HEY, RESEARCHER! LEAVE THAT BLOT ALONE!

Best practices for preparing publication-quality figures

1. Before preparing figures, read the Journal's Instructions for Authors.

2. Adjust brightness/contrast equally across image.

   **BAD**
   
   Enhanced contrast of one area
   
   increased contrast ↑

   **GOOD**
   
   Enhanced contrast equally across image

3. Spliced image must include dividing line at the splice junction and be described in the Figure Legend.

   **BAD**
   
   splice ↑

   **GOOD**
   

4. Do not make adjustments that hide any part of the image, including erasing background.

   **BAD**
   
   

   **GOOD**
   

5. Avoid excessive contrast adjustment that removes background.

   **BAD**
   

   **GOOD**
   

6. Final figures must be high-quality TIFF or EPS files. Avoid preparing figures in PowerPoint to avoid loss of image resolution.

   **BAD**
   

   **GOOD**
   

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