

Serving as a Journal Peer Reviewer

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February 21, 2020

After this session, you will be able to...

- List at least two characteristics of the ideal peer reviewer.**
- List four checklists that authors can use when writing manuscripts/reporting the results of research.**

**“Statisticians and epidemiologists
are properly professional
skeptics.”**

Mervyn Susser (1977)

Why should you be a peer reviewer?

Why should you be a peer reviewer?

- **Service.**
- **Keep abreast of topics in your discipline.**
- **May lead to invitation to serve on the editorial board.**

Attributes of a good reviewer

- **Accepts or declines offer to review in a timely fashion.**
- **Performs the review in a timely fashion.**
- **Courteous, professional.**
- **Offers specific advice (not vague comments).**

Gastel and Day (2016)

Organizing your review (my personal preference)

- **Summary.**
- **Major comments.**
- **Minor comments.**
- ***Refer to line numbers and page numbers when making comments.***

Four checklists that peer reviewers should be aware of

- **Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE).**
- **Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT).**

- **Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE).**
- **Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).**

STROBE

- www.strobe-statement.org.
- Checklist when reporting results of certain observational studies:
 - Cohort.
 - Case-control.
 - Cross-sectional.

CONSORT

- <http://www.consort-statement.org/>.
- Set of recommendations for reporting results from randomized trials.
- Begg C *et al.* *JAMA* 1996; 276: 637-639.
- Moher D *et al.* *JAMA* 2001; 285: 1987-1991.

CONSORT 2010

- Replaces the 1996 and 2001 versions.
- 25-item checklist.
- Flow diagram.

MOOSE

- <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/7/5/e015424/DC1/embed/inline-supplementary-material-1.doc?download=true>.
- Stroup DF *et al.* *JAMA* 2000; 283: 2008-2012.

PRISMA

- <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>.
- Items to be reported for systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
- Moher D *et al.* *Ann Intern Med* 2009; 151: 264-269.

Class exercise

Vignette A

Introduction

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy are responsible for 17.6% of maternal deaths in the United States.¹ The risk of preeclampsia is approximately 5% in white women and 11% in African-American women. Several studies have identified maternal obesity as a risk factor for developing preeclampsia.

Introduction

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy are responsible for 17.6% of maternal deaths in the United States.¹ The risk of preeclampsia is approximately 5% in white women and 11% in African-American women. Several studies have identified maternal obesity as a risk factor for developing preeclampsia.

Reviewer's comment

- **Introduction, first paragraph, last two sentences:** The authors cite facts which are not supported by references. Please cite one or two references to support these two statements.

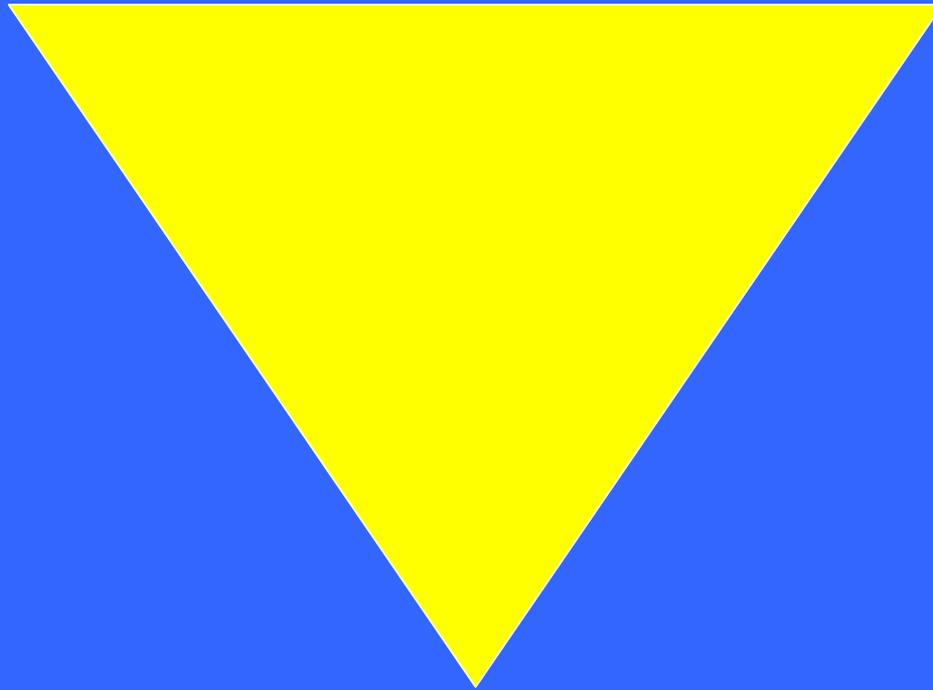
Reviewer's comment

- **Introduction, second paragraph:** The authors discuss the treatment of preeclampsia. I feel that this information is not needed since this study does not concern the management of preeclampsia. Additionally, the majority of the readers of this journal are obstetricians. The authors should consider deleting this paragraph or reducing its length.

Reviewer's comment

- **Introduction, third paragraph:** There is no smooth transition from the preceding text to this paragraph. The reader is surprised: the research question is put forth (sprung on the reader), but there was very little material on maternal race and maternal obesity before the concluding paragraph. Add a few paragraphs in the Introduction addressing the gap in knowledge.

**Think of the background as a
funnel**



Gastel and Day (2016)

Reviewer's comment

- **References:** Reference 1 is old (published in 2002). The authors should look for a more recent reference.

Vignette B

Reviewer's comment

- **Table 1, pre-operative hemoglobin:** The authors report values of 11.5 (1.2) and 13.4 (1.9). Are these mean (SD) or some other measures such as median (IQR)?

Reviewer's comment

- **Table 2:** This table presents adjusted odds ratios (OR). Is each OR adjusted for the remaining variables found in the table? If yes, then please inform the reader of this fact either in the table title or in a table footnote.

Reviewer's comment

- **Table 2:** The authors report an adjusted OR of 0.60 for the outcome associated with pre-operative hemoglobin. So there is a 40% reduction in the odds of having a transfusion, but it is unclear if this odds ratio is for a one g/dL increase (or two g/dL increase?) in the pre-operative hemoglobin. The authors should note this in their table. To clarify, when reporting OR for continuous variables, please inform the reader if the OR is for a one-unit change, or a three-unit change, etc.

Reference

- **Gastel B, Day RA. How to write and publish a scientific paper eighth edition. Greenwood: Santa Barbara, California, 2016; Pages 263-268.**



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