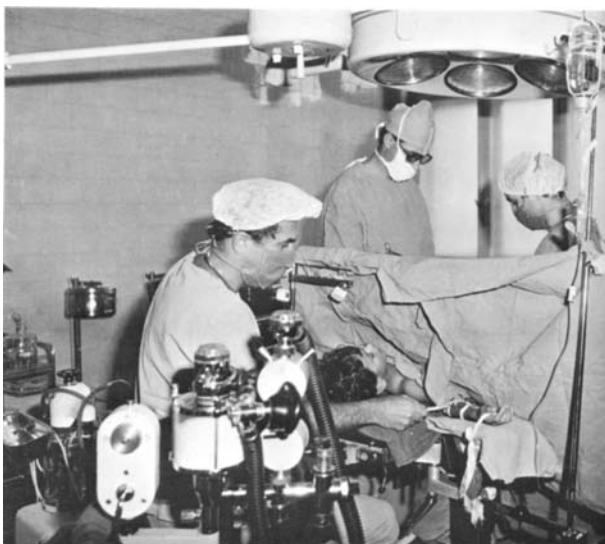


## NEWS

### *Sixty-Seventh Anniversary of the Clinical Department of Traumatology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia*

Celebration of the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clinical Department of Traumatology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, and the symposium entitled Treatment of Secondary Tumors of the Spine were held on Friday, May 22, 2015, at the Croatian Medical Association premises in Zagreb. On behalf of the Department, the meeting was led by Prof. Aljoša Matejčić, PhD, and Head Doctor Zvonko Kayla, MD, Head of the Department of Spine Surgery. In his welcome address, Prof. Aljoša Matejčić accentuated that surgical activity has been performed continuously for 95 years at the Department in Draškovićevea 19, Zagreb, and that today the Clinical Department of Traumatology is one of the leading specialized hospitals for musculoskeletal surgery and the only institution in Croatia that is able to treat injuries of the musculoskeletal system and the consequences thereof.



Prof. Matejčić also noted that the Department physicians manage diseases of the locomotor system of adults, osteoarthritis and tumors of the musculoskeletal system by using modern methods of treatment and complex endoprosthesis implantation. In 2014, more than 120,000 polyclinical patients were examined, along with 6000 procedures and 4000 first-aid surgery procedures performed.

The next speaker was Prof. Danko Velimir Vrdoljak, PhD, director of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, who spoke about the 'marriage' between the Clinical Department of Traumatology and administration of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, which runs since 2009. He pointed out that lot of mutual understanding and cooperation is necessary for successful marriage. He expressed great appreciation for the work of the Department and hope for continuation of good cooperation, and congratulated the staff on their anniversary and successful work.

Then the audience were greeted by vice-minister Dragan Korolija-Marinić, PhD, on behalf of the minister of health, Assoc. Prof. Siniša Varga, PhD, who forwarded the message from the minister to the employees, saying that the Clinical Department of Traumatology is a sort of Zagreb and Croatian 'brand' because it is popularly called Trauma as a well known address when people need examination after some injuries, irrespective of its severity. Therefore, the Ministry of Health has launched the project of energy renovation of the Department, its supply with a new 128-slice computed tomography device, and announced a new procurement for a magnetic resonance device. In the end, he said that patients who most often come to the Department of Traumatology are active population abruptly put out of their steady rhythm of life from full health due to injury; therefore, it is great responsibility of all the personnel who take care of them, and vice-minister expressed thanks

to all of them again. With his speech the first part of the Symposium ended.

The professional part of the Symposium was opened by Head Doctor Zvonko Kayla, MD, who started his speech with a historical overview of treatment strategies of secondary spine tumors. He pointed out that bone metastases often end up in the spine, 59.5% in men and 40.5% in women, and only 15% of metastases cause symptoms, whereas the rest are subsequently detected on autopsy. He said that in the last 3 years, 110 patients were treated at the Department for the symptoms caused by secondary spine tumors. The next speaker was Davor Tomas, MD, from the Clinical Department of Pathology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, who presented histopathologic analysis of samples and most common findings after spine surgical treatment. Vide Bilić, PhD, talked about surgical tactics in the treatment of secondary spine tumors. A very interesting part of his lectures were case reports, showing that the Department spinal surgeons are routinely dealing with this type of

pathology with very good results. After him, Mirjana Pavlović, MD, from the Institute for Tumors, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, spoke about oncologic approach to patients with secondary spine tumors. She pointed out that 70% of malignant bone tumors are bone metastases that require good cooperation of the oncologists, radiotherapists, surgeons and pathologists because of the disease biology and complex treatment process. The concluding lecture was held by Tomislav Krpan, PhD, from the Clinical Department of Radiology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center. He emphasized the role of interventional radiology in the treatment of secondary spine tumors. The Symposium ended with a vivid discussion and conclusion on the necessity to develop algorithm of treatment of tumor diseases in the context of current possibilities, highlighting the problem of communication and the need of closer cooperation and experience exchange among all those involved in the treatment of patients with secondary tumors of the spine.

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