

Publishing Your Science: Perspective of a Scientist and Editor

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Journal Acceptance Rates

JAMA: 4%

British Medical Journal: 4%

New England Journal of Medicine: 5%

Science: >7%

Nature: 7.6%

PLOS Medicine: 10%

Gut: 14%

PLOS ONE: 47%

Approach to Journal Selection

- Start with a list of several possible journals
- Potential considerations:
 - Who is my target audience?
 - Quality of the journal
 - Expected turnaround time
 - Articles of similar types published
 - Format of article is appropriate (length, # of figures, etc.)
 - Publication fee

Instructions for AACR Journal Reviewers

- Provide detailed comments and then for the editor provide: *“Top 3 Strengths”* and *“Top 3 Weaknesses”*
- Rank the manuscript on “Quality”, “Impact”, and “Novelty”: Two different sets of rankings are provided, one for the manuscript as is and one for a revised version (indicates how rankings would change if the reviewer’s comments are addressed)
- Quantitative ranking: Compared to other articles published in the journal is the manuscript in the *“top 10%”, “top 50%”, “bottom 50%”,* or *“unsuitable”*



Major Revisions – Point by Point Responses

- Provide responses to all comments
- Be sure that your responses directly address each comment
- Maintain a professional, positive tone
- OK to disagree with a comment, but need to provide clear justification
- Not all additional data/analyses requested need to be added to the paper, can include it in the response but then not in the revised manuscript
- Make it easy for reviewers to find your responses in the manuscript
- Need more time? – Just ask for an extension

Major Revisions – Point by point responses

Reviewer #1

1. How was the history of osteoporosis/osteopenia ascertained? ICD codes in the medical record? Review of DXA scans that exist in the medical record? Self-report? Please add this to the Methods section.

This sentence was added to the Methods section: *"Data on osteoporosis and osteopenia were also ascertained both from medical records and telephone interviews."* (Page 6)

2. Might the association between bisphosphonate use and invasive breast cancer be confounded by access to health care or the closeness with which a woman follows up with her health care providers?

Unfortunately, we did not capture information on frequency or recency of follow-up care with health care providers in this study and cannot address this comment.

3. Methods: the tables use the term "recency of use" which is confusing to me. It should be defined in the methods section that defines bisphosphonate use.

We provide our definitions for both "current use" and "recent use" in the Methods section. (Page 6)

4. Results, end of second paragraph, "data not shown." It would be helpful to include these results as a supplemental table.

We are happy to provide these results as a supplemental table if desired by the journal editors, but given that the other reviewers did not make this suggestion we are not including them at this time. The primary limitation of these additional tables are the reduced sample sizes resulting from these stratified analyses. For example, among our patients with ER- invasive cancers only 2 were current bisphosphonate users. Similarly, there are only 6 current bisphosphonate users among the cases with an ipsilateral invasive breast cancer.

Each reviewer comment provided verbatim

Quote new text added to manuscript and provide location

Acknowledge comments that cannot be addressed

Reviewers sometime miss things, can just simply address them

Provide clear rationale for why a comment is not addressed

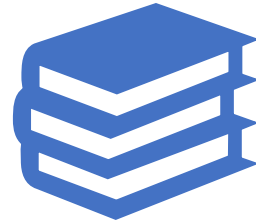
Rejection After Peer Review



**Carefully review
comments**



**Revise manuscript in response to
selected comments**
Could get one or more of the same
reviewers at another journal



Lessons learned
How can I improve my manuscripts
to increase my chances of getting
future manuscripts accepted?

Takeaways

- Its hard to get published in the top tier journals...
- ...but almost all manuscripts can find a home.
- Focus on what you can control:
 - Quality of data presentation
 - Appropriate interpretation and inferences of your data
 - Rigorously and clearly describing your methods
 - Put your work in the context of already published papers
 - Clearly articulate the novelty of your findings and the value of its contribution to the literature
 - How you learn from and respond to feedback
- Difficult to predict what will get published where.

