

Retraction

"Frequency Rhythmic Electrical Modulated System (FREMS) and its Effect on the Treatment of Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis"

Published in:

<https://doi.org/10.5195/ijms.2024.2849>

International Journal of Medical Students (IJMS), Volume 12, Supplement S337, 2025

Retraction issued by: Editorial Board, International Journal of Medical Students

Date of Retraction: December 3, 2025.

Retraction Notice

This notice retracts the abstract "Frequency Rhythmic Electrical Modulated System (FREMS) and its Effect on the Treatment of Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis", published in the International Journal of Medical Students (IJMS), Volume 12, Supplement S337, 2025.

After publication, the journal received:

1. A formal authorship dispute submitted to the IJMS indicating that several contributors were omitted from the published author list.

– According to COPE guidelines,¹ authorship disputes do not in themselves justify retraction when the validity of the work is not in question, but they may warrant a correction if documentation supports an authorship change.

2. A written request from the first author, Dr. Khaled Moghib, requesting withdrawal of the abstract due to ethical concerns regarding authorship recognition.

In his communication to the journal, Dr. Moghib stated:

"In the interest of ethical standards and proper authorship recognition, I kindly request the withdrawal of the published abstract."

Given that:

- the primary (first) author does not wish the work to remain published,
- the authorship dispute cannot be resolved through correction because the journal cannot verify the full authorship contributions with certainty, and

– COPE guidelines allow editors to retract a publication when authorship cannot be verified or when there are serious concerns about accountability for the work.¹

The Editor-in-Chief and the IJMS Editorial Board have concluded that the most transparent and ethically appropriate action is retraction.

This retraction is issued to maintain accuracy and integrity of the scholarly record, consistent with COPE guidance stating that the purpose of retraction is to correct the literature—not to punish authors.¹

The authors were notified of this decision prior to the publication of this notice.

The original abstract will remain accessible with a RETRACTED watermark and linked to this notice, following COPE and NISO CREC transparency standards.

Category of Retraction:

Retraction (authorship-related; inability to verify authorship accountability)

Reason for Retraction:

Unresolved authorship dispute and inability to verify proper authorship contributions, following a withdrawal request from the first author.

Issued by:

Editorial Board

International Journal of Medical Students (IJMS)

References

1. Committee on Publication Ethics, COPE Council. COPE Retraction guidelines — English. Version 3. Eastleigh (UK): Committee on Publication Ethics; 2025. 17 p. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.4>

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ISSN 2076-6327

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