

The Process for Handling Cases Requiring Corrections, Retractions, and Editorial Expressions of Concern

JoLS ensures that all of its published articles follow the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (<http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>) and the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (<https://publicationethics.org/guidance>).

JoLS aims to maintain the academic integrity of all published and to be published manuscripts. Anytime an inaccuracy, false statements and unreasonable report, is brought to our attention, we make sure to correct the oversights in a reasonable time with due prominence. Such manuscripts will be retracted and duly notified to the readers and concerned agencies.

Corrections

Errors in published papers may be identified in the form of an erratum when the Editors-in-Chief consider it appropriate to inform the journal readership about a previous error and makes a correction to the error in the published article. The will appear as a new article in the journal, and will cite the original published article.

Retractions

Retractions are considered and published when there are severe errors in an article that invalidate the conclusions. Retractions are also made in cases where there is evidence of publication malpractice, such as plagiarism, duplicate publication, or unethical research.

According to industry best practice and in accordance with COPE guidelines, JoLS implements the following procedure if a retraction is confirmed:

1. A retraction note titled "Retraction: [article title]" signed by the authors and/or the editor is published in a subsequent issue of the journal and listed in the contents list.
2. In the electronic version, a link is made to the original article.
3. The article is preceded by a screen containing the retraction note. It is to this screen that the link resolves; the reader can then proceed to the article itself.
4. The original article is retained unchanged save for a watermark on the PDF indicating on each page that it has been "retracted."

Editorial expressions of concern

Where substantial doubt arises as to the honesty or integrity of a submitted or published article, journal editors may consider issuing an expression of concern. However, expressions of concern should only be issued if an investigation into the problems relating to the article has proven inconclusive, and if there remain strong indicators that the concerns are valid. Under some rare cases, an editorial expression of concern may also be issued when an investigation is underway but a judgement will not be available for a considerable time.

The expression of concern will be linked back to the published article it relates to.