



# ENDOCRINOLOGÍA Y NUTRICIÓN

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Testosterone in female<sup>☆</sup>

### Testosterona en mujeres

Editor,

I read the recent publication on an old woman with raised testosterone concentration with a great interest.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, there are some recent similar case reports in the literature.<sup>2</sup> I would like to draw attention to some condition that can result in increased testosterone without exact testosterone-related pathology. The problem on laboratory investigation should be mentioned. At least, falsely elevation can be due

to heterophile antibodies from a polyclonal gammopathy in any elderly with occult myelogenous leukemia.<sup>3</sup>

### References

1. Hernández N, Maur M, Alfayate R, Torregrosa ME, Chinchilla V. A fifty-one year old woman with raised testosterone concentration. *Endocrinol Nutr.* 2011;58:50–1.
2. Cheng V, Doshi K, Falcone T, Faiman C. Hyperandrogenism in a postmenopausal woman: diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. *Endocr Pract.* 2011;17:e1–5.
3. Ramaeker D, Brannan J, Egland K, McCaul K, Hansen K. When is elevated testosterone not testosterone? When it is an immunoassay interfering antibody. *Fertil Steril.* 2008;90:886–8.

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## Portfolio of services of endocrinology and nutrition<sup>☆</sup>

### Cartera de servicios de endocrinología y nutrición

Dear Editor,

In relation to the special article published in your journal entitled "Portfolio of services of endocrinology and nutrition" (Almudena Vicente Delgado, Pilar Gómez Enterria, and Francisco Tinahones Madueño, on behalf of the Care Committee of the Society of Endocrinology and Nutrition (CASEEN)),<sup>1</sup> please find enclosed the following considerations regarding human resources and, specifically, food scientists:

- Public hospitals in Andalusia have had Units of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, including food scientist positions, since 1998.

- Such positions (currently 9: Complejo Hospitalario de Jaén, Torrecárdenas, Virgen de las Nieves, Reina Sofía, Virgen del Rocío, Virgen Macarena, Puerta del Mar, Puerto Real, and Carlos Haya) have always been covered by 8 veterinary surgeons and one pharmacist, and the Andalusian region and Andalusian Health Service (SAS) have pioneered the enlisting of these professionals.
- In 2008, a decree of the Department of Health of the Andalusian government<sup>2</sup> suppressed the category of food scientist and created the new category of senior technician in nutrition and food control. This decree listed the duties of the category and the requirements needed to occupy the position: veterinary surgeon or pharmacist.
- We know of 5 veterinary colleagues who have been working for 5 years in public hospitals within the Extremadura Health Authority (SES) (Mérida, Llerena, Don Benito, Cáceres, and Complejo Hospitalario de Badajoz), and of 2 other colleagues (veterinary surgeons) who have been directly recruited by and are working for public health authorities in Aragon (Hospital Miguel Servet) and La Rioja (Hospital San Pedro).
- We have no doubt that there may be professionals with other health or non-health-related qualifications who work in public hospitals (although they are not directly hired by the administration but by external companies, such as students working on research projects) and who

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have at some time discharged the duties reserved for food scientists: diet code, training of food handlers, and even design of the self-control system.

- We do not understand the reason for including food technologists, but not other professionals such as food scientists, as they cannot currently work in Andalusia,<sup>2</sup> they are not working in Extremadura, Aragón, or La Rioja and, in addition, food technologists, although considered healthcare professionals with the same rights as psychologists, chemists, biologists, or biochemists, cannot take charge of food safety at a hospital because this role is not provided for in the Act on Organization of Healthcare Professions (article 6),<sup>3</sup> and cannot take charge of food safety control in any Spanish autonomous region or in any European Union country.

Based on the foregoing, and on the development of this position in Andalusia and subsequently in Extremadura, although development in other autonomous regions has unfortunately been poor or nil, we ask you to revise the terms on page 131 of your article relating to degree qualification, and to describe the duties currently discharged by food scientists in Andalusia in accordance with the above-mentioned decree<sup>2</sup> so as to both reflect the currently applicable regulations in Andalusia and to serve as a model (as has occurred in Extremadura, Aragon and La Rioja) for the development of this position in the rest of Spain.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification or additional information you may require, congratulate you on the contribution you have made with this new portfolio of

services, and thank you for including food scientists among human resources.

## References

1. Vicente A, Gómez P, Tinahones F, Comisión de Asistencia de la Sociedad de Endocrinología y Nutrición. Cartera de Servicios de Endocrinología y Nutrición. *Endocrinol Nutr.* 2011;58:127–42.
2. ORDEN de 30 de junio de 2008, por la que, en el ámbito de los centros y de las instituciones sanitarias del Servicio Andaluz de Salud, se crean y suprimen distintas categorías, se establece una especialidad propia de una categoría y el procedimiento de integración directa en las mismas; se regulan sus funciones, requisitos de acceso, plantilla orgánica y retribuciones; y se establece la integración directa en el Régimen Estatutario de los servicios de salud del personal funcionario y laboral que presta servicios en los citados centros e instituciones sanitarias del Servicio Andaluz de Salud. BOJA 151 de 30/7/2008: 70–6.
3. LEY 44/2003, de 21 de noviembre, de ordenación de las profesiones sanitarias. BOE 280 de 22/11/2003:41442–58.

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