

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENT AND FOLLOW UP OF PATIENTS WITH OVARIAN CANCER: POTENTIAL OF HE4 AND ROMA INDEX

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In September 2015 the symposium entitled: Multidisciplinary approach to diagnostic, treatment and monitoring of patients with ovarian cancer; potential of the HE4 and ROMA index, was held at the University Hospital for Tumors, Clinical Hospital Center Sestre milosrdnice.

Support in organization of the symposium we got from the Ministry of Health of Croatia, and it was also symbolic way of denoting September as the month dedicated to spreading awareness about ovarian cancer. This professional meeting has been supported by the Croatian Medical Chamber. The symposium was primarily directed towards gynecologists with the aim to get acquainted with availability for the new tumor marker HE4 and mathematically calculated ROMA index, both useful in diagnostic and monitoring patients with ovarian tumor. Implementation of HE4 has started for the first time in Croatia about a year and a half before the symposium was held in Department of Medical Biochemistry in University Hospital for Tumors, and it was also the opportunity to demonstrate our own results and experience. The introduction of new markers is the result of excellent communication and the willingness of doctors from the Department of Gynecological Oncology who were the ones who recruited the patients. The implementation of new parameters itself in laboratory daily routine was done after completely fulfilling all the segments of analytical validation and verification procedures performed in accordance with recent CLSI guidelines.

The symposium was mutidisciplinary, because of the same topic (ovarian cancer) was elab-

orated by epidemiologist, gynecologist, pathologist, cytologist, radiologist, biochemist, oncologist, pharmacist, each of them highlighting their individual specifics of their views to the above mentioned. Finally, clinical cases, with proofs of the advantages and disadvantages of the new markers summed up the points of the meeting. The purpose of this event was to inform the targeted professionals (gynecologists and medical biochemists in the laboratory) about diagnostic potential of the HE4 and ROMA index. As a result, the Croatian Health Insurance put HE4 at the approved list of tests. Taking into consideration often justified skepticism of clinicians regarding the introduction of permanently obtained new biomarkers, in this case we got a huge positive reaction. It is doubtless the result of the practical value of good correlation in laboratory results with clinical findings, which is not the case with every marker. We are sincerely grateful to all the speakers at the symposium, because all of them were unison in decision to transform their lectures into an article. The result is accesible in the following pages. We truly appreciate their effort and commitment. Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude for the support of the Head of the University Hospital for Tumors and the Director of the University Hospital Center Sestre milosrdnice professor Danko Velimir Vrdoljak for his support in organizing the symposium. We would also like to thank all the employees in Department of Medical Biochemistry in Oncology who took part in realization of this symposium.