

Research! Research! Research! What are Thou?



Being in field of Orthopaedic research since last 6 years, I have personally been witness the rapid change in landscape of Orthopaedic Research and also medical research in general. The sheer volumes of publications is overwhelming to the extent of being mostly ineffective in providing significant positive addition to the current literature. "There are too many variables" is one of my favorite phrase when I start to explain something to myself. Looking at as many variables as we can think of, makes us understand concepts within the limitations of given variables. Something similar to Ashby's law that we spoke about in last Editorial [1]. However when we try to apply this word 'Research' the amount of subjective stereotype that is associated with the word defeats all attempt to decipher and communicate clearly. Originally word Research derived from French 'Recherche' simply means 'Pursuit of Knowledge'. We as medical practitioners in search of better treatment for our patients are always in pursuit of knowledge. This knowledge is mostly build individually and is learned from individual experience and learning. This is a subjective body of knowledge and this is what makes one surgeon better than another. But is this 'Research'? Yes it is Research and it serves the main purpose of medical research that is to improve the treatment given to patients. However this is a limited form of research, limited by individual's ability and capacity. It also does not subject itself to rigorous 'scientific methods' and may not be acceptable to a community of 'Modern Researchers'. Another form of Research of pursuit of knowledge is again from the clinics and from reading journals and books. A collaboration of clinical experience and written word adds a more thoughtful way of pursuing knowledge. This I think is the way majority of medical practitioners acquire knowledge. This keeps them updated and also helps them provide good care to their patients. The third form is where Modern Research tools are used and studies are designed to answer clinical questions. A subset of this is Evidence based Medicine. This is currently the most favored kind of research as it apparently allows a proper organization of data and generation of high quality knowledge (although this quality may not have anything to do with impact on patient treatment or clinical decision making). Now we are talking in a very limited terms looking at a very small part of research namely 'Clinical Research'. Which of the three forms is more accurate or more vital when decisions are made in terms of treating individual patients? Probably all three are equally important but what varies is subjective importance that each of us put on these concepts. Creating a hierarchy of these does not seem to be a very smart move rather than an amalgamation of all these complimentary form of 'researchre' should be the aim. Finding a way to scientifically stich together all these forms of research is a challenging task but will be very valuable. Although a variety of faces of research exist from Personal, subjective and objective statistical, I believe the clinical decision making lies somewhere in the middle of this spectrum and a proper analysis of this framework is needed to make use of positives aspect of both the ends of the spectrum.

We at JOCR are focusing on the case reports and case studies including technical notes and case images and try to build a literature that is based more on individual based research. Journal of Orthopaedic Complications is another attempt where we are will try to build a body of literature dedicated to one of the most important aspect of our clinical practice. The new Journal will be started in January 2014 and soon the website and announcement of the Editorial Board will be done. We invite any interested reader to join Journal of Orthopaedic Complications (please write to us at indian.ortho@gmail.com).

From this issue all volumes of JOCR will be printed in full color and number of copies that are distributed will also increase. Indexing has grown and now JOCR is indexed and achieved by more than 25 bodies. We are looking into providing a fast track mode for publishing articles in JOCR and should be ready with the software by

late this year. This will help us resolve issues of delay in publications and improve citation scores. With this I leave you to enjoy the current issue of JOCR

Sincerely

Dr Ashok Shyam (MS Ortho)

Editor – Journal of Orthopaedic Case Reports

References

1. Shyam AK. *Wisdom of the Crowds: Extending the Domain of Medical Information to Case Banks and Online Forums. Journal of Orthopaedic Case Reports 2013 April-June;3(1):1-3*
2. <http://orthocomplications.com/>. *Journal of Orthopaedic Complications.*

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Journal of Orthopaedic Complications

Our Complications are cases that teach us the most and have a lasting impression on us. These also include unusual, complex cases that present to us and require specific management option. It is knowledge from these complicated and complex cases helps us in dealing with them in our future and form an important part of our 'Learning Curve.' JOC aims to provide a platform for publication of such complications including intraoperative or post operative complications, surgical infections, delayed presentations, neglected or mis-managed cases, unknown drug side effects or interactions. and other such complicated and complex scenarios. This will give the readers an opportunity to learn form experience of others and possibly avoid complications or treat them effectively and in turn possibly play a role in prevention of such complications. The website is under construction www.orthocomplications.com and will be launched soon with announcement on IORG channels. For any query please write to drashokshyam@yahoo.co.uk