

Hazel C. Jones

Aqueduct stenosis in animal models of hydrocephalus

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Sir:

In 1992 I corresponded with you over an article about aqueduct stenosis in animal models of hydrocephalus published in *Child's Nervous System* [6], and you were kind enough to publish my letter [1], in which I pointed out that two other models of congenital hydrocephalus, the H-Tx rat and the SUMS mouse, also have primary aqueduct stenosis.

I was gratified, therefore, when another paper appeared from the same group [7], in which primary aqueduct stenosis was acknowledged in the H-Tx rat. However, I was subsequently extremely surprised and disturbed to see in another 'review' paper, published in 1996 [5], that the work done by us on the SUMS mouse and the H-Tx rat was again ignored, and the paper contained the statement that the H-Tx rat has communicating hydrocephalus.

Hence, the authors of the review paper have (a) contradicted their previous publication and (b) ignored the published literature. I acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion here, but I am worried that your readers may be misled. In September 1996 I wrote to Drs. Yamada and Oi about this (see below), but I have not received any reply. I would therefore like to bring this matter to your attention and hope that you can see some way whereby the situation can be resolved.

Text of letter to Dr. Yamada
on 29 September 1996

Dear Dr. Yamada:

In 1991–1992 we corresponded about your paper on the LEW/Jms rat and on aqueduct stenosis as a cause of the hydrocephalus. I sent you two papers of mine on the SUMS mouse and the H-Tx rat where we showed that hydrocephalus was caused by aqueduct stenosis.

I was pleased to see that in the paper you published in 1992 [7] you recognized primary aqueduct stenosis in the H-Tx and redressed the omission in the previous paper. Hence, I thought we were all in agreement over this matter. Imagine my amazement and distress, therefore, when I recently found your review paper [5]. This recent paper contradicts the 1992 paper and states that the H-Tx rat has communicating hydrocephalus with secondary aqueduct stenosis. Also, despite the fact that it quotes 62 references, none of these refer to my work on H-Tx or the SUMS mouse.

Whereas I am happy to acknowledge that some of your co-workers may disagree with the interpretation of our findings there is no excuse for ignoring the literature, especially in a review article. I find this a very disturbing state of affairs. I would be grateful for your comments and I am also writing to Dr. Oi about this.

Text of letter to Dr. Oi
on 29 September 1996

Dear Dr. Oi:

I have read many of your papers on hydrocephalus with much interest, especially those on human fetal hydrocephalus. I have an interest in this because, as you may or may not be aware, I have been working with the H-Tx rat for many years.

In your paper on the LEW/Jms rat [7] you quote (p. 397) the H-Tx rat as having primary closure of the

aqueduct as published by myself and my colleague [2] and [say] that the pathological manifestations in the LEW/Jms are similar to those of H-Tx. I agree that there has been a problem, because Dennis Kohn [4] did not originally think there was an aqueduct obstruction. Nevertheless, I am convinced from my work that there is aqueduct obstruction and I believe Dr. Yamada thinks so too.

I was amazed, therefore, to see a complete contradiction in your recent paper with Dr. Yamada and others [5], in which you state that H-Tx has communicating hydrocephalus with secondary aqueduct stenosis. I was even more distressed to see that in a 'review' paper you did not refer to Jones and Bucknall [2] or to our paper [3] on the SUMS mouse, which also has aqueduct stenosis, despite the fact that you had quoted them previously. Whether or not you agree with our findings is irrelevant, but not to refer to the literature in a review paper is a misrepresentation to the readers.

I think you can understand that I feel aggrieved over this matter. It would be helpful if you could rectify matters by sending a correction or addendum to the editor of *Child's Nervous System*, Dr. Raimondi. Failing this, I would have no alternative but to write to Dr. Raimondi myself, pointing out the inconsistencies in your publications and asking him to set the record straight.

References

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