

Publication Pearls

Or

“How to make a paper
more acceptable to a
Journal editor”



Publish or Perish?

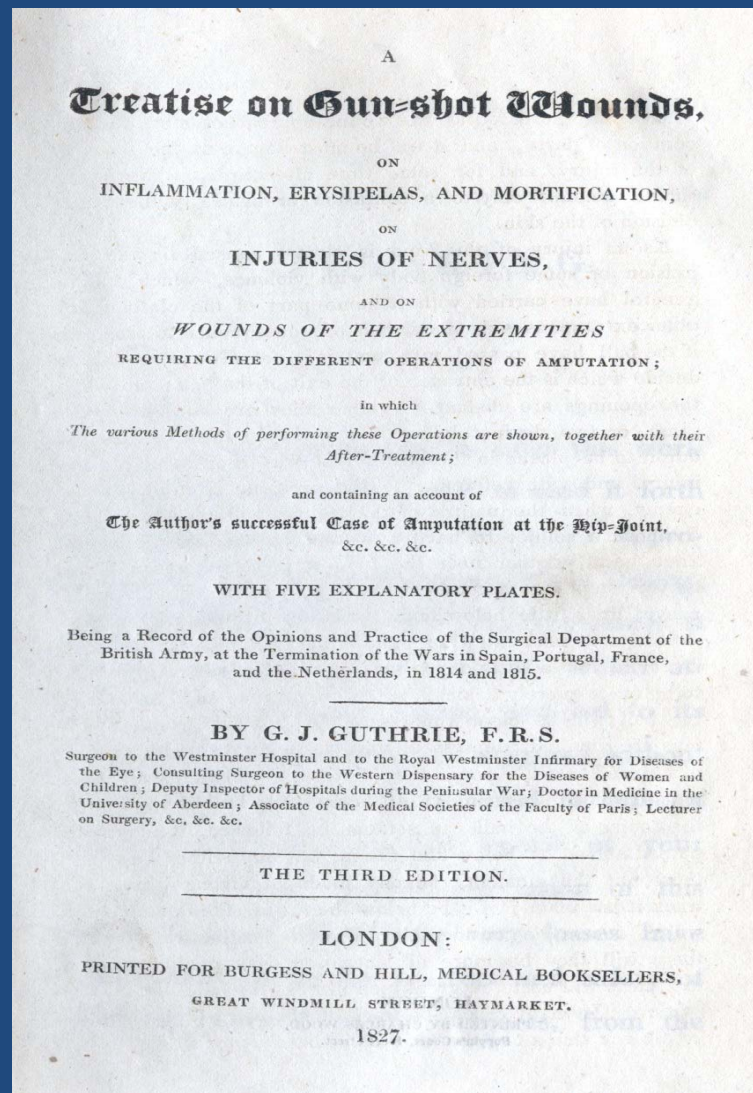
- Limited personal experience
- Vast bulk of disease
- New presentations
- Surrogate experience base

Manuscripta antiqua



- Rich people
- Poor had illiterate “chirurgiens”
- Centuries of Galenic heresy

Golden Age



- Multiple case reports
- Trial and Error

Modern times



Be attractive - enliven the audience



- Words can kill!

What happens a submission?

- Submit
- Look at title
- Read abstract

What happens a submission?

- Submit
- Look at title
- Read abstract
- OPTIONS?
- Read
- Reject

Sub-editor interested ?

- Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
- Main Paper
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
- Options?
- Interested
- Reject

Sub-editor interested ?

- Send to referee (s)
 - Got other things to do
 - Really busy
 - Independent
 - Paid? NO!

Referee interested ?

- Send to referee(s)
 - G ot other things to do
 - R eally busy
 - I ndependent
 - Paid? NO!

Response to Editor – Decision Time!

- Back from referee(s)
- Options?
 - **Accept**
 - **Minor changes**
 - **MAJOR revisions**
 - No guarantee
 - **Reject**

Problem Areas

- Correct Journal?

Problem Areas

- Correct Journal?
- Read them
- Match content
- Match style

Problem Areas

- Instructions to Authors
- Read them
- Follow them

Problem Areas

- Instructions to Authors
- Read them
- Follow them
- Re-submitting?

Problem Areas

- Instructions to Authors
- Read them
- Follow them
- Re-submitting?
- Re-write everything!
- Beware RIVAL journal
 - Do NOT embarrass!

Problem Areas

- Recent similar paper?
- Only new material
- Cite appropriately

Problem Areas

- Recent similar paper?
- Only new material
- Cite appropriately
- Citing?
- Read the original !
- Do NOT embarrass!

Problem Areas

- Case Report
 - Review?

Problem Areas

- Case Report
 - Review?

- No!
 - Needs an expert
 - Usually commissioned

Problem Areas

- English Language

Problem Areas

- English Language
 - Often poor
 - Multiple readerships
 - Need a Native!

Advice on Construction

- Short, simple sentences
- Four words good
 - 40 words bad!
- Write for pleasure
 - Reader's!
- Be direct

Advice on Construction

- Short, simple sentences
- Tighten cautiously
- Four words good
 - 40 words bad!
- Split into two papers?
 - Beware duplication
- Write for pleasure
 - Reader's!
- Read out loud
 - Audience will decide!
- Be direct

Avoid

- Excess verbiage
 - “Surrounded on all sides”
 - “Important essentials”
 - “In the event that”
 - “Consensus of opinion”

Avoid

- Excess verbiage

- “Surrounded on all sides”
- “Important essentials”
- “In the event that”
- “Consensus of opinion”

- Surrounded
- Essentials
- If
- Consensus

Avoid

“Maintain high index of suspicion”

Avoid

“Maintain high index of suspicion”



Person – Plural vs Singular

- “Results were found.....”
- Result was found.....”

Voice

- Passive is poor
 - Weak
 - More words
 - Uncertain
- Active is appropriate
 - Direct
 - Shorter
 - Clearer

Introduction

- What?
- Why?
- When?
- Where?

Introduction

- What?
- Why?
- When?
- Where?
- Few citations
- Do not disclose the plot!

Methods

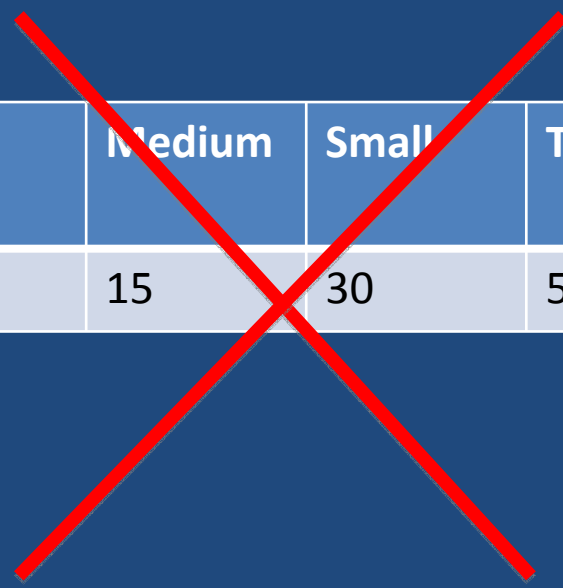
- Must be clear
 - Main cause for rejection
- Reproducible
- Statistical advice a priori

Methods

- Must be clear
 - Main cause for rejection
- Reproducible
- Statistical advice a priori
- Ethics
- Consent

Results

Large 25
Medium 15
Small 30
Tiny 55



Large	Medium	Small	Tiny
25	15	30	55

Results

Large 25
Medium 15
Small 30
Tiny 55

As shown in Table 1, “List of sizes” ✖

(Table 1) ✔



Large	Medium	Small	Tiny
25	15	30	55

Discussion

- Simple explanation of results
- Do NOT overfill
- If further questions/more research
 - Indicate where answers likely to be found

Caveats

- ©
 - Enclose clearance

Caveats

- ©
 - Enclose clearance
- Authorship
 - All must contribute
 - All responsible
 - Should agree in advance

Forbidden!



Forbidden!

- Duplication
 - Unacceptable
 - (Might be agreed)

Forbidden!

- Duplication
 - Unacceptable
 - (Might be agreed)
- Plagiarism
 - Reprehensible
 - NEVER condoned!

Send me your papers!

