

Comment

Neurosurgery, or neurological surgery, is the medical specialty distinguished by specific knowledge, research and unique surgical methods.

Even though here are attempts to trace it back to the prehistoric skull trepanation it is a specialty of the last century. This special medical field is involved in the surgical treatment of the diseases of the nervous system the directly adjacent structures.

In the times of evidence based medicine neurosurgery experiences specific difficulties resulting from the relatively low number of cases treated their variability, quickly developing new treatment methods and paradigms making collection of adequately large number of patients similarly treated very difficult or impossible. Therefore research based on relatively small series and observations remain valid in providing progress in neurosurgery.

Progress in neurosurgery has been greatly dependent on the combination of neurological, surgical, radiological knowledge and development and extensive employment of technical aids.

The present issue of "Progress in Medicine" devoted to neurosurgery exemplifies this very accurately. There are papers presenting single center experience in some of the areas of interest in contemporary clinical neurosurgery. They were prepared in the neurosurgical centers with extensive experience and considerable achievements both in practice and research. There are papers describing possibilities and results of surgical treatment of lesions in sensitive location: brain stem, spinal cord, deep brain structures. Presentation of extremely rare diseases, which are treated in a few specialized centers like Moyamoya or Parkinson's disease. There are also contributions to the constantly more sophisticated spinal operations. Limitations in training neurosurgeons in the surgical skills which is a result of a limited number of cases available, stimulated development of novel methods in the education. There are also papers in this issue presenting new applications of technologically advanced tools: neuromonitoring, neuroendoscopy, percutaneous operations on the spine. They promise improvement of outcome of the neurosurgical operations.

Neurosurgical nursing is gaining in the importance in the recent years. A section of Neurosurgical Nursing has been established in the Polish Society of Neurosurgeons. Their participation in the neurosurgical congresses enriches the scope of the specialty. Examples of the research in this field completes the issue.

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