Re: Lundar T, Due-Tønnessen BJ, Frič R, Brandal P, Stensvold E, Due-Tønnessen P. Outcomes in adulthood after neurosurgical treatment of brain tumors in the first 3 years of life: long-term follow-up of a single consecutive institutional series of 97 patients. Childs Nerv Syst. 2021 Feb;37 (2):427-433

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Dear Editor,

We compliment Lundar et al. [1] on their important report of functional outcomes more than 20 years after treatment of neurosurgical treatment of brain tumors in the 1st 3 years of life. Pillai et al. [2] reported a somewhat similar assessment of functional outcomes in children treated for brain tumors in the first year of life, followed for a minimum of 5 years after surgery. In this series, the patients who survived > 5 years ranged from 6 to 25 years of age at the time of last follow-up. In this report, 34% of the infants diagnosed with brain tumors had a good functional outcome and 28% were able to attend regular school or take up a skilled job. Histological grade of tumor was the only independent predictor associated with outcome.

We were surprised and disappointed that Lundar et al. [1] omitted to cite this report, which is one of the most pertinent to their study. Indeed, on a PubMed search for “long-term outcomes after brain tumor in infants,” this article by Pillai et al. [2] came up as #6 when using the “best match” display option.

Perhaps there is a legitimate explanation for this omission, but we do hope that authors take more care, as is ethically

required, to review and cite relevant prior publications when writing a scientific article for publication [3].

Declarations

Conflict of interest On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

References

1. Lundar T, Due-Tønnessen BJ, Frič R, Brandal P, Stensvold E, Due-Tønnessen P (2021) Outcomes in adulthood after neurosurgical treatment of brain tumors in the first 3 years of life: long-term follow-up of a single consecutive institutional series of 97 patients. *Childs Nerv Syst* 37:427–433
2. Pillai S, Metrie M, Dunham C, Sargent M, Hukin J, Steinbok P (2012) Intracranial tumors in infants: long-term functional outcome, survival, and its predictors. *Childs Nerv Syst* 28:547–555
3. Steinbok P (1995) Ethical considerations relating to writing a medical scientific paper for publication. *Childs Nerv Syst* 11:323–328

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