

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 paraganglioma¹ 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. 168000¹) was in fact described by J. Aidan Carney² 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. 160980¹) 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.
3. Casey M, Mah C, Merliss AD, Kirschner LS, Taymans SE, Denio AE, Korf B, Irvine AD, Hughes A, Carney JA, Stratakis CA, Basson CT. Identification of a novel genetic locus for familial cardiac myxomas and Carney complex. *Circulation*. 1998;98:2560–2566.

Carney Complex
Christian Gaissmaier

Circulation. 1999;100:e150
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.100.25.e150

Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 1999 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the
World Wide Web at:

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/100/25/e150>

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in *Circulation* can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the [Permissions and Rights Question and Answer](#) document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
<http://www.lww.com/reprints>

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to *Circulation* is online at:
<http://circ.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/>