How to write a paper that journals will want to publish

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Disclaimers

• The opinions expressed are my own
• They do not represent the views of the JPU or any other journal
• I have no disclosures
It all starts with a good study…

• Appropriate study design for clinical question
  – Clinically relevant
• Well-defined Aims and end-points
• Adequate power and follow-up
• Appropriately eliminate or control for bias
• Correct analysis for type of data
Let’s be honest

• Not every pediatric urology study is a multicenter RCT with 3000 subjects per arm

• We realize that in pediatric urology, the conditions and patient populations may not lend themselves to high-level study designs
How do you get your study out there?
Aren’t journals obsolete?
The circle of life...
The circle of life (for manuscripts)
What are we trying to avoid?
What makes a manuscript into a train wreck?

- Aims not clear/concise
- Methods incomplete
- Discussion does not honestly address limitations
- Conclusions not supported by data
- Poor writing, grammar, syntax, language
Taking Aim

• Every study should be premised on a specific aim/hypothesis
  – Concise description of the question
• You should be able to describe this in one or two sentences
• Best place for this is at the end of the introduction
Materials and Methods

• Data source/population
• Study sample selection method
• Primary and secondary outcome with definitions and measures
• Intervention and other exposures/independent variables
Materials and Methods

• Analytic approach and statistical tests used
• Methods of handling confounding/effect modification
• IRB and ethical approval (including #'s)
NOT GOOD.
We all have our limits…

• All studies have limitations and weaknesses
• The authors should be the ones to identify and point these out
• Problems with power, follow-up, confounding, generalizability, etc.
Jumping to Conclusions

• Conclusions should be supported by data
  – Avoid attributing causation

• Conclusions should restate the primary results

• Avoid speculation or making inferences outside the scope of the study
Language Arts

• Proficient language and writing
  – Have others review the paper. Non-standard or unclear language frustrates reviewers, makes them discount the findings

• Good writing matters
  – It can make a mediocre study look decent and a good study look great
A request.....

• Please*Please*Please*Please*Please*Please
  – Accept review invitations from urology journals
  – WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE

• This is a communal activity and the participation of everyone is essential
It is about them…