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THE USE OF EPONYMS IN MODERN ANATOMICAL TERMINOLOGY

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Relevance. Eponyms – proper names in terms – have existed in medicine for centuries. However, there are currently debates regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of their use in medical practice and particularly in anatomical terminology.

Aim: to analyze eponyms in anatomical terminology.

Materials and methods. Non-pathological eponymous anatomical and histological terms are documented in the International Anatomical Nomenclature (FIPAT - International Federation of Associations of Anatomists). During the research, a selection of eponyms in anatomical terminology was carried out, analogues for eponymous terms, identification of interchangeable and irreplaceable eponyms were searched and arguments in favor of stopping the use of eponyms in modern anatomical terminology were collected.

Results and their discussion. In the International Anatomical Nomenclature, each term is represented by a number of variants: the official Latin name, the official English name, and possible synonyms in English or Latin, e.g.: sinus ossis frontalis – sinus of frontal bone – sinus frontalis / frontal sinus. The study identified about 700 non-pathological terms that have English-language eponymous synonyms. Such terms include 432 eponyms, among which 424 male eponyms are recorded, 30 nationalities are represented (the most common were Germany, France and Italy), 117 eponyms are associated with more than one term (the most common eponyms: Morgagni, Suntory, Haller, Golgi and Jacobson).

However, the study found that the official Latin name contains an eponym in only 12 examples. Among them four terms contain an eponym – the name of the Italian scientist Camillo Golgi, who first discovered these anatomical structures: axon neuri golgiensis. Three terms are associated with the name of Jan Evangelist Purkinje – a Czech physiologist and anatomist: stratum purkinjense.

Thus, the study showed that the number of official eponymous terms in anatomical nomenclature is insignificant. In the Latin official terminology, all eponyms are represented as adjectives: cellula panethensis. In some cases, official terms in English and Russian do not contain eponyms: Lat. mons veneris - Eng. mons pubis - Rus. лобковое возвышение.

A review of the literature on this issue allows us to draw a lot of conclusions about the reasons for the non-use of eponyms (de-eponymization).

Conclusions. Analysis of eponyms in anatomical terminology showed that there are very few irreplaceable eponymous terms. A review of the literature made it possible to formulate arguments in favor of abandoning the use of eponyms in international terminology and in medical practice in general.