

Three Unrelated Studies from Hubei University of Medicine Share the Same Ethical Approval

Three unrelated studies [1–3] from two different author groups cite the same ethical approval number (2023-RE-046).

DOI	Author	Title	Ethics Statement	Remark
10.1007/s12144-024-06262-4	Mengying Li Ruyi Bai Mingyi Zhu Xiaoyun Chai	How is peer victimization related to adolescents' health risk behaviors? A moderated mediation analysis	All study procedures were approved by the ethics committee of the corresponding author's institution (No. 2023-RE-046)	Xiaoyun Chai: Hubei University of Medicine
10.1007/s12310-025-09812-8	Zhi Ye Kehui Wu Wang Liao Xiaoyun Chai Xi Wang	A Latent Profile Analysis of the Comorbidities of Health Risk Behaviors and Psychological Distress Among In-School Adolescents in China: The Correlates with Distinct Forms of Peer Victimization	All study procedures were approved by the Ethics Committee of Hubei University of Medicine (No. 2023-RE-046)	
10.1016/j.jep.2025.119391	Wenjie Cao Linsheng Huang Huifan Yu Yongshuai Qian Li Liu Mao Xu Siyi Li Hong Zhou Fei Li	Calycosin extracted from Astragali Radix reduces NETs formation to improve renal fibrosis via TLR4/NF-κB pathway	The Ethics Review Committee of Hubei University of Medicine (Shiyan, China) approved all procedures involving human samples (Approval No. 2023-RE-046)	

Articles [1] and [2] examine the effect of peer victimization on adolescents' mental health, whereas article [3] investigates the effect of Astragali Radix extract on treating chronic nephritis. These studies do not appear to overlap, which raises concerns that at least one of the three articles may contain a fraudulent ethics statement.

The authors of the three articles [1–3] were contacted to clarify this matter; however, to date, the 5GH Team has not received any response from them.

[Update: 2026-08-03]

Dr. Li Fei, the corresponding author of the article [3], recently provides the ethical approval document [4] indicating that the approval number cited in their article [3] was caused by typo. The correct number should be 2023-RE-046.

[1] 10.1007/s12144-024-06262-4

[2] 10.1007/s12310-025-09812-8

[3] 10.1016/j.jep.2025.119391

[4] Supporting Information

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