

## How to review a paper For Heart

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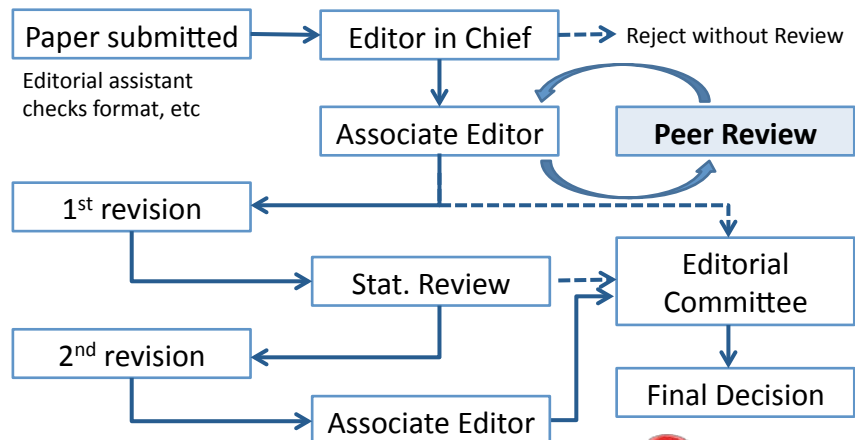
### How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Be courteous to authors

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- Agree to review right away
  - Download the paper and read it that day
  - Think about it and then go back to take notes for your review as discussed on following slides
- If unable to review, answer “no” quickly so the next reviewer can be invited
  - Decline if you really do not have time (2-3 hours)
  - Decline if the paper is outside your area of expertise
- Turn your review in on time (or early)!
  - Authors appreciate rapid turn-around
  - Editors value timely reviews



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) From submission to decision



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Peer review is key to scientific publishing

- Independent reviewers with expertise in the field evaluate the submitted paper and provide an unbiased objective assessment
- Pre-publication peer reviews ensures high quality papers are published in high impact journals.
- Post-publication peer review is what we all do every day when we discuss published research



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)

### First, read the paper

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- Is the article important?
- Will it help readers to make better decisions and, if so, how?
- Will the article add enough to existing knowledge?
- Does the article read well and make sense?
- Does it have a clear message?



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)

### Next, organize your thoughts

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- Background and Hypothesis
  - **Does the study address an important question?**
- Methods
  - **Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?**
- Results
  - **Are the results presented clearly and analyzed correctly?**
- Conclusions
  - **Are the conclusions justified by the data presented?**



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Address an important question?

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- Does the paper address an important clinical or science question?
- Is the background and rationale for the study described clearly and concisely?
- Is the hypothesis clearly stated?
- Is this the appropriate journal for publication of this paper?



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Methods appropriate and clearly described?

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- Will the study design provide an answer to the question?
- Is the sample size adequate to provide a definitive answer?
- Are the methods valid and clearly described?
- Is the statistical approach appropriate for the data?
- Are details adequate for replication of the study data?



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)

### Results presented clearly?

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- Does the text of the results match the methods described?
- Is the data in tables complete and understandable?
- Has the best graphical display of data been used and are all the data elements displayed?
- Is there overlap between text, tables and figures?
- Are any data elements missing?



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)

### Other considerations

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- References  
Up to date and relevant? Any glaring omissions?
- Abstract/summary/key messages  
Reflect accurately what the paper says?
- Is the title descriptive of the study design and objectives?
- Research checklists (e.g. CONSORT, PRISMA, and STROBE  
see <http://www.equator-network.org>  
Do these properly match what is in the manuscript? Do they contain information that should be better reported in the manuscript, or raise questions about the work?



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Key Reporting Guidelines

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- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs): [CONSORT guidelines](#)
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: [PRISMA guidelines](#) and [MOOSE guidelines](#)
- Observational studies in epidemiology: [STROBE guidelines](#) and [MOOSE guidelines](#)
- Diagnostic accuracy studies: [STARD guidelines](#)
- Quality improvement studies: [SQUIRE guidelines](#)



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Comments to the Authors

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- Summary (1-2 sentences) of the key point of the paper
- Comment on study design, whether data are convincing and conclusions appropriate
- Be polite
  
- Specific recommendations to strengthen the paper
- Background
- Methods
- Results – including tables and figures
- Conclusions



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Comments to the Editor

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- Originality
- Importance of the work to readers of this journal
- Scientific reliability
- Clinical Impact
- Why you recommend accept/reject/revise
- Major flaws
- Key revisions
- Is an editorial needed?

Do not repeat comments to authors !  
(the editors can see both)



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Ethics of publishing

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- Are there any ethical concerns in terms of study design, patient consent or review board approval?
- Are you concerned about duplicate publication, plagiarism or fraud?
- Remember that the article is confidential until published.
- Avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest



## How to review a paper (or get yours accepted) Finally...

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- Being asked to review an article is a professional accomplishment (list ad hoc reviewer on your CV)
- Reviewers have insight into cutting edge science and learn critical thinking – these skills enhance their own research and publications
- Reviewers who provide frequent useful reviews on time are invited to join Editorial Boards

