EDITORIAL

Expression of concern: Plagiarism in a case report

It has recently been brought to my attention that some of the text of a case report written by Wik and Kiil and published in Resuscitation in 2005 has been duplicated from a research letter published by Gilbert et al. in the Lancet in 2000. Specifically, about 50% of the introduction, about eight sentences from the midsection, and the entire conclusion from the research letter have been used in the 2005 case report by Wik and Kiil. The layout of a table in the 2005 case report is also similar to one published in the research letter. Most of the discussion in the 2005 case report has been duplicated from a review article by Wik published previously in Resuscitation. It has been confirmed independently that the case documented in the 2005 report is genuine and there is no suggestion that the data presented have been copied or fabricated. Drs Wik and Kiil have apologised in writing to Prof. Gilbert.

This case was referred to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and discussed by members of this committee on 3rd June 2008. The plagiarism of text was considered to be a serious breach of publishing ethics but because the case was genuine it was considered appropriate to continue to make the science of this report available to the wider community. This expression of concern will be linked permanently to the 2005 case report.

References


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