The Galle Medical Journal

Journal of the Galle Medical Association

Volume 20: Number 2, October 2015

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Editorial

Rejection of manuscripts and possible reasons

With the introduction of a mandatory research component for board certification in many PGIM conducted postgraduate examinations, there is a renewed interest among postgraduate trainees in the country to conduct research and publish them. Further, providing incentives have encouraged people to engage in research. Whatever the reasons, this can be regarded as a positive step in the right direction and would eventually lead to the expansion of local database and provide much needed evidence to improve our clinical practice and patient care.

As a result, the number of manuscript submissions has somewhat increased during the recent past and the rate of rejection too has shown a parallel increase. Although editors make maximum efforts to accommodate all submissions there are many limitations that restrict them accepting all manuscripts submitted. Among many reasons, flaws in methodology and inadequate or ambiguous experiments are the main reasons for the rejection of manuscripts. Errors of this nature cannot be rectified and rejection is inevitable. Inappropriate statistics, over interpretation of results and unsupported conclusions are other reasons but these are potentially correctable.

Poor English grammar and style are not strong reasons for rejection provided other aspects of the manuscript are acceptable. Well-written manuscripts, however, have a higher chance of being accepted by reviewers and editors. Inadequate sample size and not defining measuring variables and outcomes can be prevented if adequate precautions are taken in the planning stage. In addition, constructive comments of peers can be useful to improve the outlook of the manuscript.

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