

WHAT DID THE LAST 10,000 PATIENTS TEACH US?

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Abstract. The Outpatient Clinic in Split, Croatia, established in 1975, published its first operative studies more than 20 (*Acta Med Salin* 1980;9:33-44), and then 10 years ago (*Liječ Vjesn* 1993;115:30-4). In the following 10 year period (1993-2003) 10,000 patient data were analyzed from the protocols. In this period the female sex was preponderant (50.3% vs. 33.7%; $p < 0.0001$), the majority of our patients were still overweight (66.0% vs. earlier 66.1; $p > 0.05$), and had grade I/II hypertension (57.2% vs. 58.0%; $p > 0.05$). The eye-ground changes in most current patients were either nonexistent (42.9%) or minimal (up to grade II 56.8% of the examinees). The significant, grade III/IV changes marginally increased in the last 10 years (0.75% vs. 0.65%; $p = 0.51$). The ECG tracings were mostly normal (61.5 %), and LVH prevalence decreased (14.5% vs. 19.9%; $p < 0.0001$). Essential hypertension is still by far the most prevalent moiety (96.0% vs. 96.3%; $p = 0.71$), and the curable forms of secondary hypertension (less than 1/5 of all the secondary forms) remain rare.