Patients with acute pancreatitis account for 5–10 % of the entire number of patients that belong to the surgical profile [3]. The latest decade has witnessed a rapidly increasing number of cases of acute pancreatitis, which has changed significantly the total structure of pathologies requiring emergency surgery. Acute pancreatitis tops the list of all other urgent abdominal issues – in 2004 the share of cases with acute pancreatitis was 31.3 % out of the entire number of surgical hospitalizations, while in 1997 the patients in question made up only 21.5 % of the entire number in the respective pathology group. In 2015, many regions had acute pancreatitis as the top common issue leaving behind all other urgent surgical abdominal pathologies [1]. 15–20 % of observed acute pancreatitis cases prove of destructive nature. In 40–70 % of patients with pancreatonecrosis get infected foci of necrotic destruction [4,5]. The mortality rate due to acute pancreatitis is up to 30 %. Infectious complications preceded by destructive pancreatitis account for 80 % of the respective deaths [2]. Even though the methods for treating the disease have been improving for the latest 30 years, the mortality rate still remains
at 4–40 %, while in certain, most complicated cases it may go up to 90 % [3, 5].

Aim of study was to analyze the treatment outcomes for acute pancreatitis within 1984–2014 yrs.

Material and Methods. Within the above-mentioned period at the Department Surgery of SISMU has had 4,010 patients hospitalized with acute pancreatitis, 1,604 (40 %) of them being males while the number of females was 2,406 (60 %), which offers a ratio of 1:1.5. Aged up to 30 were 397 (9.9 %) patients; 31–59 years old were 2,149 (53.6 %), and another 1,464 (36.5 %) patients could be referred to as elderly and old. The structure of the disease had acute pancreatitis of alimentary etiology topping the list, including alcohol-induced pancreatitis (1,604 patients, i.e. 40 %), which was immediately followed by gallstone pancreatitis with 1,363 (34 %) cases, while 461 (11.5 %) patients had certain traumas, and another 461 (115 %) – other or unidentified causes behind the issue (acute pancreatitis was classified as idiopathic). 321 (8 %) patients out of the 4,010 underwent surgeries, with 60 (18.6 %) patients passing away after the surgery. Of 3,689 cases that were given conservative treatment, 26 (0.7 %) passed away, which brought the total rate of mortality to 2.1 %.

Results. In view of the significant changes in treatment practices for acute pancreatitis, it appeared a reasonable idea to analyze the respective treatment outcomes for the latest 30 years. The chosen period of time was broken in three parts while the patients were divided in three groups. Group 1 included 1,036 patients with various clinical-morphological types of acute pancreatitis who underwent treatment in the clinic within 1984–1997 (80 patients annually on the average). Group 2 was made up of 781 patients, each hospitalized at a certain point within the range of 1998–2006, whereas the annual influx of patients suffering from acute pancreatitis was at about 98 cases. Period 3 (2007–2014) involved 1,648 patients hospitalized (182 patients per year on the average).

The surgical treatment given to the patients of Group 1 featured a relatively high rate of laparotomy at the stage of enzynatoxemia (12 % of the patients operated on, while in Group 2 this frequency rate was 3.7 % only). The surgical tactics in Group 2 implied no early laparotomy while in Group 2 this frequency rate was 3.7 % only. The mortality rate among the patients that underwent conservative treatment no deaths were registered. Of the 1,460 (88.6 %) patients in Group 3, who were treated conservatively, too, no deaths were reported either.

Conclusions. The average number of cases hospitalized with acute pancreatitis within 2007–2014 went up 2.3 times compared to the period of 1984–1997. Over a half of all the patients (63.5 %) were in their working age. Alimentary factor proved the leading one in the etiology of acute pancreatitis. This suggests that the issue of acute pancreatitis implies both medical & social aspects. Due to the fact that edematous types are prevalent in the structure of the issue, the total mortality rate within the period analyzed remained at around 2.1 %. A decrease in the post-surgery mortality observed in the recent years is due, first of all, to the introduction of technologies requiring minimum invasion. The mortality rate among the patients that underwent conservative treatment was 0.7 %, which could be accounted for the efficiency of comprehensive intensive pathogenetic therapy.