Retraction of article


The above named article has been retracted from the New Zealand Journal of Medical Laboratory Science.

It came to our attention that a paper by the same authors appeared in the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases (Parsian H, Rahimipour A, Nouri M, Somi MH, Qujeq D, Fard MK, Agcheli K. Serum hyaluronic acid and laminin as biomarkers in liver fibrosis. J Gastrointestin Liver Dis 2010; 19 (2): 169-174) that was similar in many aspects to their article in our journal. These similarities were:

- The patient group was identical in all aspects including inclusion criteria, histological assessment, treatment and follow up.
- The control group was identical in all aspects.
- Mean serum laminin levels between patients and controls were virtually identical in both articles.
- Characteristics of the patient and control groups were identical for gender and age but differed to some degree for ALT, AST, Alkaline Phosphatase and platelet count in the patient group, but not in the control group.
- Serum laminin levels were identical in all subgroups before treatment, but were somewhat different for fibrosis stage 0 at 2, 4 and 6 months treatment.
- ROC curves and data derived there from were identical for serum laminin in both articles.

According to guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) this amounts to substantial self-plagiarism which is not allowed and requires either a retraction or redundant publication notification. Due to the fact that there were differences in various laboratory parameters in the patient groups, despite being totally identical, requires our journal to retract the article rather than issue a notice of redundant publication as we cannot guarantee that their results in both journals are correct. The authors’ article in the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases is simultaneously being retracted.

The authors of both articles have been advised of the retraction notices and the reasons why. The 1st author of both articles, Dr H Parsian apologised and stated he did not realise that he required our journal’s permission, as copyright holder of the article, to insert significant parts of a previous manuscript in another manuscript. The fact remains that he and his senior co-authors signed a letter to the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases stating that the manuscript they submitted had not previously been published in full or in substantial part when in fact the majority of the work had previously been published in the New Zealand Journal of medical laboratory Science.

We regret having to take this action. Articles submitted to the journal require substantial resources in editorial and reviewers’ time and commitment. However, plagiarism, including self-plagiarism is absolutely not allowed and has the potential to distort the literature.

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