Carney Complex

To the Editor:

In their interesting article "Identification of a novel genetic locus for familial cardiac myxomas and Carney Complex "(*Circulation*. 1998;98:2560–2566), Casey et al report on the genetics of cardiac myxomas in patients with Carney complex. Some of your readers, including myself, may ask why the syndrome has been termed Carney "complex" (rather than "Carney syndrome"). A search revealed that J.A. Carney already published a syndrome that today bears his name: the triad of pulmonary chondroma, gastric epithelioid leiomyosarcoma, and functioning extra-adrenal paraganglioma[1] is listed in "Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases"[2] as Carney syndrome.

Christian Gaissmaier, MD
Ulm, Germany

1. Carney JA. The triad of gastric epithelioid leiomyosarcoma, functioning extra-adrenal paraganglioma, and pulmonary chondroma. *Cancer*. 1979; 43:374–382.
2. Jablonski S. *Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases*. 2nd ed. Melbourne, Fla: Krieger Publishing Company; 1991:101.

Response

We appreciate Dr Gaissmaier's comments, which highlight a difficulty created by eponymic nomenclature. The triad of gastric leiomyosarcoma, pulmonary chondroma, and extra-adrenal paraganglioma (OMIM No. 168000[1]) was in fact described by J. Aidan Carney[2] and is referred to as Carney syndrome. This triad, though, is nonfamilial and is distinct from the familial disorder of cardiac myxomas, spotty pigmentation, and endocrinopathy (OMIM No. 160980[1]) discussed in our report.[3] The latter disorder, also described by Dr Carney and bearing his name, is therefore referred to as Carney complex to distinguish the 2 entities.

Craig T. Basson, MD, PhD
Mairead Casey, BA
Caroline Mah, BA
Cardiology Division
Department of Medicine
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
New York, NY

Andrew D. Merliss, MD
MeritCare Heart Services
Fargo, ND

Lawrence S. Kirschner, MD, PhD
Susan E. Taymans, PhD
Constantine A. Stratakis, MD, PhD
National Institute of Child Health and Development
Bethesda, Md

Alfred E. Denio, MD
Center for Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease
Virginia Beach, Va

Bruce Korf, MD, PhD
Department of Genetics
Children's Hospital
Boston, Mass

Alan D. Irvine, MRCP
Department of Dermatology
Royal Victoria Hospital
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Anne Hughes, PhD
Department of Medical Genetics
Queen's University
Belfast, Northern Ireland

J. Aidan Carney, MD, PhD
Department of Pathology
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minn

1. *Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, OMIM (TM)*. Center for Medical Genetics, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md) and National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine (Bethesda, Md). World Wide Web URL: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim/ 1997.
2. Carney JA. The triad of gastric epithelioid leiomyosarcoma, functioning extra-adrenal paraganglioma, and pulmonary chondroma. *Cancer*. 1979; 43:374–382.
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