

Bringing Retracted Papers Into Focus

Helmar Bornemann-Cimenti · Andreas Sandner-Kiesling

Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria

To the editor:

In a recent issue of *Clinical and Experimental Otorhinolaryngology*, Kim et al. [1] presented an interesting study on the preoperative application of pregabalin in patients undergoing septoplasty. The authors should be congratulated to their interesting work, which showed benefits in reducing postoperative pain and analgesic requirements. Their results fits in an increasing body of evidence, where pregabalin has shown to effectively prevent postoperative pain [2], potentially by reducing postoperative hyperalgesia and allodynia [3,4].

The authors did a commendable job in designing and realizing the study. When preparing their paper, they overlooked that one of their references, a study by Reuben et al., was already retracted due to fraudulent data [5].

The problem of ongoing citation of retracted papers was previously reported [6]. Especially when using Embase in contrast to PubMed, authors have no information on whether a publication was rejected or not [7]. However, perpetuating fraudulent publications leads to a bias in the representation of the current literature. In consideration of the increasing number of retracted papers, authors should be encouraged to verify their sources. Beyond that, it would be desirable to incorporate a label in Embase on retracted papers.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

REFERENCES

1. Kim JH, Seo MY, Hong SD, Lee J, Chung SK, Kim HY, et al. The efficacy of preemptive analgesia with pregabalin in septoplasty. *Clin Exp Otorhinolaryngol.* 2014 Jun;7(2):102-5.
2. Mishriky BM, Waldron NH, Habib AS. Impact of pregabalin on acute and persistent postoperative pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br J Anaesth.* 2015 Jan;114(1):10-31.
3. Bornemann-Cimenti H, Lederer AJ, Wejbora M, Michaeli K, Kern-Pirsch C, Archan S, et al. Preoperative pregabalin administration significantly reduces postoperative opioid consumption and mechanical hyperalgesia after transperitoneal nephrectomy. *Br J Anaesth.* 2012 May;108(5):845-9.
4. Lederer AJ, Bornemann-Cimenti H, Wejbora M, Kern-Pirsch C, Michaeli K, Sandner-Kiesling A. Pregabalin and postoperative hyperalgesia: a review. *Schmerz.* 2011 Feb;25(1):12-8.
5. Shafer SL. Notice of retraction. *Anesth Analg.* 2009 Apr;108(4):1350.
6. Bornemann-Cimenti H, Sandner-Kiesling A. Avoiding perpetuating fraudulent publications in addendum to Sagit M et al: Efficacy of a single preoperative dose of pregabalin for postoperative pain after septoplasty. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2014;25(2):717.
7. Wright K, McDaid C. Reporting of article retractions in bibliographic databases and online journals. *J Med Libr Assoc.* 2011 Apr;99(2):164-7.

• Received December 3, 2014

Revised January 26, 2015

Accepted January 26, 2015

• Corresponding author: **Andreas Sandner-Kiesling**

Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Medical

University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 29, 8036 Graz, Austria

Tel: +43-316-385-81858, Fax: +43-316-385-14664

E-mail: andreas.sandner@medunigraz.at

Copyright © 2015 by Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.