

# Complimentary and personal copy for Triebel J, Bertsch T.

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**Re: Prolactin is a Key Factor  
for Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver  
Disease in Obese Children**

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## Re: Prolactin is a Key Factor for Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Obese Children

Dear Editor,

The study of Zhang et al. [1] exhibits a significant selection bias, which should have been addressed. It is not understandable, why patients with hyperprolactinemia were excluded from the study population, when prolactin levels are the main factor under investigation. It may have escaped the attention of the authors, that prolactin levels beyond the classical upper thresholds may represent a homeostatic functionally increased transient prolactinemia (HomeoFIT-PRL), or primary regulatory hyperprolactinemia, apart from secondary etiologies such as drug-induced hyperprolactinemia, prolactinoma, or others [2]. The minimum requirement, which is needed to assess the validity of the study and estimate the impact of the bias is the number of patients excluded due to hyperprolactinemia and the prolactin level thresholds that were used for exclusion. The use of SI-units and a specification of which Siemens assay and platform were used would have further improved the quality of the study.

Sincerely,  
Jakob Triebel, MD  
Thomas Bertsch, MD

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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### References

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