Retraction:
“Effect of Breast-Feeding on the Development of Atopic Dermatitis”

Dear Editor

We request the retraction of the paper entitled "Effect of breast-feeding on the development of atopic dermatitis" published in Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology 2005 (Volume 4, Number 3, Pages: 129-132).

Although we used the reference of Laubereau B, et al. "Effect of breast-feeding on the development of atopic dermatitis during the first 3 years of life--results from the GINI-birth cohort study. J Pediatr 2004; 144(5):602-7." for designing the methods and writing the introduction of our study, we missed citing that article because of our lack of awareness of the related rules regarding publishing ethics. While the results and discussion of our study were completely different from the paper published in The Journal of Pediatrics, such fault in copying the introduction and methods became problematic.

We sincerely apologize to the editors and editorial board of both journals, the authors of the original paper, and also the readers of the journals. While apologizing, we ask you to take the necessary action to retract our paper from your journal.

Reza Ghaderi
Zahra Makhmalbaf

Editorial Comment

It has come to our attention that a paper published in the September 2005 issue of the Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology by Ghaderi R. and Makhmalbaf Z. "Effect of breast-feeding on the development of atopic dermatitis" exhibited plagiarism in the introduction and methods of an article published in The Journal of Pediatrics by Laubereau B, et al. "Effect of breast-feeding on the development of atopic dermatitis during the first 3 years of life-results from the GINI-birth", which was published in the May 2004. Based on a thorough investigation, the originality of the work, published in our journal, was confirmed. However, the authors did not provide any citation to the article, published in The Journal of Pediatrics, while the authors used that article to write the introduction and design the questionnaires for their study. Consequently, the editorial board decided to retract this article from our journal.

Although this situation fortunately rarely occurs, it should be emphasized that ethics is one of the most important issues in publications and tempering the rules might cause irreversible damage to the academic positions of the authors.

For more information regarding the ethical rules in scientific publications and the uniform requirements for manuscript submitted to biomedical journals, please visit the following websites:

* The World Association for Medical Editors (WAME): http://www.wame.org/
* The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE): http://www.icmje.org/

www.SID.ir