CVIR – Tips for peer-review

wwww.cvironline.org

Prof. Raman Uberoi
CVIR Deputy Editor-in-Chief
University Hospitals NHS Trust Oxford, UK
Presented at: CCI 2020

Types of peer review

Blind review: authors do not know who the reviewers of their manuscript are, but the reviewers know the authors' identity

Double-blind review: neither authors nor reviewers know each other's identity

Open peer review: both authors and reviewers know each other's identity

→ CVIR uses **double-blind review**

Authors need to ensure that their manuscript's main text does not identify them.

Aims of the peer review process

- To ensure publication of the highest quality of articles, in order to improve the knowledge and understanding of IR and IR procedures
- Have a fair and impartial assessment of the quality and content of manuscripts
- Give authors suggestions of where to make improvements
- Ultimately, to provide an opportunity for knowledge sharing between experts around the world

Being a reviewer – ethical considerations

(COPE – committee of publication ethics guidelines)

- Professional responsibility: only accept a review when the manuscript is in the field of your expertise
- Competing interests: authors from the same institution, personal interest, financial interest etc.
- Timeliness: respond to the invitation promptly, do your best to keep to the timeline
- Confidentiality: do not use the content of the manuscript for other purposes; do not “transfer” the review
- Language and style: respect the individual style of writing, as long as language and structure are appropriate
- Never be offending: provide an unbiased review

Review questions?

- After the first read through, go back over the manuscript in more detail. The following questions about the article to develop useful and constructive comments:
  - What is the main question addressed by the research? Is it relevant and interesting?
  - How original is the topic? What does it add to the subject area compared with other published material?
  - Is the paper well written? Is the text clear and easy to read?
  - Are the conclusions consistent with the evidence and arguments presented? Do they address the main question posed?
  - If the paper includes tables or figures, what do they add to the paper? Do they aid understanding or are they redundant?

CVIR Reviewer Template

Comments to the author: More detailed specific and constructive comments on the study design and content for editor and feedback to authors

Comments to the editor: include comments on novelty and significance of the article, as well as a recommendation on whether the manuscript is suitable for publication

→ Comments to the author should be consistent with comments to the editor

Reviewer Template

CVIR Reviewer Template for Clinical Investigation, Laboratory Investigation, Scientific Paper (Other), Technical Note

Article Title

Reviewer

Recommendation: Minor Revisions

Cancel | Save & Submit Later | Upload Reviewer Attachments | Proof & Print | Proceed

Reviewer Instructions

Review Questions

Level of Evidence

The EBM Levels of Evidence Score is based on Oxford Centre classification style -- 1 is a higher level of evidence; 5 is a lower level of evidence.

For additional EBM scoring details, please refer to the button above "Reviewer Instructions", or the **Instructions for Authors** located on the CVIR homepage on Springer.com (please find the link on top of this webpage).

Please select a response

Overall Quality of the Manuscript

Please select a response (answer options: very good, good, satisfying, poor, unacceptable)

Reviewer Blind Comments to Author

Description

Your comments will be a reference for authors in case they need to revise their manuscript and make it more suitable for publication. Therefore, please be clear and concise in your comments to the authors. Please **do not** enter confidential comments for Editors in this box.

Manuscripts should not exceed the word count specified in the instructions for authors: 2,400 for clinical and laboratory investigations and scientific paper; 1,200 for technical note. Please point out if the paper is too long.

In the box

Please add your comments to each item below applicable to the manuscript:

1) General comments:

2) Detailed comments:

Abstract:

Introduction:

Materials and methods:

Results:

Discussion:

Conclusion:

References:

Images/tables (if any):

Language quality:

Statistic results (if applicable):

Reviewer Confidential Comments to Editor

Description

These are confidential comments to the Editors. Comments entered in this box will not be revealed to the authors.

By addressing the questions below you will indicate the manuscript's suitability for publication in CVIR.

In the box

Relevance:

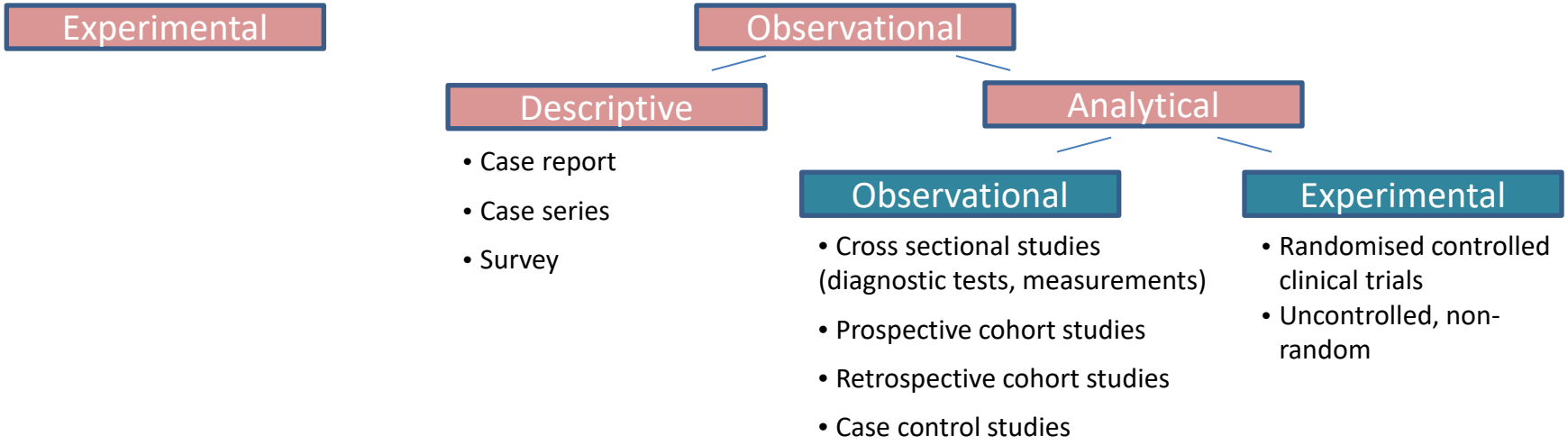
Major strengths:

Major weaknesses:

Novelty / Originality:

Scientific merit:

Different study types = different study designs



CVIR submissions

Why do we need peer review?

- credibility
- trust
- quality control

It is essential for medical journals!

CVIR Submisions

- Over 1.000 submissions per year
- 13 editors work on assessing submissions and sending them to peer-review
- Editors reject articles for one or more reasons:
  - Topic not within the journal scope (for example, too cardiology-focused)
  - Topic not novel enough - our colleagues want articles that add to the current knowledge
  - No new information - other studies describing the same findings/research/technique or including more patients
  - Topic is good but the article is badly written
  - Incorrect study design
  - CVIR has a limited publishing space for case reports

CVIR article types

Manuscript Type	Description
Clinical Investigation	Article that details studies involving human subjects
Laboratory Investigation	Article that details studies involving animal subjects or bench tests
Scientific Paper (Other)	Article that is not a clinical or laboratory investigation, but fits into the scientific paper category, such as meta-analyses
Technical Note	Article detailing novel techniques and their application in experimental or clinical settings
Review Article	Article examining the progress of treatments and techniques over a specified time, including systemic reviews
Case Report	Article detailing treatments of specific patients
Cutting Edge	Short article addressing current hot topics or latest developments in interventional radiology, or in fields which may directly influence interventional radiology
Letter to the Editor	Unstructured communication in letter format
Editorial	Short opinionated paper on current trending topics, submitted upon invitation only
Commentary	Succinct commentary on a recently published article/scientific data/new trend(s), submitted upon invitation only

Different study types – different study designs

How to improve your study reports?

Use the international guidelines for writing medical reports:

Randomised trials	CONSORT
Observational studies	STROBE
Systematic reviews	PRISMA
Study protocols	SPIRIT
Case reports	CARE

Writing guidelines: STROBE

STROBE: **S**trengthening the **R**eporting of **Ob**servational studies in **E**pidemiology

They offer detailed checklists for writing:

- combined studies
- cohort studies
- case-control studies
- cross-sectional studies

Example:

STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants	6	(*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up *Case-control study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls *Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants
		(*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed *Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed
		(*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed *Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was

Good luck!