



**COMMON REASONS  
MANUSCRIPTS GET REJECTED**

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## INAPPROPRIATE JOURNAL SELECTION

Editors select in part based on personal interest, and that of the journal's readership

For example, if submitting to **STROKE**, the content should be appropriate/relevant for that journal (something related to stroke).

It is helpful to look at a recent copy of the journal to which you are submitting . What is the format of successful articles, what topics are they publishing?

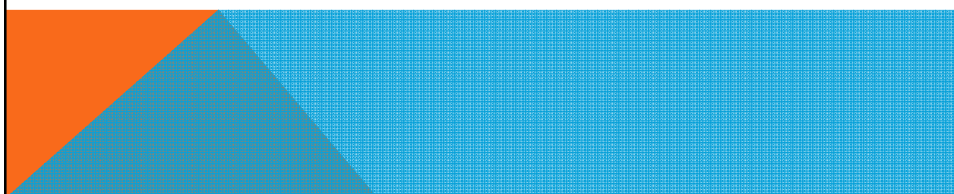
## **FAILURE TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS**

**Disturbingly common problem.**

**Proper format, use appropriate checklists.**

**Cover letter (done correctly—correct journal, correct editor).**

**Images and figures in usable format.**



## **METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICS**

**Is the conclusion justified?**

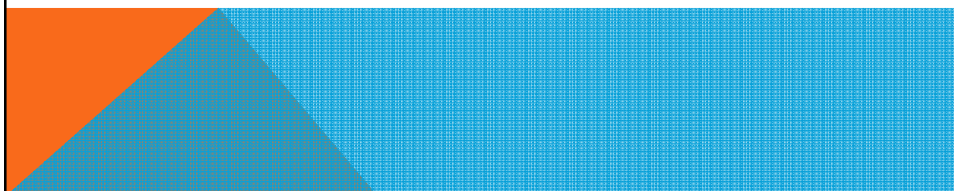
**Does the methods section allow for someone else to replicate the study?**

**Is all the relevant data presented in a comprehensible way?**

**Appropriate discussion with support from the results.**

**Appropriate references.**

**Most common reason for our journal to reject a paper from Brazil?  
inadequate description of patient  
recruitment/diagnosis/exclusion**

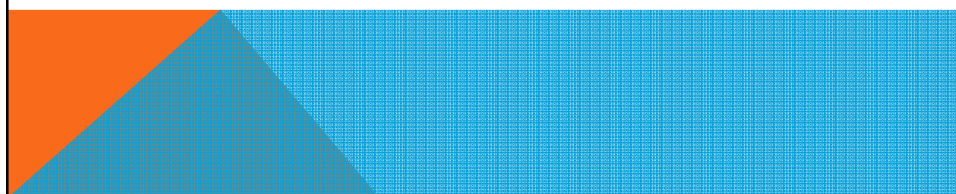


## **AUTHORS**

**Do they all deserve to be on the paper?**

**List what each contributed.**

**Remove those who did not meaningfully contribute.**

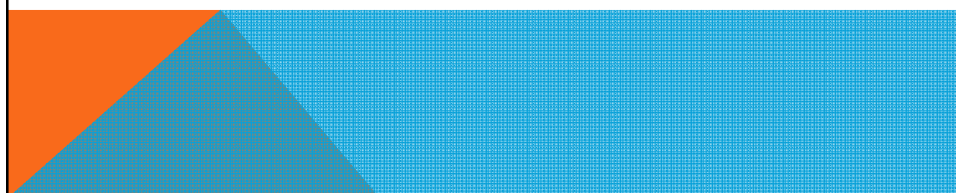
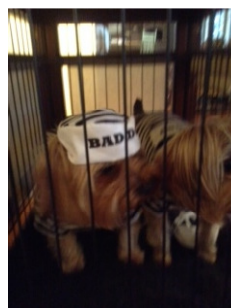


## **OMISSIONS**

**Failure to get ethics committee/institutional review board approval**

**Failure to protect patient /animal rights**

**Unethical study design**



## COMMONLY CITED REASONS FOR REJECTION

PER JASON ROBERTS

**Lacking appropriate guideline/checklist**

**Adds little to the literature.**

**Weak literature search**

**Inadequate description of participant  
recruitment/diagnosis/exclusion**

**Inadequate sample size**

**Statistical power analysis not described**

**No threshold of statistical significance set**

**Statistical techniques inadequately described**

**Overstated claims**

## CHECKLISTS/GUIDELINES

“The lack of a checklist is a predictor of problems with the paper. The failure to supply a checklist with the submission is not the issue, rather it is needed to help the journal assess all relevant reporting criteria are present in the manuscript. Authors absolutely must use such a checklist as a guide while writing. The failure to produce a checklist suggests one was not used and, therefore, the likelihood that important reporting criteria are missing is high. Poor reporting undermines articles and the validity of results reported. “

## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

“To validate results, it is utterly critical that readers understand the size, nature and recruitment strategy for the sample population. This is a basic fundamental issue in reporting studies. Failure to include such information will lead to rejection or a major revision at best. Authors must take proper care to document recruitment strategies during the conducting of a trial and must include a write up in the paper itself. “

“Difficult to validate results and replicate study. Interpretation of results might be difficult for the reader. Adopting a narrative style to describe the results may render absorbing the statistics more difficult. Poor statistical descriptions may also hide serious underlying issues such as whether or not the statistical technique was applied correctly or appropriately “

## **PROBLEMS**

“Quite simply, unless a power analysis can argue otherwise (and too often rejected papers have no power analysis), authors must really be very circumspect with their choice of language.

Reviewers are very tuned in to authors trying to make overblown claims. Authors will either be asked to tone down their message or the paper may just simply be rejected. “

## **MORE COMMON PROBLEMS**

**Title and abstract misleading/poorly constructed**

**Language issues**

**Study limitations not described fully**

**Lack of clinical/scientific impact**

**Intervention poorly described**

**No hypothesis tested**

**Not relevant to the journal**

**Substantial overlap with previous studies**

**Lack of institutional review board (IRB) /ethics committee approval**

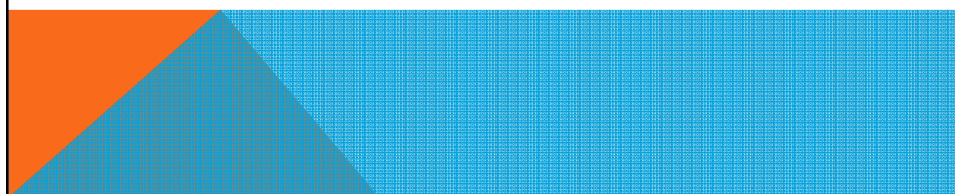
**No mention of patient informed consent**

## **FAILURES DURING REVIEW**

**Failure to address the reviewers' concerns and suggestions**

**They may not all be appropriate and can be debated if the authors have a reasonable point**

**Failures to send signed permissions.**

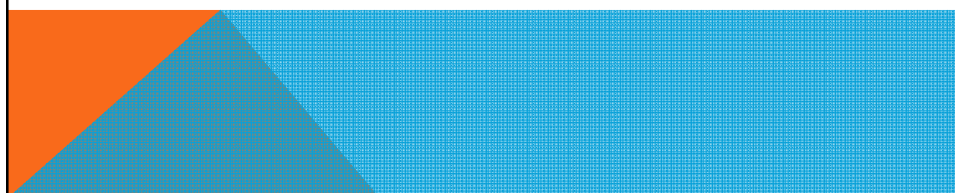


## **HELP**

**Many sources of help: statisticians, native language speakers, and the journal itself (editors want to publish good articles!!!!)**

**Don't be afraid to ask.**

**Peer review is supposed to be fair and should be an educational process.**



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

