

Notice of Retraction

In September 2018, the Journal of Cancer and Allied Specialties (JCAS) published a clinical case report 'Diagnostic Dilemma of a Diaphragmatic Hernia' by Salman Yahya, Sonia Zafar and Hafsa Babar.^[1] Earlier this year, it was brought to the knowledge of the journal that a similar clinical case report had been published in the Journal of Ayub Medical College (JAMC) by a different set of authors.^[2] We reviewed both of the manuscripts and concluded that they discussed different aspects of medical management, they were based on the same clinical case. This was considered as a breach of the principles of medical publication ethics, and an investigation was initiated to review the matter.

Following investigation, it was concluded that local Institutional Review Board (IRB) had granted waivers to both set of authors to publish the case report. The local IRB office was not aware of the fact that these waivers were being granted for the same patient. This is because the application for waiver for case studies does not include name and medical record number of patients. Furthermore, due to the close proximity of initial submissions and subsequent acceptance of the two manuscripts, it was concluded that neither the authors nor the journals' editorial staff were aware of the redundant publications at the time of submission.

Based on these findings, Editor-in-Chief of JCAS and JAMC asked Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre to conduct an internal

investigation to settle the authorship dispute. A committee comprising members of IRB and Scientific Review Committee reviewed patient medical record and available evidence. They concluded that the rightful ownership of the data belonged to Saleem *et al.* The committee did not find any of the authors to have conducted scientific misconduct. Furthermore, it was recommended to include patient name and medical record number in prospective IRB applications for case series and to educate hospital clinicians about ethics of manuscript writing.

Therefore, the JCAS will be retracting the clinical case report 'Diagnostic Dilemma of a Diaphragmatic Hernia' by Salman Yahya, Sonia Zafar and Hafsa Babar.^[1]

References

1. Yahya S, Zafar S, Babar HS. Retracted: Diagnostic dilemma of a diaphragmatic hernia. J Cancer Allied Spec 2018;4:3.
2. Saleem H, Malik SH, Mehdi SR Massive haemorrhage in patient after repair of post esophagectomy diaphragmatic hernia and a loading dose of clopidogrel. J Ayub Med Coll Abbottabad 2018;30:611-3.

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