



Viktor BIALIK (1942, Levoca, Slovakia,– 2017, Israel)

EPOS Councillor 1988-1990

4th EPOS General Secretary 1995-1999

EPOS Pro Maximis Meritis 2006

Viktor Bialik is considered as a pioneer of paediatric orthopaedic in Israel and was one of the first in Europe to use hip ultrasound in children. Born in current Slovakia (Czechoslovakia in 1942), he graduated from the Bratislava medical school. In 1968, he escaped from his country and emigrated to Israel where he began working at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa.

After a fellowship in Copenhagen with Jörgen Reimers, he specialized in paediatric orthopaedics and he became director of the Paediatric Orthopaedics in 1990. In 1995, he was awarded the rank of Clinical Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, also in Haifa.

Contribution to EPOS

Viktor Bialik was EPOS Councillor from 1988 to 1990, and the 4th General Secretary from 1995 to 1999. In October 1996, the EPOS executive board hold a meeting in Paris. On the photo (K Parsch coll.):

- Rear row, left to right: M Benson (Councillor), **V Bialik** (General Secretary), K Parsch (President), J Van der Eijken (Vice-President), N de Sanctis (EPOS news Editor)
- Bottom row: J de Pablos (Councillor), H Bensahel (JPO-B), E Lamprecht (Treasurer), J Dimitriou (Councillor).

Bialik organized the 11th annual EPOS meeting in Jerusalem, from 25th to 27th of March 1992. For that meeting, he sent to the EPOS members a survey on DDH prevention. 70 surgeons from 22 countries answered, they are here listed on the right. He also conducted a scientific session on hip disorders. [Geva H, Bialik V, Diméglio A, Garinkol S. Concepts about prevention as defined by members of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society. J Pediatr. Orthop. B. 1993 ; 2 : 104-7.]

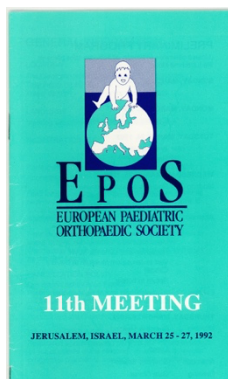
Bialik was awarded Pro Maximis Meritis by Gérard Bollini in Dresden in 2006 during the 25th annual meeting (local hosts: Klaus Peter Gunther, Rüdiger Krauspe, Fritz Niethard and Franz Grill).

Contribution to Paediatric Orthopaedics

Together with Staheli and Tadmor, Bialik oversaw the creation of a coloring book designed to help children and their families better understand the experience of paediatric surgery. This book was translated in Arabic and Hebrew [L Staheli, C Tadmor, V Bialik. Preparation for Orthopedic Surgery. Global Help ed.]

Bialik's interest for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of DDH was certainly influenced by his fellowship in Copenhagen. One of his first study reported a series of 488 of 8,211 registered newborn babies in the Haifa referred for suspected CDH. He defined 4 grades: "1-normal; 2-findings that justified follow-up (limited abduction, delayed appearance of epiphyseal ossification center, acetabular dysplasia); 3-subluxation; 4-dislocation". He concluded: "More attention should be paid to the minor deviations in the hip joints, which we deliberately grouped under grade 2, as it is possible that they harbor the buds of early osteoarthritis" [1].

Arnold Pavlik was Bialik's mentor, perhaps because they were both Czech citizens and because Bialik approved of Pavlik's method of treating DDH. He wrote: "The main principle of his (Pavlik) functional method is based on the ingenious idea that the hip joint is an organ of movement, and thus its pathology must be treated by active movement." Because of his admiration for Pavlik, Bialik translated the autobiography written by Pavlik himself 18 months before his death. In this paper, Pavlik recounts in detail his personal life and his relations with the communists after the World War II. In the early 1930's, Pavlik was appointed senior physician by Professor Frejka in his orthopaedic department in Brno, when Frejka developed his pillow splint. During the war years, Pavlik developed his harness [2].



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Arnold Pavlik (1902–62): an autobiography

Viktor Bialik

In [2]

Summary: Professor Arnold Pavlik, a Czech orthopaedic surgeon, became famous mainly for the development of a functional, active method of treating developmental dysplasia of the hip, in his time called congenital dislocation of the hip. A translation is presented of the autobiography Pavlik prepared to achieve his doctorate in medical sciences, but which his early death in February 1962 denied him.

Several articles have been devoted to the treatment of DDH using the Pavlik harness, including an updated paper entitled "What has changed in the last 25 years" published in 2015. In 2008, Pedel and Bialik presented a cohort of 36,134 hips examined

clinically and by ultrasound over a four-year period. Of 78 Graf class III and IV joints, 71 (91%) achieved hip reduction with the Pavlik method, with no cases of osteonecrosis. They concluded that Pavlick's method is a safe option even for severe hip dysplasia [3].

In 1987, during a fellowship in Birmingham with Pigott, Bialik assessed the incidence of pseudarthrosis after Harrington surgery in cases of idiopathic scoliosis without bone grafting. They observed that no case of pseudarthrosis were found when the distal instrumented vertebrae were at or above L3, compared to 6.6% when the distal instrumented vertebrae was below L3 [4].

Bialik was concerned about the disasters caused by recurring wars in his country, and he had to treat many of injured children. In 1987, he published a series of 12 children who were victims of explosions and shrapnel and had severe multiple injuries and crush to the musculoskeletal system. Amputation was performed only in limbs that were necrotic upon arrival. Eleven amputations were performed in two stages. No revision surgery or temporary prostheses were necessary in this series. Six limbs were saved using a combined procedure: stage 1 - surgical debridement, external fixator and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, stage 2 - soft tissue repair five days later. All children quickly regained function [5]. The legend of the figure on the right is :*"Combined B/K and A/K amputee before leaving the hospital"*.



Plantar puncture wounds in children are caused by nails, glass, wood or needles. Most often, children who present within the first 24 hours recover well, with a low incidence of complication. Patients who present later with established wound infection require treatment. Mark Eidelman, Viktor Bialik et al. reviewed the charts of 80 children admitted to their institution for a delayed wound infection. Fifty-nine had superficial cellulitis, 11 had retained foreign bodies, and 10 had osteomyelitis. Forty-six were treated with antibiotics alone, while 34 required additional surgery. Four of the 10 osteomyelitis and septic arthritis had radiographic sequelae at follow-up, including one with severe destruction of the calcaneus [6].

His son, Gadi, is a senior paediatric orthopaedic surgeon in Sheba Medical Center in Israel, doing mainly hip and foot.

References, Top 6

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Note : Bialik's biography will be completed with the help of his son Gadi as soon as possible. The ongoing war in the Middle East is making it difficult to communicate information.

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Pierre Lascombes – EPOS Historian