

# Hyperprolactinemia with normal serum prolactin: “Hook effect” a concern in laboratory medicine aspect

Sir,

I read the interesting case report by Agarwal *et al.*, with a great interest.<sup>[1]</sup> There are some additional discussions on this case. It is no doubt that “all gynecologists should consider galactorrhea even in women with normal serum prolactin.”<sup>[2]</sup> The interpretation of the serum prolactin level needs careful consideration. In laboratory medicine, the false negative in prolactin level determination can be expected. A high-dose hook effect in the PRL assay that leads to falsely low serum prolactin level is mentioned in some literatures.<sup>[3-6]</sup> The hook effect should be considered in any case with a large pituitary mass.<sup>[4]</sup> A pre-dilution preparation can help in solving this specific false negative problem.<sup>[3-6]</sup>

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