

Letter to the Editor

Trans-upper-sternal Approach to the Cervicothoracic Junction

**Keith D. K. Luk MBBS; MCh(Orth); FRCSE, FHKAM,
Kenneth M. C. Cheung MD, FRCS, FHKAM,
John C. Y. Leong OBE, SBS, MBBS, FRCS, FRCSE, FRACS**

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To the Editor:

We write regarding the recent publication of Liu et al. [1]. The technique they describe closely resembles one we described in 2002 [3]. (Figure 2 in the article by Liu et al. showing the sternal incision is similar to Figure 2 in our article.) Although Liu et al. included our publication in the list of references, they only mentioned points we discussed in our literature review and did not make appropriate reference to the surgical approach and technique we described.

In addition, their article was published previously in the [中国矫形外科杂志] (Orthopedic Journal of China) as [经胸骨上段行颈胸段脊柱前路手术] (Surgical treatment of the spine at the cervicothoracic junction through the trans-upper-sternal approach) [2]. At that time we voiced similar concerns to the authors and editor-in-chief of that journal. The reply we received was far from satisfactory.

We are disappointed that Liu et al. decided to publish this article a second time in an international journal

without proper acknowledgement of our paper and their previously published work. Although this publication in CORR may not constitute plagiarism of their earlier article, we believe our publication should have been appropriately acknowledged in their article so readers would not be misled to believe this is a novel approach from Liu et al.

References

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2. Liu YL, Wang LM, Song YM. [Surgical treatment of the spine at the cervicothoracic junction through the trans-upper-sternal approach] [in Chinese]. *Orthop J China.* 2007;9:656–659.
3. Luk KD, Cheung KM, Leong JC. Anterior approach to the cervicothoracic junction by unilateral or bilateral manubriectomy: a report of five cases. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2002;84:1013–1017.

(Re: Liu YL, Hao YJ, Li T, Song YM, Wang LM. Trans-upper-sternal approach to the cervicothoracic junction. *Clin Orthop Relat Res.* 2009;467:2018–2024.)

No reply to this letter was received from Liu et al.

K. D. K. Luk (✉), K. M. C. Cheung
Department of Orthopaedics & Traumatology, The University of
Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong SAR, China
e-mail: hrmoldk@hku.hk

J. C. Y. Leong
The President's Office, The Open University of Hong Kong,
Hong Kong SAR, China