

Journal Club Guide

Journal Article: _____

Block: _____

- **Title**

- Any errors?

Some examples of incorrect titles: *HUS in the New Millennium*. What is HUS? Abbreviations are best avoided. Why millennium? Is it such a long study? *Improved Prognosis in Heart Failure Due to Captopril*. Was heart failure caused by Captopril or was prognosis improved by its use?

- **Authorship**

- Who is the primary author?

A renowned person as author who has done previous work on the same subject gives the paper a higher rating. However, this is not a major merit and should not be taken as the sole criteria for selection.

- Where was the study conducted?

Great Ormond Street Hospital, Harvard University or Yale, Karolinska Institute? The reliability and validity are more pronounced when the study was conducted in a reputed institution.

- Submitted, accepted, published (time lapse):

A short time between the time of study and publication will rate the paper higher. However, for highly rated journals, a long-time lapse is common.

- **Materials and Methods**

- What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria?
- Was the type of design of study appropriate (pilot, cross-sectional, randomized, blinded, prospective, clinical trial)?
- Was the description of the general procedure described adequately?

- **Results**

- Any illusion created by the graphic representation (histogram vs. curves)?
- Any repetition of the data in tabulated form vs. graphic form?
- Were the numbers of illustrations pertinent to the study?
- Was the statistical analysis appropriate to the study?

- **Discussion**

- Are positive and negative points highlighted?
- Were there any flaws or pitfalls?
- What was the significance and clinical application of the study?

- **Conclusion**

- Were the conclusions valid and reliable?