

Esteemed readers

This is the ninth Bangkok Medical Journal, and we are delighted to share the latest innovative technologies and techniques being practiced throughout our medical faculty and community across the BMDS group of hospitals and specialty departments.

We would like to highlight the work of Dr Somjintana Lamsanpang in the article Active cooling during inter-facility transportation of post cardiac arrest patients. This technique has proven effective in the immediate emergency situation of saving the lives of patients who have suffered cardiac arrest; and it has also helped in their recovery from coma. The protocols recommended to referral hospitals and transportation methods to better prepare them in the use of active cooling will inevitably lead to better service extended to patients in acute need in emergency settings.

The ability to detect Alzheimer's is one of the benefits of the Wattanosoth services available to patients: research shows that the earlier this disease is detected, the better physicians can plan palliative care to slow down the onset of the disease. Our PET radiopharmaceutical team, under the guiding vision of Dr. Yothin Chinwalun, has successfully overcome the difficult challenges involved in the production of Alzheimer's tracer C-11PiB; in 2012, Wattanosoth Hospital became the first and only center with the capacity to produce C-11PiB in South-East Asia. Dr Ananya Ruangma and all the team at Wattanosoth Hospital have worked assiduously to arrive at the most effective and efficient ways of producing C-11PiB.

We report in this edition on a very unusual pathology in the case of a patient who presented with a ruptured dissecting aneurysm of the renal artery. When the patient rapidly deteriorated during routine examination to determine the origin of persistent colicky right flank pain, the pathology division, imaging center, surgery clinic, urology unit and anesthesia teams worked quickly together. We applaud Dr. Vijitr Boonpucknavig for correctly diagnosing this very rare condition - his studied interpretation of the microscopic examination was exemplary. We wish to give full credit to the surgical team led by Dr. Lerdchai Towinus for such prompt management, and for taking the quick decision to execute an urgent nephrectomy; the patient was discharged in good health with no further complications.

Globally, hypertension is the leading non-communicable diseases (NCDs) risk factor that accounted for 13% of global deaths. In Southeast Asia hypertension presents in approximately 35% of the adult population. We present a round-up of survey results after 2 years of The Hypertension Registry being in place. One of the key findings of the study was that smoking has become the leading cause of hypertension and that hypertension is presenting in ever younger patients. We have a pressing need to raise awareness of the very real hazards of smoking to hypertension patients and to alert physicians and nurses of this high-risk behavior. We share the recommendation to continue the Hypertension Registry as it is a valuable resource for its role in raising awareness of the dangers of smoking and its link to hypertension to an even wider audience.

We trust that you will find the journal informative and educational. Our aim is to improve frontline services, increase the quality of research and encourage a greater participation in sharing case studies and innovative techniques and approaches in providing medical services. We encourage you to share the findings in this journal widely and to contribute to the sharing and dissemination of knowledge in our worldwide medical community.

Chirochana Suchato, MD
Editor in Chief

Rergchai Varatorn, MD
Co-Editor