Ten-year trends in the incidence of microtia: a nationwide population-based study from Taiwan

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To the Editor,

With great interest, we have read the article by Yen-Fu Cheng et al. [1] entitled *Ten-year trends in the incidence of microtia: a nationwide population-based study from Taiwan*. The authors explored the incidence of microtia and/or anotia in Taiwan from 2008 to 2017 using population-based data, and found a higher annual incidence rate of microtia–anotia in females. This study is valuable in terms of investigating the incidence and decadal trend of microtia in an Asian population. However, there are several points attracting our attention, and we would like to express some opinions of ours.

First, all subjects in this study were retrieved from Taiwan's National Health Insurance Dataset (NHIRD), we wonder whether stillbirths, terminations of pregnancy, and fetuses < 28 weeks of gestation were registered in the NHIRD. Besides, some patients with chromosome aberrations and syndromic microtia–anotia have clear etiology, and whether they were enrolled in this study is also not mentioned. Consequently, the rate reported in this study may not represent the true prevalence of microtia–anotia. Second, because most microtia–anotia patients are isolated and sporadic, and no specific causes were identified, thus we suggest that the authors may further distinguish between isolated and non-isolated microtia patients to explore the epidemiologic characteristics and time trend in the prevalence

of microtia–anotia in Taiwan, China. Besides, the order of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 appears to be reversed in the text, so further modification may be required.

We thank Yen-Fu Cheng et al. for this elaborate research for the purpose of exploring the incidence and 10-year secular trends of microtia–anotia in Taiwan, China. But further investigation is also required to render it more persuasive.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed consent For this type of study, informed consent is not required.

Reference

1. Cheng YF, Xirasagar S, Liu TC, Kuo NW, Lin HC (2021) Ten-year trends in the incidence of microtia: a nationwide population-based study from Taiwan. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00405-021-07014-x>

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