

مركز بحوث

الدراسات العلمية و الطبية

RESEARCH CENTER

FOR FEMALE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL COLLEGES

عمادة البحث العلمي

جامعة الملك سعود

# البحث العلمي المنشور بين الجيد والرديء

سيناء عبد المحسن العقيل  
استاذ مشارك بقسم الصيدلة الاكلينيكية  
كلية الصيدلة

[Salageel@ksu.edu.sa](mailto:Salageel@ksu.edu.sa)

 @alageels









# Peer Review Process



**William Whewell, peer-review pioneer**  
Source: NATURE, VOL 532. 2016



Douglas Altman (1948 –2018)

## **The scandal of poor medical research**

*We need less research, better research, and research done for the right reasons*



What should we think about a doctor who uses the wrong treatment, either wilfully or through ignorance, or who uses the right treatment wrongly (such as by giving the wrong dose of a drug)? Most people would agree that such behaviour was unprofessional, arguably unethical, and certainly unacceptable.





Douglas Altman (1948–2018)

## **The scandal of poor medical research**

*We need less research, better research, and research done for the right reasons*

“What, then, should we think about researchers who use the wrong techniques (either wilfully or in ignorance), use the right techniques wrongly, misinterpret their results, report their results selectively, cite the literature selectively, and draw unjustified conclusions? We should be appalled. Yet numerous studies of the medical literature, in both general and specialist journals, have shown that all of the above phenomena are common.<sup>1-7</sup> This is surely a scandal.





An estimated \$200 billion —85% of global spending on research — is routinely wasted on poorly designed and redundant studies. (2010)





**SKEPTICAL HIPPO**

Is skeptical.

**Choosing the wrong questions for research**  
**Doing studies that are unnecessary**

Ask a question

Literature review

Try again

Construct a hypothesis

**Doing studies that are poorly designed**

Test with an experiment

Analyze results

Hypothesis is true

Hypothesis is false

**Failure to publish relevant research**  
**Biased or unusable reports of research**

Report results

# Bias

Any trend in the collection, analysis, interpretation, publication or review of data that can lead to conclusions that are systematically different from the truth. (Last J. *A dictionary of epidemiology*, 2001)

**Risk of bias.**



# Bias

- Allocation bias
- Ascertainment bias
- Attention bias
- Attrition bias
- Chronological bias
- Co-intervention bias
- Contamination bias
- Diagnostic access bias
- Diagnostic suspicion bias
- Detection bias
- Detection-signal bias
- Expectation bias
- Exposure bias
- Hawthorne effect
- Incorporation bias
- Insensitive measurement bias
- Intervention bias
- Lead time bias
- Measurement bias
- Membership bias
- Neyman bias
- Non-respondent bias
- Observer bias
- Prevalence-incidence bias
- Proficiency bias
- Publication bias
- Recall bias
- Referral bias
- Reporting bias
- Response bias
- Sampling bias
- Selection bias
- Spectrum bias
- Survival bias
- Time lag bias
- Timing bias
- Unmasking bias
- Verification bias (or partial verification bias)
- Volunteer bias

# DEMO



[Catalogofbias.org](http://Catalogofbias.org)

## Doing studies that are poorly designed

## Failure to publish Biased or unusable reports

Channeling bias

Attrition (drop out) bias

Reporting bias

Selection bias

Detection bias

Confirmation bias

**Recruitment/Allocation**

Performance bias

Publication bias

**Implementation**

**Analysis/Publication**

**Research Misconduct**

# Doing studies that are poorly designed

1

Recruitment/Allocation

Allocation bias

Selection bias

Attrition (drop out) bias

Detection bias

Performance bias

Implementation

Reporting bias

Confirmation bias

Publication bias

**Analysis/Publication**

Research Misconduct



# Selection bias

630

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

March 12, 1981

## COFFEE AND CANCER OF THE PANCREAS

BRIAN MACMAHON, M.D., STELLA YEN, M.D., DIMITRIOS TRICHOPOULOS, M.D., KENNETH WARREN, M.D.,  
AND GEORGE NARDI, M.D.

**Abstract** We questioned 369 patients with histologically proved cancer of the pancreas and 644 control patients about their use of tobacco, alcohol, tea, and coffee. There was a weak positive association between pancreatic cancer and cigarette smoking, but we found no association with use of cigars, pipe tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or tea. A strong association between coffee consumption and pancreatic cancer was evident in both sexes. The association was not affected by controlling for cigarette use. For the sexes combined, there was a significant dose-re-

sponse relation ( $P \sim 0.001$ ); after adjustment for cigarette smoking, the relative risk associated with drinking up to two cups of coffee per day was 1.8 (95 per cent confidence limits, 1.0 to 3.0), and that with three or more cups per day was 2.7 (1.6 to 4.7). This association should be evaluated with other data; if it reflects a causal relation between coffee drinking and pancreatic cancer, coffee use might account for a substantial proportion of the cases of this disease in the United States. (N Engl J Med. 1981; 304:630-3.)

# Selection bias: the classic example

630

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OVER the past few decades, cancer of the pancreas has emerged as one of the most important neoplasias in human beings. It now accounts for approximately 20,000 deaths annually in the United States. Causative factors have been sought in several previous studies, but only cigarette smoking has emerged as a consistent, though relatively weak, exogenous risk factor. We report the results of a study that was planned to reevaluate the relation of this disease to smoking and to examine the role of alcohol consumption as a possible confounding variable. Data were also obtained on intake of tea and coffee — factors that have not been adequately investigated in this disease.

### METHODS

We conducted a case-control interview study. The cases were patients with histologic diagnoses of cancer of the exocrine pancreas who were in any of 11 large hospitals in the Boston metropolitan area and Rhode Island between October 1974 and August 1979. Patients with tumors of the islet cells, periampullary duodenal mucosa, or ampulla of Vater were not included. We identified 378 patients and interviewed 405 of them. Twenty patients died and 35 were discharged before an interview could be arranged; 78 were too sick to be interviewed, 14 had language difficulties, and 26 refused the interview. Also excluded from the analysis were eight nonwhite patients, four residents of countries other than the United States, eight patients older than 79 years, and 16 patients whose interview information was judged by the interviewer to be of questionable reliability. The analysis is based on data from the remaining 369 patients.

To assemble a control series, the interviewers also attempted to question all other patients who were under the care of the same physician in the same hospital at the time of an interview with a patient with pancreatic cancer. Either before the interview (if the information was known) or afterward, patients with diseases of the pancreas or hepatobiliary tract or diseases known to be associated with smoking or alcohol consumption were excluded. The principal diagnostic categories excluded (in addition to diseases of the biliary tract or pancreas) were cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, respiratory or bladder cancer, and peptic ulcer. From a total of 1118 eligible patients, we interviewed 700, nine died and 131 were discharged before the interview, 179 were too ill, 26 had language problems, and 73 refused. After exclusion of 17 nonwhites, five foreign residents, four persons older than 79 years, and 30 persons

whose interviews were judged to be unreliable, the control series used for the analysis consisted of 644 patients. Minor differences between tables in the stated numbers of cases and controls result from absence of specific items being analyzed in a few questionnaires.

The control series was composed of two principal diagnostic groups: 273 patients with cancer other than cancers of the pancreas and biliary tract, respiratory tract, or bladder and 371 patients with other disorders. Of the control patients with cancer, the tumor was in the breast in 63 patients, colon in 60, rectum in 25, stomach in 24, small intestine in nine, ovary in eight, prostate in eight, and cervix in seven; there were also 16 with melanoma and 13 with lymphoma. No other cancer was found in more than four subjects. Diagnoses in the controls without cancer were of a wide variety, although because of the nature of the practices of many of the physicians who were responsible for patients with cancer of the pancreas, patients with gastroenterologic conditions were probably overrepresented in relation to a general hospital population. The principal diagnoses were hernia in 70 patients; colitis, enteritis, diverticulitis in 41; bowel obstruction, adhesions, or fistula in 26; gastritis in 17; other gastroenterologic conditions in 47; benign tumors in 29; varicose veins or phlebitis in 21; genitourinary disorders in 20; neurologic disorders in 26; gynecologic disorders in 16; and other conditions in 22.

In the analysis, the patients with pancreatic cancer were compared with the control patients with cancer and independently with the control group without cancer. The findings were quite similar, and only the results with the combined control group are presented here.

Several questions in the interview probed the duration and intensity of smoking of cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. Questions on alcoholic beverages asked about the frequency of use before the onset of illness, the age span over which such use occurred, and the type of beverage used most frequently. The questions on tea and coffee were limited to the number of cups consumed in a typical day before the current illness was evident.

Tests of significance and estimates of adjusted relative risks and their confidence limits were derived with the method of Mantel and Haenszel<sup>1</sup> and its extension.<sup>2</sup> The data were stratified by age in 10-year groups and by sex where appropriate. All confidence limits are 95 per cent intervals. Most analyses were performed with the calculator programs developed by Rothman and Boice.<sup>3</sup>

### RESULTS

#### Tobacco

There was no difference between cases and controls in the use of cigars or pipe tobacco. Among men, the

To assemble a control series, the interviewers also attempted to question all other patients who were under the care of the same physician in the same hospital at the time of an interview with a patient with pancreatic cancer.

# Allocation bias

- Systematic difference in how participants are assigned to treatment and comparison groups in a clinical trial.

Randomisation of participants in intervention studies



Adequate allocation concealment



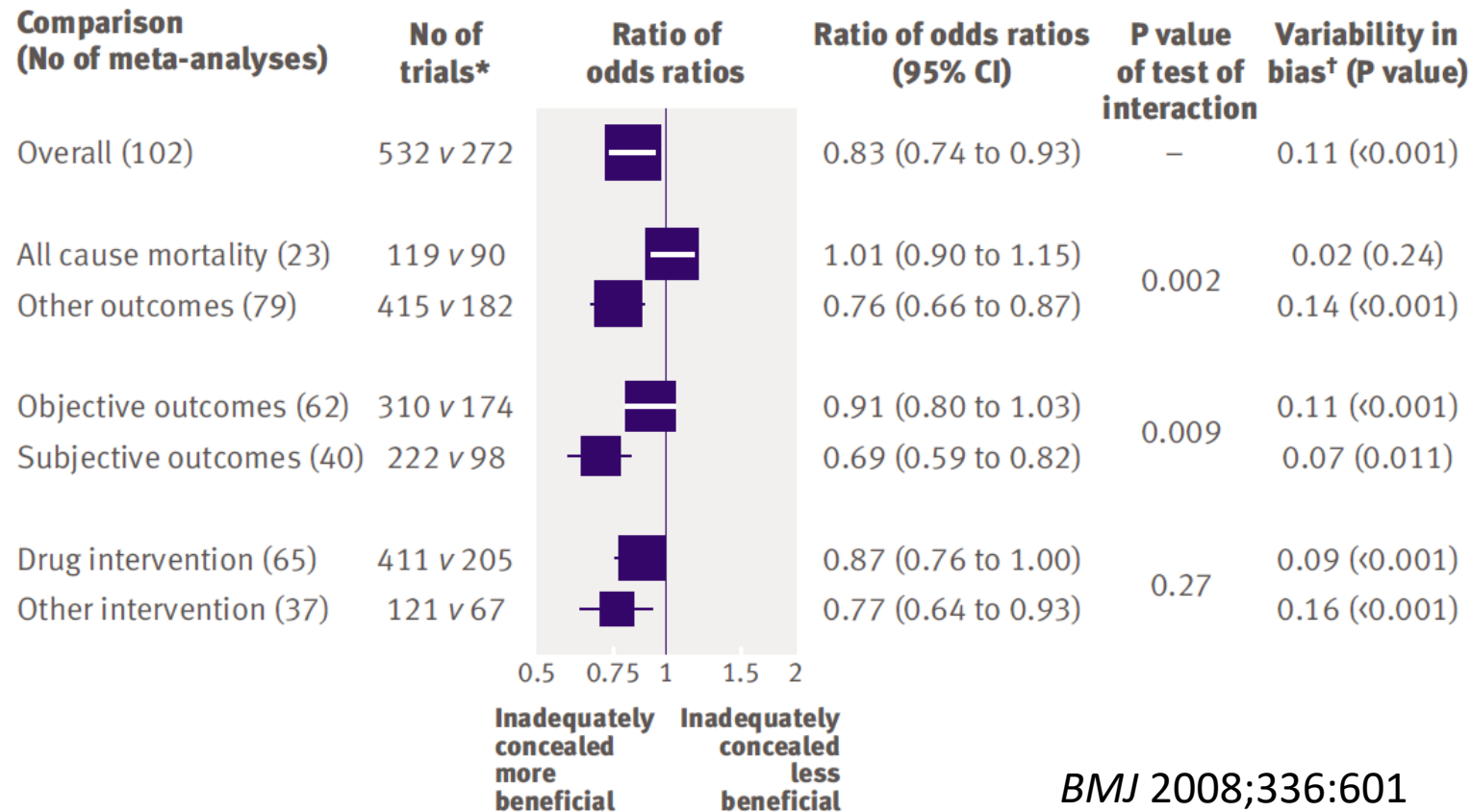
The patient's condition fits the trial, and she has consented. Which treatment pack should I give her?



Yes doctor, your patient is eligible. She will be allocated to treatment pack X32. After the trial we will tell you what treatment X32 was.



# The inadequate or unclear allocation concealment and biased estimates of intervention effects



BMJ 2008;336:601

# Doing studies that are poorly designed

# 2

Allocation bias

Selection bias

**Recruitment/Allocation**

Attrition (drop out) bias

Detection bias

Performance bias

**Implementation**

Reporting bias

Publication bias

**Analysis/Publication**

**Research Misconduct**

# Attrition bias

## Abstract

**Objective** To assess the reporting, extent, and handling of loss to follow-up and its potential impact on the estimates of the effect of treatment in randomised controlled trials.

**Design** Systematic review. We calculated the percentage of trials for which the relative risk would no longer be significant under a number of assumptions about the outcomes of participants lost to follow-up.

**Data sources** Medline search of five top general medical journals, 2005-07.

BMJ 201:344:e2809

**Eligibility criteria** Randomised controlled trials that reported a significant binary primary patient important outcome.

**Results** Of the 235 eligible reports identified, 31 (13%) did not report whether or not loss to follow-up occurred. In reports that did give the relevant information, the median percentage of participants lost to follow-up was 6% (interquartile range 2-14%). The method by which loss to follow-up was handled was unclear in 37 studies (19%); the most commonly used method was survival analysis (66, 35%). When we varied assumptions about loss to follow-up, results of 19% of trials were no longer significant if we assumed no participants lost to follow-up had the event of interest, 17% if we assumed that all participants lost to follow-up had the event, and 58% if we assumed a worst case scenario (all participants lost to follow-up in the treatment group and none of those in the control group had the event). Under more plausible assumptions, in which the incidence of events in those lost to follow-up relative to those followed-up is higher in the intervention than control group, results of 0% to 33% trials were no longer significant.

**Conclusion** Plausible assumptions regarding outcomes of patients lost to follow-up could change the interpretation of results of randomised controlled trials published in top medical journals.



# Detection bias



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March 1, 2017

## Practice of Epidemiology

### Evidence for Detection Bias by Medication Use in a Cohort Study of Breast Cancer Survivors

Heidi S. Wirtz, Gregory S. Calip, Diana S. M. Buist, Julie R. Gralow, William E. Barlow, Shelly Gray, and Denise M. Boudreau\*

\* Correspondence to Dr. Denise M. Boudreau, Group Health Research Institute, 1730 Minor Avenue, Suite 1600, Seattle, WA 98101 (e-mail: boudreau.d@ghc.org).

Initially submitted June 10, 2015; accepted for publication May 6, 2016.

In previous studies, we found modestly decreased and increased risks of second breast cancer events with the use of statins and antibiotics, respectively, after adjustment for surveillance mammography. We evaluated detection bias by comparing receipt of surveillance mammography among users of these 2 disparate classes of medication. Adult women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer were included in the Group Health Cooperative (GHC) integrated health-care plan (Group Health Cooperative; W). Commonly Used Medications and Breast Cancer Outcomes (COMBO) study included infrequent (1–3 dispensings/12 months) and frequent (≥4 dispensings/12 months) users of statins and antibiotics. We evaluated associations between medication use and surveillance mammography receipt using multivariable logistic regression equations and evaluated the impact of adjusting for medication use on surveillance mammography receipt. Frequent antibiotic users were less likely to receive surveillance mammography (odds ratio (OR) = 0.82, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.82, 0.99) than were nonusers; no association was found among infrequent users (OR = 0.96, 95% CI: 0.90, 1.03). Adherent statin use was associated with more surveillance mammography compared with nonusers (OR = 1.11, 95% CI: 1.01, 1.25), but less adherent statin use was not (OR = 1.03, 95% CI: 0.81, 1.31). No difference in associations between medications of interest and second breast cancer events was observed when surveillance was removed from otherwise adjusted models. The influence of detection bias by medication use warrants further exploration.

breast cancer; cancer survivorship; detection bias; epidemiologic methods

mating equations and evaluated the impact of adjusting for surveillance within Cox proportional hazard models. Frequent antibiotic users were less likely to receive surveillance mammography (odds ratio (OR) = 0.90, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.82, 0.99) than were nonusers; no association was found among infrequent users (OR = 0.96, 95% CI: 0.90, 1.03). Adherent statin use was associated with more surveillance

Abbreviations: CCI, Charlson Comorbidity Index; CI, confidence interval; COMBO, Commonly Used Medications and Breast Cancer Outcomes; GHC, Group Health Cooperative; HR, hazard ratio; OR, odds ratio; SBCE, second breast cancer event; SEER, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results.

# Performance bias

Systematic differences between groups in the care that is provided, or in exposure to factors other than the interventions of interest.



“Do a double-blind test. Give the new drug to rich patients and a placebo to the poor. No sense getting their hopes up. They couldn't afford it even if it works.”

Randomisation

Concealment

Selection bias

Blinding

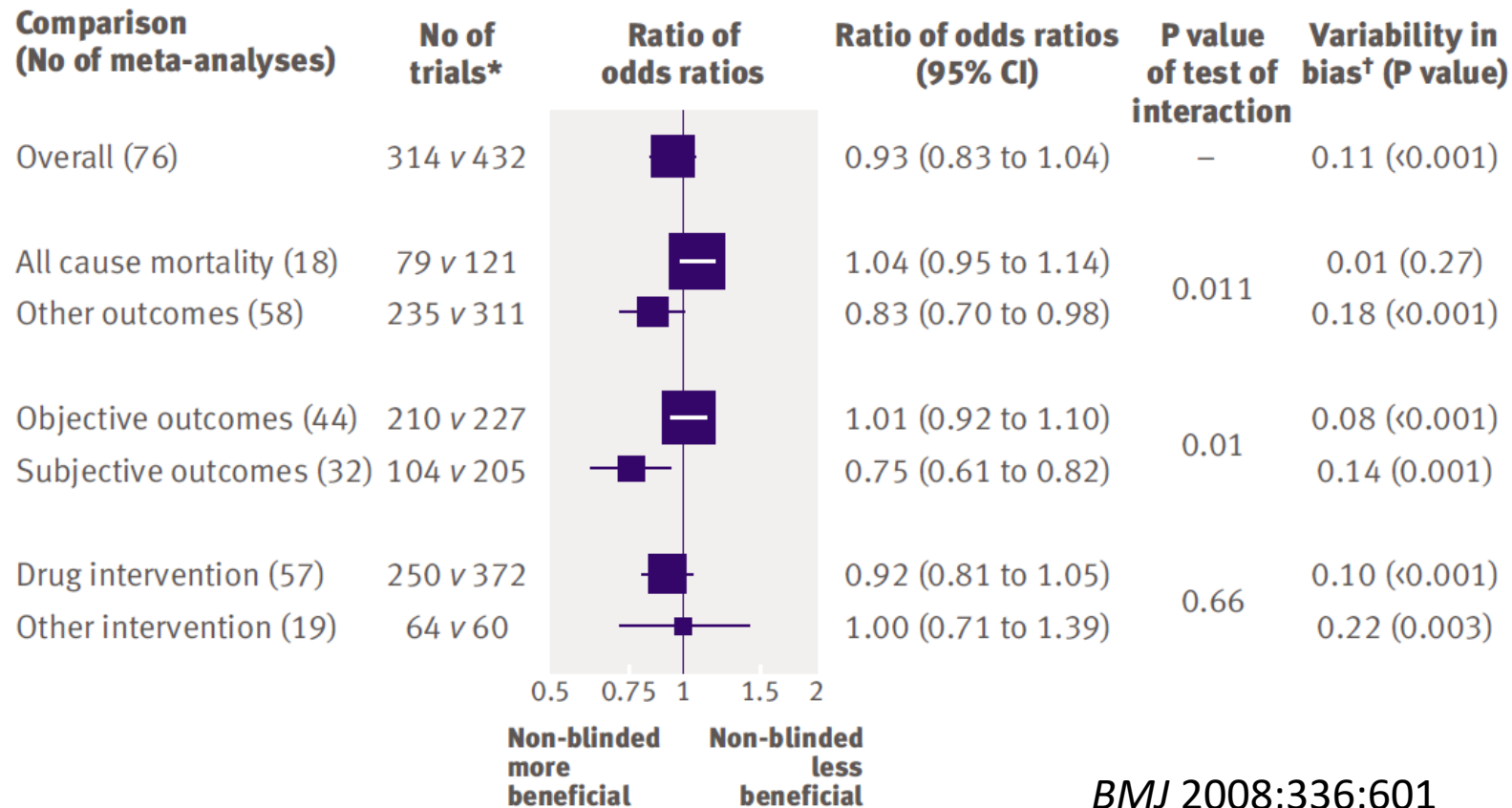
Detection bias

Performance bias



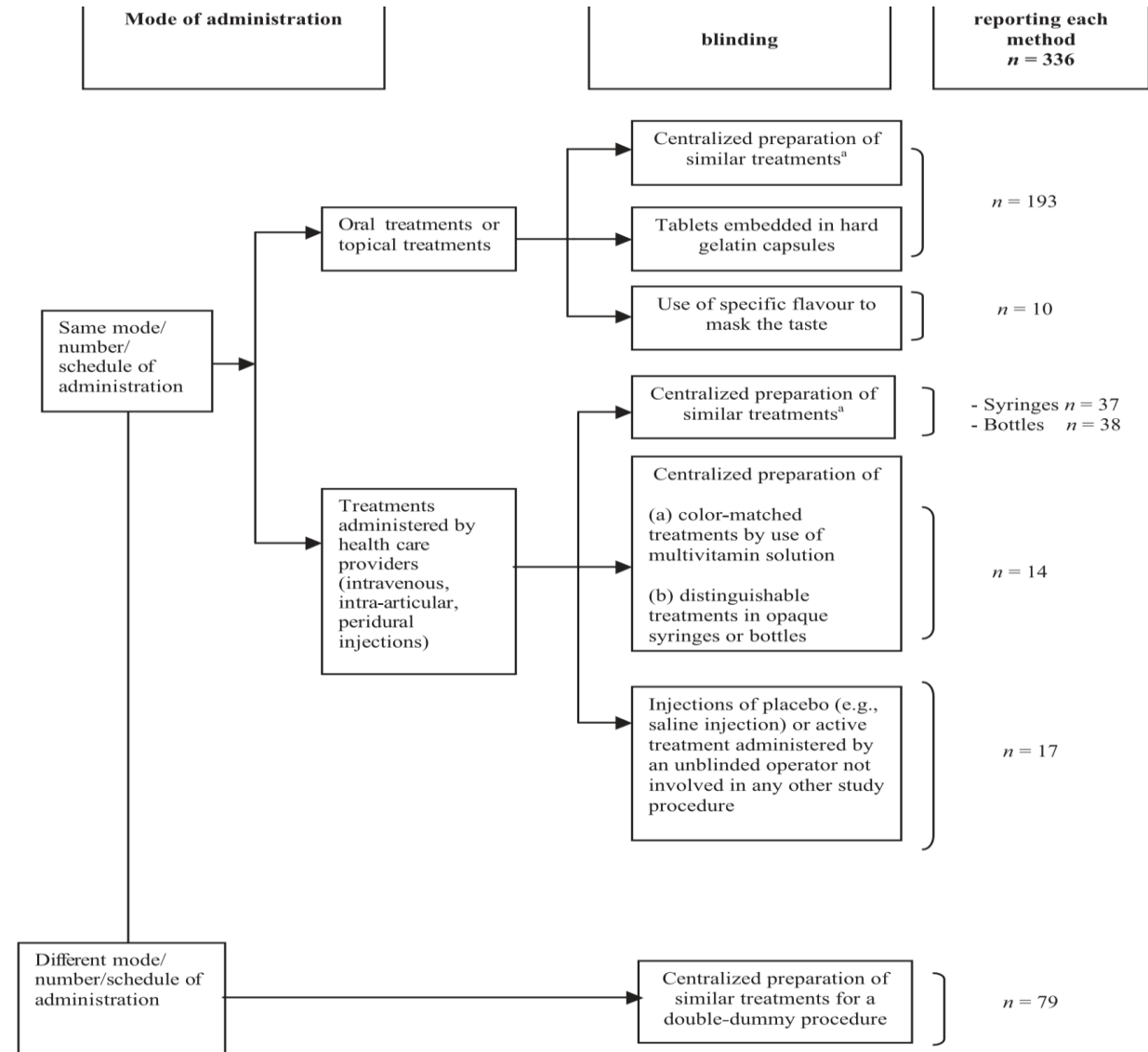
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# The lack of blinding and biased intervention effects

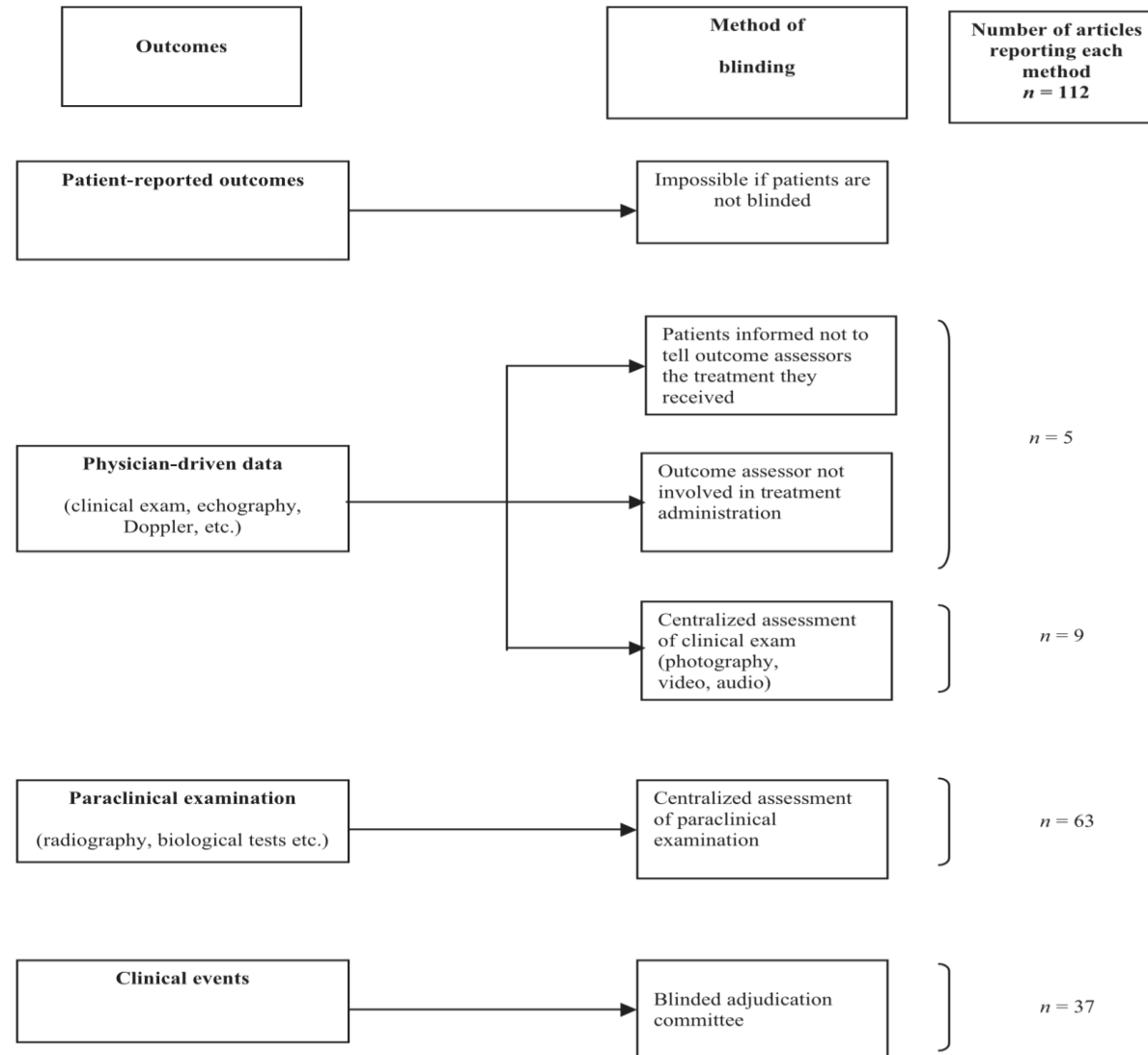


*BMJ* 2008;336:601

# Methods to Establish Blinding in RCTs



# Methods of Blinded Outcome Assessment





**Failure to publish  
Biased or unusable reports**

**3**

Allocation bias

Selection bias

**Recruitment/Allocation**

Attrition (drop out) bias

Detection bias

Performance bias

**Implementation**

Reporting bias

Publication bias

**Analysis/Publication**

**Research Misconduct**

# Publication Bias and selective reporting: the Tamiflu Experience



Source: Tamiflu capsules. Photograph: Per Lindgren/REX via The Guardian



Tom Jefferson

## Abstract

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**Objectives** To update a 2005 Cochrane review that assessed the effects of neuraminidase inhibitors in preventing or ameliorating the symptoms of influenza, the transmission of influenza, and complications from influenza in healthy adults, and to estimate the frequency of adverse effects.

**Search strategy** An updated search of the Cochrane central register of controlled trials (*Cochrane Library* 2009, issue 2), which contains the Acute Respiratory Infections Group's specialised register, Medline (1950-Aug 2009), Embase (1980-Aug 2009), and post-marketing pharmacovigilance data and comparative safety cohorts.

**Selection criteria** Randomised placebo controlled studies of neuraminidase inhibitors in otherwise healthy adults exposed to naturally occurring influenza.

**Main outcome measures** Duration and incidence of symptoms; incidence of lower respiratory tract infections, or their proxies; and adverse events.

**Data extraction** Two reviewers applied inclusion criteria, assessed trial quality, and extracted data.

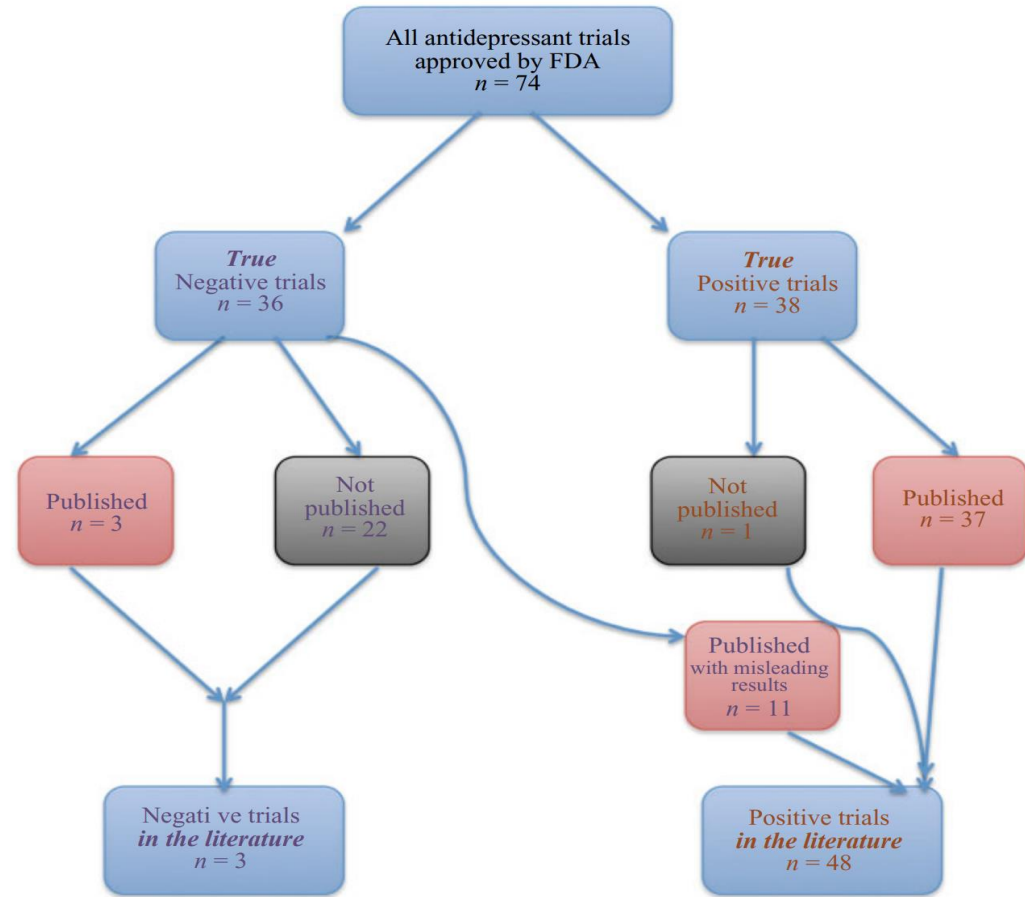
**Data analysis** Comparisons were structured into prophylaxis, treatment, and adverse events, with further subdivision by outcome and dose.

**Results** 20 trials were included: four on prophylaxis, 12 on treatment, and four on postexposure prophylaxis. For prophylaxis, neuraminidase inhibitors had no effect against influenza-like illness or asymptomatic influenza. The efficacy of oral oseltamivir against symptomatic laboratory confirmed influenza was 61% (risk ratio 0.39, 95% confidence interval 0.18 to 0.85) at 75 mg daily and 73% (0.27, 0.11 to 0.67) at 150 mg daily. Inhaled zanamivir 10 mg daily was 62% efficacious (0.38, 0.17 to 0.85). Oseltamivir for postexposure prophylaxis had an efficacy of 58% (95% confidence interval 15% to 79%) and 84% (49% to 95%) in two trials of households. Zanamivir performed similarly. The hazard ratios for time to alleviation of influenza-like illness symptoms were in favour of treatment: 1.20 (95% confidence interval 1.06 to 1.35) for oseltamivir and 1.24 (1.13 to 1.36) for zanamivir. Eight unpublished studies on complications were ineligible and therefore excluded. The remaining evidence suggests oseltamivir did not reduce influenza related lower respiratory tract complications (risk ratio 0.55, 95% confidence interval 0.22 to 1.35). From trial evidence, oseltamivir induced nausea (odds ratio 1.79, 95% confidence interval 1.10 to 2.93). Evidence of rarer adverse events from pharmacovigilance was of poor

## Main results

We obtained 107 clinical study reports from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), GlaxoSmithKline and Roche. We accessed comments by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), EMA and Japanese regulator. We included 53 trials in Stage 1 (a judgement of appropriate study design) and 46 in Stage 2 (formal analysis), including 20 oseltamivir (9623 participants) and 26 zanamivir trials (14,628 participants). Inadequate reporting put most of the zanamivir studies and half of the oseltamivir studies at a high risk of selection bias. There were inadequate measures in place to protect 11 studies of oseltamivir from performance bias due to non-identical presentation of placebo. Attrition bias was high across the oseltamivir studies and there was also evidence of selective reporting for both the zanamivir and oseltamivir studies. The placebo interventions in both sets of trials may have contained active substances.

# Publication Bias



# Reporting bias

**BMJ Open** Feasibility study to examine discrepancy rates in prespecified and reported outcomes in articles submitted to *The BMJ*

**Results:** In the study period, *The BMJ* received 311 trial manuscripts, 21 of which were subsequently published by the journal. In trials published by *The BMJ*, 27% (89/333) of the prespecified outcomes in the protocol were not reported in the submitted paper and 11% (31/275) of reported outcomes were not prespecified. In the sample



# Publication bias and Selective outcome reporting

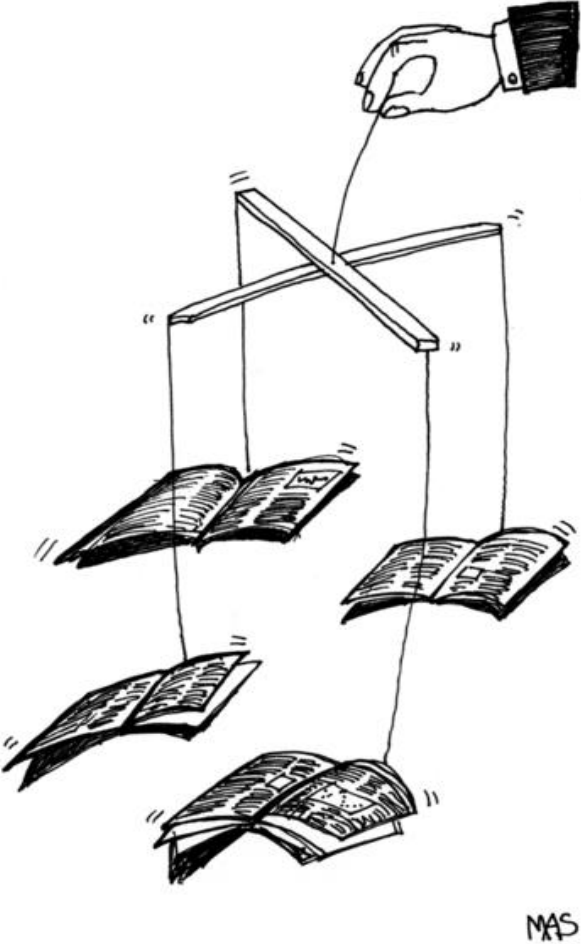
## Systematic Review of the Empirical Evidence of Study Publication Bias and Outcome Reporting Bias — An Updated Review

Kerry Dwan\*, Carrol Gamble, Paula R. Williamson, Jamie J. Kirkham, for the Reporting Bias Group<sup>†</sup>

Department of Biostatistics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England

**Methodology/Principal Findings:** In this update, we review and summarise the evidence from cohort studies that have assessed study publication bias or outcome reporting bias in randomised controlled trials. Twenty studies were eligible of which four were newly identified in this update. Only two followed the cohort all the way through from protocol approval to information regarding publication of outcomes. Fifteen of the studies investigated study publication bias and five investigated outcome reporting bias. Three studies have found that statistically significant outcomes had a higher odds of being fully reported compared to non-significant outcomes (range of odds ratios: 2.2 to 4.7). In comparing trial publications to protocols, we found that 40–62% of studies had at least one primary outcome that was changed, introduced, or omitted. We decided not to undertake meta-analysis due to the differences between studies.

Medical Journals Are an  
Extension of the Marketing Arm  
of Pharmaceutical Companies.





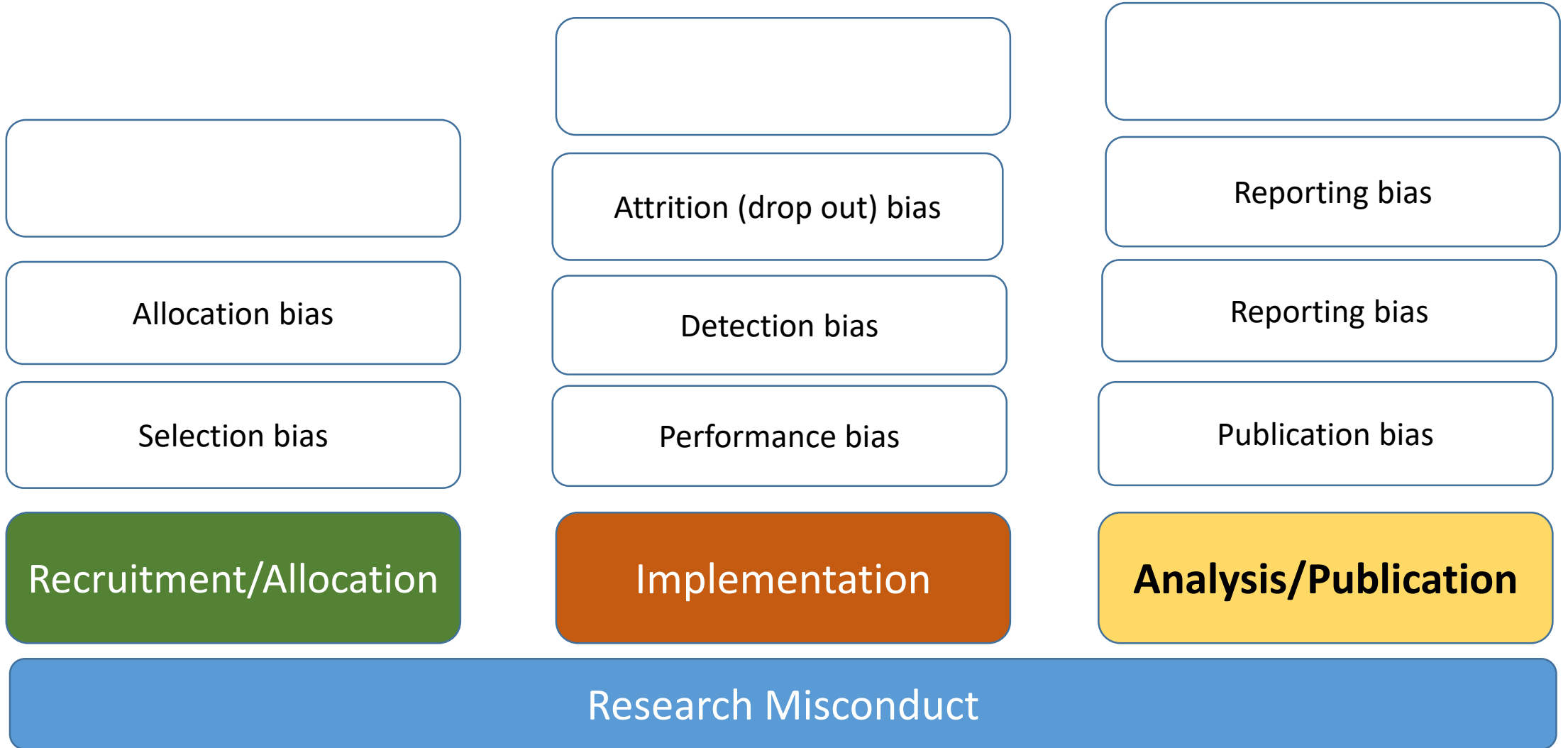
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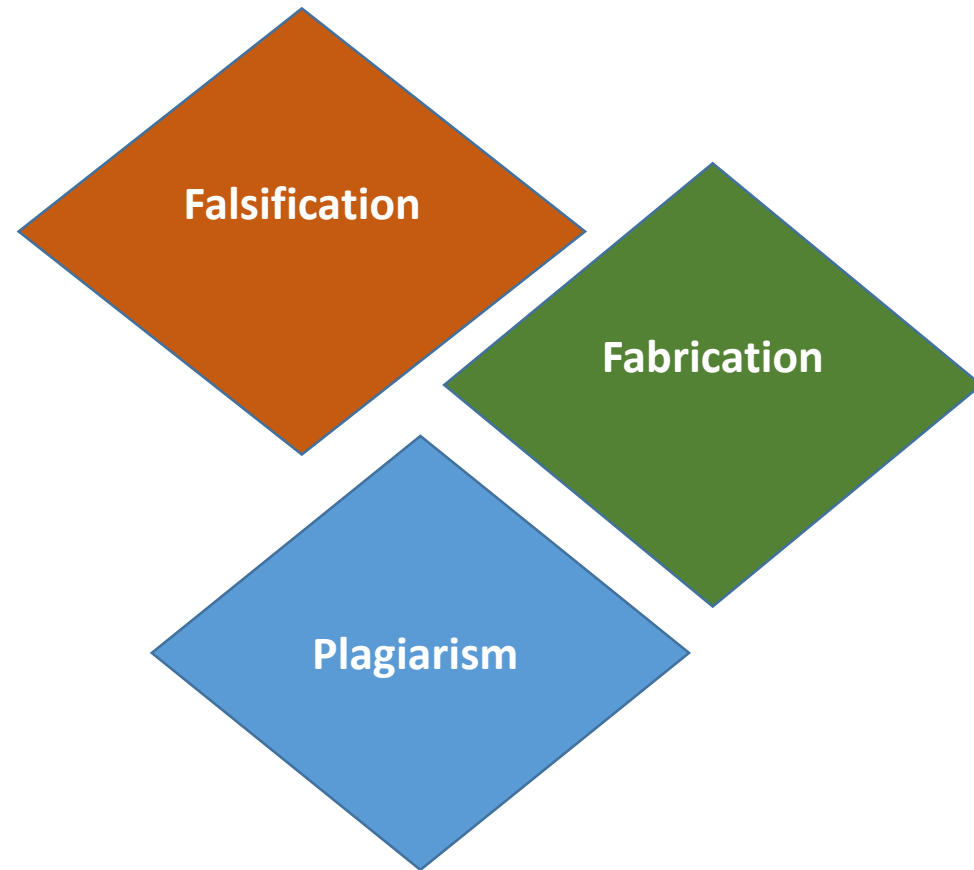
[ClinicalTrials](#)

[WHO ICTP](#)

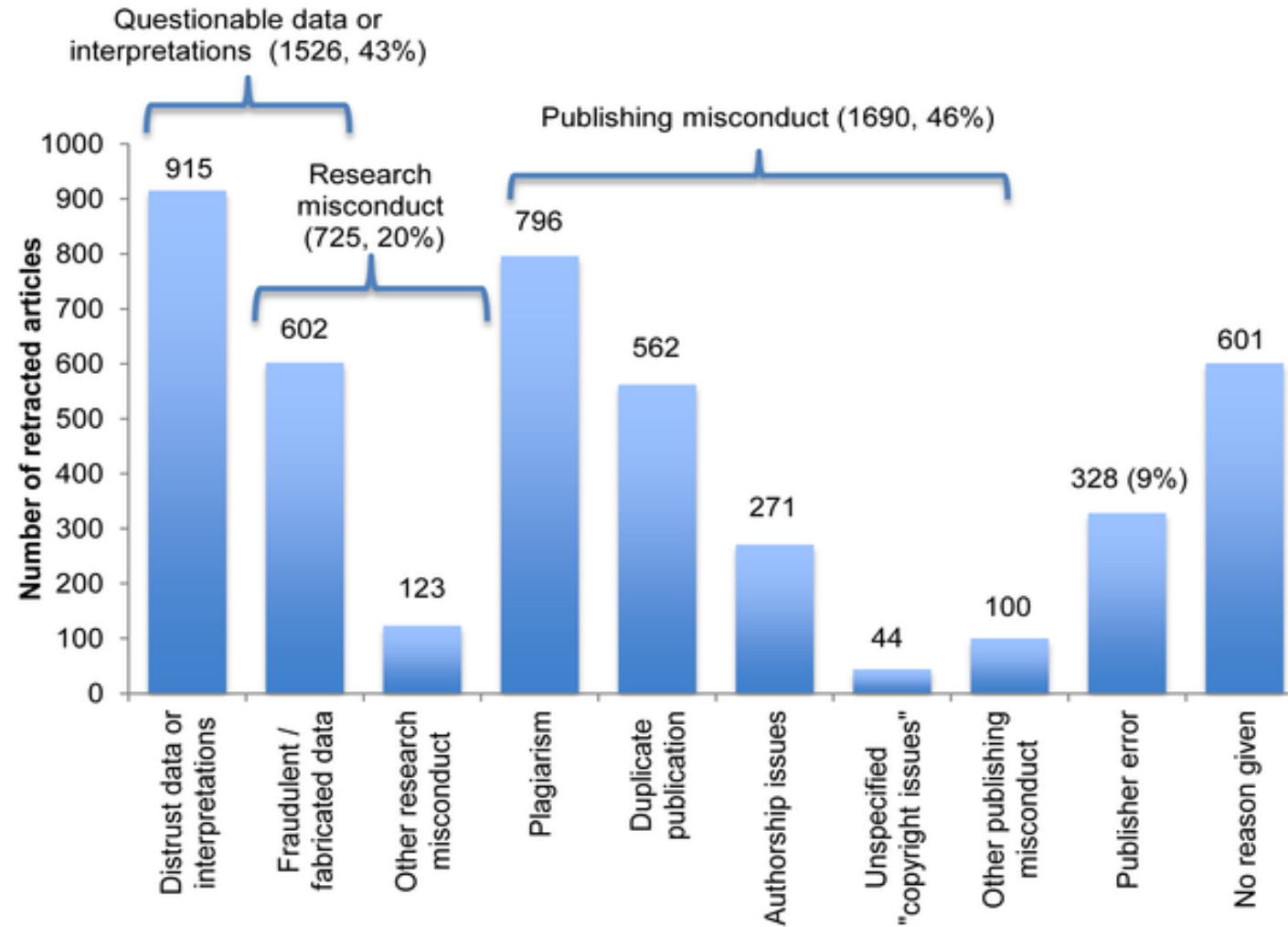
4



# Research Misconduct



# Retraction



Justifications for retraction  
(n= 4,232)

# Research Misconduct



Andrew Wakefield

**Early report**

**Real-lymphoid nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children**

**Summary**

**Background** We investigated a retrospective series of children with chronic enterocolitis and regressive developmental disorder.

**Methods** 10 children (mean age 8 years [range 3–15]), 11 boys, were referred to a paediatric gastroenterology unit with a history of normal development followed by loss of acquired skills, including language, together with diarrhea and abdominal pain. Children underwent gastroenterological, neurological, and developmental assessment and tests of developmental status. Investigations were being completed regarding immune reactivity (IgE), autoantibodies (24), and immunohistochemical tests (10) were performed. Further tests through telepathology were done where possible. Immunohistochemical, and immunological profiles were examined.

**Findings** Most of behavioural symptoms had occurred by the age of 18 months, with autistic symptoms commencing in eight of the 10 children, with one child in one child, and autistic traits in another. The remaining developmental delay was of the autistic disorder type. All children had regressive developmental disorder. The children had regressive developmental disorder. The children had regressive developmental disorder. The children had regressive developmental disorder.

**Conclusion** We saw several children who, after a period of apparently normal development, had acquired skills, including language, and developmental regression. They all had gastrointestinal symptoms, including chronic diarrhea, and abdominal pain. The children had regressive developmental disorder. The children had regressive developmental disorder. The children had regressive developmental disorder.

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RETRACTED

## HOW THE CASE AGAINST THE MMR VACCINE WAS FIXED

In the first part of a special *BMJ* series, **Brian Deer** exposes the bogus data behind claims that launched a worldwide scare over the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, and reveals how the appearance of a link with autism was manufactured at a London medical school

When I broke the news to the father of child 11, at first he did not believe me. "Wakefield told us my son was the 11th child they are," he said, going for the first time at the now infamous research paper which linked a supposed new syndrome with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. "There's only 12 in this."

The paper was published in the *Lancet* on 28 February 1998. It was retracted on 2 February 2010. Authored by Andrew Wakefield, John Walker-Smith and 11 others from the Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London, it reported on 12 developmentally challenged children, and triggered a decade long public health scare.

"Onset of behavioural symptoms was associated by the parents with measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination in eight of the 12 children," began the paper's "findings." Adopting these claims as fact, its results section added: "In these eight children the average interval from exposure to first behavioural symptoms was 6.3 days (range 1–14)."

Mr 11, an American engineer, looked again at the paper: a five page case series of 11 boys and one girl, aged between 1 and 9 years. Nine children, it said, had diagnoses of "regressive" autism, while all but one were reported with "non-specific colitis." The "new syndrome" brought these together.

Linking brain and bowel diseases. Child 11 was the penultimate case.

Flipping his finger across the paper's tables, over coffee in London, Mr 11 seemed reassured by his assumption of his age and other details. But then he pointed at table 2—headed "seropositive psychiatric diagnoses"—and for a second time objected. "That's not true."

Child 11 was among the eight whose parents apparently blamed MMR. The interval between his vaccination and the first "behavioural symptoms" was reported as 1 week. This symptom was said to have appeared at age 15 months. But his father, whom I had tracked down, said this was wrong.

"From the information you provided me on our son, who I was shocked to hear had been included in their published study," he wrote to me, after we met again in California, "the data clearly appeared to be distorted."

He backed his concerns with medical records, including a Royal Free discharge summary. Although the family lived 5000 miles from the hospital, in February 1997 the boy (then aged 15) had been flown to London and admitted to Wakefield's project, the undisclosed goal of which was to help sue the vaccine's manufacturers.

Wakefield's "syndrome" Unknown to Mr 11, Wakefield was working on a lawsuit, for which he sought a bowel-brain "syndrome" as its centrepiece. Claiming an undisclosed £150 (£180, \$230) an hour through a Norfolk solicitor named Richard Barr, he had been confidentially put on the payroll for two years before the paper was published, eventually grossing him £155,641, plus expenses.

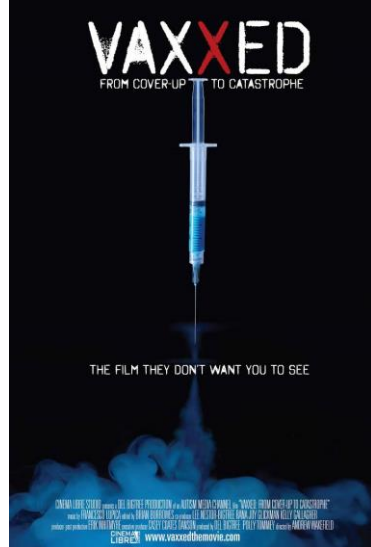
Curiously, however, Wakefield had already identified such a syndrome before the project that would reportedly discover it.

"Children with enterocolitis and regressive autism (an expression he used for bowel inflammation and regressive autism) form part of a new syndrome," he and Barr explained in a confidential grant application to the UK government's Legal Aid Board, "before any of the children were investigated." "Nonetheless the evidence is undeniably in favour of a specific vaccine induced pathology."

The two men also aimed to show a sudden onset "temporal association"—strong evidence to protect liability. "We Wakefield feels that if we can show a clear time link between the vaccination and onset of symptoms," Barr told the legal board, "we should be able to dispose of the suggestion that it's simply a chance encounter."

But child 11's case must have proved a disappointment. Records show his behavioural symptoms started too soon. "His developmental milestones were normal until 13 months of age," notes the discharge summary. "In the period 13-18 months he developed slow speech patterns and repetitive hand movements. Over this period his parents remarked on his slow gradual deterioration."

That put the first symptoms two months earlier than reported in the *Lancet*, and a



# Research Misconduct



Yoshitaka Fujii

## The Results of Investigation into Dr.Yoshitaka Fujii's papers

Toho University Faculty of Medicine announced on March 8, 2012 that 8 manuscripts of Dr.Yoshitaka Fujii had been retracted because of execution of these clinical studies without proper ethical approval. In addition, an article [Appendix 1] entitled "The analysis of 169 randomised controlled trials to test data integrity." was published on-line as a Special Article in Anaesthesia, the Journal of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, on March 8, 2012. Three Editorials

### **B** : Fabricated

Papers which have any discrepancy in numbers of subjects, medication, capability of the method :

171 papers (included 125 papers in RCT, double-blind manner) [Appendix 5]

154 papers out of 193 papers [Appendix 3]

### **C** : Others

Papers with no evidence to prove them fabricated or not fabricated :

38 papers

(No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,13,15,17,18,23,24,25,26,32,33,34,44,45,46,68,70,71,75,92,93,94,96,97,113,122,123,139,141,152 [Appendix 5] )

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# Research Misconduct



Joachim Boldt



## Boldt: the great pretender

The withdrawal of almost 90 fraudulent studies by a German anaesthetist is one of the biggest medical research scandals of recent time. **Jacqui Wise** examines what happened and what lessons have been learnt

Jacqui Wise freelance journalist



BMJ 2013;346:f1738 doi: 10.1136/bmj.f1738 (Published 19 March 2013)

### Editors-in-Chief Statement Regarding IRB Approval of Clinical Trials by Joachim Boldt

February 4, 2011

To our readers:

Landesärztekammer Rheinland-Pfalz ("LÄK-RLP"), the State Medical Association of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, today announced the first results of a review of the papers published by Prof Joachim Boldt. The ethics committee of LÄK-RLP serves as the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for clinical research at Klinikum Ludwigshafen, where Professor Boldt's recent research was conducted.

Based on today's announcement, LÄK-RLP has reviewed 74 scientific articles describing clinical trials subject to the requirements of the German Medicinal Act. This includes the article by Professor Boldt recently retracted by *Anaesthesia & Analgesia* and an article submitted by Professor Boldt to *Anaesthesia* but not published. By law these studies required IRB approval. Although the articles typically stated that IRB approval had been obtained, LÄK-RLP could not find evidence of approval for 68 of these articles.

LÄK-RLP also identified 30 published articles that describe research that did not fall under the jurisdiction of the German Medicinal Act but physicians performing such human research must conform to the Code of Deontology, which includes a requirement for IRB review. Some articles

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Lars S. Rasmussen  
Editor-in-Chief, *Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*

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# Research Misconduct



Anil Potti



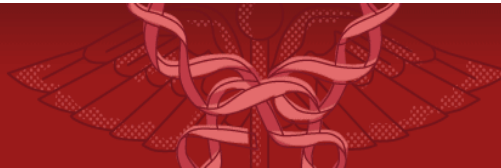
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# Research Misconduct



Grigori Perelman

**A COMPLETE PROOF OF THE POINCARÉ AND  
GEOMETRIZATION CONJECTURES – APPLICATION OF THE  
HAMILTON-PERELMAN THEORY OF THE RICCI FLOW\***

HUAI-DONG CAO<sup>†</sup> AND XI-PING ZHU<sup>‡</sup>

ASIAN J. MATH.  
Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 663–664, December 2006

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**ERRATUM TO “A COMPLETE PROOF OF THE POINCARÉ AND  
GEOMETRIZATION CONJECTURES – APPLICATION OF THE  
HAMILTON-PERELMAN THEORY OF THE RICCI FLOW”, ASIAN  
J. MATH., VOL. 10, NO. 2, 165–492, 2006\***

HUAI-DONG CAO<sup>†</sup> AND XI-PING ZHU<sup>‡</sup>

We would like to thank Bruce Kleiner and John Lott for bringing to our attention the fact that the argument concerning Claim 2 in the proof of Perelman’s singularity structure theorem (i.e., the Step 2 in the proof of Theorem 7.1.1 in our paper, p. 400–402) essentially appeared in the initial version of their notes on Perelman’s first paper posted on the website

<http://www.math.lsa.umich.edu/research/ricciflow/perelman.html>

**Hamilton-Perelman’s Proof of the  
Poincaré Conjecture  
and the Geometrization Conjecture\***

Huai-Dong Cao and Xi-Ping Zhu

**ABSTRACT.** In this paper, we provide an essentially self-contained and detailed account of the fundamental works of Hamilton and the recent breakthrough of Perelman on the Ricci flow and their application to the geometrization of three-manifolds. In particular, we give a detailed exposition of a complete proof of the Poincaré conjecture due to Hamilton and Perelman.



# Self-regulation?



## AMA Journal of Ethics®

February 2017, Volume 19, Number 2: 199-206

### MEDICINE AND SOCIETY

#### The Case of Dr. Oz: Ethics, Evidence, and Does Professional Self-Regulation Work?

Jon C. Tilburt, MD, MPH, Megan Allyse, PhD, and Frederic W. Hafferty, PhD

*Editor's Note: This article was published on February 1, 2017, and updated on February 13, 2017.*

#### Abstract

Dr. Mehmet Oz is widely known not just as a successful media personality donning the title "America's Doctor," but, we suggest, also as a physician visibly out of step with his profession. A recent, unsuccessful attempt to censure Dr. Oz raises the issue of whether the medical profession can effectively self-regulate at all. It also raises concern that the medical profession's self-regulation might be selectively activated, perhaps only when the subject of professional censure has achieved a level of public visibility. We argue here that the medical profession must look at itself with a healthy dose of self-doubt about whether it has sufficient knowledge of or handle on the less visible Dr. "Ozes" quietly operating under the profession's presumptive endorsement.

#### Introduction

Dr. Mehmet Oz's surgical credentials including expertise in minimally invasive, heart transplant, and heart valve surgery are impeccable [1]. But when Dr. Oz walks onto the stage of *The Dr. Oz Show*, he's not just a well-trained heart surgeon, he becomes

# البحث العلمي المنشور بين الجيد والرديء



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# DEMO

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# Does the medical literature remain inadequately described despite having reporting guidelines for 21 years? – A systematic review of reviews: an update

This article was published in the following Dove Press journal:  
Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare

Yanling Jin,<sup>1,\*</sup> Nitika Sanger,<sup>2,4</sup> Ieta Shams,<sup>5,6</sup> Candice Luo,<sup>6,8</sup> Hannah Shahid,<sup>9,8</sup> Guowei Li,<sup>1,4</sup> Meha Bhatt,<sup>1</sup> Laura Zielinski,<sup>6</sup> Bianca Bantoto,<sup>7</sup> Mei Wang,<sup>1</sup> Luciana PF Abbade,<sup>8</sup> Ikunna Nwosu,<sup>1</sup> Alvin Leenus,<sup>1</sup> Lawrence Mbugaw,<sup>1</sup> Muhammad Mazz,<sup>1</sup> Yaping Chang,<sup>1</sup> Guangwen Sun,<sup>1</sup> Mitchell AH Levine,<sup>1,9</sup> Jonathan D Adachi<sup>1,9</sup> Lehana Thabane,<sup>1,9</sup> Zainab Samaan<sup>1,9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Department of Medical Science, Medical Sciences Graduate Program, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>4</sup>Faculty of Health Sciences, Bachelors of Health Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>5</sup>Department of Arts and Science, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>6</sup>Department of Neuroscience, McMaster Integrative Neuroscience Discovery and Study, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>7</sup>Department of Science, Honours Integrated Sciences Program, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>8</sup>Department of Dermatology and Radiotherapy, Borocatu Medical School, Universidade Estadual Paulista, UNESP, São Paulo, Brazil; <sup>9</sup>St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Hamilton, ON, Canada; <sup>10</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

\*These authors contributed equally to this work.

Correspondence: Zainab Samaan  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural  
Neurosciences, McMaster University, 1280  
Main Street West, L8S 4L8 Hamilton, ON,  
Canada  
Tel +1 905 522 1155x35448  
Fax +1 905 381 5629  
Email samaanz@mcmaster.ca

**Purpose:** Reporting guidelines (eg. Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials [CONSORT] statement) are intended to improve reporting standards and enhance the transparency and reproducibility of research findings. Despite accessibility of such guidelines, researchers are not required to adhere to them. Our goal was to determine the current status of reporting quality in the medical literature and examine whether adherence of reporting guidelines has improved since the inception of reporting guidelines.

**Materials and methods:** Eight reporting guidelines, such as CONSORT, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), Strengthening the Reporting of Observational studies in Epidemiology (STROBE), Quality of Reporting of Meta-analysis (QUOROM), STAndards for Reporting of Diagnostic accuracy (STARD), Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments (ARRIVE), Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS), and Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) were examined. Our inclusion criteria included reviews published between January 1996 to September 2016 which investigated the adherence to reporting guidelines in the literature that addressed clinical trials, systematic reviews, observational studies, meta-analysis, diagnostic accuracy, economic evaluations, and preclinical animal studies that were in English. All reviews were found on Web of Science, Excerpta Medical Database (EMBASE), MEDLINE, and Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL).

**Results:** Among the general searching of 26,819 studies by using the designed searching method, 124 studies were included post screening. We found that 87.9% of the included studies reported suboptimal adherence to reporting guidelines. Factors associated with poor adherence included non-pharmacological interventions, year of publication, and trials concluding with significant results. Improved adherence was associated with better study designs such as allocation concealment, random sequence, large sample sizes, adequately powered studies, multiple authorships, and being published in journals endorsing guidelines.

**Conclusion:** We conclude that the level of adherence to reporting guidelines remains suboptimal. Endorsement of reporting guidelines by journals is important and recommended.

**Keywords:** guidelines, adherence, review, CONSORT

## Introduction

Medical science is an evolving and dynamic field of research that impacts health care, disease outcomes, and health care systems in general. The evidence generated from millions of medical publications is meant to inform these dynamic changes

Turner et al. *Systematic Reviews* 2012, 1:60  
<http://www.systematicreviewsjournal.com/content/1/1/60>



## RESEARCH

## Open Access

# Does use of the CONSORT Statement impact the completeness of reporting of randomised controlled trials published in medical journals? A Cochrane review<sup>a</sup>

Lucy Turner<sup>1</sup>, Larissa Shamseer<sup>1</sup>, Douglas G Altman<sup>2</sup>, Kenneth F Schulz<sup>3</sup> and David Moher<sup>1,4\*</sup>

## Abstract

**Background:** The Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) Statement is intended to facilitate better reporting of randomised clinical trials (RCTs). A systematic review recently published in the Cochrane Library assesses whether journal endorsement of CONSORT impacts the completeness of reporting of RCTs; those findings are summarised here.

**Methods:** Evaluations assessing the completeness of reporting of RCTs based on any of 27 outcomes formulated based on the 1996 or 2001 CONSORT checklists were included; two primary comparisons were evaluated. The 27 outcomes were: the 22 items of the 2001 CONSORT checklist, four sub-items describing blinding and a 'total summary score' of aggregate items, as reported. Relative risks (RR) and 99% confidence intervals were calculated to determine effect estimates for each outcome across evaluations.

**Results:** Fifty-three reports describing 50 evaluations of 16,604 RCTs were assessed for adherence to at least one of 27 outcomes. Sixty-nine of 81 meta-analyses show relative benefit from CONSORT endorsement on completeness of reporting. Between endorsing and non-endorsing journals, 25 outcomes are improved with CONSORT endorsement, five of these significantly ( $\alpha = 0.01$ ). The number of evaluations per meta-analysis was often low with substantial heterogeneity; validity was assessed as low or unclear for many evaluations.

**Conclusions:** The results of this review suggest that journal endorsement of CONSORT may benefit the completeness of reporting of RCTs they publish. No evidence suggests that endorsement hinders the completeness of reporting of trials remains sub-optimal. Journals are not sending a clear message about endorsement to authors submitting manuscripts for publication. As such, fidelity of endorsement as an 'intervention' has been weak to date. Journals need to take further action regarding their endorsement and implementation of CONSORT to facilitate accurate, transparent and complete reporting of trials.

**Keywords:** CONSORT, Endorsement, Reporting guideline, Completeness of reporting



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# A checklist is associated with increased quality of reporting preclinical biomedical research: A systematic review

Seunghye Han<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Tolani F. Olanisakin<sup>1</sup>, John P. Pribis<sup>2</sup>, Jill Zupetic<sup>1</sup>, Joe Heung Yoon<sup>1</sup>, Kyle M. Holleran<sup>3</sup>, Kwonho Jeong<sup>2</sup>, Nader Shaikh<sup>1,5</sup>, Doris M. Rubio<sup>3,5,6</sup>, Janet S. Lee<sup>1,5,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, United States of America, <sup>3</sup> Center for Research on Health Care Data Center, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>4</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>5</sup> Institute for Clinical Research Education, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>6</sup> Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>7</sup> Pittsburgh Heart, Lung, Blood and Vascular Medicine Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America

\* Current address: Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, Department of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America  
[shanhworkmd@gmail.com](mailto:shanhworkmd@gmail.com)



## OPEN ACCESS

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**Data Availability Statement:** All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

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## Abstract

Irreproducibility of preclinical biomedical research has gained recent attention. It is suggested that requiring authors to complete a checklist at the time of manuscript submission would improve the quality and transparency of scientific reporting, and ultimately enhance reproducibility. Whether a checklist enhances quality and transparency in reporting preclinical animal studies, however, has not been empirically studied. Here we searched two highly cited life science journals, one that requires a checklist at submission (*Nature*) and one that does not (*Cell*), to identify *in vivo* animal studies. After screening 943 articles, a total of 80 articles were identified in 2013 (pre-checklist) and 2015 (post-checklist), and included for the detailed evaluation of reporting methodological and analytical information. We compared the quality of reporting preclinical animal studies between the two journals, accounting for differences between journals and changes over time in reporting. We find that reporting of randomization, blinding, and sample-size estimation significantly improved when comparing *Nature* to *Cell* from 2013 to 2015, likely due to implementation of a checklist. Specifically, improvement in reporting of the three methodological information was at least three times greater when a mandatory checklist was implemented than when it was not. Reporting the sex of animals and the number of independent experiments performed also improved from 2013 to 2015, likely from factors not related to a checklist. Our study demonstrates that completing a checklist at manuscript submission is associated with improved reporting of key methodological information in preclinical animal studies.

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