

SCHOLARLY AUTHORSHIP

We are completing nine years of successful publication of "Indian Journal of Otology" and we feel an urgent need to show our experience for our sake, that is for the improvement of journal by improving the quality of articles. The most common error was in citation of references, by quoting cross references, spelling mistakes in authors name or not mentioning all authors names.

This is not important how much you have written in your life time. It is important how much has been remembered and quoted in verbatim by your readers. I feel that is significant contribution to the medical sciences. Here comes the question why to publish, because whatever research one has performed its data must be available to its discipline or rather to whole community specially medical fraternity. Publication in journal is one of the way and a crucial part of on going development in science and technology. Editor has made an effort to guide the potential authors to submit article for successful publication:

WHAT TO PUBLISH

Most of the articles, we received, majority of them are thesis based, and usually a sole contribution of post graduate research programme, building a mile stone or a ladder for his or her carrier. He should decide the topic of up coming research projects which might be a real and timely contribution to his field and will genuinely fatch readers.

Practicing specialist should keep in mind

what they can contribute and keep looking for it in various journals. He can find into many topics where lot of vacuum is there and being a clinician he has got sufficient material, unique cases not mentioned or scarcely mentioned in literature, need is only to compile and submit the data in due course of time. He can take many projects together and may complete them in his life time with astonishing big series of work, might be of great interest to junior clinician. Important is new virgin or scarcely covered topics of the subject.

HOW TO WRITE

Article has to be divided in various chapters. Abstract should be a real abstract a tough job but important part. It should depict technique, your results and what conclusion you have drawn. Your abstract or title prompts the reader to read an article. Remember abstract is used by database and read only in majority of times.

The material and method should be precise but technique of data collection including procedure, details of the instruments and problem encountered during the collection of data emphasized and explained properly.

Results are the most important part of a paper and all discussion depends on it. Making the journal simple, interesting and easy to understand is the key of successful manuscript writing hence tables, figure and graph should speak themselves and enlighten the

reader in first glance. The format of table is usually standardized by a particular journal. It is wise to read few articles of the same journal and to maintain the pattern; tables should not be repeated in the text but should be discussed when required. Contents of the table should not be repeated in graphs. Always mention the place of placing the table and in electronic version place it there only. Present your results in such a way the attention of most important result leading to conclusion of your project is clearly and readily available.

Before submitting the manuscript justify yourself that your result leads to a justifiable conclusion. Whether the collected data is sufficient, any question unanswered or should the project be otherwise extended it may be treated as a preliminary study which you could complete in coming few months.

WHAT TO DISCUSS:

This is not important to argue what results are pro you or against you. Reader wants to add your contribution to his knowledge bank with all justification to reach a conclusion and you have to satisfy his possible queries in the discussion part, by your data gathered in results or review of text. A rich discussion makes the articles viable for years and cited in reference in forthcoming journals. An author can satisfy himself on how many occasions his work has been cited/acknowledged. Be brief but inclusive rather than exclusive and contents should not be confusing, should speak themselves, unnecessary elaboration can obscure the transparency or with holding can question credibility of your work¹. Always cite the references in superscript and for priority in publication send the title page of all references with the manuscript which eliminates the need of web search and further justifies your work. Avoid cross references. Conclusion should not be elaborate. Simple

minimum understandable communication. Reader is the key what over all your paper adds up to reader's database or knowledge. References should be cited number in the text of first appearance and listed numerically at the end of text before acknowledgement if any. Reference punctuation & format must conform to the following style

- A. Book - Grewal D.S., Hathiram B.T. Ear nose throat simplified Mumbai Bhalani Book Depot, 2002;P-9-17.
- B. Journal - Deka R.C., Role of Antioxidants and Dietary Restriction in Dizziness Tinnitus & Hearing Loss Due to Ageing. Indian Journal of Otology 2001;7:43-44.
- C. Chapter - John RE, Prichep LS, Easton P. Normative data banks and neurometrics. Basic concepts, methods and results of norm constructions. In RE John (ed), EEG Handbook. New York: Elsevier, 1987:449-495.

I repeat write all authors name & full name of non indexed journal. A report states that up to 40% references have got inaccuracy which went up to 70% in certain cases².

All Illustrations must be in sealed envelopes, two with authors name & title of paper one blind for referee's opinion. Paper clips or staple should not be used. Illustration should be bright, professionally drawn, photographed, one column width or if unavoidable double the column. If computer art work always send it on electric version also. Always scan and specify the place in electronic version to avoid printing error.

Photograph or data of recognized person must be accompanied with the statement of patient or guardian to permit the publication. In a case report published in an indexed journal identity of patient was recognized³ and authors & editor had to apologize & pledge to remove the identity in future⁴.

SUBMISSION

Submit your article to one journal at a time always inform the editor of pending related articles in other journals in part or toto as post graduate sliced their thesis to various parts and prepare two, three or more articles which is unethical and treated as Salami publication. Common error is while patient is under two or more departments and data published by both and have to regret if noticed. These procedures are treated as duplicate publication which can be defined as publication of a paper, article or case report which overlaps substantially with one already published in any journal². Tremor et al found that 17% of the manuscript was covertly duplicated⁵. Redundant or duplicate publication is further elaborated as⁶.

1. The hypothesis is similar.
2. The numbers or sample sizes are similar.
3. The methodology is identical or nearly so.
4. The results are similar.
5. At least one author is common to both reports.
6. No or little new information is made available.

To classify all the above points must appear⁶ what I propose even if authors are different and information available to is not concrete should be treated as duplicate publication.

"UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS"

"Readers of primary source periodicals deserve to be able to trust that what they are reading is original, unless it is clearly stated that the article is being republished by choice of the author and editor. The bases of this position are international copyright laws, ethical conduct, and cost-effective use of resources."

CASE REPORT

Case report has got almost the same conve-

ntional sections but concise especially introduction should be only citation of recent comprehensive review to show relation with the present case. A brief summary elaborating positive finding supported with illustration including diagnostic evaluation. Discussion should justify that your case was unique, only related positive or negative finding to be discussed. To conclude case report should be concise readable well illustrated and clarity maintained⁷.

If your article relates to previous article always send a copy to editor and provide a written permission from previous editor. Remember even if article is upgraded/ updated version or summary of previous publication it is a violation of copy write law hence copy write certificate should be signed by all authors and mention their actual contribution as only supervision of a thesis is usually not sufficient for authorship but their name may be added in acknowledgement⁸.

I conclude, write quality articles, be concise, tables should not be reproduced in graphs or text. Results should be readable in glance and justify your contribution in discussion and conclude briefly with clarity never forget a catchy title and compact self sufficient abstract will fatch reader and future correspondence. Errors in references are going to spoil your article or image even of your journal too.

M.K. Taneja
Editor

REFERENCES

1. Gordon A.J., Editorial Guidelines for contributors to Social Science and Medicine, Social Science & Medicine 2000; 50:3-15.
2. K. Radhakrishna Murthy, A few steps Towards Responsible Authorship(and Editors-hip), J postgrad Med 2001;47: 233-234.
3. Fierer J, Bazeley P, Braude AI. Herpes B virus encephalomyelitis presenting as ophthalmic zoster : A possible latent infection reactivated. Ann intern Med 1973;79:225-228.

4. Murphy FK, Dull HB. Identification of patients. *Ann Intern Med* 1973;79:907
5. Abraham P. Duplicate and salami publications, *J postgrad Med* 2000;46:67-69.
6. Bum Koo Cho, Franklin rosenfeldt, Marko I. Turina, Joint statement on Redundant (Duplicate) Publication by the Editors of the undersigned Cardiothoracic Journals, *Ann Thorac Surg* 2000;69:664-671.
7. Macintyre, S, Editorial Conventions, Ethics and Laws in Journal Publishing. *Social Science and Medicine*,1997;45:1,1-2.
8. Lois DeBakey, Selma DeBakey, Medical Writing, The case report. Guidelines for preparation *International journal of Cardiology* 1983; 4:357-364.

We are going to revise the editorial advisory board and add new referees. Application are invited with complete C.V. and field of special interest including your suggestion latest by 28 Feb. 2004