
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sub: Mandatory Practice of Reporting Guidelines in Rehabilitation Research– Ensuring Quality Work

Dear Editor

With an outstanding development in the field of rehabilitation research, it becomes imperative that high quality clinical evidences should be encouraged. It is the need of time that we set best example in rehabilitation research. To ensure quality work in that field, an aggressive stance is required on the utilization and practice of reporting guidelines¹. Research reports should comprise adequate knowledge so that the readers can easily understand the study design, tool, sample selection criteria and analysis. The study rationale and search strategies should also be informed².

It has been stated by Doug that quality reporting is not non-compulsory or extra, rather it proves to be a critical part of good study. So, we all have mutual responsibility and commitment³. Those documents that provide assistance to the authors in reportage of research methodology are considered as reporting guidelines. They are generally depicted as checklists that present the essential reporting criteria needed to give clear version of study's methodology and results. The intention is not only the authors complete the precise checklist but also to ensure that the articles comprise essential elements. However, an important aspect that should be kept in mind is that reporting guidelines must not be perceived as managerial or organizational burden rather a model through which author can design their articles completely.

Guidelines have been formulated for nearly all study designs and on EQUATOR network further information can also be identified on design, methodology and arrangement, a significant association that encourages development in the completeness of reporting. Sufficient evidence is available focusing on the fact that the practice of guidelines ensures the quality of a research⁴. For example it has been established that use of CONSORT guidelines improved the comprehensiveness of randomized trials reporting.

We expect that incorporation of this reporting strategy in rehabilitation research will provide a robust message to all the researchers that there is intense need to observe high quality methods while conducting and publicizing a research. However, it is also expected that there will be resistance and barriers implementing this process but high hopes are seen that within small duration researches will start to use such reporting guidelines and checklists during initial stages of research, thus improving methodology and quality of their work. The probable advantages of adopting this method by authors are that the quality of research will improve through reporting about study design and methodology and the worth of article will be raised. Reporting guidelines permit for increased transparency that how the research was conducted and in turn can assist during peer review to depict ambiguous reporting. These guidelines can act as essential tool that helps authors in formulation of manuscript, ultimately permitting the article to comprehend its complete potential.

Conflict of Interest: None

REFERENCES

1. Moher D, Simera I, Schulz KF, Hoey J, Altman DG. Helping editors, peer reviewers and authors improve the clarity, completeness and transparency of reporting health research. *BMC medicine*. 2008;6(1):13.
2. Simera I, Altman DG, Moher D, Schulz KF, Hoey J. Guidelines for reporting health research: the EQUATOR network's survey of guideline authors. *PLoS Med*. 2008;5(6):e139
3. Altman D. Why we need transparent reporting of health research. Excerpt from a presentation delivered at the launch of the EQUATOR Network, June 2008. 2013.
4. Turner L, Shamseer L, Altman DG, Schulz KF, Moher D. Does use of the CONSORT Statement impact the completeness of reporting of randomised controlled trials published in medical journals? A Cochrane review a. *Systematic reviews*. 2012;1(1):60.

SAMREEN SADIQ¹, HAFIZ MUHAMMAD ASIM², IQRA KHAN³

¹Lecturer, Lahore College of Physical therapy, Lahore Medical and Dental College

²Associate Professor, Dean, Lahore College of Physical therapy, Lahore Medical and Dental College

³Senior Lecturer, Institute of Physical Therapy, the University of Lahore

Correspondence to Dr. Samreen Sadiq, Email: samreen.sadiq19@yahoo.com Cell: +923334371715