

## Riječ Uredništva

Vodne kozice ili varicela i herpes-zoster dobro su poznate bolesti koje još uvijek predstavljaju izazov za znanstvena istraživanja usmjerena na razotkrivanje mehanizama perzistencije i pronalaženje optimalnih cjepiva i novih antivirusnih lijekova. Premda se herpes-zoster kao dijagnoza često zanemaruje i nije u sustavu obaveznog prijavljivanja, kliničke manifestacije mogu biti ozbiljne posebno u imunokompromitiranih osoba kao i u starijoj populaciji. Procjenjuje se da je incidencija zosteru u Europi oko 3/1000, a u starijih od 80 godina i više od 10 na 1000 osoba. Životni vijek se produljuje, pa se zoster može očekivati sve češće. S druge strane, sve više djece do 12 godine života ne preboli varicele, a poznato je da je primarna infekcija u kasnijoj dobi često teška bolest. Ove činjenice stavile su u fokus cjepiva protiv VZV. Premda cijepljenje protiv varicele nije u našem nacionalnom programu, važno je upoznati se s karakteristikama cjepiva koje bi trebalo preporučiti djeci, a posebno seronegativnim ženama u generativnoj dobi kako bi se spriječile komplikacije u trudnoći, ali i imunokompromitiranim osobama. Cjepivo protiv zosteru nije dugo na tržištu, pa su saznanja o VZV i ulozi oba cjepiva iz ovog broja Infektološkog glasnika dobar izvor informacija.

Nove spoznaje i otkriće izravno djelujućih antivirusnih lijekova protiv hepatitisa C mijenjaju ulogu do nedavno obaveznog predterapijskog markera IL28B kao prediktora ishoda liječenja. IL28B ostaje važan parametar koji definira prirodni tijek infekcije HCV. Genotipizacija IL28B rađena je za naše bolesnike s kroničnim hepatitisom C i podaci su sukladni literaturnim podacima osoba bijele rase europskog podrijetla.

Infektolog se u svakodnevnom radu susreće s brojnim diferencijalno dijagnostičkim problemima, pa su opisi sindroma, kao što je eozinofilni meningitis, kao i prikazi bolesnika s rijetkim i neobičnim kliničkim slikama važni za proširivanje spoznaja. Utvrđivanje dijagnoze podrazumijeva uključivanje, ali i isključivanje najrazličitijih uzročnika. Najčešće se radi o dobro poznatim patogenima, ali ekologija i individualne reakcije bolesnika mogu dovesti do različitih i neočekivanih pojava i otkrića. Jedino široko znanje i sposobnost povezivanja informacija, evaluacija i interpretacija rezultata različitih dijagnostičkih postupaka, dovode do utvrđivanja etiologije i ispravne dijagnoze.

*Urednički odbor*

## Editorial

Chickenpox or varicella and herpes zoster are well known diseases that still pose a challenge for scientific research aimed at exposing the mechanisms of persistence and finding optimal vaccines and new antiviral drugs. Although herpes zoster is often neglected as a diagnosis and is not a mandatory notifiable disease, clinical manifestations can be severe especially in immunocompromised persons as well as among the elderly. It is estimated that the incidence of zoster in Europe is around 3/1000, and more than 10/1000 among persons older than 80 years of age. As the life span is prolonged, zoster can be expected to occur even more often. On the other hand, there are more children up to 12 years of age who have never had varicella, and it is well known that the severity of primary infection in adults increases with age. These facts have brought into focus the vaccines against VZV. Although vaccination against varicella is not in our national immunization program, it is important to know the characteristics of a particular vaccine recommended to children, and to those recommended to seronegative women of childbearing age in order to prevent complications in pregnancy but also in immunocompromised persons. The zoster vaccine has not been available on the market for long, so the knowledge on VZV and the role of both vaccines described in this issue is a good source of information.

New knowledge and the discovery of direct acting antiviral drugs against hepatitis C have changed the role of the recently mandatory pre-therapeutic marker IL28B as predictor of treatment outcome. IL28B remains an important parameter that defines the natural course of HCV infection. IL28B genotyping was performed in Croatian patients with chronic hepatitis C and obtained results are in accordance with other results reported for Caucasians of European origin.

Infectious disease specialists encounter numerous differential diagnostic problems in their everyday clinical practice, so the description of syndromes, such as eosinophilic meningitis, as well as case reports of rare and unusual clinical presentations are important for broadening current knowledge. Establishing the right diagnosis is a process that implies the inclusion but also the exclusion of a variety of causative pathogens. These pathogens are most commonly well known, however ecology and individual patient reactions can lead to different and unexpected phenomena and discoveries. Only widespread knowledge and the ability to connect information, to evaluate and interpret the results of different diagnostic procedures lead to establishing the correct etiology and diagnosis.

*Editorial Board*