

**Letter to Editor. Thromboembolic complications
in psychiatry from the perspective of legal
claims – authors’ response**

Alina Wilkowska, Hanna Kujawska-Danecka, Adam Hajduk

Medical University of Gdansk

Thank you for the interest and commentary on our article, published in the Letter to Editor by Skowronek et al. [1, 2]. We appreciate the fact that thromboembolic complications in psychiatric patients have for a long time been a significant problem for the authors of the letter. As they mentioned, in 2012, they presented a report on this subject at a conference in Wisła [3]. However, this topic did not draw much interest among psychiatrists, which confirms the unquestionable need for education of medical staff about thromboembolism and its complications. We fully agree with the suggestion of the authors that it is not always possible to avoid thromboembolism and that the success of treatment depends on many factors; nonetheless, we are still of the opinion that the level of knowledge in this field is decisively insufficient. Our main objective was to present diagnostic methods and suggest the necessity of developing standards for diagnosis and treatment of venous thromboembolism in psychiatric inpatients, which would reflect the standards used in every other hospital ward. Considering legal issues, we believe that complying with clearly defined “standard of care” recommendations protects against possible legal claims. We are extremely pleased that a discussion on this subject is taking place in the pages of *Psychiatria Polska* and we hope that it will contribute to the development of national standards, taking into account the Polish distinctness of treatment and the legal context.

References

1. Skowronek R, Krzystanek M, Chudek J. *Letter to Editor. Thromboembolic complications in psychiatry from the perspective of legal claims*. *Psychiatr. Pol.* 2019; 53(1): 209–211. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.12740/PP/99145>
2. Wilkowska A, Kujawska-Danecka H, Hajduk A. *Risk and prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism in hospitalized psychiatric patients. A review*. *Psychiatr. Pol.* 2018; 52(3): 421–435. Doi: 10.12740/PP/78891
3. Skowronek R, Krzystanek M, Skowronek A, Chowaniec C. *Powikłania zakrzepowo-zatorowe podczas stosowania neuroleptyków i środków przymusu bezpośredniego – niedoceniany problem kliniczny i prawno-karny*. VI International Scientific and Training Conference “New and Really New Mental Disorders”. Wisła, 13.12.2012 – 15.12.2012 (summaries: p. 57).

Address: Alina Wilkowska
Department of Adult Psychiatry
Medical University of Gdansk
80-211 Gdansk, Dębinki Street 7
e-mail: ali.wilkowska@gmail.com