How to Approach a Journal Club Presentation:
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What is a Journal Club?

American Medical Association’s (AMA) definition of a journal club: “is a certified live activity structured around the discussion of a journal article(s) that do not have to be certified as journal-based CME. Generally physicians will read the article(s) prior to the activity and discuss the article(s) during the journal-club meeting. In this example, the activity is certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for the discussion and learning that occurs at the live activity, not for reading the article(s). The accredited CME provider must comply with all core and live activity format specific requirements in order to certify the activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.”

Journal Club Purpose: The purpose of our journal club series is to generate questions, to interpret data, disseminate knowledge among physicians and apply it to the patient population.

Learning Objectives:
The participants should be able to:
1. Explain critical literature appraisal skills
2. Discuss controversies
3. Improve clinical practice
4. Formulate ideas for future research

How to Approach a Journal Club

Today, in any specialty of medicine, physicians are expected to utilize evidence-based medicine and prescribe rational, effective and appropriate treatments. They are also expected to make accurate diagnoses using appropriate and cost effective tests and make reasonable prognoses. As we know, this not only applies to managed care but our own private practices. Journal club is not intended to make statisticians out of physicians, but to help us to interpret data and apply it to our patient population.

Please be advised that journal club is the presenters’ opportunity to learn how to impart a scholarly analysis of a published article in a peer reviewed journal of a treatment modality, a prognostic, or a diagnostic test. Therefore, it is expected that the “PICO” (P = patient, I = intervention, C = comparison, O = outcome) method be utilized in assessing your journal article. An example of the method is on the St. Mary Internal Medicine Residency website as a PowerPoint presentation.

Website: http://stmarymed.com/index.html .
Click on Homepage ~ Scroll down to Didactics ~ Select Journal Club.
Additionally, since there seems to be a preference in reviewing treatment modalities, I have included some basic questions that you should be prepared to answer at the end of your presentation. These questions have been taken and summarized below from the book Clinical Epidemiology, D. Sackett et al- Jan.1991.

**Critical questions for evaluating an article of a treatment modality:**

1. Was the assignment of the treatment group really randomized?
2. Were the similarities between groups documented?
3. Were all clinically relevant outcomes reported, i.e. morbidity, mortality, death from all cause, quality of life assessment? Was the outcome assessment blind?
4. Were the study patients similar to your own? Was the setting a primary or tertiary care?
5. Were statistical and clinical significance reported? If the study was statistically significant, was the clinical impact important? If the study did not show significance for a treatment was it powered appropriately and did it still have clinical impact?
6. Is the treatment viable? Is it available, affordable; does it make sense? Did the study point out compliance issues, i.e. adherence to treatment, side effects, etc.?
7. Did the study account for all of the author’s conclusions, i.e. did they consider dropouts, withdrawals, lost to follow-up in their analysis?

**Expectations of Presenters:**

| 1 -2 Months PRIOR your Scheduled Presentation | The journal article must be selected and approved by the GME Faculty Advisor. Schedule a meeting with your faculty advisor and bring your selected article for discussion. As soon as the article has been selected, please send to the CME coordinator for distribution. |
| 1 Month Prior your Scheduled Presentation | Review the two documents in the Internal Medicine Website: • How to approach a Journal Club • PowerPoint Templates |
| 1 Week Prior your Scheduled Presentation | Provide DRAFT of PowerPoint Presentation to your advisor by email. Copy Noon Conference Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the resident to adhere to the timeline from |
selection of a journal article to the actual presentation.

References:


Fighting Spurious Complementary & Alternative Medicine (SCAM) http://healthfraudoz.blogspot.com


J Ioannidis: Why Most Published Research Findings Are False: Author’s Reply to Goodman and Greenland.


D Sackett: Clinical Epidemiology, Book/Jan.1991