Letter to the Editor

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Comment to Reply

R.	Rudolf	Probst
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R. Probst, HNO-Universitätsklinik, Kantonsspital, Petersgraben 4, CH-4031 Basel (Switzerland)

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the reply of I. Fujimori to my letter about their papers published in ORL [Investigation of the nasopharyngeal bacterial flora in children with otitis media with effusion. ORL 1996;58:147-150] and in European Archives of Otorhinolaryngology [The nasopharyngeal bacterial flora in children with otitis media with effusion. Eur Arch Otorhinola-ryngol 1996;253:260-263].

Fujimori points out that the difference in the two articles lies in the different time periods in which data were collected. I am not denying that point, and I have made reference to it in my 'Letter to the Editor'. However, the critical point is whether these two studies bear on the same subjects during their common data collection period. If this is the case, I fail to see any justification offered by the reply of Fujimori. If the two studies were run in parallel recruiting different subject pools, then I fail to understand the reason why the authors chose to make two separate manuscripts out of it, why they did not refer in one study to the other and why they failed to report such a study design.

As was pointed out by Dr. Kornblut in European Archives of Otorhinolaryngology [1996;254:19], such scattering of scientific information is regrettable because it limits the opportunities given to other authors to have their work published and clogs the literature with unnecessarily repetitive information.

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