

Dear esteemed reader

We are proud to bring you Volume 15-2 of the Bangkok Medical Journal with contributions from medical professionals on preventive health care and first of its kind surgical technology and innovation.

Globally, TB is one of the top 10 causes of mortality and the primary cause from a single infectious agent over and above HIV/AIDS. Hence, to efficiently reduce the high rate of unidentified Latent TB cases that might lead to active TB in the future; a unified, well implemented, and sophisticated approach is crucial. Dr Sawang Saenghirunvattana, et al present a clinical series, which to our knowledge, is the first to report 20% conversion of QFT-Plus among LTB participants prescribed with a nine-month Isoniazid prophylaxis. As there is no gold standard in the definition of conversion and reversion, further studies are now needed to optimize the correlation between the efficacy of varied LTBI and TB treatment regimen and conversion of QFT-Plus results.

In our Special Feature by Dr Van de Werf F. cardiovascular mortality rates are compared with tremendous differences among countries and regions. These differences can be partly explained by a greater cardiovascular risk, socio-economic factors and the quality of health care. Important changes are forecasted in South and Southeast Asia, as in these regions, life expectancy is expected to increase from 63.6 years in 1980 to 79.8 years on average in 2040. It is estimated that non-communicable diseases will become the most important cause of death (83.2%). Preventive measures will be critically important to avoid a large transient increase in CVD mortality in the next decade.

A variety of clinical presentations are observed in pulmonary inflammatory myofibroblastic tumors. Diagnosis can be difficult and requires a high index of suspicion due to rarity of the disease. Dr Padungkiat Tangpiroontham report two patients who were treated via thoracoscopic and bronchoscopic approach as options of investigation and treatment in this era of minimally invasive surgery. In early pulmonary inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, thoracoscopic complete resection has an excellent short term outcome and may result in long-term survival. Even in metastatic cases, palliative airway control also has good short and mid-term outcomes.

Dr Pawee Chalidapong et al present two cases of hemicorporectomy (also known as translumbar amputation, halfectomy) an operation of amputation of the pelvis and lower extremities by disarticulation through the lumbar spine. This is a complex, rare, and major procedure and can be a life-saving operation. It relies on expert surgical intervention and smooth co-operation of an extensive multi-disciplinary team.

Dr Kriwut Leurmprasert compared articular exposure of distal humerus with oleocranon osteotomy and triceps-reflecting anconeus pedicle. To our knowledge, the current study is the first anatomical study to compare these approaches, with the oleocranon osteotomy technique offering more visualization.

Finally, we reported on studies with a focus on improving patient care with effective management of hospital management resources. The study by Dr Nantana Suppavitnarm was conducted to determine the potential factors influencing medical specialist allocation, as this is crucial for achieving equitable access to specialized care. This is in response to a shortage and maldistribution of physicians in Thailand compared to other developed countries worldwide. The study by Dr Chatree Duangnet examines the different levels of percentages and relative weighting of simple diseases to help monitor hospital performance. A traffic light system is proposed to improve the standard of care for all patients in super tertiary, hub tertiary, secondary tertiary, and basic tertiary care.

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