

Comment

Pub-Med indexed journals total 1554, with 274 of them being surgery-related ones. Fifteen of them have high Impact Factor ranging from 1.40 to 7.67. The wealth of content available in those journals is beyond any given reader's grasp, ultimately limiting readers to being able to select perhaps several dozen papers to read at best, as has also been the case here. Authors of 8 "Progress in Medicine" papers published in this issue set out to present and explore the particularly interesting and relevant news from their surgical specialties.

"What's new in general surgery?" tackles a range of issues, such as evaluation of surgical risk, selected aspects of gastric, pancreatic, and colorectal cancer treatment, the importance of ERAS care pathway, intra-abdominal sepsis, and blood transfusion as a risk factor for perioperative septic complications.

Professor W. Tarnowski MD, PhD and Doctor Karolina Wawiernia discuss the progress in minimally invasive surgery, including techniques such as NOTES, laparoscopy, and robot-assisted surgery used for treating rectal cancer, obesity, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and fecal incontinence. Makes for a truly interesting article, take time to read.

Professor W. Polkowski MD, PhD and his team present a new outlook on concomitant therapies in the treatment of breast cancer, gastric cancer (the necessity for preoperational chemotherapy), and peritoneal cancer (indications for radical resection of the neoplastic lesions and application of HIPEC). The paper abounds in new information, make sure not miss any of it.

Doctor B. Noszczyk MD, PhD discusses new trends in plastic surgery, including current news concerning face transplants, upper limb transplants, and transplants of adipose tissue and its application in transplant surgery. The author then goes on to write about the future of medical science and bionic surgery, e.g. connecting a machine device to a nerve. For scientific and practical reasons, this paper also makes for an important read.

Doctor Z. Lorenc MD, PhD and Doctor K. Krawczyk have presented us with data indicating progress being made in the treatment of colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel diseases, and the current developments in proctology. Also a very engaging piece of factual information.

In their paper, "Recent advances in the diagnosis, management and treatment of the most common urological disorders", professor P. Chłosta's (MD, PhD) Cracow-based team point out the continuing dynamic progress in endourology that facilitates successful treatment of the diseases of the prostate and the bladder. An increasing proportion of surgical interventions in urology are these days conducted using minimally invasive methods (laparoscopy and robot-assisted surgery). The authors also highlight the advance in genetics and genomics of neoplastic diseases of the urinary system, that directly translates into treatment methods. Find time for this piece of writing, too, to keep abreast.

The excellent article by Professor W. Marczyński MD, PhD elaborates on the growing necessity for replacement of the hip and knee joints in elderly patients. He takes a very contemporary approach to the process of bone healing, emphasizing the importance of hematoma formation within the fracture site for the healing process. He also offers insight into the developments in plaster-free trauma surgery where intramedullary nailing of non-unions is becoming more and more common. An exceptionally interesting read.

Doctor J. Sobocki MD, PhD, a renowned surgeon and an expert on the nutrition-related issues concerning surgical patients, in his fine review tackles the contemporary strategy applied in enteral and parenteral nutrition. His article is primarily concerned with evaluating the patient's level of nourishment, tackling deficiencies, ERAS care pathway, and nursing of venous catheters enabling nutrition delivery. Patients must be well-nourished in the peri-operational period. An insightful paper, do not miss it.

I would also like to thank all the contributing authors for their effort and shared insight, and encourage our readers to take time to fully benefit from their scope of knowledge by lending your precious attention.

Prof. Krzysztof Bielecki, MD, PhD