A Potential Role of Ethosuximide and Pentoxifylline in Relieving Abdominal Pain in Irritable Bowel Syndrome Patients Treated with Mebeverine: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial [Retraction]


The Editor and Publisher of Journal of Inflammation Research wish to retract the published article. Following publication, concerns were raised that the results reported appeared to have been published previously in similar articles from the same authors.


The Journal of Inflammation Research study reported three study groups. Group 1 (n=50) received 135mg of mebeverine hydrochloride capsules three times daily for 6 months; Group 2 (n=50) received 135mg of mebeverine capsules three times daily plus 250mg of ethosuximide capsules two times daily for 6 months; Group 3 (n=50) received 135mg of mebeverine capsules three times daily plus 400mg of pentoxifylline (PTX) tablets two times daily for 6 months. The results reported for these three groups were identical to the results reported for groups one and two in the previous publications. Yet, both these studies reported n=25 for each group, with each group only receiving treatment for 3 months, instead of 6 months and Group 2 in the Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics article received capsules containing 500mg of ethosuximide. In addition, all three studies reported the same clinical trial number (NCT04217733).

The authors responded to our queries and explained each study was performed independently and it was a coincidence that the results reported were identical. The Editor did not find this response to be satisfactory and determined the findings of the article to be unreliable and requested that the article be retracted.

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

The retracted article will remain online to maintain the scholarly record, but it will be digitally watermarked on each page as “Retracted”. 

The Journal of Inflammation Research is an international, peer-reviewed open-access journal that welcomes laboratory and clinical findings on the molecular basis, cell biology and pharmacology of inflammation including original research, reviews, symposium reports, hypothesis formation and commentaries on: acute/chronic inflammation; mediators of inflammation; cellular processes; molecular mechanisms; pharmacology and novel anti-inflammatory drugs; clinical conditions involving inflammation. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php to read real quotes from published authors.

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