

News and views

Scientific and Educational Conference “50 years of Radioiodine Treatment in Poland: The Achievements and Prospects of Radionuclide Therapy” with the Conference “Thyroid Orbitopathy”, March 2–4, Poznań, Poland

Fifty years ago, radioiodine treatment of thyroid was applied for the first time in Poland, with the Clinic of Endocrinology of Medical University in Poznań as a leading centre both then and now. The jubilee gave an impulse to organise a Conference “50 years of radioiodine treatment in Poland: The Achievements and Prospects of Radionuclide Therapy” coupled with a Conference “Thyroid Orbitopathy” meant mainly for eye disease specialists.

The conference started with an excellent ceremonial opening with a very interesting presentation on the history of radioiodine treatment by Prof. Maciej Gembicki, an eminent expert on RI treatment from Poznań. This took place in the interesting restaurant with its own beer brewery “Brovaria” in the Old Market of Poznań.

In a session devoted to radionuclide therapy, the most interesting lectures were by J. Sowiński from Poznań on the RI treatment of benign thyroid disorders — 2005, F. Pacini from Siena, Italy on radioiodine therapy of thyroid carcinoma and B. Jarząb from the Institute of Oncology in Gliwice on actual problems on RI treatment of thyroid carcinoma. In the next session, A. Hubalewska-Dydejczyk from Cracow lectured on radioimmunotherapy, L. Królicki and colleagues from Warsaw on radionuclide therapy

of neuroendocrine tumours and J. Kosowicz from Poznań on the prospects of RN treatment of medullary carcinoma.

In the next session, very interesting lectures were given by G. Mödder (Cologne, Germany) on the current state of radiosynovectomy and W. Oyen (Nijmegen, The Netherlands) on experimental therapy in nuclear medicine focusing on the general failure of radioimmunotherapy with the exception of lymphoma treatment. A sad story. R. Junik from Bydgoszcz focused on thyroid orbitopathy, which was a gentle introduction to the second part of the conference, i.e. a series of lectures devoted to thyroid orbitopathy: its ethiopathogenesis, its treatment with indications and contraindications, peripheral oxidative stress in hyperthyreosis and thyroid ophthalmopathy and the applications of somatostatin analogues in endocrine disorders.

This was an interesting experience: nuclear medicine is a small and rather isolated discipline; therefore, any meeting with other medical specialists is of great value to us. We have some cooperation with radiologists, oncologists and cardiologists, but I never realised the importance of the meeting point with eye disease specialists, which is thyroid ophthalmopathy.

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