

The second issue of this year features nine articles. We present a summary of the reviews and expert articles.

The Forum on Sedation in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in Central Europe, held in Ljubljana in June 2025, highlighted the significant differences in the use of sedation between countries. While in the Netherlands and Austria, propofol is widely used by trained non-anaesthetists, in other countries, its use is limited to anaesthetists. In several Eastern European countries, including Slovenia, deep sedation with propofol is rarely used. Most endoscopic examinations are performed without sedation or with mild sedation, which can affect the quality of the findings. The forum participants emphasised the need for standard regional guidelines, improved training, and cross-border cooperation to enhance the safety and accessibility of deep sedation.

A retrospective study compared laparoscopic (LDP) and open distal pancreatectomy (ODP) in 108 patients with distal pancreatic cancer. The severe morbidity rate was 28.1% in the ODP group and 47.7% in the LDP group ($p = 0.034$). The 90-day mortality rate was 3.3% in the ODP group and 5.3% in the LDP group. There was no difference in the rate of R0 resection and the rate of postoperative pancreatic fistulas. The authors believe that the laparoscopic method already achieves equivalent oncological results compared to the open procedure, with potential advantages for the patient such as shorter recovery time and less postoperative pain; however, we should also pay attention to the prevention of postoperative complications.

Early detection and timely treatment of Wilson's disease are of utmost importance, as they can prevent permanent organ damage due to copper accumulation in the liver, brain and other organs. Diagnosis is based on a combination of clinical, laboratory and genetic tests, with the key tests being ceruloplasmin determination, 24-hour urinary copper excretion and analysis of the ATP7B gene. Treatment includes chelators (such as penicillamine and trientine) and zinc preparations, which help reduce the amount of copper in the body. The article also

describes a case of a Slovenian family with a diverse clinical picture of the disease.

Neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs) are rare but increasingly common neoplasms, in which the liver is the most common site of metastasis. Nuclear medicine, with its advanced diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities, plays a pivotal role in the diagnosis and treatment of these tumours. According to the results of the NETTER-2 study, peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) is an established method of first choice for metastatic or inoperable gastroenteropancreatic NEN G2/G3, showcasing the innovative strides in the field of nuclear medicine.

The intestinal microbiota plays a key role in maintaining health. Changes in its composition are associated with numerous digestive and systemic diseases, so its study is important for diagnostics and treatment. Research into new bacterial species and their metabolites is essential for the development of modern diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. The article emphasises the importance of probiotics, which have long been a significant part of research and clinical practice due to their positive effects on human health, metabolism, and well-being.

Pudendal neuralgia is a chronic pain syndrome, usually due to compression of the pudendal nerve. Diagnosis is based on history, clinical examination, and mainly on the Nantes criteria. CT-guided pudendal nerve block with an anaesthetic and corticosteroid can provide temporary or long-term relief of symptoms.

Intestinal metaplasia of the gastric mucosa is a precancerous change and an important stage in the development of gastric cancer. Histologically, we distinguish between complete and incomplete forms, with the latter carrying a higher risk of malignant transformation. Despite the successful eradication of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, intestinal metaplasia is considered a critical point in the carcinogenic cascade. Its reversibility remains questionable despite progress in understanding new pathogenetic mechanisms and knowledge of other risk factors.

Prof. dr. Borut Štabuc, editor