

„SCOLIOZA PEDIATRICĂ”

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In May 2010, “Pro Editură și Tipografie” Publishing House released a valuable monograph entitled "**Scolioza pediatrică**" written by Professor Dr. Mihai Jianu, Head of Pediatric Orthopaedics Clinic at Central Emergency Hospital for Children "Grigore Alexandrescu", Bucharest.

Deformities of the spine are the main concern of the author for over 20 years, so that the present monograph summarizes his wide experience resulting from the study of over 14,000 patients treated for scoliosis between 1999 and 2009.

The book is not the first work of Professor Dr. Mihai Jianu addressing this chapter of pathology, as he previously wrote "The Treatment of Scoliosis in Children and Adolescents", published in 2001 by “Cartea Românească” Publishing House, Bucharest and "Clinical and Therapeutical Protocol in Idiopathic Scoliosis in Child and Adolescent", published in 2006 by "Tridona Publishing House", Bucharest.

Monograph "**Scolioza pediatrică**" addresses medical students, orthopaedics and traumatology surgeons, primary care physicians, school physicians. The book has 135 pages, 90 figures, 10 graphs, 4 tables and 105 references. The study is structured in 10 chapters and is written in a concise but at the same time thorough manner.

In the first chapter, entitled "*History*", the author realises a detailed description of development of knowledge about scoliosis since ancient times to nowadays, from the empirical treatment to the latest achievements in the field of prophylactic and especially surgical treatment. In the end of the chapter are mentioned Romanian school contributions from Central Emergency Hospital for Children “Grigore Alexandrescu” Bucharest which has the largest Romanian experience regarding the number of patients referred for scoliosis and treated surgically. As a proof of international recognition of “Grigore Alexandrescu” Hospital, it worth to mention that well known surgeons from France, Belgium, USA, Hungary, Serbia have surgically treated difficult cases of scoliosis along with the clinic staff.

In the next chapter, "*Generalities*", the author defines the notions of scoliosis, kyphosis, lordosis, primary and compensatory curve and shows us how to distinguish between structural and nonstructural scoliosis. In order to unify the information about scoliosis, he explains in detail in Chapter III the meaning of most terms used in medical literature. Because these details are almost nonexistent in Romanian medical literature, author’s initiative is salutary. The anatomical booster

that follows reminds the reader the essential notions that every doctor must thoroughly master when he has to do with the child's spinal pathology. The notions of osteology, miology, arthrology and the elements of normal and pathological function are exposed one by one.

A particularly important chapter is "*Etiopathogenesis of scoliosis*", which eliminates a number of widespread prejudices sometimes supported by physicians about the causes of the disease. The real causes of scoliosis, genetic and hormonal factors are mentioned and well documented. Regarding the classification of scoliosis, the monograph presents the most recently established criteria by the Scoliosis Research Society, King surgical classification, Lenke classification and also the most used classification according to the topographic form. Because Romania lacks a network of early detection of spine deformities, the disease is detected late. This is why the author emphasizes the diagnostic notions. The most important is the clinical diagnosis which must be properly established by family physicians and school physicians and later documented by radiographs. In some cases more complex investigations such as CT or magnetic resonance imaging are necessary.

The "*Treatment*" chapter addresses the complexity of therapeutical means used for the right treatment of scoliosis. According to the criteria generally recognized in the medical community, known as Stagnara criteria, the correction of scoliosis has three stages: physical therapy, orthotic treatment (bracing) and surgical treatment in case of failure of the previous two.

The physical therapy chapter is written by Dr. Evelyne Soyez physical therapist specialised in Neuropediatrics at the University Clinic Baudelocque Port-Royal, Cochin Hospital Paris. She describes all the usual physical therapy procedures used in each stage of scoliosis treatment in a clear and detailed manner. The possibility of correction by orthotic treatment is presented in the next chapter of the monograph which explains the basic principles of bracing and describes in detail the most common types of braces. The chapter addressing surgical treatment reviews most of the procedures and techniques used in scoliosis correction from arthrodesis to anterior and posterior segmental spinal instrumentation. Using his personal experience, the author presents both the advantages and disadvantages of each technique.

An unique chapter in a monograph about scoliosis is the chapter named "*Anesthetic and Intensive Care Considerations*" written by Dr. Florin Rusu, Head of Intensive Care Unit at Central Emergency Hospital for Children "Grigore Alexandrescu" Bucharest.

The particularities of anesthetic procedures in patients with scoliosis are related to their restrictive type of respiratory failure and to their cardiac impairment due to severe deformations of the thoracic cage. Some anesthetic precautions that must be taken into account in specific etiological forms of scoliosis (congenital scoliosis, neuromuscular scoliosis, scoliosis related to Marfan's syndrome or neurofibromatosis) are also listed.

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