

Retracted: Predictors of Quality of Life in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis in Pakistan: A Cross-Sectional Study

Rejja Irfan ¹, Sohaib Tousif ², Romaisa R. Khan ³, Asma Bham ⁴, Khizer Shamim ⁵, Rahil Barkat ⁶

Review began 08/07/2021

Review ended 08/16/2021

Published 08/23/2021

Retracted 03/17/2022

© Copyright 2021

Irfan et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License CC-BY 4.0., which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

1. Internal Medicine, Brooklyn Cancer Care, New York, USA 2. Medicine, Ziauddin Medical University, Karachi, PAK 3. Internal Medicine, Liaquat National Hospital and Medical College, Karachi, PAK 4. Indus Hospital Research Center, Indus Hospital & Health Network, Karachi, PAK 5. Internal Medicine, Ziauddin University Hospital, Karachi, PAK 6. Indus Hospital Research Center, The Indus Hospital, Karachi, PAK

Corresponding author: Rejja Irfan, rejja.irfan@gmail.com

This article has been retracted.

Retraction date: March 17, 2022. Cite this retraction as Irfan R, Tousif S, Khan R R, et al. (March 17, 2022)

Retraction: Predictors of Quality of Life in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis in Pakistan: A Cross-Sectional Study. Cureus 14(3): r42. doi:10.7759/cureus.r42.

This article has been retracted and the contents removed due to data theft and purchased authorships. It was discovered that Rahil Barkat (last author) used research data without the knowledge or permission of the principal investigator, a colleague of Mr. Barkat, who was not listed as an author.

Upon discovering the published article during a routine literature review, the principal investigator notified her institution, Indus Hospital & Health Network, which conducted a thorough investigation confirming the data theft as well as the inclusion of several co-authors who were asked by Mr. Barkat to proofread the article and provide payment in exchange for authorship. These payments were made in the guise of "editing fees" but greatly exceed any editing fees paid to Cureus. While these authors may have been defrauded by Mr. Barkat, they remain complicit due to their lack of honest contributions to the article. (Proofreading is an insufficient contribution to warrant authorship as defined by ICMJE.) The article contents have been removed to allow for the rightful owners of this data to publish it at their discretion.

Upon receiving the results of this investigation, Cureus immediately undertook a comprehensive review of all other Cureus publications from Mr. Barkat and his frequent co-authors, which revealed a consistent pattern of fraud and resulted in the retraction of all articles.

Abstract

Retracted

Categories: Internal Medicine, Orthopedics, Public Health

Keywords: rheumatoid arthritis, quality of life, sf-36, pakistan, factors

Introduction

Retracted

Materials And Methods

Retracted

Results

Retracted

Discussion

Retracted

Conclusions

Retracted

Additional Information

Disclosures

Human subjects: Consent was obtained or waived by all participants in this study. IRB of The Indus Hospital issued approval IRD_IRB_2021_2_014. The IRB of The Indus Hospital has reviewed the above-referenced study and determined that, as currently described, it was eligible for expedited review and has been approved. **Animal subjects:** All authors have confirmed that this study did not involve animal subjects or tissue. **Conflicts of interest:** In compliance with the ICMJE uniform disclosure form, all authors declare the following: **Payment/services info:** All authors have declared that no financial support was received from any organization for the submitted work. **Financial relationships:** All authors have declared that they have no financial relationships at present or within the previous three years with any organizations that might have an interest in the submitted work. **Other relationships:** All authors have declared that there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.