Empfehlungen der Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz

Autorschaft
bei wissenschaftlichen Publikationen

Prof. Christian W. Hess
Präsident der Kommission Wissenschaftliche Integrität
Authorship in scientific publications
Analysis and recommendations
Motivation

- **Authorship disputes:**
  - **most frequent** problem referred to the Scientific Integrity Ombudsman of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.
  - frequently arise as a result of false expectations, unclear arrangements or poor communication

- Increasing number of authors, institutions, universities, countries

- Cultural shift in favour of junior scientists during recent decades

- Existing guidelines often fail to appropriately address important questions according to the Ombudsman
Gender-related Differences in Prolactinomas. 
A clinicopathological study

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Key words: gender; outcome; prolactinoma; pituitary adenoma

Abstract

BACKGROUND/AIMS: Prolactinomas are the most common tumors of the pituitary gland. Only few studies have documented gender-related differences in the growth and presentation of these tumors, but nothing is known about their effects on their subsequent surgical outcome and prognosis.

PATIENTS & METHODS: Twenty-six patients with prolactinomas, that met strict immunohistochemical and electron microscopic criteria and were surgically treated between January 1990 and June 1997, were retrospectively reviewed. The patient charts, as well as histological (mitotic index) immunohistochemical (MIB-1 labeling-index) and electronic microscopical staining were analyzed.

RESULTS: Nineteen patients were women, and seven were men; the female-to-male ratio was 2.7:1. Men were significantly older; both at diagnosis and surgery. Menstrual abnormalities were the most common presenting symptom in women, whereas impotence predominated in men. Psychological symptoms were significantly more common in men than in women. Men had a significantly shorter preoperative duration of symptoms and higher preoperative serum prolactin levels than women. The preoperative prolactin levels and proliferative activities (mitotic index, MIB-1 labeling index) were lower in women compared to men and showed a direct correlation to postoperative outcome. The overall outcome was significantly better in women than in men. In women, age less than 35 years was a beneficial prognostic factor, and preoperative bromocriptine treatment was associated with a significantly worse long-term outcome.

CONCLUSION: The biology and the clinical course of prolactinomas seem to differ in women and men. In men, the preoperative durations of symptoms is shorter, the tumors are larger and more invasive at surgery, and the outcome is worse than in women. Based on proliferative activities (mitotic index, MIB-1 labeling index), the predominance of macroadenomas in men is due to a high frequency of rapidly growing tumors, which are often invasive and frequently correlated with a worse outcome. Our findings may justify a more aggressive therapeutic approach to prolactinomas in men than in women.
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Activities such as measuring objects or collecting literature are not deemed to be scientific if they are performed on the instructions of a third party without an appreciation of the underlying scientific question or the need to exercise personal judgement.

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*for example:*
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The concept of contributorship is explicitly recommended: The contributions of all the authors involved are specified or described.
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First author
• project leader with primary responsibility  OR
• has invested the most time in the project (project leader → last author)
  (typically doctoral or postdoctoral researcher)

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Corresponding author
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• associated with ↑seniority, when two (or more) senior figures are involved

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• recognize contributions which do not merit authorship
• (to specify contributions)
Meta-analysis identifies four new loci associated with testicular germ cell tumor

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A Genome-Wide Association Study for Venous Thromboembolism: The Extended Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium

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Procedure for determining authorship and sequence of listing

Who is to be designated as author, and the order of listing, should be discussed – with all parties being consulted – **as early as possible**

The **project leader** has the task of determining the list of authors and bears the primary responsibility for authorship decisions (also for amendments which may become necessary as the research project evolves!)

**Important:** - transparent procedure
- communicate to all persons involved
- decisions recorded in writing
Publications associated with doctoral research – e. g. individual chapters of a thesis published in a journal – are always to appear with the name of the **doctoral researcher** in **first-author position**, with the programme leader possibly being added as second author.

(Problem of an extended publication based on a doctoral thesis)
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für die Erteilung des Grades eines
Doctor medicinae veterinariae

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Gesamtfassung auf der Basis der Verkündungsblätter
der Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover

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