

Correspondence ▼

Thanks and reply from the editors of the ABD to the comments on the correspondence sent to heads of services accredited by SBD

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We recently sent a letter to heads of services accredited by our Society with general information about the Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia (ABD), the new section on infectious/parasitic diseases and our efforts to increase the impact factor, promote higher visibility and better classification among the main international dermatologic journals. Currently, we occupy the 54th position among the 62 dermatology journals indexed worldwide. We are ahead of *Annales de Dermatologie et de Vénérologie*, and *Leprosy Review*. We can improve with the collaboration of all. We are among the three largest dermatology societies in the world.

We would like to thank all colleagues that participated with responses and suggestions.

Among the correspondences sent to the heads of dermatology services, Dr. Jaison Barreto, expressed concerns and critiques regarding the performance of the editors and the quality of the articles published, especially on Hansen's disease, the article of Continuing Medical Education in particular.¹

Dr. Laila de Laguiche, in another correspondence, criticizes the Editorial of the same journal number. In that Editorial, attention is drawn to the CME article and possibilities of changes in the therapeutic scheme for Hansen's disease.

In this number of the ABD, we transcribed the texts sent by Dr. Jaison Barreto and Dr. Laila de Laguiche, and the reply of the authors of the CME article.

We believe the reply of the CME article's authors are enough to explain the Editorial's reasons and we will let our colleagues who work with Hansen's disease be the judges of the quality of the articles published in our journal.

Editors:

Sinésio Talhari^{1,2}, Bernardo Gontijo³, Everton Carlos Siviero do Vale⁴,
Silvio Alencar Marques⁵

- ¹ Discipline of Dermatology, Universidade Nilton Lins, Manaus (AM), Brazil.
- ² Post-Graduation Program of the Fundação de Medicina Tropical and Universidade do Estado do Amazonas, Manaus (AM), Brazil.
- ³ Dermatology Unit, Hospital das Clínicas, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (MG), Brazil.
- ⁴ Discipline of Dermatology, Departamento de Clínica Médica, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (MG), Brazil.
- ⁵ Department of Dermatology, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Botucatu (SP), Brazil.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Sinésio Talhari
E-mail: abd@sbd.org.br



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Sinésio Talhari		ORCID	0000-0001-9753-6706
Bernardo Gontijo		ORCID	0000-0003-1938-5986
Everton Carlos Siviero do Vale		ORCID	0000-0002-9172-3639
Silvio Alencar Marques		ORCID	0000-0002-5512-4700

Correspondence from Dr. Jaison Barreto

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Dear colleagues,

I add to other previous comments the need we have to comply with strict criteria and, if possible, strongly substantiated with evidences and classical studies published previously before publishing articles in the Continuing Medical Education section.¹ It is not suitable to teach neither new residents nor active colleagues concepts based on personal experiences.

Our mentors' textbooks are not dead letters, particularly when regarding clinical observation and concepts of basic pathophysiology.

It scares me the poor quality of the articles recently published about Hansen's disease in the Annals.

I know this is due to the very poor quality of laboratory tests performed today by general or clinical pathology.

Almost no one knows what Faraco-Fite is. And that is why patients are still classified according to the number of lesions, which is an aberration.

Previously acquired knowledge should not be neglected.

I suggest the editors send the articles to experienced and impartial reviewers for each subject, so that the real quality and relevance of what is intended to be published be evaluated.

Regards

Jaison Barreto¹

¹ Division of Dermatology, Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima, São Paulo (SP), Brasil.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Jaison Barreto

E-mail: jaisonbarreto@gmail.com



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Correspondence from Dr. Laila de Laguiche

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Dear Editor

I was surprised to read the notice in our Annals 2017 number 92(6).¹

SBD's opinion sharing on time reduction and uniformization of the polychemotherapeutic treatment for Hansen's disease in our country sounds to me somewhat hasty and not representative of the international scientific medical class.

I am a scholar on the subject and closely follow WHO's and PAHO's guidelines.

The new guidelines are: early diagnosis, epidemiological control of hotspots, reduction of the degree of disability and elimination of stigma. Changing or reducing the chemotherapeutic scheme is not considered. Rapid tests and post-exposure treatments

for family members and contacts are being studied. Maybe some hope?

Those who, like me, work with Hansen's disease know that a multibacillary does not become sterilized in 6 months and on many occasions, not even in 12 months... these are the scientific evidences from our daily dermatology practice.

This is a scientific conflict and we should always take precedence for the excellence of truth and replicability of clinical studies for new destinations in science.

The deficits in the clinical training of non-dermatologist colleagues and health professionals in general make the classification and adequate approach of these patients difficult. But we should not be guided by the simplest or shortest treatment, running the risk of harming our patient with catastrophic consequences and causing them sequelae to life. *Primum non nocere.*

Medical treatment is still free worldwide. This treatment already shows drug resistance in up to 16% of patients. Recurrences and treatment failures are frequent in the 6 national reference centers. Clinical studies of alternative pharmacological treatments could also be of help to this disease.

So, how do we implement a treatment based on the same drugs, with a shorter time, in view of this picture of bacterial resistance of a disease that currently displays an epidemiological resurgence in a third of the national territory?

I believe in the ability and training of our scientists and hope that relevant scientific studies will still be described to substantiate this important decision in national public health".

Laila de Laguiche¹

¹ Private clinic, Curitiba (PR), Brasil.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Laila de Laguiche

E-mail: laila.de.laguiche@gmail.com



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