

The Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Journal of Pain Research wish to issue an Expression of concern for the published article.

A reader raised concerns to the Editor about the validity of the data presented in the published article. It was alleged three authors of the present article, Zhang H, Feng Y and Gu J, had previously published the results of the study in the article:


It was also alleged the clinical trial registration (CTR) number (ChiCTR-TRC-11001791) provided in the published article was taken from an unrelated study and had no association with the current study.

Upon review, a number of discrepancies were found between the study described in the article and the details provided for the registered clinical trial study (50 in each intervention group), while only 72 participants were described in the present article and none were ascribed to any specific intervention group.

Two Journal of Pain Research editorial board members were asked to review the article published in the Chinese Journal of Anaesthesiology and the present article. While they acknowledged similarities between them, they were unable to conclude with certainty that the data contained in both articles were from the same study. The authors and their institution, the People’s Hospital of Peking University, were contacted and asked for an explanation and to provide the raw data for their study but no response was received.

As we were unable to reach a conclusive decision, the Editor-in-Chief would like to alert readers to these issues and allow them to reach their own conclusions.

Our decision-making was informed by our policy on publishing ethics and integrity and the COPE guidelines.