

ADAPTABILITY of VASCULAR WALL

Editors:

**Z. Reiniš, J. Pokorný, J. Linhart,
R. Hild, A. Schirger**

Adaptability of Vascular Wall

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XIth INTERNATIONAL
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PREFACE

The International Congresses of Angiology have had a 25-year tradition. Let us remember the 10 previous International Congresses, the first of which took place in Paris in 1952. On this occasion a stimulus for the foundation of the International Union, "Union Internationale d'Angéiologie" came into existence.

The period of 25 years is long enough to evaluate the scientific progress which has been made in diagnosis, therapy and prevention of vascular diseases. Proceedings of the previous International Congresses of Angiology became attractive resources for scientific information in libraries all over the world. They represent really historic documents of remarkable development of angiology and witness successful international cooperation in the settlement of serious medical problems of the twentieth century.

The Proceedings of the XI. International Congress of Angiology held in Prague 1978 under the stimulating title "Adaptability of Vascular Wall" contains 284 original papers dealing with scientific and clinical research in arterial, venous and lymphatic circulation. The papers are incorporated into 12 chapters according to the main topics.

In the first sections the questions of atherogenesis and thrombogenesis are discussed with regard to the adaptability of vascular wall in various metabolic, immunobiologic, and hemodynamic disorders. In the further sections attention is paid to new procedures in investigation, treatment, and prevention of arterial, venous, and lymphatic diseases. Peripheral microangiopathies, renovascular hypertension, and coronary circulation represent another part.

Many histochemical studies have shown that vascular tissue is of high biologic activity and is protected against pathologic processes by specific enzymatic systems. Regression of atherosclerosis was confirmed not only in experimental animals but it was also predicted in human beings when exogenous risk factors were eliminated. The adaptation of venous grafts into the arterial circulation revealed a remarkable ability of vascular tissue to be "arterialized" and to function in aorto-coronary or in femoro-tibial bypass as well.

New diagnostic methods in vascular diseases were presented and the findings were compared with radioisotopic, ultrasonic, and angiographic procedures. Pharmacotherapy was enriched by new drugs with anticoagulant and thrombolytic effect or with hypolipemic and vasodilation efficiency. Reconstructive surgery of arterial occlusions achieved unexpected progress. Recent epidemiologic studies confirmed the validity of the risk factor theory and several multifactorial preventive programmes are being conducted at present in different parts of the world.

The goal of the scientific program of the Congress was to bring together experts in the multiple disciplines that have a bearing on blood vessels. Participation of pathologists, histochemists, biochemists, radiologists, dermatologists, internists, and surgeons in the experimental and clinical research in the vascular diseases has shown that angiology is a modern interdisciplinary branch of medicine.

Presenting the Proceedings on "Adaptability of Vascular Wall" to medical people all over the world, we are convinced it will be fruitful for every medical doctor who is interested in new diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive procedures of vascular diseases.

Z. REINIŠ

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