The Exception Does Not Prove the Rule

La excepción no confirma la regla

To the Editor,

We would first like to thank those of you who commented on our editorial. The observations were both extremely interesting and cordially expressed. Nevertheless, we would like to clarify a small detail: the title “The exception does not prove the rule” paraphrases the statement “The exception proves that the rule is wrong”, made by Richard P. Feynman in the book entitled “The Meaning of It All”. Three of Dr Feynman’s keynote lectures delivered in 1965 are included in this publication, which, curiously, did not appear until 1998 (Ed. Addison-Wesley), years after the death of the great physicist; apparently he was not fond of committing his ideas to paper. The phrase we quote is a simple statement that contradicts Cicero’s original, and now popularized, declaration. In Feynman’s view, if a rule is established, at least in physics and mathematics, it must always be true; a single exception to the rule proves that it is wrong.

Corrigendum: Consensus Document on the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis. Prothionamide and PAS Doses

Dosis de protionamida y PAS. Corrección al «Documento de Consenso sobre diagnóstico, tratamiento y prevención de la tuberculosis»

To the Editor:

With regard to the “Consensus Document on the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis”, presented by the Spanish Society of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR) and the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (SEIMC), published simultaneously with exactly the same contents in the official journals of both societies, Archivos de Bronconeumología and Enfermedades Infecciosas y Microbiología Clínica,¹,² we, as authors of the consensus document, would like to make the following remarks:

1. A mistake was detected in the list of recommended doses of para-amino-salicylic acid (PAS) and prothionamide. In Table 11 of the consensus, the doses of both drugs have been interchanged: the dose of prothionamide has been given for the PAS dose, while the dose of PAS has been given for the prothionamide dose.
2. The PAS dose is 8–12 g/day, split into 2–3 doses.
3. The dose of prothionamide is 10–15 mg/kg/day (in 2 doses).

Changes are given in the attached Table 1.

Moreover, regarding the doses for medication used in the treatment of tuberculosis, we would like to recommend the handbooks published by the TB Alliance and the World Health Organization. Links are given below in references 3 and 4.

Thank you for your help in publishing this letter.

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References