

Dear colleagues,

For more than a year, we have been living in a next normal due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which largely specifies the routine practice in various medical specialties, including cardiology. Offline medical conferences are still being canceled, while online communication has become commonplace. In this regard, the importance of telemedicine is increasing. We have yet to assess the COVID-19 consequences, but its ability to induce long-term stable symptoms of both general and specific nature is already generally recognized, which served as the basis for the term “long COVID”. We have witnessed the rapid increase in a number of studies, which has become, on the one hand, an advantage in the form of vaccine development, and on the other, a disadvantage in the form of denials and wrongful observational studies. From the evidence-based medicine, we have largely returned to a pathophysiological approach in the choice of treatment strategy. Burnout syndrome among doctors is increasing everywhere. In the pandemic, a decrease in hospitalization rate of cardiovascular patients was recorded with an increase in infarction-related mortality and incidence of decompensated heart failure. It became apparent that the withdrawal of cardiovascular drugs, which improve the prognosis, is associated with higher mortality in the acute and post-acute phase. The section “Methodological aspects” of this journal issue analyzes the one-year publication activity during the COVID-19 pandemic in medical specialties in Russian. This issue of the journal is mainly devoted to hypertension (HTN), but also contains interesting materials on related problems, in particular, heart failure and myocardial infarction. The original studies highlight the problems of treating resistant HTN and management of patients of different age groups. Of great practical interest is the material on the quality of outpatient follow-up of the hypertensive adults in Russia.

We would like to present you the current issue of the Russian Journal of Cardiology, which is largely devoted to HTN. It is noteworthy that a significant part of papers is devoted to the problems of high blood pressure (BP) in obesity, overweight, apnea and comorbidities. These works will be very useful for practitioners for more effective BP control in these clinical situations.

Publications on resistant HTN are of great practical interest, since they describe not only the globality and importance of the problem, but also suggest ways to solve it, which can already be applied in actual clinical practice.

Undoubtedly, one of the most interesting publications is devoted to the Retrospective analysis of clinical decision support system use in patients with hypertension and atrial fibrillation (INTELLECT). In fact, this is one of the first works on the practical application of artificial intelligence, which is increasingly used in the routine practice of a doctor.

Traditionally, the current clinical guidelines of the Russian Society of Cardiology are of great interest – “Non-ST elevation acute coronary syndrome” and “Bradyarrhythmias and conduction disorders”.

We would especially like to note the Dynamics analysis of comorbidities in SARS-CoV-2 survivors (AKTIV SARS-CoV-2), with an assessment of unfavorable prognostic factors. This work is not only very timely and necessary, but is also largely based on data from Russian centers, which is especially important for planning further strategies to combat the COVID-19 epidemic.

Best regards, on behalf of the editorial staff

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