 0.46(-1.21 ; 2.12); C\_0h\_2h 0.18(- 2.22 ; 2.57); OT\_0h\_1h -6.46(- 7.57 ; - 5.36); OT\_0h\_2h -10.67(- 12.13 ; - 9.21); WB\_2h - 0.15(- 2.04 ; 1.74); WB\_4h -0.85(- 3.28 ; 1.58).

**Conclusion:** Serum bicarbonate is stable in closed uncentrifuged tubes for 4 hours, in closed centrifuged tubes for 2 hours, and is unstable in opened tube within one hour after blood collection.

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**S-05**

## **Provjera stabilnosti analita glukoze i gama-glutamil transferaze (GGT) u serumskim uzorcima**

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**Uvod:** Stabilnost uzoraka je jedna od stavki preanalitičke faze ispitivanja. Svaki analit ima određenu stabilnost i način pohrane što je važna informacija ukoliko je potrebno analiziranje provesti naknadno. Prema medicinsko-biohemiskim smjernicama na temperaturi 4-8 °C u uzorcima seruma stabilnost glukoze i GGT iznosi 7 dana, dok prema deklaraciji proizvođača reagensa tvrtke Roche Diagnostics stabilnost glukoze iznosi 3 dana, a stabilnost GGT 7 dana. Cilj je bio ispitati postoji li razlika u dobivenim rezultatima glukoze i GGT nakon deklarirane stabilnosti.

**Materijali i metode:** U istraživanju su sudjelovala 162 ispitanika. Uzorkovane su epruvete bez antikoagulansa sa smolom. Određivanje koncentracije glukoze i aktivnosti GGT u serumu provedeno je na dan uzorkovanja i nakon 14 dana u uzorcima pohranjenim na temperaturi 4-8 °C standardnim enzimatskim metodama na analizatoru Cobas Integra 400 plus (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Njemačka) korištenjem originalnih reagensa. Podaci su obrađeni statističkim programom MedCalc v20.110. Statistički značajna razlika između dvije skupine zavisnih (parnih) podataka za kvantitativne varijable koji su slijedili normalnu raspodjelu utvrđena je parametrijskim parnim t-testom.

**Rezultati:** Ne postoji statistički značajna razlika u koncentracijama glukoze ( $P < 0,001$ ) i aktivnosti GGT ( $P < 0,001$ ) ako se uzorci analiziraju na dan uzorkovanja ili nakon 14 dana prethodno pohranjeni na 4-8 °C.

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati pokazuju da su glukoza i GGT stabilni u uzorcima seruma pohranjenim na temperaturi 4-8 °C dulji period nego što je navedeno u smjernicama i deklarirano od strane proizvođača. Svaki laboratorij bi trebao revidirati postavljene i odrediti vlastite kriterije za stabilnost pojedinih analita u uzorcima ovisno o zahtjevima korisnika.

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**S-05**

## **Checking the stability of glucose and gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT) analytes in serum samples**

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**Introduction:** Stability of samples is one of the items of the pre-analytical phase of the testing. Each analyte has a certain stability and storage method, which is important information if it needs to be analysed later. According to medical and biochemical guidelines at 4-8 °C in serum samples the stability of glucose and GGT is 7 days, while according to the declaration of the reagent manufacturer Roche Diagnostics the stability of glucose is 3 days and the stability of GGT is 7 days. The aim was to examine whether there is a difference in the obtained glucose and GGT results after the declared stability.

**Materials and methods:** 162 respondents participated in the research. Anticoagulant-free tubes with resin were sampled. Determination of serum glucose concentration and GGT activity was performed on the day of sampling and after 14 days in samples stored at 4-8 °C by standard enzymatic methods on a Cobas Integra 400 plus analyser (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) using original reagents. Data were processed by the statistical program MedCalc v20.110. A statistically significant difference between the two groups of dependent (paired) data for the quantitative variables that followed the normal distribution was determined by the parametric paired t-test.

**Results:** There is no statistically significant difference in glucose concentrations ( $P < 0.001$ ) and GGT activity ( $P < 0.001$ ) if samples are analysed on the day of sampling or previously stored at 4-8 °C after 14 days.

**Conclusion:** The obtained results show that glucose and GGT are more stable in serum samples stored at 4-8 °C for a longer period than stated in the guidelines and declared by the manufacturer. Each laboratory should revise the set and determine its own criteria for the stability of individual analytes in the samples depending on user requirements.

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**S-06****Arilesterazna aktivnost paraoksonaze 1 u uzorku seruma, EDTA, citratne i heparinske plazme**

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**Uvod:** Humana serumska paraoksonaza 1 (PON1) je kalcij ovisan enzim koji se sintetizira u jetri, a u krvi je vezan za HDL. Zbog antiaterogenog i antioksidacijskog djelovanja sve se više istražuje u kliničkim i epidemiološkim ispitivanjima. Arilesterazna aktivnost PON1 (ARE) određuje se pomoću supstrata fenilacetata i to najčešće iz uzorka seruma. Cilj ispitivanja bio je odrediti može li neki drugi uzorak osim seruma biti prikladan za određivanje ARE.

**Materijali i metode:** ARE je određena kontinuiranim spektrofotometrijskim mjerjenjem oslobođenog fenola iz fenilacetata na 270 nm. Enzimska aktivnost mjerena je u uzorcima plazme (uzete na antikoagulanse EDTA, citrat i heparin) i u uzorku seruma 10 zdravih dobrovoljaca. Statistička obrada podataka provedena je statističkim programskim paketom SigmaStat 3.0 za Windows.

**Rezultati:** Kruskall-Wallisov test pokazao je statistički značajnu razliku ( $P < 0,001$ ) između ispitivanih uzoraka. Post-hoc test (Dunnova metoda; usporedba prema serumu) pokazao je da je ARE u uzorku EDTA plazme značajno niža 43,66 (35,95–47,87) kU/L u odnosu na uzorak seruma 91,63 (83,25–110,22) kU/L. ARE je u uzorku citratne plazme niža 73,98 (70,86–108,33) kU/L, a u uzorku heparinske plazme viša 95,08 (85,1–124,22) kU/L u odnosu na serum, ali razlika nije bila statistički značajna. Odstupanje izmjerene aktivnosti u odnosu na uzorak seruma je - 52% (BIAS - 54,061) za EDTA plazmu, - 19% (BIAS - 14,228) za citratnu plazmu i + 4% (BIAS + 3,234) za heparinsku plazmu.

**S-06****Arylesterase activity of paraoxonase 1 in serum, EDTA, citrate and heparin plasma**

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**Introduction:** Human serum paraoxonase 1 (PON1) is a calcium-dependant enzyme that is synthesised in liver and in blood is mainly associated with HDL. There is an increasing interest in clinical and epidemiological studies because of its antiatherogenic function and antioxidant activity. Arylesterase activity of PON1 (ARE) is determined using a phenylacetate substrate, most often from serum samples. The aim of the study was to examine whether a sample other than serum might be suitable for ARE determination.

**Materials and methods:** Arylesterase activity of PON1 was determined by continuous spectrophotometric measurement of phenol released from phenylacetate at 270 nm. ARE was measured in plasma samples (EDTA, citrate and heparin) and in a serum sample of 10 healthy volunteers. Statistical analysis was performed with the statistical software SigmaStat 3.0 for Windows.

**Results:** The Kruskall-Wallis test showed a statistically significant difference ( $P < 0.001$ ) between the examined samples. Post-hoc test (Dunn's method; comparison to serum) showed that ARE in the EDTA plasma was significantly lower 43.66 (35.95-47.87) kU/L compared to the serum 91.63 (83.25-110.22) kU/L. In the citrated plasma ARE was lower 73.98 (70.86-108.33) kU/L, and in the heparin plasma ARE was higher 95.08 (85.15-124.22) kU/L compared to the serum, but the difference was not statistically significant. The deviation of ARE compared to the serum was -52% (bias - 54.061) for EDTA plasma, -19% (bias - 14.228) for citrate plasma and +4% (bias 3.234) for heparin plasma.

**Zaključak:** Ispitivanje je pokazalo da uzorak EDTA plazme nije uzorak izbora za određivanje ARE jer EDTA veže kalcij koji je važan za aktivnost PON1. U uzorku citratne plazme enzimska aktivnost PON1 je snažena u odnosu na serum, ali ne statistički značajno te se takav uzorak može koristiti za određivanje ARE. Osim serum-a najpouzdanoji je uzorak u kojem se koristi heparin kao antikoagulans jer daje najmanja odstupanja vrijednosti enzimske aktivnosti PON1 u odnosu na serum.

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**Conclusion:** Plasma EDTA is not an adequate sample for ARE determination because EDTA binds calcium which is important for PON1 activity. In the citrated plasma, PON1 enzymatic activity is reduced compared to the serum, but not statistically significant, and such a sample can be used to determine the ARE. Other than serum, the most reliable sample is heparin plasma because it gives the minimal deviations in the value of PON1 enzymatic activity compared to the serum.

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## S-07

### Interpretativni komentari u izvještavanju koncentracije željeza u serumu

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**Uvod:** Svi čimbenici koji mogu značajno promijeniti koncentraciju željeza (hemoliza, upalni procesi, terapija i dodaci prehrani) trebaju biti navedeni na laboratorijskom nalazu zajedno s rezultatima željeza. Cilj istraživanja bio je usporediti broj uzoraka s interpretativnim komentarima navedenim na nalazu uz rezultat koncentracije željeza u razdoblju od 2018. do 2021. godine.

**Materijali i metode:** Broj uzoraka s izmjerrenom koncentracijom željeza i interpretativnim komentarima uz rezultate željeza prikupljeni su iz laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava u razdoblju od siječnja 2018 do prosinca 2021. Interpretativni rezultati su navedeni uz rezultate koncentracije željeza u hemolitičnim uzorcima (indeks hemolize  $\geq 5 \text{ g/L}$ ), kod bolesnika s upalom (koncentracija C reaktivnog proteina (CRP)  $\geq 15 \text{ mg/L}$ ) i kod bolesnika s koncentracijom željeza iznad  $35 \text{ } \mu\text{g/mL}$ , bez potvrđenog kliničkog stanja povezanog s povišenom koncentracijom željeza (sumnja na nedavnu terapiju željezom ili uzima-

## S-07

### Interpretative comments in reporting serum iron concentration

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**Introduction:** All factors that can significantly alter iron concentration (haemolysis, inflammatory process, therapy, and supplements) should be reported on the laboratory report. Objective of this study was to compare the number of interpretative comments on iron concentration in the period from 2018 to 2021.

**Materials and methods:** The number of samples and interpretative comments on iron results were collected from the laboratory information system from January 2018 to December 2021. Interpretative comments on iron results were reported in hemolysed samples (haemolysis index  $\geq 5 \text{ g/L}$ ), in patients with inflammation (with C reactive protein (CRP)  $\geq 15 \text{ mg/L}$ ) and in patients with iron concentrations above  $35 \text{ } \mu\text{g/mL}$ , without confirmed clinical condition associated with increased Fe (suspected recent iron therapy or supplements consummation). Concentrations of iron, CRP and H index were measured

nje pripravaka željeza). Koncentracija željeza, CRP i H indeks određeni su na analizatoru Architect c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, SAD), prema uputama proizvođača. Razlike u broju interpretativnih komentara od 2018. do 2021. godine uspoređene su Hi-kvadrat testom (Medcalc, Ostend, Belgium). P vrijednosti < 0,05 smatrane su statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** U ispitivanom razdoblju izdano je ukupno 17,489 (2018.), 19,071 (2019.), 14,118 (2020) i 18,136 (2021.) rezultata željeza. Postotak uzoraka s komentarima o mogućoj anemiji zbog upale značajno se smanjio od 2018. do 2021. s 12,16% na 4,09% ( $P < 0,001$ ). U istom razdoblju postotak nalaza s komentatom o mogućoj interferenciji zbog terapije ili uzimanja pripravaka željeza porasla je s 0,03 na 0,17% ( $P < 0,001$ ). Postotak uzoraka s hemolizom ostao je sličan tijekom svih godina (< 0,2%,  $P = 0,572$ ).

**Zaključak:** Iako je vidljiv pad unatrag 4 godine, koncentracija željeza se još uvijek učestalo traži tijekom upalnog procesa što može dovesti do pogrešnog liječenja bolesnika. Tijekom svih praćenih godina, broj uzoraka u kojima je određena koncentracija željeza kod bolesnika sa sumnjom na nedavnu primjenu terapije ili pripravaka, je nizak.

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on the Architect c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, USA), according to manufacturers' declarations. Differences between number of comments from 2018 to 2021 were compared with Chi square test (Medcalc, Ostend, Belgium). P values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of iron results for the period of 2018–2021 was 17,489, 19,071, 14,118 and 18,136, respectively. Percentages of samples with comments on possible anaemia of inflammation decreased significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) from 2018 to 2021 (12.16% and 4.09%, respectively) while comments on possible contamination of therapy/supplements increased from 0.03 to 0.17% ( $P < 0.001$ ). Percentage of homolysed samples remained below 0.2% in all followed years ( $P = 0.572$ ).

**Conclusion:** Although decreasing in the last 4 years, iron is still ordered during the inflammation frequently that could lead to erroneous management of patient. Number of samplings with suspected recent iron therapy or supplements consummation is low across the years.

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## S-08

### Uzorkovanje venske krvi – trebamo li kontinuiranu edukaciju?

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**Uvod:** U predanalitičkoj fazi rada događa se 46.68% pogrešaka u laboratorijskom ciklusu testiranja. Cilj rada bio je istražiti koliko medicinske sestre u KBC-u Split poznaju predanalitičke pogreške i čimbenike koji utječu na predanalitičku fazu rada te u kojoj mjeri poznaju i primjenjuju smjernice za uzorkovanje venske krvi.

## S-08

### Venous blood sampling – do we need continuing education?

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**Introduction:** Preanalytical phase account for 46–68% of errors observed during the total testing cycle. The aim of this study was to investigate knowledge of nurses at KBC Split about pre-analytical errors and factors that affect the pre-analytical phase of work and to what extent they apply the guidelines for venous blood sampling.

**Materijali i metode:** Za potrebe ovog istraživanja sastavljen je anonimni anketni upitnik prema „Nacionalnim preporukama za uzorkovanje venske krvi“. Upitnik se sastojao od 30 pitanja. U anketi su sudjelovala 642 ispitanika.

**Rezultati:** Većina ispitanika smatra da predanalitičke pogreške utječu na ishod laboratorijskog testiranja iako 88% ispitanika značajno podcjenjuje broj pogrešaka u ovoj fazi. Većina ispitanika pridržava se smjernica prilikom identifikacije bolesnika i obilježavanja uzoraka, no neprihvatljiva je praksa koju navodi 7% ispitanika da ne identificiraju bolesnika jer ga poznaju, kao i praksa naknadnog obilježavanja uzoraka koju navodi 5% ispitanika. 91% ispitanika zna da je potrebno poštovati redoslijed epruveta s različitim aditivima, no gotovo jednaki broj ispitanika ne zna točno odrediti redoslijed istih. Samo 4% ispitanika zna da se pri uzorkovanju krvi za neke analite ne smije primijeniti podvezu, a 38% ispitanika pogrešno primjenjuje podvezu otpuštajući je tek po završetku uzorkovanja. Pogrešnu praksu pretakanja krvi iz epruvete u epruvetu u određenim situacijama koristi četvrtina ispitanika, dok samo 32% ispitanika nikada ne uzorkuje krv u špricu. Učestalost nepoželjne prakse smanjuje se s godinama radnog iskustva i višim stupnjem obrazovanja.

**Zaključak:** Razina znanja medicinskih sestara/tehničara o pojedinim koracima u postupku uzorkovanja krvi nije bila na zadovoljavajućoj razini. Rezultati istraživanja u skladu su s većinom istraživanja koja su do sada provedena o znanju medicinskih sestara/tehničara o predanalitičkim pogreškama i čimbenicima koji utječu na predanalitičku fazu rada i kvalitetu uzorka. Rezultati ove studije pokazuju da je nužna kontinuirana edukacija osoblje koje vrši uzorkovanje venske krvi.

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**Materials and methods:** For the purposes of this research, an anonymous questionnaire was compiled according to the «National Recommendations for Venous Blood Sampling». The questionnaire consisted of 30 questions. A questionnaire was completed by 642 nurses.

**Results:** Most respondents believe that pre-analytical errors affect the outcome of laboratory testing, although 88% significantly underestimate the number of errors at this stage. Most respondents adhere to the recommendations when identifying patients and labeling samples, but 7% responded that they don't identify patients because they know them which is unacceptable practice, as well as practice of subsequent tube labeling (5%). 91% of respondents know that it is necessary to respect the order of draw, but almost the same number don't know the recommended order. Only 4% of respondents know that tourniquet should not be used for sampling of blood for some analyses, and 38% remove tourniquet after filling the last tube. One quarter of respondents use unacceptable practice of transferring blood from one test tube to another, and only 32% of respondents never use a syringe for sampling. The incidence of undesirable practices decreases with working experience and higher level of education.

**Conclusion:** The level of knowledge of nurses/technicians in some steps of blood sampling was not satisfactory. The results of the research are consistent with most of the research conducted so far regarding the knowledge of nurses/technicians about pre-analytical errors and factors that affect the pre-analytical phase of work. The results of this research show that it is necessary to continuously educate staff on blood sampling.

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**S-09**

## **Utjecaj lagane hemolize seruma na određivanje NSE**

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**Uvod:** NSE je neuron specifična enolaza koju sintetiziraju neuroni i neuroendokrine stanice, a prisutna je i u eritrocitima i trombocitima. Povišena vrijednost NSE koristi se primarno kao tumorski marker kod otkrivanja i praćenja neuroendokrinskih tumora (neuroblastoma i karcinoma pluća malih stanica). NSE je vrlo osjetljiv na hemolizu zbog otpuštanja iz eritrocita tijekom lize stanica. Cilj ovog rada je ispitati utjecaj hemolize na rezultate određivanja NSE.

**Materijali i metode:** Korišteni su uzorci seruma 12 pacijenata s indeksom hemolize (H) 0.20-0.40 te ponovljeni uzorci istih pacijenata kojima je određen indeks  $H < 0.20$ . U obje skupine uzoraka određen je NSE ECLIA metodom (eng. Electrochemiluminescence immunoassay) na analizatoru Roche Cobas e 601 (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland). Indeks H određen je na Alinity c (Abbott, USA). Izračunata odstupanja u parovima uzoraka izražena su u postotcima. Distribucija podataka potvrđena je Kolmogorov-Smirnovim testom. Podaci su prikazani kao srednja vrijednost i standardna devijacija (SD). Za usporedbu grupa korišten je Wilcoxonov test rangiranja.  $P < 0.05$  smatra se statistički značajnim.

**Rezultati:** Srednja vrijednost mjerjenih NSE rezultata iz uzoraka s indeksom H 0,20-0,40: 22,34 ( $\pm 3,59$ ) i indeksom H < 0,20: 15,66 ( $\pm 3,47$ ) ng/mL. Postoji statistički značajna razlika između dva mjerjenja ( $P < 0,001$ , bias = 33,31%). Srednja vrijednost indeksa H iz skupine 0,20-0,40 je iznosila 0,28, a iz skupine indeksa H < 0,20 je 0,07. Referentna vrijednost za NSE je < 16,3 ng/mL. U prvoj skupini svi su rezultati bili iznad referentne vrijednosti (12/12), dok je u drugoj skupni s indeksom H < 0,20 5/12 rezultata bilo izvan referentne vrijednosti.

**Zaključak:** Postoji statistički i klinički značajna razlika u mjerenu NSE uzorcima s nižim indeksom H ( $H < 0.20$ ) te uzorcima s laganom hemolizom ( $H = 0.20-0.40$ ). Potrebno je prije svakog određivanja NSE odrediti indeks H kako bi se izbjeglo izdavanje lažno povišenih rezultata.

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**S-09**

## **Influence of mild haemolysis on determination of NSE in serum**

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**Introduction:** NSE is a neuron-specific enolase synthesized by neurons and neuroendocrine cells but also present in erythrocytes and thrombocytes. Elevated NSE is used primarily as a tumor marker in the detection and monitoring of neuroendocrine tumors (neuroblastoma and small cell lung cancer). It is very sensitive to haemolysis due to the release from erythrocytes during cell lysis. The aim of this study was to determine the influence of haemolysis on the result of NSE in serum samples.

**Materials and methods:** We used serum samples from 12 patients with a haemolysis (H) index of 0.20-0.40 and repeated samples from the same patients for whom the H index was below 0.20. In both groups of samples NSE was determined on Roche Cobas e601 (Roche Holding Ag, Switzerland) by ECLIA method. H index was determined on Alinity c (Abbott, USA). The Wilcoxon ranking test was used to compare the groups.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. The data was presented as mean and standard deviation.

**Results:** Mean value of measured NSE results from samples with H index 0.20-0.40 was 22.34 ( $\pm 3.59$ ) and H index < 0.20 was 15.66 ( $\pm 3.47$ ) ng/mL. There is a statistically significant difference between the two measurements ( $P < 0.001$ , bias = 33.31%). The mean value of the H index from the group 0.20-0.40 was 0.28, and from the H index < 0.20 was 0.07. The reference value for the NSE marker is < 16.3 ng/mL. In the first group all results were above the reference value (12/12), while in the second group there were 5/12 results outside the reference value.

**Conclusion:** There is a statistically and clinically significant difference in the measurement of NSE in samples with lower H index ( $H < 0.20$ ) and samples with mild haemolysis ( $H = 0.20-0.40$ ). It is necessary to determine the H index before each NSE measurement in order to avoid issuing falsely elevated results.

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**T Biostatistika****T-01 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Strojno učenje za predviđanje optimalnog razrjeđenja likvora za određivanje indeksa specifičnih antitijela**

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**Uvod:** Nadzirano strojno učenje otkriva prediktivni algoritam koji se temelji na skupu podataka poznatih ulaznih i izlaznih varijabli. Cilj je stvoriti algoritam za predviđanje optimalnog razrjeđenja likvora za određivanje indeksa specifičnih antitijela radi smanjenja ponavljanja mjerena.

**Materijali i metode:** Model stabla odlučivanja, metoda nadziranog strojnog učenja, korištena je u skupini od 464 pacijenta s 5 varijabli ulaznih podataka: kvocijent albumina, koncentracija imunoglobulina G (IgG) u likvoru, kvocijent IgG-a, postotak intratekalne sinteze (ITS) i vrijednost limesa. Koncentracije albumina i IgG-a u likvoru i serumu određene su imuno-nefeliometrijski na Atellica NEPH 630 analizatoru (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka), a ITS i limes dobiveni su izračunom prema Reiberu. Koncentracije IgG antitijela na morbile, rubellu, varicella-zoster virus i herpes simplex virus 1 i 2 određene su u likvoru i serumu ELISA metodom (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Njemačka). Definirano je optimalno razrjeđenje likvora za pojedini virus te je dobiven mod koji je korišten kao klasifikacijska varijabla za potrebno razrjeđenje. Podaci su podijeljeni u set podataka za trening ( $N = 348$ ) i testiranje ( $N = 116$ ). Za kreiranje stabla odlučivanja na podacima za trening korišten je rpart paket, a funkcija rpart.plot za vizualizaciju stabla odlučivanja u programu R (RStudio, Boston, SAD). Točnost predviđanja izračunata je na setu testnih podataka.

**Rezultati:** Algoritam stabla odlučivanja uključio je varijable IgG i ITS. Predviđeno razrjeđenje likvora je 2x ako je koncentracija IgG-a  $< 56$  mg/L, a 4x ako je koncentracija IgG-a  $> 103$  mg/L. Za ostale koncentracije IgG-a predviđeno razrjeđenje je 3x ako je ITS  $> 43\%$ . U suprotnom, ako je koncentracija IgG-a  $< 72$  mg/L, predviđeno razrjeđenje je 2x, a 3x ako je koncentracija IgG-a  $> 72$  mg/L. Algoritam ne predviđa viša razrjeđenja zbog malog broja podataka u setu.

**T Biostatistics****T-01 (Oral presentation)****Machine learning for predicting optimal cerebrospinal fluid dilution for analysis of specific antibody indices**

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**Introduction:** Supervised machine learning discovers a predictive algorithm based on the dataset of known input and output variables. The aim is to create an algorithm for predicting an optimal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) dilution for determining specific antibody indices to reduce repeated tests.

**Materials and methods:** The decision tree model, a supervised machine learning method, used the dataset of 464 patients with 5 input variables: albumin quotient, immunoglobulin G (IgG) in CSF, IgG quotient, intrathecal synthesis (ITS) and limes value. Albumin and IgG concentrations in CSF and serum were performed by immunonephelometry on Atellica NEPH 630 (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) and ITS and limes were calculated according to Reiber. The concentration of IgG antibodies to measles, rubella, varicella-zoster and herpes simplex 1/2 viruses were analysed in CSF and serum by ELISA (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany). Optimal CSF dilution was defined for each virus and the mode was used as a classification variable. The data was split into training ( $N = 348$ ) and testing ( $N = 116$ ) datasets. The rpart package was used to construct a decision tree based on training data and the function rpart.plot to visualize it in R program (RStudio, Boston, USA). The prediction accuracy was calculated on the testing dataset.

**Results:** The decision tree algorithm includes IgG and ITS. Predicted CSF dilution is 2x if the concentration of IgG  $< 56$  mg/L, and 4x if IgG  $> 103$  mg/L. For remaining IgG concentrations, the predicted dilution is 3x if ITS  $> 43\%$ . Otherwise, if the concentration of IgG  $< 72$  mg/L, then the dilution is 2x and 3x if IgG  $> 72$  mg/L. The algorithm does not predict higher dilutions due to the insufficient data. The model accuracy is 86.2%, while 74.3% of patients did not need repeat measurement without dilution prediction.

Točnost modela je 86,2%, dok bez predviđanja razrjeđenja 74,3% pacijenata nije trebalo ponavljano mjerjenje.

**Zaključak:** Dobiven je algoritam visoke točnosti za predviđanje optimalnog razrjeđenja likvora što smanjuje broj ponavljanja.

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#### T-02 (Usmeno izlaganje)

#### Prikaz slučaja: primjena BEEM algoritma u praćenju međusobnih odnosa sastavnica urinarne mikrobiote za vrijeme primjene antibiotske terapije

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**Uvod:** Dinamiku promjene mokraće mikrobiote ispitnice sa simptomima cistitisa kojoj je propisana antibiotska terapija moguće je pratiti metodom sekvenciranja novih generacija (Next Generation sequencing/ NGS) ciljanog marker 16S rRNA gena. Cilj ovog rada bio je na podatke sekvenciranja primjeniti Lotka-Volterta model te primjenom BEEM algoritma omogućiti praćenje međusobnih interakcija mikroorganizama tijekom primjene terapije.

**Materijali i metode:** 38-godišnja ispitnica sa simptomima akutnog nekomplikiranog cistitisa odabrana je za longitudinalno praćenje neposredno prije i za vrijeme primjene antibiotske terapije. U prvom uzorku urinokulturom dokazana je *K. Pneumoniae* > 105 CFU. Prikupljene su prve jutnje mokraće ispitnice, kroz 8 dana, prvi uzorak prije početka terapije i ostali sa početkom 24 h nakon započete primjene cefaleksina 1 g/24h. Iz uzorka je ekstrahirana DNA (Maxwell 16 Tissue DNA kit) te je provedeno NGS 16S rRNA gena (HotStarTaq Plus Master Mix Kit; Qiagen, SAD). Podaci sekvenciranja DNA analizirani su QIIME

**Conclusion:** A highly accurate algorithm was achieved for predicting the optimal CSF dilution which reduces the number of repeated tests.

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#### T-02 (Oral presentation)

#### Case report: application of BEEM algorithm in monitoring the interrelationships of urinary microbiota components during antibiotic therapy

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**Introduction:** The technique of NGS of the marker gene; 16S rRNA can be used to track the dynamics of changes in the urine microbiota of an individual with symptoms of cystitis who was given antibiotic therapy. The aim of this work was to apply the Lotka-Voltaire model to the sequencing data and to use the BEEM algorithm to monitor the interactions of microorganisms during the application of therapy.

**Materials and methods:** A 38-year-old patient with acute, cystitis symptoms were chosen for monitoring before and after receiving antibiotic. *K. Pneumoniae* > 105 CFU was found in the first urine sample. Over the course of 8 days, the subject's first morning urine was taken; the first sample before and the rest starting 24 h after the start of cephalexin 1 g/24h. DNA (Maxwell 16 Tissue DNA kit) was extracted from the samples and the NGS 16S rRNA gene (HotStarTaq Plus Master Mix Kit; Qiagen, USA) was performed. A statistical BEEM-Static model was used to monitor the interactions of microorganisms.

programom. U svrhu praćenja međusobnih interakcija mikroorganizama korišten je statistički BEEM-Static model.

**Rezultati:** Pod utjecajem antibiotske terapije mikrobiota se kontinuirano izmjenjuje. Nakon prvotnog značajnog pada vrsta porodice *Enterobacteriaceae* koja je dominirala u prvom uzorku, te porasta *Lactobacillus* vrsta u sljedeća četiri uzorka, dolazi do naglog pada *Lactobacillus* vrsta u uzorcima 7 i 8. U uzorku 8 prevladavao je udio *Pseudomonas* bakterija. Korištenjem BEEM modela klasa *Bacilli* pozicionirana je u samo središte modela, te pokazuje da na nju negativno utječe klasa *Gammaproteobacteria*. Model također ukazuje na dvije pozitivne interakcije; između klase *Bacteroidia* i *Bacilli*, te između *Actinobacteria* i *Bacilli* klase.

**Zaključak:** Antibotska terapija ima snažan utjecaj na dinamiku promjena sastava urinarne mikrobiote, te je trajanje terapije iznimno važan terapijski parametar. Rezultati prikazanog matematičkog modela mogu navesti na zaključivanje da su kod naše ispitanice bakterije klase *Actinobacteria* podržavale klasu *Bacilli* kojoj prirpada i *Lactobacillus*, dok su se bakterije iz klase *Gammaproteobacteria* aktivno natjecale protiv njega za vrijeme antibiotskog liječenja.

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**Results:** After the decline in the species of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family that dominated the first cause, and the increase in *Lactobacillus* species in the next four samples, there was a rapid reduction in *Lactobacillus* species in samples 7 and 8. *Pseudomonas* bacteria predominated in sample 8. Using the BEEM model, the *Bacilli* class is positioned at the center of the model and shows that it is negatively affected by the *Gammaproteobacteria* class. The model also indicates two positive interactions between the classes *Bacteroidia* and *Actinobacteria* and *Bacilli* classes.

**Conclusion:** Length of treatment with antibiotic is a critical therapeutic parameter. The mathematical model can be used to draw the conclusion that in our subject, the bacteria class *Gammaproteobacteria* actively competed with the bacteria class *Actinobacteria* during antibiotic treatment, while the class *Bacilli* were supported by the class of *Actinobacteria*.

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## T-03

### Usporedba novog testa Thyroglobulin Alinity i (Abbott) sa testovima za tireoglobulin tvrtke BRAHMS i Roche

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**Uvod:** Cilj istraživanja je bio u bolesnika sa diferenciranim rakom štitnjače usporediti rezultate određivanja tireoglobulina upotrebom testova tri različita proizvođača (Abbott, Roche, BRAHMS).

## T-03

### The novel Thyroglobulin Alinity i (Abbott) assay in method comparison with BRAHMS and Roche thyroglobulin assays

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**Introduction:** The aim of the study was comparison of the three different (Abbott, Roche, BRAHMS) methods for thyroglobulin (Tg) determination in differentiated thyroid cancer patient sera.

**Materijali i metode:** Tireoglobulin je određivan u 65 seruma bolesnika prikupljenih u listopadu 2020. godine. U istraživanju su korišteni testovi: Thyroglobulin Alinity i (Abbott Diagnostics, USA), Elecsys Tg II (Roche Diagnostics, Germany) i Tg-S RIA (BRAHMS, Germany). Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza je korištena da bismo usporedili rezultate testa druge generacije (funkcionalna osjetljivost  $\leq 0,1 \mu\text{g/L}$ ) Thyroglobulin Alinity i, sa testom prve generacije (funkcionalna osjetljivost  $\leq 1\mu\text{g/L}$ ) prethodno korištenim u našem laboratoriju tvrtke BRAHMS i testom druge generacije tvrtke Roche koji je u laboratorijskoj upotrebi osam godina.

**Rezultati:** Raspon izmjerениh koncentracija tireoglobulina dobivenih testom tvrtke Abbott je bio: 0.09-143.38  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Usporedbom rezultat testa tvrtke Abbott s testom tvrtke BRAHMS ( $r = 0,98, P < 0,001$ ) dobili smo jednadžbu regresijske analize Passing-Bablok:  $Y = 0,2514 (0,2497 \text{ do } 0,2526, 95\% \text{ CI}) + 0,5401 (0,5263 \text{ do } 0,5593, 95\% \text{ CI})x$ . Kada smo usporedili test tvrtke Abbott sa testom tvrtke Roche ( $r = 0,98, P < 0,001$ ) dobili smo jednadžbu Passing-Bablok regresijske analize:  $Y = -0,04306 (-0,04521 \text{ do } -0,03969, 95\% \text{ CI}) + 0,9229 (0,8855 \text{ do } 0,9467, 95\% \text{ CI})x$ . Test linearnosti Cusum je pokazao značajno odstupanje od linearnosti za regresijsku analizu usporedbe metoda Abbott i BRAHMS ( $P < 0,01$ ), a nije bilo znatnijeg odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P > 0,10$ ) za usporedbu testa Abbott i Roche.

**Zaključak:** Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza u našoj skupini rezultata nije odgovarajuća za usporedbu metoda Abbott i BRAHMS radi značajnog odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P < 0,010$ ). Za usporedbu metoda Abbott i Roche nije bilo značajnog odstupanja od linearnosti ( $P > 0,100$ ), konstantna greška je bila  $-0,043 (-0,04521 \text{ do } -0,03969; 95\% \text{ CI})$  a proporcionalna greška je bila  $0,92 (0,8855 \text{ do } 0,9467; 95\% \text{ CI})$ . Konstantna greška i proporcionalna greška nisu klinički značajne pa zaključujemo da su Roche i Abbott metoda za tireoglobulin usporedive za praćenje bolesnika sa diferenciranim rakom štitnjače.

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**Materials and methods:** Thyroglobulin was determined in 65 patient sera collected in October 2020. The Thyroglobulin Alinity i (Abbott Diagnostics, USA), Elecsys Tg II (Roche Diagnostics, Germany) and Tg-S RIA (BRAHMS, Germany) were engaged in the study. The Passing-Bablok method comparison was performed to compare the newly introduced Thyroglobulin Alinity i second generation method (functional sensitivity  $\leq 0.1\mu\text{g/L}$ ) with first generation (functional sensitivity  $\leq 1\mu\text{g/L}$ ) BRAHMS assay previously used in our laboratory, as well as, to compare Thyroglobulin Alinity i to second generation Roche assay present in laboratory practice for eight years.

**Results:** The concentrations of thyroglobulin measured by Abbott assay ranged 0.09-143.38  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The Passing-Bablok regression analysis equation for Abbott versus BRAHMS assay ( $r = 0.98, P < 0.0001$ ) was:  $y = 0.2514 (0.2497 \text{ to } 0.2526, 95\% \text{ CI}) + 0.5401 (0.5263 \text{ to } 0.5593, 95\% \text{ CI})x$ . The comparison of Abbott versus ROCHE assay ( $r = 0.98, P < 0.001$ ) revealed equation:  $y = -0.04306 (-0.04521 \text{ to } -0.03969, 95\% \text{ CI}) + 0.9229 (0.8855 \text{ to } 0.9467, 95\% \text{ CI})x$ . Cusum linearity test showed significant deviation from linearity ( $P < 0.010$ ) for Abbott versus BRAHMS assay, while there was no significant deviation from linearity ( $P > 0.100$ ) for Abbott versus Roche assay.

**Conclusion:** Due to the significant deviation from linearity ( $P < 0.01$ ) Passing-Bablok regression analysis was not suitable for the method comparison of Abbott versus BRAHMS thyroglobulin determination in our group of results. Passing-Bablok regression analysis for Abbott versus ROCHE assay passed linearity test and showed constant error ( $-0.043 (-0.04521 \text{ to } -0.03969; 95\% \text{ CI})$ ) and proportional error ( $0.92 (0.8855 \text{ to } 0.9467; 95\% \text{ CI})$ ). Proportional error and constant error were not clinically relevant therefore, Roche and Abbott thyroglobulin method are agreeable in follow up of differentiated thyroid cancer.

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## U Upravljanje laboratorijem

**U-01**

### Procjena rizika za pacijente nakon primjene SKLADIN sustava

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**Uvod:** Sigurnost pacijenta nije kompromitirana nakon uvođenja sustava za prijem, skladištenje i kontrolu laboratorijskih reagensa SKLADIN. Cilj istraživanja bio je pronaći razlike u bilježenju reagensa u sustavu SKLADIN i stvarnog stanja, te procijeniti rizik za pacijenta tj. je li pacijent ostao zakinut za kvalitetu laboratorijske usluge. Analiziran je posredni rizik za pacijente ukoliko neki reagens zbog zastoja u naručivanju ne bi bio dostupan za analizu pretraga koje su zatražene za pacijente.

**Materijali i metode:** Failure mode and effects analysis metodom su obrađeni podaci brojevnog stanja reagensa i pripadajućih kalibratora za sve akreditirane pretrage. Obrađeno je 70 vrsta reagensa i 60 kalibratora na dan 13.10.2021. g. Od toga je 14 reagensa i 3 kalibratora imalo zabilježenu razliku u broju uspoređeno sa stvarnim stanjem. Granične vrijednosti za razliku u broju za uključivanje u procjenu rizika redom za reagense s 4, 2 i 1 bočicom u kutiji su 0,25, 0,50 odnosno 1,00, a kategorije pojavnosti s obzirom na frekvenciju greške od O1 do O5 su redom  $\leq 0,75$ ,  $\leq 2,75$ ,  $\leq 4,75$ ,  $\leq 7,75$  i  $\geq 8,00$ . Razlike u brojevnom stanju definirane su kao greške kojih je nađeno 17.

**Rezultati:** Napravljena je tablica procjene rizika kombinacijom značajnosti greške i njene pojavnosti te je kategoriziran rizik za pacijenta na: Minimalni i prihvatljiv rizik, Dozvoljen rizik bez štetnosti za pacijenta i Neprihvatljiv rizik. Izdvojena je samo jedna greška koja je ulazila u kategoriju Dozvoljen rizik bez štetnosti za pacijenta. Ponovljenom procjenom na dan 13. 06. 2022. sve greške koje su nađene bile su u kategoriji Minimalni i prihvatljiv rizik.

**Zaključak:** Procjenom rizika potvrđena je visoka educiranost djelatnika i preciznost u bilježenju

## U Laboratory management

**U-01**

### Risk assessment for patients after application of the SKLADIN system

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**Introduction:** Patient safety has not been compromised after the application of the SKLADIN laboratory reagent reception, storage, and control system. The aim of the research was to find the differences in the recording of reagents in the SKLADIN system and the actual state. The indirect risk to patients due to delays in ordering if the reagent would not be available for analysis of required patient tests was analysed.

**Materials and methods:** FMEA method is used to process data on the number of reagents and associated calibrators. 70 types of reagents and 60 calibrators were processed on October 13, 2021. Of these, 14 reagents and 3 calibrators had a recorded difference in the number compared to the actual state. The cut-off for the difference in the number to be included in the risk assessment for reagents with 4, 2 and 1 vials in the box are 0.25, 0.50 and 1.00, respectively, and the incidence categories with respect to the error frequency are in order  $\leq 0.75$ ,  $\leq 2.75$ ,  $\leq 4.75$ ,  $\leq 7.75$  and  $\geq 8.00$ .

**Results:** A table of risk assessment was made by combining the significance of the error and its occurrence, and the risk for the patient was categorized into: Minimum risk, Permissible risk without harm to the patient and Unacceptable risk. Only one error was singled out, which fell into the category of Permitted risk without harm to the patient. By re-assessment on June 13, 2022, all errors found were in the Minimum risk category.

**Conclusion:** The risk assessment confirmed the high level of education of employees and the accuracy in recording the uptake of reagents as well as the recording of placing in the analysers. This provides

preuzimanja reagensa kao i bilježenje stavljanja u analizatore. Upravo vidljivost dostupnosti reagensa i automatska izrada inventurnih zapisa prikazana je kao prednost SKLADIN-a. Time se i pacijentima i liječnicima pruža dostupnost reagensa bez izlaganja pacijenta dijagnostičkom riziku kod nemogućnosti izrade pretrage.

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## U-02

### Procjena rizika za pacijente uvođenjem pneumatskog transporta uzoraka

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**Uvod:** Cilj istraživanja bio je procijeniti rizik za pacijenta ako se uzorak transportira pneumatskim sustavom (zračnom poštom) odnosno dolazi li do smanjenja kvalitete dobivenog nalaza. Analizirana je učestalost hemoliziranih uzoraka prije i nakon uvođenja pneumatskog transporta uzoraka u primjenu.

**Materijali i metode:** Six Sigma metodom procjene rizika obrađeno je 24,432 uzorka na postojanje hemolize iz Objedinjenog hitnog bolničkog prijema (OHPB) u razdoblju od 1.1. do 30.6.2020. g. prije uvođenja pneumatskog transporta uzoraka (20,7% svih uzorka za razdoblje) i ti podaci su uspoređeni sa razdobljem od 11.7. do 9.10.2020. g. za 12,867 uzorka (22,7%) nakon uvođenja pneumatskog transporta. U procjenu su uzete tri vrste nesukladnosti: hemolizirani uzorak koji se ne uzima u postupak, hemolizirani uzorak koji se uzima u postupak i hemolizirani uzorak koji se djelomično uzima u postupak. Sve vrijednosti su dodatno uspoređene sa vrijednostima Six Sigme iz 2018. i 2019. godine.

**Rezultati:** Six sigma vrijednosti za razdoblje prije uvođenja pneumatskog transporta uzoraka kretale

both patients and physicians with safe availability of reagents without exposing the patient to diagnostic risk in the event of the inability to perform a single test.

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## U-02

### Risk assessment for patients by introducing pneumatic sample transport

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**Introduction:** The aim of the study was to assess the risk to the patient if the sample is transported by Pneumatic Sample Transport (PST), ie whether there is a decrease in the quality of the obtained report. The frequency of hemolysed samples before and after the introduction of the PST was applied.

**Materials and methods:** Six Sigma risk assessment method was used to process 24,432 samples for the existence of haemolysis from the Unified Emergency Admission to the Hospital in the period from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 before the introduction of the PST (20.7% of all samples for the period) and these data were compared with the period from 11 July to 9 October 2020 for 12,867 samples (22.7%) after the installation of the PST. Three types of non-compliance were taken into account: haemolysed sample not taken for processing, haemolysed sample taken for processing and haemolysed sample partially taken for processing. All values were further compared to the Six Sigma values of 2018 and 2019.

**Results:** Six sigma values for the period before the introduction of the PST ranged for three types of

su se redom za tri vrste nesukladnosti 4,2, 4,3 i 4,4, a za razdoblje nakon uvođenja pneumatskog transporta uzoraka 4,4, 4,3 i 4,3. Analizom Six Sigma metodom nije vidljiva značajna razlika u vrijednostima prije i nakon uvođenja pneumatskog transporta uzorka kao ni usporedbom sa 2018. i 2019. godinom koje su se na godišnjoj razini kretale u rasponu od 3,8 do 4,4 za tri analizirane nesukladnosti.

**Zaključak:** Uvođenjem kanalnog sustava skraćuje se vrijeme dostave uzorka, a time i ukupno vrijeme do izdavanja nalaza te se liječnicima pruža gotovo identična klinička informacija bez izlaganja pacijenta dijagnostičkoj greški. Također je smanjeno radno naprezanje osoblja na tim odjelima te njihova dostupnost pacijentu čime se poboljšava kompletan skrb pacijenata i unapređuje usluga Bolnice kao cjeline.

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non-compliance 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, and for the period after the introduction of the PST 4.4, 4.3 and 4.3. The analysis of the Six Sigma method does not show a significant difference in values before and after the introduction of the PST, as well as a comparison with 2018 and 2019, which ranged from 3.8 to 4.4 on an annual basis for the three non-compliances analysed.

**Conclusion:** The introduction of the PST shortens the time of delivery of samples, and thus the total time until the issuance of report and provides doctors with almost identical clinical information without exposing the patient to diagnostic errors. It also increases the availability of staff to the patient, thus improving overall patient care.

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### U-03

#### Intervencija u zadavanje pretrage elektroforeza proteina u urinu s ciljem racionalnijeg korištenja resursa

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**Uvod:** Tradicionalni pristup diferencijalno dijagnostičkoj obradi proteinurija uključuje SDS-gel elektroforezu kao zlatni standard u određivanju vrste proteinurije. Stanje karakterizirano izlučivanjem < 0,15 g proteina tijekom 24 h definira se kao fiziološka proteinurija. Godine 2019. zabilježen je porast broja zahtjeva za laboratorijsku pretragu elektroforeza proteina u urinu (ELP-U) s posljedičnim porastom opterećenja opreme i tehničkog osoblja. Cilj je bio odrediti udio neopravdanih zahtjeva za ELP-U, osmisliti algoritam za racionalnije korištenje resursa te provjeriti njegovu učinkovitost.

### U-03

#### Intervention in urine electrophoresis testing with the aim of more rational use of resources

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**Introduction:** The traditional approach to differential diagnostic treatment of proteinuria includes SDS-gel electrophoresis as the gold standard in determining the type of proteinuria. A condition characterized by secretion of < 0.15 g of protein over 24 h is defined as physiological proteinuria. In 2019., there was an increase in the number of requests for laboratory testing of protein electrophoresis in urine (ELP-U) with a consequent increase in the load on equipment and technical staff. The aim was to determine the share of unjustified requests for ELP-U, to

**Materijali i metode:** Retrospektivna studija obuhvatila je razdoblje od srpnja 2019. do početka 2022. godine. Intervencija u zadavanju zahtjeva poduzeta je u srpnju 2020. godine, a sastojala se od uvođenja grupe postupaka koju su uz ELP-U činili ukupni proteini u urinu te činjenice da nije opravданo izvoditi ELP-U u uzorku koncentracije ukupnih proteinova niže od donje granice detekcije LOD (engl. limit of detection) korištene metode. Donja granica detekcije iznosi 150 mg/L. (Hydragel Proteinurie, Hydrasys2Scan, Sebia, Lysses, Francuska).

**Rezultati:** U promatranom razdoblju zabilježeno je ukupno 350 zahtjeva za ELP-U. Prije poduzete intervencije obrađena su 73 zahtjeva za ELP-U od kojih je čak 26 ulazilo u kategoriju fizioloških proteinurijsa, odnosno 36% učinjenih pretraga ( $P > 0,05$ ). Nakon poduzete intervencije zabilježeno je 277 zahtjeva za ELP-U. Provedene su 133 elektroforeze od kojih je samo 13 ulazilo u kategoriju fizioloških proteinurijsa, odnosno 10% učinjenih pretraga ( $P < 0,05$ ). U svim ostalim uzorcima koncentracija proteinova u porciji 24-satnog urina bila je niža od LOD vrijednosti korištene metode. Selekcijom zahtjeva za 110 h smanjen je broj radnih sati uređaja i djelomično osoblja te materijalni trošak za najmanje 1,4 pakiranja reagensa.

**Zaključak:** Racionalni pristup izvođenju laboratorijskih pretraga jedan je od alata demand managementa (upravljanje zahtjevima za laboratorijske pretrage). Selektivni pristup izvođenju zadanih zahtjeva za ELP-U pridonio je većoj produktivnosti rada laboratorija, uštedi potrošnog materijala i reagensa, odnosno financijskoj uštedi.

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devise an algorithm for more rational use of resources and to check its efficiency.

**Materials and methods:** The retrospective study covered the period from July 2019 to early 2022. The intervention was undertaken in July 2020 and consisted of the introduction of a group of procedures comprising total proteins in urine in addition to ELP-U and the fact that it is not justified to perform ELP-U in a sample of total protein concentration below the lower limit of detection (LOD value) of the method used (Hydragel Proteinurie, Hydrasys 2 Scan, Sebia, Lysses, France).

**Results:** In the observed period, a total of 350 requests for ELP-U were recorded. Prior to the intervention, 73 requests for ELP-U were processed, 26 of which fell into the category of physiological proteinuria, *i.e.* 36% of the tests performed ( $P > 0,05$ ). After the intervention, 277 requests for ELP-U were recorded. 133 electrophoresis were performed, only 13 of which entered the category of physiological proteinuria, *i.e.* 10% of the performed tests ( $P < 0,05$ ).

**Conclusion:** A rational approach to performing laboratory tests is one of the tools of Demand management (Management of requirements for laboratory tests). A selective approach to meeting the ELP-U requirements has contributed to increased laboratory productivity, savings in consumables and reagents, and financial savings.

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## V Menadžment u sustavu zdravstvene zaštite

V-01

### Analiza utjecaja ukidanja automatskog zadavanja pretraga PCT i NT-proBNP u objedinjenom hitnom bolničkom prijemu

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**Uvod:** Uzimanje uzorka za laboratorijske pretrage jedan je od prvih postupaka kojem se podvrgava pacijent dolaskom u hitni prijem. Često se laboratorijske pretrage zadaju i prije samog pregleda pacijenta. Smatra se da je 5–95% testova neprikladno korišteno, pri čemu postoci variraju ovisno o kliničkoj situaciji i testu koji se analizira. Cilj ovog rada bio je procijeniti utjecaj intervencije laboratorijskog ukidanjem dvoju pretraga iz panela hitnih pretraga koje se mogu automatski naručiti u bolničkom informacijskom sustavu (BIS).

**Materijali i metode:** Voditelju Objedinjenog hitnog bolničkog prijema (OHBP) poslana je obavijest o prestanku mogućnosti zadavanja pretraga procalcitonin i NT-proBNP kroz BIS. Dogovorena je mogućnost izrade navedenih pretraga za pacijente kod kojih postoji opravdana indikacija uz telefonski razgovor s dežurnom magistrom medicinske biokemije. Promatran je period od dva mjeseca nakon ukidanja automatskog zadavanja pretraga te je taj broj uspoređivan s istim vremenskim periodom u kojem je navedene pretrage bilo moguće automatski zadati u BIS-u.

**Rezultati:** Iz laboratorijskog informacijskog sustava preuzeti su podaci o ukupnom broju pacijenata te broju pacijenata s pretragom PCT i NT-proBNP. Ukupan broj pacijenata u periodu 1 (8.2.2022.-7.4.2022.) bio je 3863, od čega su 292 pacijenta imala pretragu PCT (7,6%), a 440 pretragu NT-proBNP (11,4%). U periodu 2 (8.4.2022.-7.6.2022.) od ukupnog broja pacijenata 3914, zatražena su 34 PCT-a (0,9%) i 28 NT-

## V Management in the healthcare system

V-01

### Analysis of the influence of the elimination of automatically ordered PCT and NT-proBNP tests in the integrated emergency hospital admission

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**Introduction:** Laboratory tests are often performed before the patient examination. It is considered that 5–95 % of tests have been used inappropriately, with percentages varying depending on the clinical situation and the test being analysed. This study aimed to assess the impact of laboratory intervention by eliminating two tests from the panel of emergency tests that can be automatically ordered in the hospital information system.

**Materials and methods:** Ordering procalcitonin and NT-proBNP for patients in the emergency department was made possible only via telephone conversation with the on-duty medical biochemistry specialist. The period of two months after the elimination of automatically ordered tests was observed, and this number was compared with the same period in which these tests could be automatically ordered in the hospital information system.

**Results:** Data on the total number of patients and the number of patients with PCT and NT-proBNP tests were taken from the laboratory information system. In period 1 there were a total of 3863 patients, of which 292 had PCT tests (7.6%) and 440 NT-proBNP tests (11.4%). In period 2, of the total number of 3914 patients, 34 PCT (0.9%) and 28 NT-proBNP (0.7%) tests were requested. There is a visible decrease in the number of requests for tests requested in period 2 only on a justified indication. Over 2 months, HRK 25,800 was saved on procalcitonin and HRK 60,564 on NT-proBNP tests.

proBNP-a (0,7%). Vidljivo je smanjenje zahtjeva za pretragama koje su u periodu 2 zatražene isključivo na opravданu indikaciju. Kroz period od 2 mjeseca ušteđeno je 25,800 kuna na pretrazi prokalcitonin i 60,564 kuna na pretrazi NT-proBNP.

**Zaključak:** Laboratorijski stručnjaci školuju se kako bi, između ostalog, liječniku pomogli u odluci o korištenju i korisnosti laboratorijskih pretraga te tumačenju rezultata. Budući da su smanjenje troškova u zdravstvu i racionalna laboratorijska dijagnostika teme od velike važnosti, laboratorijski stručnjaci savjetodavnim i timskim radom mogu i moraju utjecati na opseg pretraga koje naručuje liječnik te na pravodobno naručivanje pretraga indiciranih za određeno kliničko stanje ili bolest.

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**Conclusion:** Laboratory experts are trained to help the doctor in deciding on the use and usefulness of laboratory tests and interpreting the results. Since reducing healthcare costs and rational laboratory diagnostics are topics of great importance, laboratory experts can and must influence the scope of tests ordered by a doctor and the timely ordering of tests indicated for a specific clinical condition or disease through advisory roles and teamwork.

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**Z Ostalo****Z-01****Usporedivost dostupnih metoda za određivanje imunoglobulina D**

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**Uvod:** Imunoglobulin D (IgD) čini 1% membranskih proteina zrelih B limfocita gdje se koeksprimira zajedno s površinskim protutijelom klase IgM. Funkcija IgD-a još je nejasna, a jedini entitet za koji je mjerenje koncentracije IgD-a dijagnostički neophodno je hiperimunoglobulinemija D. Vrlo rijetko, povišeni IgD može biti posljedica monoklonske sinteze. Do nedavno jedina dostupna metoda za određivanje IgD-a bila je radikalna imunodifuzija. Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je ispitati usporedivost rezultata novih automatiziranih imunokemijskih metoda s radikalnom imunodifuzijom korištenom u rutinskom radu.

**Materijali i metode:** Usporedivost je ispitana analizom 30 uzoraka seruma. Radikalna imunodifuzija provedena je korištenjem gel ploče LC Partigen (Siemens Healthineers AG, Erlangen, Njemačka) i IgD standarda (Siemens Healthineers AG, Erlangen, Njemačka). Promjer precipitacijskog kruga mјeren je ručno dijametrom te je primjenom standardne krivulje doveden u vezu s koncentracijom IgD-a. Automatiziranom imunoturbidimetrijskom metodom IgD je određen na uređaju Optilite (The Binding Site Group Ltd, Birmingham, UK) koristeći reagens istog proizvođača. Automatizirana imunonefelometrijska metoda provedena je na Atellici NEPH630 (Siemens Healthineers AG, Njemačka) uz upotrebu N Latex IgD reagensa (Trimero Diagnostics, Španjolska). Povezanost je ispitana Spearmanovim koeficijentom korelacije, a korelacija opisana Passing-Bablokovom regresijskom analizom.

**Rezultati:** Postoji vrlo dobra povezanost rezultata novih automatiziranih metoda s rutinski korištenom metodom ( $Rs = 0,89, P < 0,001$ ;  $Rs = 0,84, P < 0,001$ ). Regresijskom analizom nije uočeno sustavno ni proporcionalno odstupanje rezultata koristeći imunoturbidimetrijsku metodu  $y = 2,09$  (95 % CI - 1,93 do 3,94) + 0,80 (95 % CI 0,67 do 1,09)x;  $P = 0,31$ , kao ni u imunonefelometrijskoj metodi  $y = -$

**Z Other****Z-01****Comparability of available methods for determination of immunoglobulin D**

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**Introduction:** Immunoglobulin D (IgD) makes up 1 % of the membrane proteins of mature B lymphocytes where it is co-expressed together with a surface IgM antibody. IgD function is still unclear, and the only entity for which IgD concentration measurement is diagnostically necessary is hyperimmunoglobulinaemia D. Very rarely, elevated IgD may be due to monoclonal synthesis. Until recently, the only available method for determining IgD was radial immunodiffusion. The aim of this study was to examine the comparability of the results of new automated immunochemical methods with radial immunodiffusion used in routine work.

**Materials and methods:** Comparability was examined by analysis of 30 serum samples. Radial immunodiffusion was performed using LC Partigen gel plates (Siemens Healthineers AG, Erlangen, Germany) and IgD standard (Siemens Healthineers AG, Erlangen, Germany). The diameter of the precipitation circle was measured manually by diameter and adjusted to IgD concentration using a standard curve. By automated immunoturbidimetric method, IgD was determined on an Optilite device (The Binding Site Group Ltd, Birmingham, UK) using a reagent from the same manufacturer. An automated immunonephelometric method was performed on Atellica NEPH630 (Siemens Healthineers AG, Germany) using N Latex IgD reagent (Trimero Diagnostics, Spain). The correlation was examined by Spearman's correlation coefficient, and the correlation was described by Passing-Bablok regression analysis.

**Results:** There is a very good correlation between the results of new automated methods and the routinely used method ( $Rs = 0.89, P < 0.001$ ;  $Rs = 0.84, P < 0.001$ ). Regression analysis showed no systematic or proportional deviation of the results using the immunoturbidimetric method  $y = 2.09$  (95 % CI - 1.93 to 3.94) + 0.80 (95 % CI 0.67 to 1.09)x;  $P = 0.31$ , as well as in the immunochemical method  $y = -$

2,29 (95 % CI - 6,05 do 3,02) + 0,84 (95 % CI 0,46 do 1,10)x; P = 0,09. Bland Altmanova statistika otkriva negativno odstupanje u rezultatima automatiziranih imunokemijskih metoda.

**Zaključak:** Rezultati upućuju na usporedivost ispitivanih metoda s radijalnom imunodifuzijom, no uočena su značajna odstupanja u pojedinim uzorcima. Prosječno negativno odstupanje u rezultatima ukazuje na potrebu prilagodbe referentnih intervala prije uvođenja novih metoda u rutinski rad.

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= 0.31, nor in the immunonephelometric method y = - 2.29 (95 % CI - 6.05 to 3.02) + 0.84 (95 % CI 0.46 to 1.10)x; P = 0.09. Bland Altman statistics revealed negative discrepancy in the results of automated immunochemical methods.

**Conclusion:** The results indicate the comparability of the tested methods with radial immunodiffusion, but significant deviations were observed in some samples. Average negative deviation in the results indicates the need to adjust the reference intervals before introducing new methods into routine practice work.

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## Z-02

### Određivanje referentnih intervala za ALP, ALT, AST, amilazu, CK, GGT, LD i lipazu nakon PEG precipitacije

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**Uvod:** Serumski makroenzimi mogu uzrokovati lažno povišene rezultate enzimske aktivnosti i posljedično pogrešno postavljanje dijagnoze. Zato je važno isključiti njihovu prisutnost što se može PEG precipitacijom, ali je potrebno izraditi referentne intervale specifične za korištenu metodu određivanja. Cilj istraživanja je odrediti referentne intervale za alkalnu fosfatazu (ALP), alanin aminotransferazu (ALT), aspartat aminotransferazu (AST), amilazu, kreatin kinazu (CK), γ-glutamiltransferazu (GGT), laktat dehidrogenazu (LD) i lipazu nakon PEG precipitacije.

**Materijali i metode:** Uzorci seruma prikupljeni od 120 zdravih ispitanika analizirani su na Atellica CH930 (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka) analizatoru. Enzimske aktivnosti ALP, ALT, AST, amilaze, CK, GGT, LD i lipaze određeni su u nativnim uzorcima seruma i nakon precipitacije PEG-om. PEG otopina je pripremljena otapanjem 2,5 g PEG-a u 10

## Z-02

### Determination of reference intervals for ALP, ALT, AST, amylase, CK, GGT, LD and lipase after PEG precipitation

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**Introduction:** Serum macroenzymes may cause a false elevation in total enzyme activity that can lead to a misclassified diagnosis. Therefore, it is important to exclude macroenzyme presence. It can be excluded by polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation, but method-specific reference intervals need to be determined. This study aims to establish reference intervals for alkaline phosphatase (ALP), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), amylase, creatine kinase (CK), γ-glutamyltranspeptidase (GGT), lactate dehydrogenase (LD) and lipase after PEG precipitation.

**Materials and methods:** Serum samples of 120 healthy individuals were analysed on Atellica CH930 (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany). Enzyme activities of ALP, ALT, AST, amylase, CK, GGT, LD, and lipase were determined in native serum samples and after PEG precipitation. PEG solution was pre-

mL destilirane vode. Otopina je temeljito izmiješana na magnetskoj miješalici tijekom 10 minuta. Volumeni od 300 µL seruma i 300 µL PEG otopine su pomiješani i inkubirani na sobnoj temperaturi 10 minuta. Uzorci su centrifugirani 10 minuta pri 10,000 rpm u MicroSpin 12 (Biosan, Latvija) centrifugi. Supernatanti su odvojeni i analizirani, a rezultati su pomnoženi s 2 zbog prethodne dilucije. MedCalc Statistical Software verzija 16.2.0 (MedCalc Software bvba, Ostend, Belgija) je korišten za određivanje 95% referentnih intervala. Normalnost raspodjele je testirana Kolmogorov-Smirnov testom.

**Rezultati:** Referentni intervali (IU/L) su sljedeći: ALP muškarci 50-114, ALP žene 48-116, ALT muškarci 18-34, ALT žene 18-26, AST 16-32, amilaza 40-66, CK muškarci 25-156, CK žene 30-130, GGT muškarci 14-46, GGT žene 14-32, LD 61-141 i lipaza 16-38.

**Zaključak:** Referentni intervali specifični za korištenu metodu su određeni za ALP, ALT, AST, amilazu, CK, GGT, LD i lipazu, čime ćemo u našoj populaciji moći isključiti prisutnost makroenzima.

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pared using 2.5 g of PEG powder which was diluted in 10 mL of distilled water. The solution was thoroughly mixed on a magnetic mixer for 10 minutes. The volumes of 300 µL of serum and 300 µL of PEG solution were mixed and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes. Samples were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 10,000 rpm using MicroSpin 12 (Biosan, Latvia) centrifuge. Supernatants were separated and analysed. Results were multiplied by 2 due to dilution. MedCalc Statistical Software version 16.2.0 (MedCalc Software bvba, Ostend, Belgium) was used to establish 95 % reference intervals. Normal distribution was tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

**Results:** Reference intervals presented in IU/L units were as follows: ALP males 50-114, ALP females 48-116, ALT males 18-34, ALT females 18-26, AST 16-32, amylase 40-66, CK males 25-156, CK females 30-130, GGT males 14-46, GGT females 14-32, LD 61-141 and lipase 16-38.

**Conclusion:** The method-specific reference intervals have been established for ALP, ALT, AST, amylase, CK, GGT, LD and lipase in PEG-precipitated serum samples, in order to exclude the presence of macroenzymes in our patient population.

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### Z-03

#### Analitička verifikacija kvantitativnih urinskih kemijskih metoda na Beckman Coulter AU480 kemijskom analizatoru

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**Uvod:** Kvantitativna određivanja različitih analita u urinu predstavljaju samo mali dio svih analiza koje se rutinski provode u medicinsko-biokemijskom laboratoriju. Koncentracije različitih biokemijskih spojeva prisutnih u 24-satnom ili jednokratnom uzorku urina najčešće se koriste za procjenu bubrežne funkcije. Isptali smo analitičke značajke devet kvantitativnih

### Z-03

#### Analytical performance evaluation of the Beckman Coulter AU480 quantitative urine chemistry assays

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**Introduction:** Quantitative determinations of various analytes in urine represent only a small part of all analyses performed in clinical chemistry laboratory. Abnormal concentrations of different substances found in 24-hour or spot urine samples are most often used to evaluate renal function. We evaluated the analytical performance of nine quantitative uri-

kemijskih testova u urinu (anorganski fosfor, kalcij, kalij, kloridi, natrij, kreatinin, mokraćna kiselina i ukupni proteini u 24-satnom urinu te mikroalbumin u jednokratnom slučajnom uzorku urina) na kliničkom kemijskom analizatoru Beckman Coulter AU480.

**Materijali i metode:** Ponovljivost, međupreciznost, ukupna laboratorijska nepreciznost i istinitost ispitani su korištenjem komercijalnih kontrolnih uzoraka. Koeficijenti varijacije (CV<sub>r</sub>, CV<sub>b</sub> i CV<sub>i</sub>) i bias (L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, N = 15) izračunati su i uspoređeni sa kriterijima prihvatljivosti temeljenih na biološkim varijacijama iz baze podataka od strane Ricos i sur. Dodatno, uspoređene su koncentracije analita u urinu iz 30 uzoraka pacijenata s rezultatima dobivenim istim metodama na prethodno korištenom Olympus AU400 kemijskom analizatoru. Rezultati su statistički obrađeni u MedCalc programu koristeći Passing-Bablok regresijsku analizu.

**Rezultati:** Mjerna nesigurnost za sve testove procijenjena je iz podataka provjere preciznosti i odstupanja od istinitosti (bias) provedenih prema CLSI EP15-A2 protokolu. Dobiveni su zadovoljavajući rezultati za unutarlaboratorijsku preciznost, kao i za povećanu mjernu nesigurnost sa razinom pouzdanosti od 95% (Urel = 2 x CV<sub>i</sub>). Vrijednosti Urel kreću se od 0% (Urat-U) do 18,0% (Mikroalbumin-U), dok se vrijednosti biasa kreću od 0,1% (Kloridi-U) do 6,0% (Mikroalbumin-U). Odstupanja od deklariranih vrijednosti u kontrolnim uzorcima također su pokazala zadovoljavajuću točnost. Passing-Bablok regresijska analiza na uzorcima pacijenata pokazala je da ni kod jednog analita ne postoji konstantno niti proporcionalno odstupanje između istih metoda na dva različita Beckman Coulter biokemijska analizatora.

**Zaključak:** Svi devet kvantitativnih urinskih kemijskih metoda koje su testirane na Beckman Coulter AU480 kemijskom analizatoru pokazuju dobre analitičke značajke i prihvatljivu usporedbu s postojećim metodama na Olympus AU400 kemijskom analizatoru, stoga se mogu implementirati u rutinski laboratorijski rad.

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ne chemistry assays (inorganic phosphorus, calcium, potassium, chlorides, sodium, creatinine, uric acid, and total protein in 24-hour urine samples and microalbumin in spot urine samples) on Beckman Coulter AU480 clinical chemistry analyser.

**Materials and methods:** Repeatability, between run, within-laboratory precision and trueness were determined using the commercial control samples. Coefficients of variation (CV<sub>r</sub>, CV<sub>b</sub> and CV<sub>i</sub>) and bias (L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, N = 15) were calculated and results were judged according to quality specification criteria given in the biological variation database by Ricos *et al.* Additionally, urine analyte concentrations from 30 patient samples were compared with the results obtained by the same methods on the previously used Olympus AU400 chemistry analyser. Results are statistically processed in the MedCalc program using Passing-Bablok Regression.

**Results:** The measurement uncertainty for all tests was estimated from the precision and trueness verification data performed according to CLSI EP15-A2 protocol. Satisfactory results were obtained for within-laboratory precision as well as for increased measurement uncertainty with a 95% confidence level (Urel = 2 x CV<sub>i</sub>). Urel values range from 0% (Uric acid-U) to 18.0% (Microalbumin-U), while bias values range from 0.1% (Chloride-U) to 6.0% (Microalbumin-U). Passing-Bablok regression analysis on patient samples showed that no analyte has a constant or proportional deviation between the same methods on two different Beckman Coulter biochemical analysers.

**Conclusion:** We conclude that all nine quantitative urine chemistry assays that have been tested on Beckman Coulter AU480 chemistry analyser show good analytical performance and acceptable comparison with the existing methods on the Olympus AU400 chemistry analyser. Therefore, they can be implemented in routine laboratory practice.

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Z-04

## Verifikacija imunokemijskih Technopath kontrola

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**Uvod:** Svakodnevno provođenje unutarnje kontrole kvalitete u laboratoriju zahtijeva kvalitetni kontrolni materijal odgovarajuće stabilnosti. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati deklarirane vrijednosti, preciznost i stabilnost analita u Multichem IA Plus (Technopath, Tipperary, Irland) komercijalnim kontrolama u tri razine na automatskom imunokemijskom analizatoru Atellica Solution IM 1300 (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Njemačka).

**Materijali i metode:** Ukupno 29 analita bilo je podijeljeno u 4 skupine, a svaka skupina se ispitivala na dvije kontrolne razine. Preciznost analita u kontrolnom materijalu ispitivana je tijekom tri dana u triplikatu uz kriterije EFLM podataka biološke varijabilnosti. Budući da su u deklaraciji proizvođača navedeni podaci o cilnjim vrijednostima, izračunate su standarde devijacije (SD) i koeficijenti varijacije. Izračunato je odstupanje aritmetičke sredine rezultata mjerjenja od deklarirane ciljne vrijednosti, a kao kriterij prihvatljivosti odstupanja korišteni su podaci vanjske kontrole kvalitete CROQALM-a. Deklarirana stabilnost analita od 10 dana ispitivala se mjeranjem jednom dnevno tijekom navedenog perioda uz kriterij  $\pm 2SD$ .

**Rezultati:** Laboratorijski rezultati za obje razine kontrolnog materijala za FSH, LH, testosteron, AFP i CEA su imali odstupanje od deklariranih vrijednosti unutar definiranih kriterija prihvatljivosti, dok su odstupanja za ostale analite bila veća od postavljenih kriterija. Preciznost gotovo svih analita za koje su navedeni podaci o biološkoj varijabilnosti je bila prihvatljiva osim za AFP i CEA. Također, rezultati ispitivanja stabilnosti pokazali su da su jedino FSH, CA 15-5 i folna kiselina stabilni u kontrolnom materijalu 10 dana kako navodi proizvođač.

**Zaključak:** Prema našim rezultatima, preporučljivo je izraditi vlastite ciljne vrijednosti i ispitati preciznost za sve analite Multichem IA Plus kontrolnog materijala. Deklarirana 10-dnevna stabilnost je verificirana za 3 od 29 analita.

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Z-04

## Verification of immunochemical Technopath controls

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**Introduction:** The daily internal quality control check in the laboratory requires control material of adequate quality and stability. The aim of this study was to evaluate the declared values, precision, and stability of the analytes on three levels of Multichem IA Plus (Technopath, Tipperary, Ireland) commercial controls on the Atellica Solution IM 1300 analyser (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany).

**Materials and methods:** A total of 29 analytes divided into 4 groups were analysed, each group in two different control levels. Precision was evaluated by analysing the controls in triplicates during a three-day period with EFLM biological variation database as criteria. Since the manufacturer provided only the mean values, standard deviation (SD) and coefficient of variation were also determined. The arithmetic mean of triplicate was used for the determination of bias from the declared values, and it was considered acceptable if it was within the criteria set by the external quality assessment CROQALM. The declared stability of 10 days was examined once a day during a ten-day period with a criterion of  $\pm 2SD$ .

**Results:** Of all the tested analytes only FSH, LH, testosterone, AFP, and CEA had acceptable declared values at both tested control levels. Other analytes showed a significant bias from the declared values and did not meet the criteria. The precision of almost all analytes, for which biological variability data were reported, was acceptable except for AFP and CEA. In addition, only FSH, CA 15-5, and folic acid were stable for 10 days as declared.

**Conclusion:** According to our results, it is advisable to determine target values and precision for all Multichem IA Plus control material analytes. The declared 10-day stability was verified for 3 of 29 analytes.

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Z-05

## Verifikacija Technopath Multichem kontrola na Atellica Solution analizatoru

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**Uvod:** Svrha istraživanja je bila ispitati preciznost i stabilnost analita u Technopath Multichem S plus i Technopath U komercijalnim kontrolama na automatskom analizatoru Atellica Solution.

**Materijali i metode:** Provjera preciznosti ispitivanih analita provedena je prema CLSI smjernicama CLSI EP15-A3. Izračunata odstupanja između laboratorijskih i deklariranih vrijednosti uspoređena su s minimalnim EFLM kriterijima temeljenima na biološkoj varijaciji. Odstupanje se smatralo prihvatljivim ako je bilo unutar postavljenih kriterija. Stabilnost koju je deklarirao proizvođač provjerena je analizom kontrolnih materijala jednom dnevno na analizatoru Atellica Solution tijekom 10 dana za biokemijske i 30 dana za urinske analize. Analiti su se smatrali stabilnima unutar deklariranog razdoblja ako su izmjerene vrijednosti bile unutar  $\pm 2SD$  od ciljnih vrijednosti.

**Rezultati:** Analizirani su rezultati za 38 provedenih biokemijskih testova i 12 urinskih analiza. Laboratorijske ciljne vrijednosti značajno su se razlikovale od ciljnih vrijednosti Technopath Multichem S za više od 10 analita na svakoj komercijalnoj kontrolnoj razini. Odstupanje je bilo prihvatljivo za ALT, GGT, željezo, CRP, IgG i IgM na sve 3 kontrolne razine. Rezultati za stabilnost premašili su 2SD barem jednom za više od 10 analita na svakoj razini kontrole. Odstupanje između laboratorijskih rezultata i deklariranih vrijednosti premašilo je gornju granicu postavljenih kriterija za Ca, Mg i albumin u kontrolnom materijalu Technopath Multichem U razine 1, dok je u razini 2 samo odstupanje za kalij premašilo kriterije. Procijenjena stabilnost bila je unutar deklariranih specifikacija.

**Zaključak:** Svaki laboratorij treba utvrditi vlastite ciljne vrijednosti za Multichem S i U kontrolne materijale. Analiti u Multichem S plus nisu bili stabilni kako je deklarirano, dok Multichem U pokazuje prihvatljivu stabilnost.

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Z-05

## Verification of Technopath Multichem controls on Atellica Solution analyser

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**Introduction:** The study aimed to evaluate precision and stability of analytes in Technopath Multichem S plus and Technopath U commercial control materials on the Atellica Solution analyser.

**Materials and methods:** The verification of the precision of the tested analytes was performed according to CLSI guidelines CLSI EP15-A3. The calculated biases between the laboratory and declared values were compared to EFLM minimal bias criteria based on biological variation. The bias was considered acceptable if it was within the set criteria. The stability declared by the manufacturer was verified by analysing the control materials once a day on the Atellica Solution analyser during 10 days for chemistry and 30 days for urine assays. The analytes were considered stable within the declared period if the measured values were within  $\pm 2 SD$  from the target values.

**Results:** Results for 38 performed chemistry assays and 12 urine assays were analysed. The laboratory target values differed significantly from Technopath Multichem S target values for more than 10 analytes on each commercial control level. The bias was acceptable for ALT, GGT, iron, CRP, IgG and IgM on all 3 control levels. The results for stability exceeded 2SD at least once for more than 10 analytes on each level of control. The bias between laboratory results and declared values exceeded the upper limit of the set criteria for Technopath Multichem U materials for Ca, Mg, and albumin in control material level 1, while in level 2 only bias for potassium exceeded the criteria. Evaluated stability was within declared specification.

**Conclusion:** The declared target values should not be used from the package insert, but each laboratory should establish its own values for both Multichem S and U control materials. In addition, analytes in Multichem S were not stable as declared, while Multichem U showed acceptable stability.

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Z-06

## Korekcija ukupnog kalcija albuminom u bolesnika s traumom

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**Uvod:** Ionizirani kalcij (iCa) je fiziološki aktivni oblik ukupnog kalcija (tCa), ali većina laboratorijskih izlaza tCa koji ovisi o koncentraciji albumina u serumu. Stoga je stvoreno nekoliko formula za izračun koncentracije kalcija (ctCa) korigirane albuminom iz tCa. Cilj ovog rada bio je usporediti slaganje između izmjerjenih koncentracija iCa s tCa i ctCa u bolesnika s traumom.

**Materijali i metode:** Ispitali smo 203 uzorka s istovremeno određenim tCa, iCa i albuminom. Koncentracije albumina i tCa određene su na Architect c4000 (Abbott), a iCa na ABL90 flex (Radiometer). CtCa bio je izračunat korištenjem pet korekcijskih formula (Orrel, Berry, Payne, Ridefelt i James). Međuklasni koeficijenti korelacije (ICC) i kapa koeficijenti ( $\kappa$ ) korišteni su za procjenu slaganja između tCa i ctCa s obzirom na iCa kao referentnu metodu. Statistička analiza je provedena u MedCalc-u (Mariakerke, Belgija).

**Rezultati:** Sveukupno, rezultati iCa i tCa pokazali su dobro slaganje (ICC 0,83; 95 % CI 0,78-0,87). Razine slaganja između iCa i ctCa dobivene svim formulama bile su u rasponu od 0,52 do 0,82. Koristeći tCa, 81% bolesnika je ispravno grupirano prema statusu ioniziranog kalcija (hipokalcemija, normokalcemija ili hiperkalcemija) s  $\kappa$  0,56 (95% CI: 0,44-0,68). Jamesova formula ispravno je grupirala 86% bolesnika s  $\kappa$  0,62 (95% CI: 0,50-0,75), dok su ostale korištene formule postigle niže slaganje od 65% do 79%, a  $\kappa$  je iznosila od 0,16 do 0,43. U bolesnika s hipoalbuminemijom, 62% bolesnika ( $\kappa$  = 0,33) ispravno je grupirano prema statusu kalcija dobivenog izmjeranim tCa i 78% ( $\kappa$  = 0,59) pomoću Jamesove formule.

**Zaključak:** Prema dobivenim rezultatima tCa i ctCa mogu pogrešno klasificirati status kalcija. Naši rezultati sugeriraju da se iCa treba smatrati pouzdanom metodom za izravnu procjenu statusa kalcija, osobito u bolesnika s hipoalbuminemijom.

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Z-06

## Albumin adjustment of total calcium in trauma patients

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**Introduction:** Ionized calcium (iCa) is the physiologically active component of total calcium (tCa), but most laboratories report tCa depending on serum albumin concentration. Hence, several formulas have been generated to calculate albumin adjusted calcium (ctCa) concentrations from tCa. The aim of this study was to compare the agreement between measured iCa with tCa and ctCa concentrations in trauma patients.

**Materials and methods:** We studied 203 samples with simultaneous measurements of tCa, iCa and albumin. Albumin and tCa concentrations were measured on Architect c4000 (Abbott) whereas iCa was measured on ABL90 flex (Radiometer). CtCa was calculated using five correction formulas (Orrel, Berry, Payne, Ridefelt and James). Interclass correlation coefficients (ICC) and kappa coefficients ( $\kappa$ ) were used to assess the agreement between tCa and ctCa with respect to iCa as a reference method. Statistical analysis was done in MedCalc (Mariakerke, Belgium).

**Results:** Overall, iCa and tCa results showed good agreement (ICC 0.83; 95% CI 0.78-0.87). Levels of agreement between, iCa and ctCa obtained by all formulas were ranged from 0.51 to 0.82. Using tCa, 81% of the patients were classified correctly according to ionized calcium status (hypocalcaemia, normocalcaemia or hypercalcemia) with  $\kappa$  0.56 (95% CI 0.44-0.68). James formula classified 86% of the patients correctly with  $\kappa$  0.62 (95% CI 0.50-0.75), while other used formulas obtained lower agreement from 65% to 79% and  $\kappa$  ranged from 0.16 to 0.43. In patients with hypoalbuminemia, 62% patients ( $\kappa$  = 0.33) were correctly classified according to calcium status obtained by tCa and 78% ( $\kappa$  = 0.59) by James formula.

**Conclusion:** According to the obtained data, tCa and ctCa results can lead to a misclassification of calcium status. Our results suggest that iCa should be considered as a reliable method for direct assessment of calcium status, especially in patients with hypoalbuminemia.

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**Z-07 (Usmeno izlaganje)****Dijagnostička točnost određivanja ukupne apsorbancije bilirubina prema UK-NEQAS smjernicama za dijagnozu subarahnoidalnog krvarenja**

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**Uvod:** Određivanje hematogenih pigmenata u likvoru važno je za detekciju subarahnoidalnog krvarenja (SAH) kod pacijenata s visokom kliničkom sumnjom i negativnim nalazom slikovnim tehnikama. Cilj istraživanja je ispitati dijagnostičku točnost određivanja ukupne apsorbancije bilirubina (NBA) u likvoru pri sumnji na SAH i usporediti s vizualnim očitanjem bilirubina iz apsorpciskog spektra.

**Materijali i metode:** Uključeni su uzastopni pacijenti sa sumnjom na SAH kojima je u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku KBC-a Zagreb analiziran likvor dobiven lumbalnom puncijom. Izmjerena je UV-VIS spektar supernatanta centrifugiranog likvora u području od 250-600 nm na spektrofotometru Lambda 20 (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, Massachusetts, SAD). Vizualnom metodom se bilirubin detektira u slučaju prisutnosti vrška od 430-470 nm ako je maksimalna apsorbancija viša od 0,02. NBA prema UK-NEQAS-u računa se povlačenjem tangente kroz minimume spektra u rasponima valnih duljina 350-400 nm i 430-530 nm te računom razlike apsorbancije na 476 nm i sjecišta dobivene tangente uz korekciju koncentracije ukupnih proteina i bilirubina u plazmi te ukupnih proteina u likvoru određenih na analizatoru Alinity C (Abbott, Illinois, SAD). SAH je dijagnosticiran referentnom metodom digitalnom subtraktijskom angiografijom. Određene su specifičnost, osjetljivost, pozitivna (PPV) i negativna prediktivna vrijednost (NPV). Značajnost razlike osjetljivosti i specifičnosti metoda testirana je McNemarovim testom (MedCalc Software Ltd., Ostend, Belgija) (razina značajnosti  $P < 0,05$ ).

**Rezultati:** Kod 3/37 pacijenata sa SAH-om objema metodama je detektiran bilirubin. Vizualnom metodom detektiran je bilirubin kod 6, a NBA metodom

**Z-07 (Oral presentation)****Diagnostic accuracy of net bilirubin absorbance according to the UK-NEQAS guidelines for the diagnosis of subarachnoid haemorrhage**

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**Introduction:** Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pigment analysis is important for detection of subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) in patients with high clinical suspicion and negative findings with imaging techniques. The aim was to examine the diagnostic accuracy of CSF net bilirubin absorbance (NBA) in suspected SAH and to compare it with the visual assessment of bilirubin from the absorption spectrum.

**Materials and methods:** The study included consecutive patients with suspected SAH who underwent lumbar puncture to obtain CSF for analysis in Department of Laboratory Diagnostics, UHC Zagreb. UV-VIS spectrophotometric scan of supernatant of centrifuged CSF was performed in the 250-600 nm range (Lambda 20, Perkin-Elmer, USA). By visual assessment, bilirubin is detected if a peak between 430-470 nm is present, with maximum absorbance higher than 0.02. According to UK-NEQAS, NBA is calculated by drawing a predicted baseline which forms a tangent to the scan in ranges 350-400nm and 430-530nm, and by measuring absorbance above this baseline at 476 nm, with adjustment for increased plasma total protein and bilirubin and CSF total protein (Alinity C, Abbott, USA). SAH was diagnosed using digital subtraction angiography. Specificity, sensitivity, positive (PPV) and negative (NPV) predictive value were calculated and McNemar test was used to test statistically significant difference between methods ( $P < 0.05$ ) (MedCalc Software Ltd., Ostend, Belgium).

**Results:** Bilirubin was detected by both methods in 3/37 patients with SAH. Bilirubin was detected in 6 patients without SAH using the visual and 4 patients using the NBA method. Other causes of bleeding resulted in false positives (prior traumatic puncture,

kod 4 pacijenta bez SAH-a. Lažno pozitivni nalazi posljedica su drugih uzroka krvarenja (prethodne traumatske punkcije, operacija, tromboza). Nije bilo lažno negativnih rezultata. Dijagnostičke karakteristike za dijagnozu SAH-a su: osjetljivost = 100%, specifičnost = 82,35%, PPV = 33,33%, NPV = 100% za vizualnu metodu; osjetljivost = 100%, specifičnost = 88,24%, PPV = 42,86%, NPV = 100% za izračun NBA. Specifičnosti metoda su značajno različite ( $P < 0,001$ ). **Zaključak:** Metoda izračuna NBA prema UK-NEQAS-u ima izvrsne dijagnostičke karakteristike za SAH te daje manje lažno pozitivnih nalaza u odnosu na vizualnu metodu.

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## Z-08

### Dijagnostička točnost Light-ovih kriterija i gradijenta albumina u razlikovanju seroznih tekućina

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**Uvod:** Biokemijska analiza seroznih tekućina podrazumijeva razlikovanje transudata od eksudata jer omogućuje rano isključivanje nepotrebnih ispitivanja i pomaže u identifikaciji mehanizma nastanka izljeva. Cilj ovog rada je ispitati dijagnostičke karakteristike Light-ovih kriterija (koji se temelje na određivanju ukupnih proteinova i aktivnosti laktat-dehidrogenaze u seroznom uzorku i serumu) i gradijenta albumina (temeljem razlike u koncentraciji albumina između seruma i seroznog uzorka) u diferencijaciji pleuralnih i peritonealnih izljeva u odnosu na kliničku klasifikaciju.

**Materijali i metode:** U ispitivanje su uključeni rezultati biokemijske obrade N = 155 seroznih uzoraka

operation, thrombosis). There were no false-negative results. Diagnostic characteristics for SAH are: sensitivity = 100%, specificity = 82.35%, PPV = 33.33%, NPV = 100% for visual method; sensitivity = 100%, specificity = 88.24%, PPV = 42.86%, NPV = 100% for NBA calculation. Method specificities are significantly different ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** NBA method according to UK-NEQUAS has great diagnostic characteristics for SAH and produces less false-positive results compared to the visual method.

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## Z-08

### Diagnostic accuracy of Light's criteria and serum-ascites albumin gradient in the differentiation of serous fluids

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**Introduction:** The biochemical analysis of serous fluids implies the differentiation of transudates from exudates. This allows for early exclusion of unnecessary tests and helps identify the mechanism causing the effusion. The aim of this study is to investigate the diagnostic characteristics of the Light's criteria (based on the determination of total proteins and lactate dehydrogenase in serous sample and serum) and serum-ascites albumin gradient (SAAG) (i.e., the difference in albumin between serum and serous fluid) in the differentiation of pleural and peritoneal effusions compared to their clinical classification.

**Materials and methods:** The results of the biochemical analysis of N = 155 serous samples (pleural N

(pleuralnih N = 111 i peritonealnih N = 44) analiziranih u periodu od veljače do svibnja 2022. godine u Kliničkom zavodu za kemiju, a nakon implementacije Nacionalnih preporuka prema kojima se pleuralni izljevi diferenciraju koristeći Light-ove kriterije, a peritonealni izljevi koristeći gradijent albumina. Serozni uzorci su uzorkovani u spremnike bez aditiva, dok je puna krv uzorkovana u spremnicima s gelom i aktivatorom zgrušavanja (svi Vacutte, Greiner Bio-One GmbH, Kremsmünster, Austria). Sve pretrage određene su na analizatoru Architect c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, SAD). Za potrebe izračuna dijagnostičkih karakteristika Light-ovih kriterija i gradijenta albumina, serozni uzorci su retrospektivno diferencirani prema kliničkim karakteristikama temeljem podataka iz bolničkog informacijskog sustava. Dijagnostička osjetljivost, dijagnostička specifičnost i dijagnostička točnost izračunate su u programu MedCalc (Ostend, Belgija). Kriterij prihvatljivosti za ocjenu dijagnostičke točnosti postavljen je na 70%.

**Rezultati:** Dijagnostička osjetljivost, dijagnostička specifičnost i dijagnostička točnost za diferencijaciju eksudativnih seroznih izljeva iznosile su redom 86%, 68% i 79% za Light-ove kriterije, i 53%, 96% i 80% za gradijent albumina.

**Zaključak:** Light-ovi kriteriji i gradijent albumina korišteni u diferencijaciji pleuralnih odnosno peritonealnih izljeva u stvarnim kliničkim uvjetima pokazuju zadovoljavajuću dijagnostičku točnost.

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= 111 and ascites N = 44), analysed from February to May 2022 at the Department of Clinical Chemistry, after the implementation of the National recommendations, were included in the study. The recommendations state that Light's criteria are used to differentiate pleural effusions, while SAAG is recommended for the differentiation of ascites. Serous fluids were sampled in additive-free containers, while whole blood was sampled in containers with gel and clotting activator (all Vacutte, Greiner Bio-One, Kremsmünster, Austria). All biochemical analyses were determined on the Architect c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, USA). Serous samples were retrospectively differentiated according to clinical characteristics found in the hospital information system in order to calculate the diagnostic characteristics of Light's criteria and SAAG. Diagnostic sensitivity, diagnostic specificity, and diagnostic accuracy were calculated using the MedCalc (Ostend, Belgium) programme. Diagnostic accuracy was assessed based on the acceptability criterion set at 70%.

**Results:** Diagnostic sensitivity, diagnostic specificity, and diagnostic accuracy of Light's criteria and SAAG in differentiating exudative effusions were 86%, 68%, and 79%; and 53%, 96%, and 80%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Our results confirm that, in real clinical conditions, Light's criteria and SAAG show satisfactory diagnostic characteristics when used for the differentiation of pleural effusions and ascites.

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## Z-09

### Utjecaj hemolize na određivanje ugljikohidratom deficijentnog transferina (CDT) kapilarnom elektroforezom

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## Z-09

### Haemolysis interference on determination of carbohydrate deficient transferrin (CDT) using capillary electrophoresis method

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**Uvod:** Cilj ovog istraživanja bio je ispitati utjecaj hemolize na određivanje ugljikohidratom deficijentnog transferina (CDT-IFCC) kapilarnom elektroforezom provedeno na analizatoru Capillarys Octa 3 (Sebia, Francuska). Hemoliza je vrlo česta interferencija u laboratorijskoj medicini i poznato je da smeta u određivanju serumskih proteina kapilarnom elektroforezom. Budući da proizvođač nije specificirao stupanj indeksa hemolize (HIL) koji utječe na rezultat ovim istraživanjem ispitani je taj stupanj hemolize.

**Materijali i metode:** Korištena je krv zdravog ispitanika uzorkovana u epruvetu s aktivatorom zgrušavanja (Vacutette®, Greiner Bio-One, Austrija). Nakon centrifugiranja i uklanjanja seruma na talog crvenih krvnih stanica dodana je destilirana voda za pripremu hemolizata. Serijskim razrjeđivanjem pripremljeno je osam alikvota hemolizata s različitim HIL (13,7, 8,4, 6,2, 4,0, 3,2, 2,0 i 0,97) koji su korišteni za pripremu hemoliziranih seruma s različitim postotkom CDT-IFCC-a: uzorak A – 1,1%, uzorak B – 1,8%, uzorak C – 7,6% (CDT- IFCC referentni interval < 1,7%). Od svakog uzorka (A-C) pripremljeno je osam epruveta s različitim HIL počevši od seruma bez dodatka hemolizata do HIL vrijednosti približno 8. Indeks hemolize za svaki alikvot određen je na kemijskom analizatoru Abbot c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, Illinois, SAD), a CDT-IFCC je određivan na Capillarys Octa 3 u duplikatu. Kriterij prihvatljivosti za odstupanje je 15,7%.

**Rezultati:** Dobivena odstupanja bila su prihvatljiva za sve uzorke do HIL vrijednosti približno 8. Odstupanja za uzorke s HIL vrijednosti približno 8 bila su sljedeća: uzorak B (HIL 8,41) 18,9% i uzorak C (8,36) 25,3%. Za uzorak A (normalan CDT-IFCC) s HIL 8,32 analizator je zabilježio atipičan profil i nije dao vrijednost CDT-IFCC.

**Zaključak:** Dobivena odstupanja pokazuju da samo značajna hemoliza s HIL većim od 4,3 smeta određivanje CDT-IFCC kapilarnom elektroforezom.

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**Introduction:** The aim of this study was to evaluate haemolysis interference on determination of carbohydrate deficient transferrin (CDT-IFCC) using capillary electrophoresis method on analyser Capillarys Octa 3 (Sebia, France). Haemolysis is a common interference in laboratory medicine and is known to interfere with capillary zone electrophoresis of serum proteins. The aim of the study was to perform the interference study to specify the haemolysis index since it is not specified by the manufacturer.

**Materials and methods:** Blood from healthy volunteers was sampled in the tube with clot activator (Vacutette®, Greiner Bio-One, Austria). After centrifugation and removal of serum, distilled water was added on the red blood cell pellet to prepare hemolysate. Eight aliquots of hemolysate with different haemolysis index (HI) were prepared by serial dilution (respectively 13.7, 8.4, 6.2, 4.0, 3.2, 2.0 and 0.97) and used to spike the serum samples with various CDT-IFCC percentage: sample A – 1.1%, sample B – 1.8%, sample C – 7.6% (CDT-IFCC cut-off < 1.7%). From every sample (A-C), eight tubes with different HI starting from non-spiked serum up to value around HI 8 were prepared. Haemolysis index for each aliquot was determined on chemistry analyser Abbott c8000 (Abbott, Abbott Park, Illinois, USA) and CDT-IFCC was determined on Capillarys Octa 3 in duplicate. Acceptance criteria deviation of CDT is 15.7%.

**Results:** For each sample, obtained biases were acceptable up to the HI with value around 8. The biases for samples with HI 8 were as follows: sample B (HI 8.41) 18.9% and sample C (HI 8.36) 25.3%. For the sample A (normal CDT-IFCC) with the HI 8.32, the analyser gave a note of atypical profile and did not measure CDT-IFCC.

**Conclusion:** Obtained biases indicate that only significant haemolysis with HI higher than 4.3, interfere with CDT determination by capillary electrophoresis.

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**Z-10**

## **Analitička verifikacija visokoosjetljivog troponina I i prokalcitonina na imunokemijskom analizatoru Vitros 3600**

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**Uvod:** Prije uvođenja analizatora u rutinski rad potrebno je provesti analitičku verifikaciju. Cilj ovog rada bio je ispitati preciznost, točnost i granicu kvantifikacije (LOQ) za određivanje prokalcitonina (PCT) i visokoosjetljivog troponina I (hsTnI) kemiluminescentnom imunokemijskom metodom na analizatoru Vitros 3600 (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, New Jersey, SAD) te provesti usporedbu s rutinski korištenim imunokemijskim analizatorom Alinity i (Abbott Diagnostics, Chicago, SAD).

**Materijali i metode:** Preciznosti u seriji (ponovljivost) i iz dana u dan (međupreciznost) ispitana je analizom kontrolnih uzoraka u tri koncentracijske razine tijekom 5 dana u peteroplikatu, prema CLSI EP15-A3 protokolu. Točnost je procijenjena usporedbom srednje vrijednosti međupreciznosti s deklariranoj vrijednosti proizvođača. LOQ određen je u 10 ponovljenih mjerena, i to analizom kalibratora najniže koncentracije (VITROS B.R.A.H.M.S. PCT Calibrator 1) za PCT, odnosno analizom uzorka pacijenta s niskom koncentracijom za hsTnI. Usporedivost je ispitana analizom 41 uzorka plazme za PCT i 56 uzorka plazme za hsTnI.

**Rezultati:** Koeficijenti varijacije (CV) za ponovljivost iznosili su 1,0, 1,3 i 2,0% za PCT te 5,4, 4,9 i 4,5% za hsTnI, dok su CV za međupreciznost PCT-a bili 1,6, 1,7 i 1,5%, a za hsTnI 6,1, 3,8 i 2,4%. Ispitivanje točnosti zadovoljilo je kriterije biološke varijacije. Za PCT određen je LOQ od 0,071 ng/L uz CV 1,4%, a za hsTnI 1,92 ng/L uz CV 6,1%. Spearmanov koeficijent korelacije ukazao je na visok stupanj slaganja uspoređenih rezultata (0,983 za hsTnI; 0,998 za PCT). Passing-Bablok regresijskom analizom nije utvrđeno odstupanje  $y = -2.08 (-2.75-1.23) + 0.78 (0.74-8.82)x$  x između rezultata hsTnI dobivenih usporedbom

**Z-10**

## **Analytical verification of high sensitive troponin I and procalcitonin on the immunoassay analyser Vitros 3600**

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**Introduction:** Analytical verification of laboratory analysers and assays is required prior to their introduction into routine practice. The aim of the study was verification of precision, accuracy and limit of quantification (LOQ) of chemiluminescent immunoassays for determination of procalcitonin (PCT) and high sensitive troponin I (hsTnI) on the Vitros 3600 analyser (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, New Jersey, USA), as well as comparison with the routinely used Alinity i analyser (Abbott Diagnostics, Chicago, USA).

**Materials and methods:** CLSI EP15-A3 protocol was used for assessment of within-run and between-run precision. Accuracy was estimated from between-run precision data. LOQ was determined by analysing the lowest calibrator (VITROS B.R.A.H.M.S. PCT Calibrator 1) for PCT and a patient sample with low values for hsTnI in 10 repeated measurements. Method comparison included analysis of 41 plasma samples for PCT and 56 for hsTnI.

**Results:** Within-run precision coefficients of variation (CV) were 1.0, 1.3, 2.0% for PCT and 5.4, 4.9, 4.5% for hsTnI. Between-run precision CVs were 1.6, 1.7, 1.5% for PCT and 6.1, 3.8, 2.4% for hsTnI. Accuracy met the criteria of biological variation. The estimated LOQ were 0.071 ng/L for PCT (CV = 1.4%) and 1.92 ng/L (CV = 6.1%) for hsTnI. Spearman's correlation coefficient indicated high agreement of compared results (0.983 for PCT; 0.998 for hsTnI). Passing-Bablok regression analysis revealed no significant difference  $y = -2.08 (-2.75-1.23) + 0.78 (0.74-8.82)x$  for hsTnI. For PCT minor constant and proportional differences were found  $y = 0.03 (0.01-0.06) + 1.11 (1.07-1.15) x$ . Bland-Altman analysis yielded a relative bias of 40.6% (95 %CI: 26.9-54.3) for hsTnI and - 18.1% (95% CI: - 22.5--(- 13.7)) for PCT.

ispitivanih metoda. Za PCT je utvrđeno postojanje male konstantne i proporcionalne razlike  $y = 0,03$  ( $0,01-0,06$ ) +  $1,11$  ( $1,07-1,15$ ) x. Bland-Altman analizom za hsTnI dobiveno je relativno odstupanje od 40,6% (95% CI: 26,9-54,3), dok za PCT odstupanje iznosi -18,1% (95% CI: -22,5 -(-13,7)).

**Zaključak:** Dobiveni rezultati potvrđuju da određivanje PCT i hsTnI kemiluminescentnom imunokemiskom metodom na analizatoru Vitros 3600 zadovoljava analitičke kriterije prihvatljivosti te se može koristiti u rutinskom radu.

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## Z-11

### Budućnost laboratorijske medicine

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**Uvod:** Budućnost laboratorijske medicine ostaje na mladima. Odnos biokemičara koji započinje profesionalni i znanstveni put s mentorom je od posebne važnosti.

**Materijali i metode:** Mladi biokemičari zainteresirani su za međusobnu bolju razmjenu informacija, bolju komunikaciju i povezanost sa iskusnim kolegama. Uključuju se i organiziraju unutar nacionalnih radnih grupa, ali i na europskoj i svjetskoj razini (EFLM Young Scientists Task Group, IFCC Task Force Young Scientists). Cilj je razmjena stavova o svakodnevnim izazovima, pravovremena informiranost i profesionalni napredak. Naglašavaju i važnost sudjelovanja na nacionalnim i međunarodnim kongresima.

**Rezultati:** Na održanom svjetskom kongresu laboratorijske medicine (IFCC WorldLab, Seoul, Južna Koreja) po prvi puta je uoči kongresa održan forum za mlade biokemičare na kojem je sudjelovalo 58 mlađih biokemičara iz cijelog svijeta. Tijekom dva dana

**Conclusion:** The obtained results confirm that the evaluated chemiluminescent immunoassays for PCT and hsTnI applied on the Vitros 3600 analyser satisfy the analytical acceptance criteria and can be used in routine practice.

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## Z-11

### The future of Laboratory Medicine

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**Introduction:** The future of laboratory medicine remains with the young. Particularly important is the mentor-mentee relationship for a biochemist embarking on a professional and scientific path.

**Materials and methods:** Young professionals are interested in better exchange in information, better communication, and connection with colleagues. They are involved and organized within national working groups, as well at European and global level (EFLM Young Scientists Task Group, IFCC Task Force Young Scientists). The goal of these groups is to exchange views on everyday challenges, to keep updated and to advance professionally. They also emphasize the importance of their participation in national and international congresses.

**Results:** At the World Congress of Laboratory Medicine (IFCC WorldLab, Seoul, South Korea), a young scientist forum was held for the first time and was attended by 58 young biochemists from

održali su 18 predavanja u kojima su predstavili svoja iskustva i razmišljanja o znanstvenim istraživanjima, raspravljaljali kako napisati prvu publikaciju, gdje ju objaviti, ali i o mladim voditeljima laboratorija, harmonizaciji i ujednačavanju edukacije, održivim i zelenim laboratorijima, humanitarnoj misiji u Africi, integraciji novih laboratorijskih informatičkih rješenja, isplativosti laboratorijskih analiza, POCT analizama i kako će izgledati laboratorij budućnosti.

**Zaključak:** Uključivanje mlađih u profesionalni i znanstveni doprinos važno je za budućnost laboratorijske medicine koja u rukama je odgovornih i perspektivnih mlađih biokemičara.

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around the world. During the two days they held 18 lectures in which they presented their experiences and thoughts on scientific research, discussed writing and publication of the first paper, but also talked about young laboratory leader, harmonization of education, sustainable and green laboratories, humanitarian mission in Africa, integration of the new IT solutions, cost-effectiveness, POCT analyses and how the laboratory of the future will look like.

**Conclusion:** Involving young biochemist in professional and scientific contributions is important for the future of laboratory medicine, which is in the hands of responsible and promising young biochemists.

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Krhač Maja	D-05, D-06, F-01	Milić Marija	A-03, B-02, B-03, I-12, R-02, R-09, R-21	Popović Marina	P-03
Križić Ivana	R-17			Premužić Marina	O-06
Krnjaić-Tadijanović Milena	D-04	Miloš Marija	A-01, A-05, A-08, A-12	Prijić Sanja	R-20
Kukuruzović Živković Ksenija	A-09, R-03	Mioč Tatjana	L-05	Pušeljić Silvija	R-06
Kulić Ana	O-06	Miškić Blaženka	D-04		<b>R</b>
Kumric Marko	C-01	Mrđenović Stefan	R-07	Rade Anamarija	A-08, D-08, S-01, S-09
Kurić Lejla	A-02, A-07	Mucalo Iva	L-03	Radeljak Andrea	J-02, P-01
Kusačić Kuna Sanja	T-03	Mujagić Renat	I-09, I-10, I-11	Radić Margareta	L-02, L-06, R-01, R-14
				Radman Anita	I-13, K-01, K-03, R-04
<b>L</b>		<b>N</b>			
Lapić Ivana	A-01, A-05, A-08, B-01, R-01, Z-10	Nehutni Marijana	R-14	Rako Ivana	L-08, P-03
Leniček Krleža Jasna	B-03, J-04, L-02, R-11	Nesek-Adam Višnja	I-02	Rešić Arnes	J-03
Lerga Mate	O-01	Niedrist Tobias	H-01	Ris Marko	G-03
Lešković Anita	D-03, U-01, U-02, V-01	Nikler Ana	Z-02, Z-04, Z-05	Rogić Dunja	A-01, A-05, A-08, B-01, G-02, L-06,
Linarić Irena	J-03, R-13	Nikolac Gabaj Nora	K-03, K-01, R-04, S-03, S-07, Z-08	L-08, M-02, O-03, R-01, R-14, U-03, Z-01, Z-07, Z-10	
Lipovac Korana	R-17			Rogić Namačinski Jasna	R-06
Loinjak Domagoj	I-03, I-04, O-02	Novački Karolina	Z-03	Rolić Tara	I-06, Z-11
Lovrić Mila	R-16			Rupčić Gračanin Ivana	B-01
Lukić Iva	I-06				
Ljubičić Neven	L-01	<b>O</b>		<b>S</b>	
Ljubičić Hana	L-08	Obuljen Jasna	J-03, R-13	Sabadi Dario	I-03, O-02
Ljubimir Diana	K-02	Omazić Jelena	R-06, R-07	Samardžić Jure	L-03
		Orčt Tatjana	L-05	Saračević Andrea	D-01, I-02, Z-02, Z-04, Z-05
<b>M</b>		Orešković Ivana	O-06		
Mačukat Dorjana	A-12	Oršić Frič Vlasta	R-15	Sarić Ivana	I-03, I-04, J-01
Majerović Matea	O-03	Oršolić Ljubica	D-04	Schlenke Peter	H-01
Mandić Sanja	I-03, I-04, I-06, J-01, O-02, Z-11	Oršulić Antonia	R-18	Sedlić Filip	O-06
Marević Sanja	C-02, R-08, R-12	Ostojić Rajko	O-06	Sekovanić Ankica	L-05
Margetić Sandra	A-04, A-06, A-10, B-03	Ostroški Ivanka	D-08, S-01, S-09	Selar Mihael	S-02
				Semenski Snježana	D-03, U-01, U-02, V-01
Marijančević Domagoj	D-07, N-01	<b>P</b>		Semren Iva	L-04, R-20
Marković Ivana	P-02	Palić Jozefina	A-12, L-03	Serdar Hiršl Tihana	R-18
Martinovic Dinko	C-01	Paradinović Ksenija	A-03, B-02, R-02, R-09, R-21	Sirotković-Skerlev Maja	O-06
Matišić Ena	D-05, D-06	Parašilovac Nikolina	I-05	Siter Marija	Z-04, Z-05
Mavrić Luka	D-03, U-01, U-02, V-01	Pašalić Daria	L-05, N-01	Smaić Fran	D-04
McGrath Ken	R-18	Pavela Jasna	D-02, R-07, R-15	Snagić Andrea	A-10, S-06, Z-09
Meinitzer Andreas	H-01	Pavićić Tomislav	I-08, I-13, L-07	Somborac Bačura Anita	D-07, L-01, O-05, S-06
Melvan Ena	T-02	Pavić Marina	A-13, L-02, Z-06		
Merkler Ana	L-08	Pavletić Martina	O-01	Stančin Nevenka	C-02, O-05, R-08
Metzner Dara	S-04	Penava Filip	F-01	Stanić Ana	K-02, M-01
Mihić Damir	I-03, I-04, O-02	Periša Josipa	A-10, Z-09	Stanisic Lada	C-01
Mihić Roman	I-13	Perkov Sonja	I-05, J-02, P-01	Starčević Antonio	T-02
Mijakić Marija	D-04	Perović Antonija	K-02, M-01	Starčević Lucija	T-02
Miklić Ivana	G-03	Petković Ramadža Danijela	R-17	Stasenko Sandra	L-05
Mikulin Tatjana	S-09	Petlevski Roberta	L-01	Stipanović-Kastelić Jasmina	J-02
		Piasek Martina	L-05	Sulimanec Grgec Antonija	L-05

Šupe-Domic Daniela	C-01	Štanfel Jasna	A-03, B-02, R-02, R-09, R-21	Vidranski Valentina	T-03
Sušić Tamara	G-03, Z-09			Vilovic Marino	C-01
Svatić Rebeka	S-04	Štefanović Mario	I-08, I-13, L-07	Vogrinc Željka	G-01, R-16, T-01,
Svetličić Ema	T-02	Šupak Smolčić Vesna	O-01, S-04		Z-07
		Šustić Alan	O-01	Vranić Melita	O-06
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Šahinović Ines	D-02, I-03, I-04, O-02, R-15	<b>T</b>		Vrdoljak Josip	C-01
Šamija Ivan	I-08	Tadinac Sanja	I-08, L-07	Vrdoljak-Colo Iva	D-01
Ščavničar Andrijana	R-16	Tancabel Mačinković Ana	O-01	Vrkic Majda	L-03
Šegulja Dragana	O-03, U-03, Z-01	Tandara Leida	S-08	Vrtaric Alen	K-01, K-03, R-04, S-03, S-07, Z-08
Šenjug Valentina	D-03, U-01, U-02, V-01	Taradi Ida	A-11	Vučić Marijana	D-05, D-06, F-01
Šerić Vatroslav	A-03, B-02, D-02, E-01, G-05, I-03, I-04, I-12, J-01, O-02, P-02, R-02, R-07, R-15, R-21, Z-11	Tatjana Mikulin	D-08	Vuga Ivana	A-04, A-06, A-10
Šiftar Zoran	A-02, A-07, A-11	Tešija Kuna Andrea	G-03, Z-09	Vukasović Ines	A-04, G-03, Z-09
Šimac Brankica	A-09, R-03	Ticinovic Kurir Tina	C-01	Vuković Barbara	E-01, G-05, R-02, R-21
Šimac Maja	S-04	Tkalčić Švabek Željka	I-07	Vuljanić Dora	I-02
Šimičević Livija	L-03	Tkalec Gordana	D-03, U-01, U-02, V-01		
Šimundić Ana-Maria	B-04, D-01, I-02, N-01, Z-02, Z-04, Z-05	Tomić Franciska	A-04, A-06, A-10	<b>Z</b>	
Škaričić Ana	O-04, R-17	Troha Mateja	D-04	Zadro Renata	L-02, R-01
Šonjić Pavica	S-04	Turčić Ana	G-01, R-16, T-01, Z-07	Zaninovic Ljiljana	G-01, T-01, Z-07
Šparakl Tajana	A-12, O-03, Z-01	<b>U</b>		Zelzer Sieglinde	H-01
Šporčić Rak Ana	T-03	Unić Adriana	K-01, K-03, S-03,	Zorić Lara	Z-04, Z-05
		S-07, R-04, Z-08		Zrinski Topić Renata	L-02, R-11
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		Verbanac Donatella	L-01	<b>Ž</b>	
		Vidmar Valerija	L-04	Žarak Marko	C-02
				Žigman Tamara	P-03, R-17
				Živković Marcela	A-09, R-03
				Žučko Jurica	T-02
				Županić Danijela	S-02