

Presenting an Article at “Journal Club”

A guide for pharmacists.

See www.vhpharmsci.com/decisionmaking for supportive resources.

Overall Goals

- verbally describe an article and its implications for clinical practice to a group of peers in 20 minutes or less. Additional time should be allocated to answer questions and foster discussion.
- presenting the article requires that the presenter has previously EVALUATED the article

Suggested Framework for Presentation

Note: not every parameter will be applicable in every case, and some relevant points may not be included here, depending on the article.

Background

- State title, journal, authors (if famous or local), place of origin of the article
- Describe the general clinical area the article addresses, why you chose it, the state of knowledge about the topic (what controversies does it address? What clinical problem is it relevant to? What gap in knowledge is it intended to fill?)

Methods

- Design (RCT? (subtype: crossover, factorial, superiority, non-inferiority/equivalence) Case-control? Cohort? (retrospective? Prospective?), meta-analysis, guideline, etc)
- Patient population (inclusion/exclusion criteria)
- Intervention(s) in the experimental group(s); Intervention(s) in the control group(2).
- Endpoints (primary, secondary, safety)
- Statistical methods (e.g., anything special/unusual/specific to the design)

Results

- How many subjects enrolled? Duration of followup/exposure.
- Describe the primary and secondary outcome variable results. Use clinically applicable representations and rearrangements (e.g., convert ARR to NNTs, RR's to ARR, etc, as required) to better contextualize the results. Note which results are statistically significant vs. not.

Interpretation

- State the AUTHOR's conclusion(s)
- Evaluate the CLINICAL significance of the results independently of their STATISTICAL significance.
- Describe your own assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the study's design, reporting, analysis, conclusions.
 - Use a relevant TOOL to guide evaluation wherever possible:
 - RCT – eg. CONSORT, CASP, Jadad score. Non-inferiority/equivalence trials require special considerations.
 - Meta-analysis – eg. QUOROM, MOOSE
 - Guideline – eg. AGREE, COGS
 - Cohort study – eg. CONSORT Observational
 - Case-control study – Hill's causality criteria
- Describe your BOTTOM LINE opinions of what the study means in terms of patient care, how it might affect clinical decision making, pharmacotherapy, etc.