

At Bangkok Hospital, we believe in Service from the Heart. It is thus appropriate that our 3rd edition continues to see a distinctive and varied contribution from our Cardiac Unit. We are pleased to finally see in print Dr. Gumpanart's account of how he and his capable team saved a patient's life with the first emergent primary coronary angioplasty performed in Thailand. Dr. Pradub appraises evidence-based management of Acute decompensated heart failure. Dr. Rattanapan's case study shows how conservative treatment over a longer period can be used to deal with a large thrombus where standard surgical intervention was inadequate to restore coronary perfusion. Dr. Lertlak details using MRI images to study regional wall motion of the left ventricle, to develop additional quantitative tool, with which to detect impaired myocardial regional wall motion. Dr. Poomiporn describes a rare case of Kawasaki Disease Shock Syndrome in a young child, which if untreated could lead to ischemic heart disease, myocardial infarction or sudden death.

Another rare presentation is the case study of the patient with headache onset after laughter, as related by Dr. Kiratikorn; MR imaging of the cervical spine detected a Chiari I malformation, the most likely secondary cause associated with this peculiar condition. We continue to see strength from our imaging team's close co-operation with our oncologists, using nuclear medicine for increase sensitivity and specificity in diagnosing breast cancer, using 3D software reconstructions with CT studies to improve surgery prospects in liver tumor and detection of small throat cancer by Diffusion-weighted MRI pulse sequence. Gastric cancer is still a major killer throughout the world because it is so often diagnosed at a late stage, so it is exciting to see patient prognosis improving after using adjuvant therapy with Trastuzumab being effective at reducing tumors that do not have HER2 gene amplification.

On the theme of fighting sepsis, Dr. Paithoon explains how the BMC drastically reduced catheter related blood stream infections and Dr. Panpit gives clear and up to date guidelines on how to treat urinary tract infections. Dr. Att enthuses over the new hydrosurgery tools available to debride wounds difficult to access with traditional methods. Our Spine unit describes how they are improving their accuracy of measuring surgical outcomes by incorporating Oswestry Disability Index questionnaires and the EuroQol-5D questionnaires into the pre and post operative treatment process.

We are also pleased to welcome guest authors from outside the BDMS group to this volume. Professor Douglas Kieper from the Department of Physics at the Hampton University gives further perspective on molecular breast imaging. Professor Van de Werf from Leuven University Hospital gives a cogent and useful review of Lytic therapy to treat acute myocardial infarction; after all, there are still few hospitals worldwide who provide a well staffed primary 24/7 PCI unit. Dr. Phornthip, a senior nurse researcher from Lerdsin Hospital illustrates how the concept of cognitive behavioral change is being practically enlisted into preventive public health programs to tackle the growing obesity problem in Thailand.

Finally, we'd like to announce the establishment of the Bangkok Health Research Center, which will offer up to date health information to medical professionals and the general public.

We hope our readers will enjoy and be stimulated by the diversity of this month's offerings. Happy Valentines to you all!

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