

5th Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine CROVASCULAR 2020 - Angiology Update 2020

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The Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine, “Angiology Update 2020”, held on March 6th 2020 was the 5th in a series symposium, annually organized by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Centre Zagreb and Croatian Cardiac Society. Traditionally, it takes place in a beautiful Revival Hall located in the National Home Palace in Zagreb.

The symposium aimed to gather experts in the field of vascular medicine and to serve as a platform for experience exchange, discussion and debate on the latest advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases, emphasizing the importance of holistic approach to the vascular patient.

The experts were not only from Croatia but also from neighbouring countries thus providing an international character to the symposium.

Lots of specific topics, such as antithrombotic therapy in angiology (both in patients with peripheral artery disease and venous thromboembolism alongside patients with atrial fibrillation and endovascular interventions), endovascular treatment of peripheral artery disease and cerebrovascular disease, endovascular management of the aortic diseases and acute vascular syndromes (pulmonary embolism, acute coronary syndrome and acute ischemic stroke) were covered through the sessions.

The president of the Organizing committee Professor Mislav Vršalović, head of the Department for Vascular Diseases, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Centre, in his welcome speech highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases, not only because of the better quality of life, but also because of potential decrease in total cardiovascular mortality for those patients. Vascular diseases, particularly peripheral arterial disease, although relatively common clinical entity, is often diagnosed in an advance stage of disease, likely due to lack of sensibility among medical professionals and patients. Thus, it is of utmost importance that every cardiologist should be sensitive concerning the diagnosis and management of patients with peripheral arterial disease, as many of them are seen and managed for concomitant cardiac conditions.

On behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Symposium was opened by Academician Vida Demarin, who noticed that a huge number of participants, confirms the increased interest for angiology, at the same time identifying the role of Croatian Symposia on Vascular Medicine in promoting awareness for vascular diseases.

The president of Croatian Cardiac Society, Academician Davor Miličić, emphasized the importance of physician education, from the very beginning of the career. Accordingly, basic skills such as appropriate physical examination, is as important as are sophisticated pharmacological and surgical treatment methods.

Professor Mario Žovak, head of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Centre, highlighted the long tradition of vascular medicine in this hospital.

The symposium was divided into four sessions, and the speakers were eminent cardiologists, angiologists, interventional radiologists, vascular surgeons, neurologists and professors from School of Medicine, Universities of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek. Cardiovascular prevention, treatment of comorbidities in vascular patients (arterial hypertension, dyslipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, atrial fibrillation), new recommendations about peripheral artery disease, prolonged anticoagulation therapy after venous thromboembolism and treatment of venous thromboembolism in oncologic patients are some of the discussed topics.

It was a great pleasure to welcome our dear guest Professor Aleš Blinc from University Hospital in Ljubljana, who opened the third session on acute vascular syndromes with a topic about fibrinolytic therapy in pulmonary embolism treatment. The presentation resulted in an interesting and fruitful discussion among the participants.

Professor Vršalović closed the Symposium citing the most recent European Society of Cardiology guidelines: Patients with vascular diseases could not be treated properly without an interdisciplinary holistic approach to the patient. A multidisciplinary “vascular team” approach should be used for the treatment of peripheral arterial disease, venous thromboembolism, acute ischemic stroke, and acute aortic syndromes. In the end, he announced and invited the audience to the 6th Symposium on Vascular Medicine next year.

