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EDITORIAL

Dear esteemed readers of TurkJEM Family,

Winter has come with many developments in sciences as well as new challenges. For this editorial, we try to summarize recent COVID-19 developments and some hope areas concerning the endocrine discipline. The world in general, the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. Due to ongoing cases and newly emerging virus variants unpredictability enforces us all view the issue far more globally. We all know now that an unvaccinated underdeveloped world and vaccine hesitant population will bring in more COVID-19 variants postponing recovery for the world as a whole. A new strategic look is required rather than a myopic national approach. The virus affects a large number of organs: pancreas, thyroid, adrenal glands, probably also the liver, spleen, brain, immune cells, heart, and lungs. Research shows that the COVID-19 virus binds to the ACE2 receptor, a protein that is expressed in many tissues which enter endocrine cells and cause the mayhem associated with the disease. Another recent research shows that many patients developed a post-viral syndrome with fatigue partially caused by adrenal insufficiency, a condition where the adrenal glands do not make enough cortisol, as a result of damage to the pituitary system. The virus attaches to ACE2 which is the main entry point into cells for coronavirus in turn disrupts insulin production, causing high blood glucose levels in patients. Another current finding shows that vitamin D deficiency may be more susceptible to coronavirus and supplementation could improve outcomes, though evidence on the subject is mixed.

For this issue of TJEM we have; “A Cross-Sectional Study of the Prevalence of Cardiovascular Disease in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes in Türkiye: The CAPTURE Study”, “Simultaneous Teamwork May Improve Hypoglycemia Rates in Patients with Type 1 Diabetes Using an Insulin Pump”, “Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic in Patients with Bariatric Surgery”, “Serum Endocan Level and Its Correlation with Clinicopathologic Features in Patients with Papillary Thyroid Cancer”, “Current Diabetes Technology and its Challenges”, “Persistent Subacute Thyroiditis Post SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine in a Male Patient with Positive Thyroid Autoantibodies”, “Pituitary Gland as a Rare Primary Localization of Lymphoma”.

The latest evidence suggests that even early treatment with inhaled steroids such as budesonide might prevent clinical deterioration in patients with COVID-19. This evidence underlines the potentially important role of adrenal steroids in coping with COVID-19. On similar lines, recent studies have demonstrated lowered mortality in severely ill patients with COVID-19 treated with the steroid dexamethasone."

Have a nice and warm winter, making pledge for the coming spring.

With my best regards,

Nilgün Başkal MD
Editor-in-Chief