To the Editor:

I read with interest the description by Khanna et al. of a patient, aged 20 years, with infective endocarditis and Janeway lesions. The authors, however, misattribute the eponym to Theodore Janeway, when it was his father, Edward Janeway, who first described the lesions. Edward Janeway, in an 1899 article, wrote, “several times I have noted numerous small hemorrhages with slight nodular character in the palms of the hands and in the soles of the feet...in malignant endocarditis.” Emanuel Libman of Mount Sinai Hospital created the eponym in a footnote by saying, “the lesions are of such great value for diagnosis that we have thought it proper that they should have a special designation, and that this designation should carry the name of the eminent clinician who emphasized the importance of them for diagnostic purposes.”

Edward’s son, Theodore Janeway, was well known for his study of blood pressure, creating the first portable sphygmomanometer and becoming the first full-time professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

References

Letter by Prutkin Regarding Article, "Janeway Lesions: An Old Sign Revisited"
Jordan M. Prutkin

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