COMMENT & RESPONSE


To the Editor On behalf of our coauthors, we write to request retraction of our article, “Association of Genetic and Clinical Aspects of Congenital Long QT Syndrome With Life-Threatening Arrhythmias in Japanese Patients,”1 published online on February 13, 2019, and in the March 2019 issue of JAMA Cardiology. This retrospective cohort study assessed the association between sex and location of the long QT syndrome pathogenic variants and risk of life-threatening arrhythmias based on a Japanese long QT syndrome genetic registry database. Patients were enrolled in the study from March 1, 2006, to February 28, 2013, and the analyses for this study were conducted from January 18 to October 10, 2018. However, after publication, critical errors were found that affect the data in the Figures, Tables, Results, and Conclusions reported in our study.

These errors were discovered and reported anonymously to our institutions, the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center and the Nippon Medical School, which conducted formal investigations. The institutional investigations determined that although no specific misconduct was found, confirmation work and data management with regard to data analysis were insufficient, and errors arose that affect the conclusions of the article. There were numerous inconsistencies in the data, and because of numerous duplications of data, the reliability of the database that was used for the article has been significantly damaged. The lead researcher for this study had changed from Wataru Shimizu, MD, to Takeshi Aiba, MD, in June 2013, when Dr Shimizu moved to Nippon Medical School from the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center. The institutional investigation determined that both authors were lacking in circumspection with regard to the presentation and analysis of data when reporting past data as the results of retrospective research.

In addition, it was found that there was improper conduct regarding authorship for Dr Shimizu. The Author Contributions section in the article states, “Drs Shimizu and Aiba contributed equally to this work, had full access to all the data in the study, and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.” Dr Shimizu designed the study, received the funding, and acquired the data until 2013 for this study; however, he was not involved with data management for this research after 2013 or statistical analysis or the initial preparation of the manuscript, as was stated in the contributions section of the published article. The institutional investigations reported that no particular problems were found with regard to the other authors of this article.

We are sincerely sorry for missing the errors when we submitted the manuscript, and we are sure that all of the errors were never intentional. However, given concerns about the data and data management, we have requested retraction of this article.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.


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