CLINICAL COMMENTARY FOR AN ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Derived from AMA Guidelines, the clinical commentary for original research data includes 2 Parts. Part 1 should include an abstract using the following headings: Context, Objective, Design, Setting, Patients (or Participants), Interventions (include only if there are any), Main Outcome Measure(s), Results, and Conclusions. Part 2 is a personal application that should include your impression of the clinical relevance of the findings. In addition, appraise whether or not the content is consistent with what you previously learned from your reading.

Part 1: Abstract (500 words max)

Reference: Place the reference at the top of the commentary using AMA reference guidelines (see Condensed AMA Reference Guidelines PDF).

Context: The abstract should begin with a sentence or 2 explaining the clinical (or other) importance of the study question.

Objective: State the precise objective or study question addressed in the report (eg, “To determine whether…”). If more than 1 objective is addressed, the main objective should be indicated and only key secondary objectives stated. If an a priori hypothesis was tested, it should be stated.

Design: Describe the basic design of the study. State the years of the study and the duration of follow-up.

Setting: Describe the study setting to assist readers to determine the applicability of the report to other circumstances, for example, general community, a primary care or referral center, private or institutional practice, or ambulatory or hospitalized care.

Patients or Other Participants: The numbers of participants and how they were selected should be provided, including the number of otherwise eligible individuals who were approached but refused. If matching is used for comparison groups, characteristics that are matched should be specified. For selection procedures, these terms should be used, if appropriate: random sample (where random refers to a formal, randomized selection in which all eligible individuals have a fixed and usually equal chance of selection); population-based sample; referred sample; consecutive sample; volunteer sample; convenience sample.

Intervention(s): The essential features of any interventions should be described, including their method and duration of administration. The intervention should be named by its most common clinical name, and nonproprietary drug names should be used.

Main Outcome Measure(s): Indicate the primary study outcome measurement(s) as planned before data collection began. If the manuscript does not report the main planned outcomes of a study, this fact should be stated and the reason indicated. State clearly if the hypothesis being tested was formulated during or after data collection. Explain outcomes or measurements unfamiliar to a general medical readership.

Results: The main outcomes of the study should be reported and quantified, and must include measures of absolute risks (such as increase/decrease or absolute differences between groups), along with confidence intervals (for example, 95%) or P values. Approaches such as number needed to treat to achieve a unit of benefit may be included when appropriate. Studies of screening and diagnostic tests should report sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratio. If predictive value or accuracy is reported, prevalence or pretest likelihood should be given as well.

Conclusions: Provide only conclusions of the study directly supported by the results, along with implications for clinical practice, avoiding speculation and overgeneralization. Indicate whether additional study is required before the information should be used in usual clinical settings. Give equal emphasis to positive and negative findings of equal scientific merit.

Part 2: Personal Application (250 words max)

Clinical Impression: Provide your Impression of the clinical relevance of the papers’ details. Include your experience with the relevance if applicable

Consistency of the Content: Appraise whether or not the content is consistent with what you previously learned from your reading in this course from both the textbook and the papers that you or your colleagues have reviewed. Provide a specific example.
CLINICAL COMMENTARY FOR A REVIEW ARTICLE:

Derived from AMA Guidelines, the clinical commentary for a Review article contains 2 Parts. Part 1 is an abstract using the following headings: Context, Objective, Type of review (Literature Review, Systematic review, etc…), Setting, Details, Interventions discussed (include only if there are any), Main Outcome Measure(s), Results, and Conclusions. Part 2 is a personal application that should include your impression of the clinical relevance of the findings. In addition, appraise whether or not the content is consistent with what you previously learned from your reading.

Part 1: Abstract (500 words max)

Reference: Place the reference at the top of the commentary using AMA reference guidelines (see Condensed AMA Reference Guidelines PDF).

Context: The abstract should begin with a sentence or 2 explaining the clinical (or other) importance of the study question.

Objective: State the precise objective or study question addressed in the report (eg, “To determine whether…”). If more than 1 objective is addressed, the main objective should be indicated and only key secondary objectives stated. If an a priori hypothesis was tested, it should be stated.

Type of Review: This should include the type of review that you have read (literature review, systematic review, etc…).

Design: Describe the basic design of the study. State the years of the study and the duration of follow-up. If applicable, include the name of the study (eg, the Framingham Heart Study). As relevant, indicate whether observers were blinded to patient groupings, particularly for subjective measurements.

Setting: Describe the setting to which the paper is directed (if applicable) to assist readers to determine the applicability of the review to other circumstances, for example, general community, a primary care or referral center, private or institutional practice, or ambulatory or hospitalized care.

Details of the Paper: Provide a summary of the details that are covered in the review article. Draft this summary in a orderly fashion so the reader of your commentary can appreciate not only components of the review but also the zest of the review as it is applied to the patients, subjects, conditions or strategies that are described.

Main Outcome Measure(s): Explain outcomes or measurements that were discussed (if applicable), especially if unfamiliar to a general healthcare readership.

Applications: Summarize the applications that the authors want the readers to gain from the review article.

Conclusions: Discuss the conclusions that the authors provided.

Part 2: Personal Application (250 words max)

Clinical Impression: Provide your Impression of the clinical relevance of the article’s details. Include your experience with the relevance, if applicable.

Consistency of the Content: Appraise whether or not the content is consistent with what you previously learned from your reading in this course from both the textbook and the papers that you or your colleagues have reviewed. Provide a specific example.