Author Tutorial

*International Journal of Gynecological Cancer*

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Criteria for Publication

High Priority

- New and original research
- Prospective randomized trials
- Largest retrospective series on a topic of interest
- Data that contradicts previously established results
- Reviews of relevant and current topics
- High-quality educational videos of novel techniques

Low Priority

- Commentaries
Finding A Topic of Interest

- Do a literature search to assure is not published already
- Review current literature
- Discuss with an expert in the field
- Attempt to capture the missing element
- Go to Abstracts/Posters in meetings
- Discuss in group conference
Writing the Manuscript

• Be concise and to the point
  - A lot of words does not equal a good story

• A manuscript should tell a story
  - Beginning/Middle/End

• Do not use non-scientific language

Examples:
  - We perform this approach in the easiest manner
  - The blood loss was less than expected
  - The approach was done as routine
Writing the Manuscript

• Do not use language that can be misinterpreted
  Example:
  - The length of stay was very short
  - The rate of sentinel node detection was outstanding
  - Complication rates were minimal

• Do not place Tables or Figures in middle of manuscript

• Use English-speaking editors (non-native speakers)
  - DO NOT use Google translate!
Writing the Manuscript

• Title of manuscript
  - Should represent the overall message of the paper

• Authors
  - First: Person who wrote it and did most work in data gathering
  - Second: Next person providing substantial contribution
  - Last: Developed idea, responsible for data generation, analysis, and interpretation
  * Avoid leaving important individuals out as authors or including others who have not contributed anything to the manuscript

• Abstract
  - Tells the whole story
  - Often the only thing people read of your work!
Writing the Manuscript
Introduction

• Do not exceed 3-4 paragraphs

• 1\textsuperscript{st} Paragraph
  - Background information

• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Paragraph
  - Relevance of the subject of interest

• 3\textsuperscript{rd} Paragraph
  - Gaps in knowledge
  - Goals of your study
Writing the Manuscript
Methods

• IRB approval statement
• What data were collected
• Who was the study group
• Provide details for ease of replication
• Provide Inclusion or Exclusion Criteria
• Method of statistical analysis (meet with statistician)
• Method of assessment of primary and secondary endpoints
• Therapy details (type of drug, doses, regimen)
• Consent process if subjects alive or prospective
• Process of randomization
• DO NOT say it was a prospective study if it WAS NOT!!
Writing the Manuscript
Results

• Should reflect all that you were collecting in Methods
• Always begin with the number of patients included
• Provide chronological sequence of data
• Make sure numbers match Abstract and Tables
• Make sure all numbers add up
• Provide data that will be of interest to the reader
• Do not interpret the data

JUST THE FACTS!!
Writing the Manuscript Discussion

- Begin with a single statement of your overall findings
- Do not repeat your Results
- Place in context of previously published literature
- Be sure to include comparisons to major articles
- Outline external validity of your findings
- Include Strengths and Weaknesses
- Provide future directions
- Provide details as to why this is contributing to literature
- Do not make editorial statements or make personal judgment of the value of the findings to the gynecologic oncology community
- BE CONCISE!!
Writing the Manuscript References

- Review the Guide for Authors for format
- Double check spelling and “specifics” of citation
- Keep references to only relevant ones
- Do not be repetitive in your references
- Site original or primary reference
- Think about including references of potential reviewers
Cover Letter

• Include title of the manuscript
• Statement that all authors have provided substantial contribution and are in agreement will all aspects of the final manuscript
• Provide a brief statement as to why this research will contribute novel data to the literature (should not exceed 2-3 sentences)
• Statement that the manuscript has not been concurrently submitted to other journals
• Suggested Reviewers with contact information
• Undesired Reviewers
Manuscript Review Process
Editor’s Perspective

• Submitted to Associate Editors
• First Assessment by Associate Editor
• Proceed for formal review by Reviewer
• Decisions:
  - Accept
  - Minor revisions
  - Major revisions
  - Reject
Thank you!

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