An Interdisciplinary Approach to Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis: Is There Anything New?

Ulrike W. Denzer^a Marc G. Besselink^b

^aKlinik für Innere Medizin, SP Gastroenterologie, Endokrinologie und Stoffwechsel und klinische Infektiologie
Sektion Endoskopie, Universitätsklinikum Gießen u. Marburg GmbH Marburg, Marburg, Germany;

^bCancer Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The current issue of *Visceral Medicine* addresses the topic of acute and chronic pancreatitis. Even though different etiological or genetic risk factors can induce pancreatitis, clinicians often face similar, potentially severe complications in the acute or chronic course of the disease. Until now a targeted anti-inflammatory medical therapy is lacking. Therefore, any preventive and therapeutic efforts are limited mainly to symptomatic conservative and interventional strategies. This issue offers an overview to the different etiologic, clinical, and therapeutic aspects of the disease as of the current state of science.

Weiss et al. [1] explain the pathophysiologic mechanisms with regard to different etiologies and risk factors of pancreatitis. Furthermore, they discuss the potential cancer risk of chronic pancreatitis based on the existing data.

Zorniak et al. [2] give an overview of the risk stratification in acute pancreatitis concerning different scoring systems and laboratory parameters; e.g., procalcitonin. Conservative treatment strategies, such as the amount of fluid replacement, nutrition, and pain management, are being reviewed according to the current literature. Moreover, the role of antibiotics in the setting of acute pancreatitis is being questioned critically.

Bezmarević [3] discusses the right time point and the appropriate technique for interventional therapy of peripancreatic collections in acute pancreatitis. Especially the management of acute necrotic collections and walled-off necrosis is highlighted, both of which require a multidisciplinary and individual approach to the patient.

Waldthaler et al. [4] focus on the conservative therapy of chronic pancreatitis. Main topics are the nutritional support and the pain management. The outcome of current endoscopic interventional techniques for the treatment of biliary and pancreatic strictures as well as pancreatic stones is being discussed. Newer developments; e.g., endoscopic ultrasound-guided pancreatic duct drainage and cholangioscopic pancreatic stone fragmentation show promising results. Nevertheless, long-term study results concerning pancreatic pain relief are still outstanding.

Pain is the main indication for surgery in chronic pancreatitis. Bouwense et al. [5] illustrate the different surgical procedures and discuss the current data. Whereas the superiority of surgery in the treatment of chronic pancreatic pain is well proven, the right time point of the intervention; i.e., early in the disease versus the step-up approach, is still under debate. New data of the ESCAPE trial will probably lead to a more standardized approach to the management of chronic pancreatitis pain.

The current issue of *Visceral Medicine* with the focus on acute and chronic pancreatitis hopefully provides you with clinically useful information for your daily practice.

Prof. Dr. med. Ulrike W. Denzer, Klinik für Innere Medizin
SP Gastroenterologie, Endokrinologie und Stoffwechsel und
klinische Infektiologie Sektion Endoskopie, UKGM Giessen/Marburg
Baldingerstraße, DE-35043 Marburg (Germany)
E-Mail Ulrike.Denzer@med.uni-marburg.de

Prof. Marc G. Besselink
Cancer Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam
Meibergdreef 9
NL-1100 DD Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
E-Mail m.g.besselink@amc.uva.nl

References

- 1 Weiss FU, Laemmerhirt F, Lerch M. M.: Etiology and Risk Factors of Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis. *Visc Med.* 2019;35(1):1–9.
- 2 Zorniak M, Mayerle J, Beyer G. Risk Stratification and Early Conservative Treatment of Acute Pancreatitis. *Visc Med.* DOI: 10.1159/000497290.
- 3 Bezmarević M. Management of Acute Inflammatory Fluid Collections and Walled-Off Necrosis: Timing and Intervention. *Visc Med.* DOI: 10.1159/000499631.
- 4 Waldthaler A, Valente R, Arnelo U, Löhr M. Endoscopic and Conservative Management of Chronic Pancreatitis and Its Complications. *Visc Med.* DOI: 10.1159/000499611.
- 5 Bouwense SA, Kempeneers MA, van Santvoort HC, Boermeester MA, van Goor H, Besselink MG. Surgery in Chronic Pancreatitis: Indication, Timing and Procedures. *Visc Med.* DOI: 10.1159/000499612.