**Introduction:** Epocardial adipose tissue (EAT), located between the myocardium and visceral layer of pericardium is an emerging risk factor for cardiometabolic diseases.

**Methods:** The retrospective study consisted of patients hospitalised for STEMI treated with PCI from 2014 to 2016. EAT thickness was measured from the parasternal long-axis view at end-diastole. Cholesterol levels were determined in a blood sample. According to median patients were divided in two groups: thin EAT group (<2.27 mm, n = 270) and thick EAT group (>2.27 mm, n = 223). Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS using Mann–Whitney test, T-test, logistic regression analysis. Values of cholesterol levels were evaluated by ROC curves. p < 0.05 was significant.

**Results:** Total 492 patients (332 males, 66.62±12.24 year-old) were enrolled. Groups did not differ by age, gender, morbidity of diabetes mellitus and triglyceride levels. Patients had higher BMI (29.41±4.97 vs. 28.13±4.67 kg/m², p = 0.009), total cholesterol (>4.82 mmol/l: 35.2 vs. 26.4%, p = 0.024), low density lipoprotein cholesterol (>2.5 mmol/l: 45.8 vs. 33.3%, p = 0.004) and reduced high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels (<1 mmol/l: 24.4 vs. 10.4%, p = 0.009) in thick EAT group. Logistic regression analysis revealed that higher BMI (OR = 1.532, 95% CI 1.008–2.328, p = 0.002) and HDL-C ≤1 mmol/l (OR = 1.777, 95% CI 1.159–2.724, p = 0.008) were associated with thicker EAT. Killip class ≥ III was more frequent (17.6 vs. 10.3%, p = 0.02) in thick than thin EAT group.

**Conclusion:** Increased EAT thickness was associated with obesity, cardiometabolic risk factors and influenced severity of left ventricular dysfunction.

**Aim:** To evaluate the correlation between the inflammatory blood parameters and the resistance to EPO among the hemodialysis patients.

**Introduction:** Erythropoietin therapy is considered to be the standard treatment of anemia in chronic kidney disease patients, yet some patients do not respond well to this therapy. This is called EPO resistance and could be generally associated with the chronic inflammation.

**Methods:** A retrospective one single centre study, which analysed medical records of 30 HD patients who had advanced CKD and received EPO treatment in Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics from 2016–2009 to 2016–2011. Data analysed – concentrations of C-reactive protein, neutrophils, lymphocytes, platelets, as well as EPO dose per kilo and hemoglobin concentration (measured at the beginning of the EPO therapy and one month after the treatment).

**Results:** Patients were grouped into 2 categories: 1 group (n = 14) – concentration of hemoglobin increased, 2 group (n = 16) – concentration decreased after treatment. In 1 group average concentration of platelets were statistically significantly (p = 0.039) higher (230.2 ± 73.70) compared to 2 group (174.1 ± 56.96).

Furthermore, platelets concentration among patients with hemoglobin level of >100 g/l (n = 17) after one month of treatment were statistically significantly (p = 0.012) higher (231.06 ± 56.41) compared to those patients with hemoglobin level of <100 g/l (n = 13) (160.08 ± 78.17).

Additionally, patients with hemoglobin levels after one month of treatment 100–125 g/l (n = 15) were separated into two groups based on C-reactive protein level: >5 (1 group) and ≤5 (2 group). Average concentration of erythropoietin was statistically significantly higher in 1 group (n = 9) (223.82 ± 69.15 VV/kg) than in 2 group (n = 6) (116.68 ± 59.68 VV/kg).

Correlation analysis revealed that among patients with hemoglobin levels of <110 g/l after treatment there is a statistically significant positive correlation (+0.428) between change of hemoglobin levels before and after treatment and erythropoietin dose and statistically significant (p = 0.023) negative correlation (–0.481) with lymphocytes concentration in blood.

**Conclusion:** HD patients with a higher concentration of platelets respond to EPO therapy better than those with a lower concentration. Increased EPO dose results in higher Hgb levels in patients with lower concentration.

**Evaluation of spleen volume: Practical diagnostic role of linear measurements, 2D and 3D coefficients in computed tomography**

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**Aim:** The aim of the study was to find which linear measurements, field and volume coefficients correlate best with the real volume of the spleen and can be further used for determination of splenomegaly.

**Introduction:** Spleen is involved in a wide spectrum of abnormalities, which might lead to an increase in organ size. Splenic enlargement on CT is diagnosed basing on rather subjective criteria. The product of the length, estimated height and thickness of the spleen (“splenic index”, cut-off >480) has also been proposed as an indicator for evaluating splenic size on CT.

**Methods:** Abdominal CT examinations of 153 patients’ (77 females, 76 males) were retrospectively analysed in terms of maximal length, thickness, hilum thickness (axial plane), height (longest measurement in coronal plane), 90° height (maximum vertical height at coronal section), estimated height (number of axial scans where spleen was visible multiplied by the thickness of CT scans) (Impax Software) and real spleen volume (Vitrea software). Two-dimensional and three-dimensional coefficients were acquired through proper mathematical formulas. Splenomegaly cut-off: 314.5 ml. Pearson’s correlation coefficient was calculated for the relationship between single, field, volume measurements and real volume (Statistica software).

**Results:** There was a statistically significant correlation between all single, field and volume measurements and real volume (p < 0.05). For single measurements, the correlation is the strongest for height (r = 0.813, sensitivity 65%, specificity 91.7%, PPV 71.4%, NPV 95.6%). For two-dimensional, it is the coefficient calculated from length and 90° height (r = 0.918, 85%, 94.7%, 70.8%, 97.7%). For three-dimensional, it is the coefficient calculated from length, 90° height and hilum thickness (r = 0.919, 75%, 96.2%, 75%, 96.2%). Cut-off for splenic index from our calculations was ≥1148.

**Conclusion:** Coefficient from length, 90° height and hilum thickness correlate best with the real volume of the spleen. Spleenic index in our study is far from the perfection for clinical practice.
The relationship between Calcium-Scor and the risk of coronary artery disease in patients with heart failure

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Aim: The purpose of this study was evaluating relationship between coronary calcium score in detecting the risk of coronary artery disease in patients with heart failure.

Introduction: Heart failure (HF) is an abnormality of cardiac structure or function leading to failure of the heart to oxygen delivery. Angiography is discussed as a gold standard for diagnosis of coronary artery disease but Cardiac CT-Scan recently is typical imaging technique which is low-cost and non-aggressive technique to determine coronary artery calcification.

Methods: This is case-control study that was conducted in Services Hospital. All Patients referring to Heart failure department were EF (Ejection fraction) ≤35% and all of them previously examined by Coronary Angiography or Coronary CT-Angiography to know the coronary artery status. The case group was patients with CAD related heart failure and control group was patients with normal coronary or Non-CAD Related-HF. All patients in both groups were evaluated with Conventional CT-Scan for calculated the Calcium score.

Results: Ninety patients with HF divided into case group (n = 40) and control group (n = 50). The average of EF in case group was 29.25 ± 5.05 and in control group was 27.7 ± 7.09. The amounts of calcium score in each Categories (Mild, Moderate, Severe and Extensive) in case group was 33%, 18%, 13% and 5%, but control group in Categories (Mild, Moderate, Severe) was 20%, 6% and 4% respectively.

There was a statistically significant correlation (r = 0.835; p < 0.0001) between calcium score and results of angiography. There was linear relationship between calcium score and age of patients with heart failure (r² = 0.807). No significant difference was found between genders in terms of calcium score (p = 0.353).

Conclusion: There was high correlation between calcium score and results of angiography. Calcium scoring is reliable tool for screening patients with CAD.

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Levels of 6-thioguanine nucleotides and clinical remission in inflammatory bowel disease – A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Aim: This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed i) to assess the clinical value of 6-thioguanine nucleotides (6-TGN) thresholds (200, 225, 230, 235, 250 and 260 pmol/8×108 RBC); and ii) to compare mean 6-TGN concentrations between patients with active disease and those achieving remission.

Introduction: Thiopurines are widely used as immunosuppressive drugs in the management of inflammatory bowel disease even though their minimum effective dose and dose–response relationship remain controversial. In addition, the monitoring of thiopurines’ pharmacological active metabolites is currently reserved for particular cases namely in refractory patients or when non-compliance or toxicity is suspected.

Methods: Literature search was carried out following PRISMA and Cochrane Collaboration Guidelines and four databases were used (PubMed, Web of Science, ScienceDirect and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials). Statistical heterogeneity was assessed using the I² statistic followed by subgroup and sensitivity analyses. Odds ratios (ORs) were computed under the random effects model.

Results: The systematic search identified 1384 records of which 25 matched the inclusion criteria and were retained for further analysis. From these, 22 were used in the cut-off comparisons while 12 were used in the 6-TGN mean differences analysis. The global OR for remission in patients with 6-TGN concentrations above the predefined thresholds was 3.95 (95%CI, 2.63–5.94; p < 0.001). When considering each of the six thresholds individually, the OR was significant for levels above 235 pmol/8×108 RBC (OR = 2.25) and 250 pmol/8×108 (OR = 4.71). Mean 6-TGN levels were significantly superior among patients achieving clinical remission, with a pooled difference of 63.37 pmol/8×108 RBC (95%CI, 31.81-94.93; p = 0.001).

Conclusion: These results reinforce that 6-TGN levels are related to clinical remission and give an insight into the thresholds that may be used to guide clinical decisions.