

20. Fortbildungswoche für praktische Dermatologie und Venerologie, Munich, July 23-27, 2006

The 20th Munich's Fortbildungswoche für praktische Dermatologie und Venerologie (1961-2006) offered very instructive practical messages to 2500 dermatologists-venereologists from all over the world, i.e. from 34 countries, 22 of them from Europe. Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, Branka Marinović, MD, PhD, Romana Čeović, MD, PhD, and Suzana Ljubojević, MD, PhD attended the meeting as Professor Plewig's guests from Croatia. We all are grateful for having been offered this valuable opportunity. The meeting introduced much useful news through lunch seminars, interactive TED programs, courses, and plenary lectures. Some new topics, even from veterinary medicine; juristic point in dermatology-venereology; MRSA in dermatology; borreliosis as a chameleon; hemangiomas in childhood; congenital melanocytic nevi: which and when to excise, etc., were highlighted. The risk associated with topical immunomodulator therapy was clarified by elaborating the 2005 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) information on the potential of malignant skin transformation (especially lymphomas) after the use of tacrolimus ointment (Protopic ointment) and pimecrolimus cream (Elidel cream). The section on syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) pointed to the renaissance of STDs in Central Europa, with syphilis being on an increase, especially among male homosexuals in Germany. The Sentinel-System (230 institutions for STD and HIV) showed the Chlamydia, gonorrhea and HPV infections to be most common,

however, without an increasing tendency. Natural cosmetics, phytoderamics and drugs, bio-food, and more than 200 sorts of plant allergens were presented by Professor Aberer. Legionellosis is a very rare infectious disease caused by aquatic gram-negative microorganisms, with 10% mortality rate in immunocompromised individuals and patients receiving TNF blocker therapy. Early diagnosis and prompt therapy (azithromycin 500 mg/day, quinolone (levofloxacin) 750 mg/day i.v. for 14-21 days) may be successful. Can we prevent allergy? The guidelines on allergy prevention were shown through primary and secondary prevention, including skin care in organ transplanted patients with side effects of immunosuppression with glucocorticoids: infections, tumors, metabolism dysfunction, nephropathy, etc.

In conclusion, Professor Plewig's "20th Continuous education course for dermatologists-venereologists in practice" was excellent in its organization as well as in the scientific contents offered to the audience, whereas social program could hardly be better. We wish the next course to be organized by Professor Ruzicka in two years be as useful and successful in all its aspects.

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