Orthopedic Pathology in Croatia – 20 years single center experience.

The University of Zagreb was founded in 1669 by Jesuits during the reign of king Leopold of Austria. It was only in 1917 the Medical School was founded with the Institute and University Department of Pathology becoming functional as of 1922. The first Head of the Institute was Professor Sergei Saltykow. Russian by birth, he was educated and working in many famous institutions of that time, including the laboratories of Mechnikow, Pasteur, Ribbert and Kaufmann. In 1965, the clinical disciplines were organizationally separated in the Clinical Hospital Center Rebro (KBC Rebro) later KBC Zagreb. The Pathology Department was split in two with one remaining the Institute of Pathology of the Medical School giving pathology service mainly to outside hospitals and the other becoming the Clinical Department of Pathology giving pathology service to the clinical units of KBC Rebro. Staff members are serving both departments.

The accessed period includes years 1999 till 2018. During this period several pathologist were members of the team, which was established years before by Professor Bogdan Krstulovic, followed by Dr Mira Devcic. Staff members were in historical order Spomenka Manojlovic, Sven Seiwert, Simun Krizanac, Zdenka Hutinec, Luka Brcic and Lovorka Batelja. In its diagnostic work the team in a closest way cooperates with the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology KBC Zagreb, mostly with Professor Kristina Potocki. During the accessed period the team was diagnostically covering several in-house and extramural surgically active departments in Zagreb (Department of Orthopaedic Sur-

gery, KBC Zagreb, Departments of Oncology and Surgery Childrens Clinic Kilaiceva, Departments of Surgery, Traumatology and Neurosurgery KBC Zagreb, Trauma clinic Zagreb) as well as external hospitals consultations (representing arr. 2.55% of material).

The review includes 6449 patients with orthopedic diagnoses established in the center. Of these, 54% were diagnosed with tumors and 46% with non-tumorous disease. Synovial changes were the most common diagnosed pathology, and among tumors and tumor-like lesions osteochondromas followed by osteosarcoma and ganglion cyst followed by chondrosarcoma. The list including rare lesions (appearing with less than 2% in our material) is expectedly long.

In 2003 molecular diagnostics of bone tumors started with RT-PCR for EWS and SSX translocations and since that time the spectrum of molecular investigations of bone and soft tissue tumors is constantly increasing (► Fig. 1). In 2013 FISH diagnostics for bone lesions was introduced. The molecular diagnostics is performed on all type of material (liquid, fresh, fresh frozen and FFPE as well as cytological preparations – smears and cytoblocks).

Over years the team has produced or significantly taken part in scientific work concerning the field of orthopaedics, producing a substantial number of publications, both clinical and experimental (1 – 29), as well as several PhD theses (four) mainly with clinical colleagues.

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List of publications

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• Rt-PCR (SINCE 2003) - 1218

Rt-PCR SARCOMAS

► **Fig. 1** Molecular Pathology in sarcomas

RT-PCR. SS = Synovial Sarcoma, EWS = Ewing Sarcoma, ARMS = Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, MyLPS = Myxoid Liposarcoma, DSRCT = Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, LGFMS = Low Grade Fibromyxoid Sarcoma, CCS = Clear Cell Sarcoma

• FISH (SINCE 2013) - 200

FISH SARCOMAS

► **Fig 2** Fluorescence in situ Hybridization (FISH). List of investigated genes: EWSR1, FUS, MDM2, USP6, MAML2, ETV6, CIC, SS18, FOXO1.

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