Retraction of Redundant Publication

The article “Does the Oropharyngeal Fat Tissue Influence the Oropharyngeal Airway in Snorers? Dynamic CT Study” by Tolga Aksoz, Hüseyin Akan, Mehemt Celebi, and Banu Baglan Sakran, published in the *Korean Journal of Radiology* (2004;5:102–06) is for the most part identical to an article by Hüseyin Akan, Tolga Aksoz, Umit Belet, and Teoman Şeçen, entitled “Dynamic Upper Airway Soft-Tissue and Caliber Changes in Healthy Subjects and Snoring Patients” published in the *American Journal of Neuroradiology* (2004;25:1846–50). All members of the Ethical Committee on Publication of the Korean Radiologic Society agree that the 2 papers belong to the category of redundant publication.

Byung Ihn Choi  
*President, The Korean Radiologic Society*  
Kyueng Soo Lee  
*Editor-in-Chief, Korean Journal of Radiology*

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Reply:

Byung Ihn Choi, president of The Korean Radiologic Society, reported that members of the Ethical Committee on Publication of that group believe our 2 papers belong in the category of redundant publication.

We don’t agree with them. It is obvious fact that those 2 papers are entirely different. Let me explain the differences between the first paper (published in KJR) and second paper (published in AJNR).

1) The hypotheses certainly are different. In the first paper, the purpose of the study was to validate the premise that snorers may have a smaller oropharyngeal airway area in relation to increased fat infiltration and an elevated body mass index. Because no statistically significant difference was found between snorers and control subjects in terms of total subcutaneous fat width and total parapharyngeal fat pad thickness, we speculated that the oropharyngeal wall muscles may be the cause of narrowing. Therefore, we planned a new study measuring oropharyngeal diameters [not oropharyngeal airway] and pharyngeal walls and changes in these values to understand which parameters might be the cause of snoring.) In the second study, results showed that the lateral pharyngeal walls in snorers were thinner than in control subjects at the largest phase, whereas they become larger at the end of the expirium, the narrowest phase of respiration. The changes of thickness of the lateral pharyngeal wall between the beginning and the end of expirium in snorers (4.14 mm) were significantly higher than the changes in control subjects (0.66 mm). In that study, changes in the thickness of the lateral pharyngeal wall were significantly related to airway diameter in snorers.

For the second study, we used the CT images obtained from the patients in the first study. We didn’t use new study or control groups for 2 reasons. First, to keep out the radiation effects, and second, we thought that if the first study was the basis for the second study, it would be more valuable and reliable.

In conclusion, although the CT scan data obtained from the same patients were used in both papers, we designed the new study (different hypothesis, different measurement parameters, different results, and entirely different discussion) and submitted it to AJNR in November 2003.

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Editor’s Comment: On Redundant and Duplicate Articles

The availability of large electronic data bases and our ease in querying them makes recognition of redundant and duplicate publications easier. Both are considered to be a type of self-plagiarism. Once an editor recognizes a publication as redundant or duplicate, he or she may choose to inform PubMed with or without warning the author(s).

This data base immediately will post a retraction note and a warning indicating the nature of this action. Obviously, this process may have deleterious effects on the reputation of the author(s). If one attempts to open the article published Dr. Aksoz et al in the *Korean Journal of Radiology*, such a warning appears.1 The Editor-in-Chief of that journal and members of the Ethical Committee on Publication of its parent organization concluded there are enough similarities between that

Reference

1. Petruzellis M, De Blasi R, Lucivero V, et al. Cerebral aneurysms in a patient with osteogenesis imperfecta and exon 28 polymorphism of COLIA2. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 2007;28:997–98

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