



Retraction: Definition, Types & Avoidances

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Clinical Epidemiologist

Do the right
thing even when no one
is looking.

It's called integrity



■ What is integrity?



Today's Outline

■ In this session, we will talk about:

1. What's the retraction **meanings**?
2. Different **types of retraction**
3. The **cycle** of retraction
4. Frequent **reasons** for retraction
5. How to **avoid** papers retraction



Research Misconduct

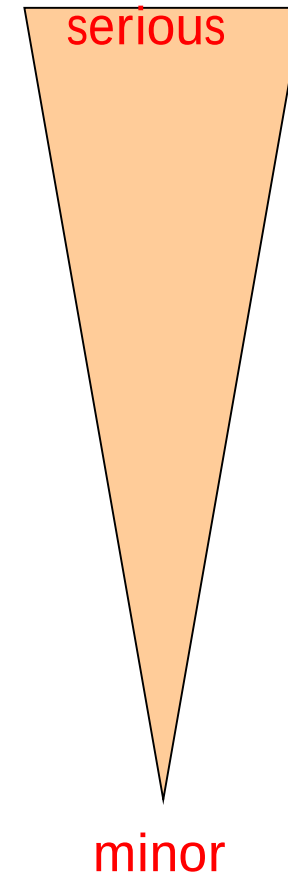


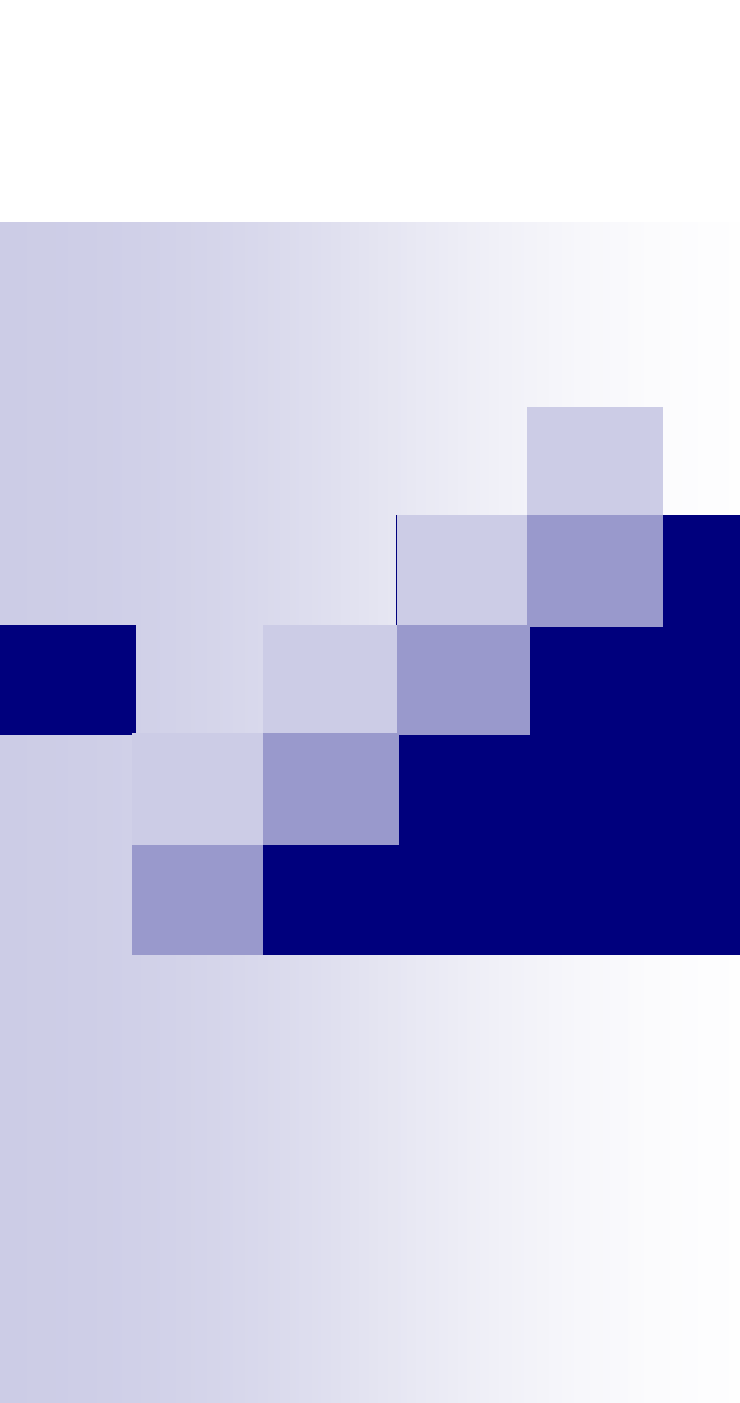
Definition of Research Misconduct

“Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.”

Research Misconduct

- Fabrication of Data or Cases
- Wilful Distortion of Data
- Plagiarism
- No Ethics Approval
- Not Admitting Missing Data
- Ignoring Outliers
- No Data on Side Effects
- Gift & Ghost Authorship
- Redundant Publication
- Failure to do Adequate Literature Search





What is Retraction?

RETRACTED

The image shows a close-up of a stack of papers held together by black binder rings. A large, bold, red stamp with the word "RETRACTED" in a serif font is superimposed diagonally across the papers. The stamp is enclosed in a red rectangular border. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.



What is Retraction?

Retraction is the act of **taking back** a statement or admitting that it was **false**. It can be used in various contexts:

- 1) Academic Research
- 2) Journalism
- 3) Legal
- 4) Personal



Retraction in **Academic Research**

When a **published research paper** is found to contain **errors** or **inaccuracies**, the **author** or **publisher** may issue a **retraction** to remove the paper from the scientific record.



Retraction in Journalism

If an article contains **false** or **misleading information**, the journal or news outlet may publish a retraction to withdraw the news or paper & correct the error.



Retraction in Legal Issues

In **legal proceedings**, a retraction may be used to withdraw a **statement** or **testimony** that was previously made.



Retraction in **Personal** Affairs

In personal interactions, a retraction can be used to **apologize** for something that was **said** or **done**.



Importance of Retraction

Retractions are important for maintaining **accuracy** and **integrity** in **various fields**. They help to **ensure** that **information** is **reliable** and that **mistakes** are **corrected**.



Reasons for Retraction

- In academic publishing, a retraction is a formal process where a published article is **flagged** for **being seriously flawed** to the **extent** that its **results** and **conclusions** can no longer be relied upon.
- This means the article is **not removed** from the published literature but is **marked** as retracted.



Retraction Famous Case

Wakefield **Autism** & **MMR** Vaccinee Case

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EARLY REPORT · Volume 351, Issue 9103, P637–641, February 28, 1998 [Download Full Issue](#)

RETRACTED: Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children

Dr AJ Wakefield, FRCS ^a · SH Murch, MB ^b · A Anthony, MB ^a · J Linnell, PhD ^a · DM Casson, MRCP ^b · M Malik, MRCP ^b · et al. [Show more](#)

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Background

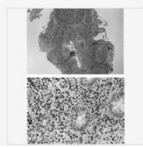
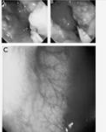
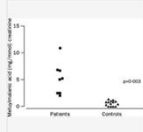
We investigated a consecutive series of children with chronic enterocolitis and regressive developmental disorder.

Methods

12 children (mean age 6 years [range 3–10], 11 boys) were referred to a paediatric gastroenterology unit with a history of normal development followed by loss of acquired skills, including language, together with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Children underwent gastroenterological, neurological, and developmental assessment and review of developmental records. Ileocolonoscopy and biopsy sampling, magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and lumbar puncture were done under sedation. Barium follow-through radiography was done where possible. Biochemical, haematological, and immunological profiles were examined.

Figures (3)

Figure Viewer



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Wakefield **Autism** & **MMR** Vaccinee Case

- In **1998**, a *Lancet* paper described **12 cases of children with autism**, and **having been vaccinated (MMR) in the United Kingdom**; medias presented the information to the lay public, stating that a link was possible.
- In **2004**, The *Lancet* published letters responding to **allegations against the paper**.



Wakefield **Autism** & **MMR** Vaccinee Case

- Later, it was established that **no link existed between MMR and autism**; few years and many publications were necessary to conclude to the absence of evidence.
- In 2010, the **General Medical Council** published a **report against Dr Wakefield**, first author of the 1998 paper, and showing that the children hospital records did not contain the evidence; **hospital records differed from the published paper; the *Lancet* retracted the 1998 paper.**



Wakefield **Autism** & **MMR** Vaccinee Case

- In 2011, **Brian Deer**, a journalist, published the **complete story in the *BMJ***: in 1996, Wakefield was approached by lawyers representing an **anti-vaccine lobby**, and they **supported** the Wakefield research.
- **Dr Wakefield** left England; in 2012 **he works** in Texas, USA, for **anti-vaccine lobbies**.

Wakefield **Autism** & **MMR** Vaccinee Case



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Lancet • Volume 351, Issue 9103, Pages 637 - 641 • 28 February 1998

Document type

Article

Source type

Journal

ISSN

01406736

DOI

10.1016/S0140-6736(97)11096-0

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Retracted: Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children

Wakefield A.J.^a; Murch S.H.^b; Anthony A.^a; Linnell J.^a; Casson D.M.^b; Malik M.^b; Berelowitz M.^c; Dhillon A.P.^a; Thomson M.A.^b; Harvey P.^d; Valentine A.^e; Davies S.E.^a

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^d Univ. Dept. of Neurology, Roy. Free Hosp. and Sch. of Med., London NW3 2QG, United Kingdom

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[Reviewability and supportability: New complementary principles to empower research software practices](#)

Zhang, H. , Maillo, A. , Khan, S.A. (2024) *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal*

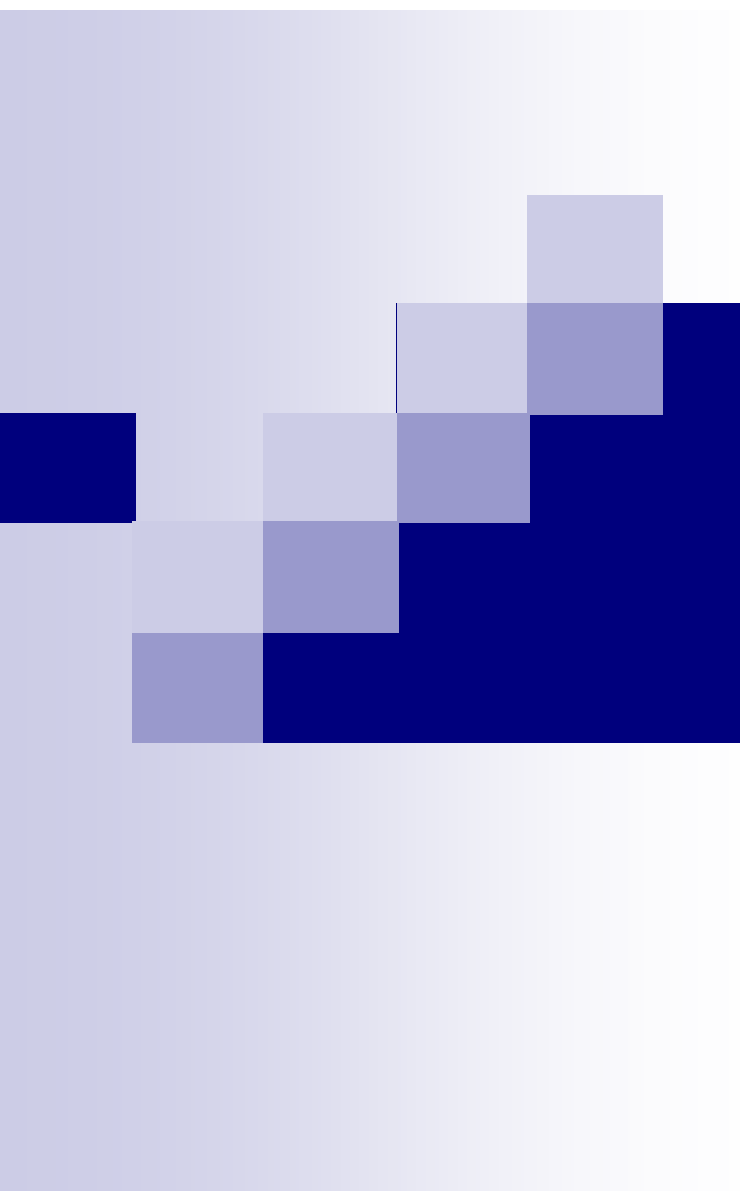
[Effects of Simulation on Nursing students' Knowledge and Learning Related to Measles Vaccine and Vaccine Hesitancy: A Mixed Method Study](#)

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Retraction Process



Retraction Process

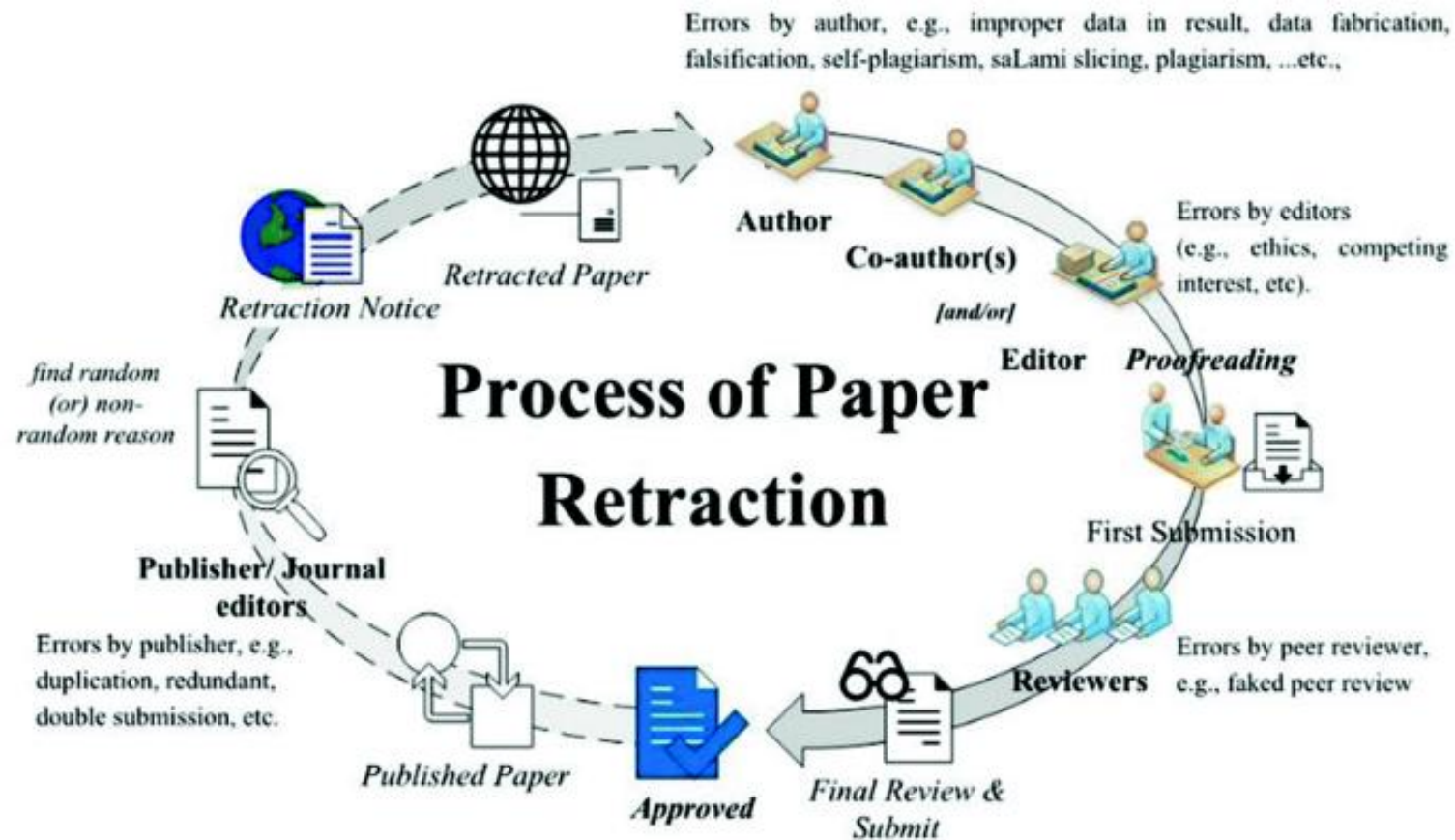
- The retraction process usually involves the following steps:
- **Identification of the issue:** The issue with the article may be identified by the authors themselves, by reviewers, editors, or by other researchers.
- **Investigation:** The journal's editors or an ethics committee may investigate the issue to determine if a retraction is warranted.



Retraction Process

- **Decision to retract:** If the investigation confirms serious flaws, the journal will issue a formal retraction notice.
- **Publication of the retraction notice:** The retraction notice is typically published in the same journal where the original article appeared. It clearly states the reasons for the retraction and may include a statement from the authors.

Retraction Process





Retraction **Labeling** & **Process**

- Adding the word **“Retracted”** in front of paper title in the journal & also its record in databases like ISI, Scopus, PubMed.
- Publishing **“Retraction Announcement”** or **“Retraction Statement”** & explain the retraction reasons by journal, **linking** to the original paper.
- Putting a note on the original paper page that this paper has an **Update** or related **Announcement**.
- Adding the **“Retracted Paper” watermark** to the paper **PDF**.

Retraction Labeling in Publication Type

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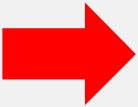
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[Retracted] Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Cardiovascular Disease: Pathophysiology and Emerging Therapies

 **Retraction(s) for this article** ^

Retracted: Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Cardiovascular Disease: Pathophysiology and Emerging Therapies

Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity

Volume 2024, Issue 1, Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity | First Published online: January 9, 2024



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Journal

ISSN

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10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31180-6

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RETRACTED:Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis



Update notice

Retraction—"Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis" (*The Lancet*, (S0140673620311806), (10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31180-6))

The Lancet, Volume 395, Issue 10240, Pages 1820, 13 - 19 June 2020

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[Ruschitzka, Frank](#)^c; [Patel, Amit N](#)^{d, e}

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^b Surgisphere Corporation, Chicago, IL, United States

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[A Glimpse for the subsistence from pandemic SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)

Rath, S.K. , Dash, A.K. , Sarkar, N. (2025) *Bioorganic Chemistry*

[The impact of COVID-19 on the debate on open science: a qualitative analysis of published materials from the period of the pandemic](#)

Benson Marshall, M. , Pinfield, S. , Abbott, P. (2024) *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*

[Exploring the linkage between health technology assessment and decision making during COVID-19 public health emergency in a developing country: Analysis of processes and results](#)

Hasdeu, S. , Beliera, A. , Alvarez, J. (2024) *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*

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Retraction Statement

Statement of Retraction: The impact of letrozole on oocyte quality in assisted reproductive technology (ART); a randomized double-blind clinical trial

Article: 2419765 | Published online: 02 Nov 2024

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/09513590.2024.2419765>



The PDF view of a Retracted Paper

Consider the watermark located in the background of the published paper.

Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis

Mandeep R Mehra, Sapan S Desai, Frank Ruschitzka, Amit N Patel

Summary

Background Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, often in combination with a second-generation macrolide, are being widely used for treatment of COVID-19, despite no conclusive evidence of their benefit. Although generally safe when used for approved indications such as autoimmune disease or malaria, the safety and benefit of these treatment regimens are poorly evaluated in COVID-19.

Methods We did a multinational registry analysis of the use of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19. The registry comprised data from 671 hospitals in 50 continents. We included patients hospitalised between Dec 20, 2019, and April 14, 2020, with a positive laboratory finding for SARS-CoV-2. Patients who received one of the treatments of interest within 48 h of diagnosis were included in one of four treatment groups (chloroquine alone, chloroquine with a macrolide, hydroxychloroquine alone, or hydroxychloroquine with a macrolide), and patients who received none of these treatments formed the control group. Patients for whom one of the treatments of interest was initiated more than 48 h after diagnosis or while they were on mechanical ventilation, as well as patients who received remdesivir, were excluded. The main outcomes of interest were in-hospital mortality and the occurrence of de-novo ventricular arrhythmias (previously defined as sustained or unsustained ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation).

Findings 96 032 patients (mean age 53·8 years, 46·3% women) with COVID-19 were hospitalised during the study period and met the inclusion criteria. Of these, 18 688 were in the treatment groups (1868 received chloroquine, 3783 received chloroquine with a macrolide, 3016 received hydroxychloroquine, and 6221 received hydroxychloroquine with a macrolide) and 77 344 patients were in the control group. 10 698 (11·1%) patients died in hospital. After controlling for multiple confounding factors (age, sex, race or ethnicity, body-mass index, underlying cardiovascular disease and its risk factors, diabetes, underlying lung disease, smoking, immunosuppressed condition, and baseline disease severity), when compared with mortality in the control group (9·3%), hydroxychloroquine (18·0%; hazard ratio 1·335, 95% CI 1·228–1·457), hydroxychloroquine with a macrolide (23·8%; 1·447, 1·368–1·531), chloroquine (16·4%; 1·365, 1·218–1·531), and chloroquine with a macrolide (22·2%; 1·368, 1·273–1·469) were each independently associated with an increased risk of in-hospital mortality. Compared with the control group (0·3%), hydroxychloroquine (6·3%; 2·365, 1·935–2·900), hydroxychloroquine with a macrolide (8·1%; 5·106, 4·106–5·983), chloroquine (4·3%; 1·661, 1·260–4·596), and chloroquine with a macrolide (6·5%; 4·011, 3·344–4·812) were independently associated with an increased risk of de-novo ventricular arrhythmia during hospitalisation.

Interpretation We were unable to confirm a benefit of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, when used alone or with a macrolide, on in-hospital outcomes for COVID-19. Each of these drug regimens was associated with decreased in-hospital mortality but with an increased frequency of ventricular arrhythmias when used for treatment of COVID-19.

Funding William Grey Distinguished Chair in Advanced Cardiovascular Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

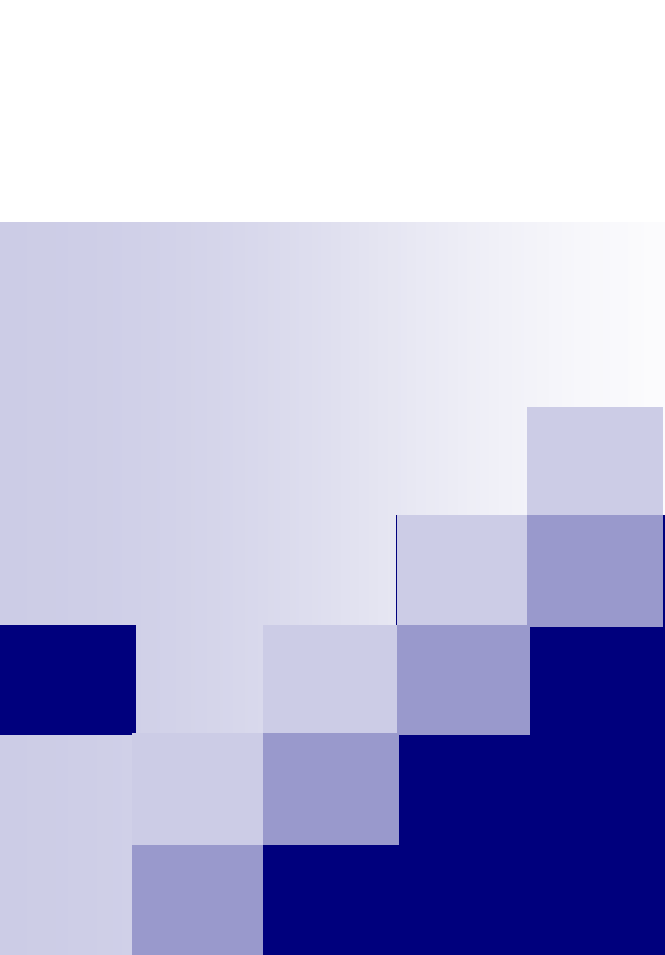
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This online publication has been corrected. The corrected version first appeared at thelancet.com on May 29, 2020.

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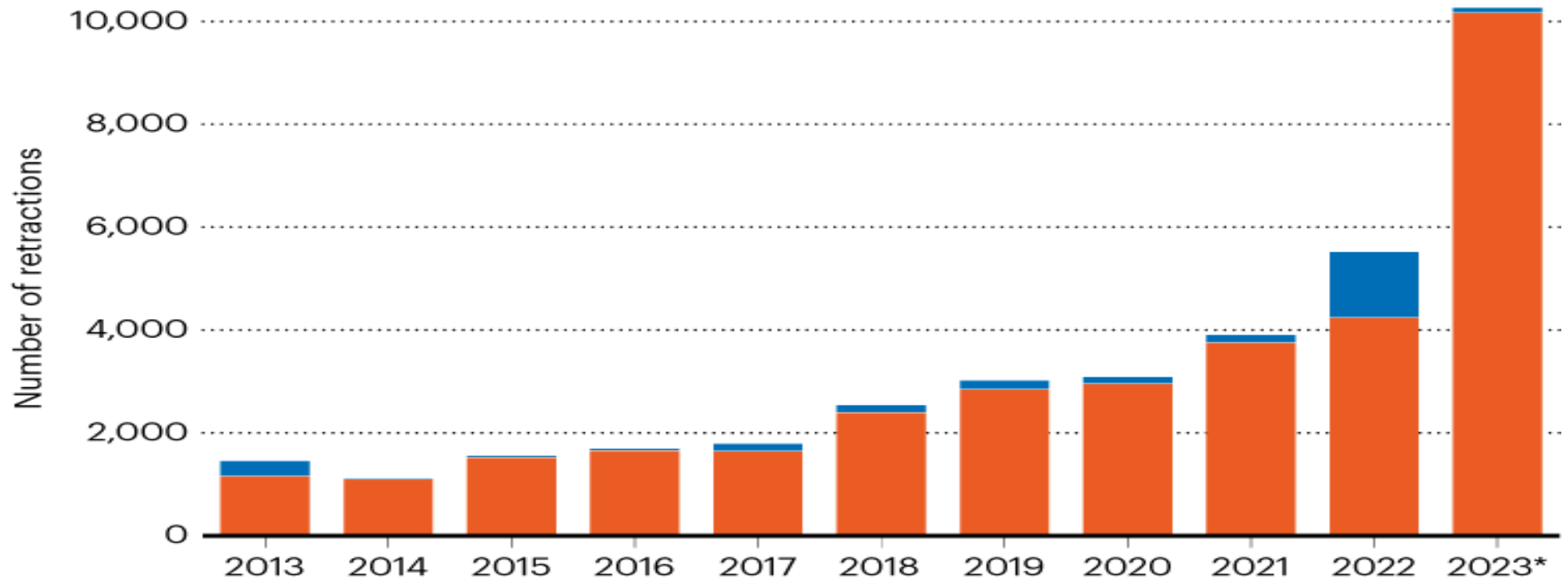
Statistics for Retraction

Trend of Retracted Papers

A BUMPER YEAR FOR RETRACTIONS

Retraction notices in 2023 have passed 10,000, largely because of more than 8,000 retractions by Hindawi.

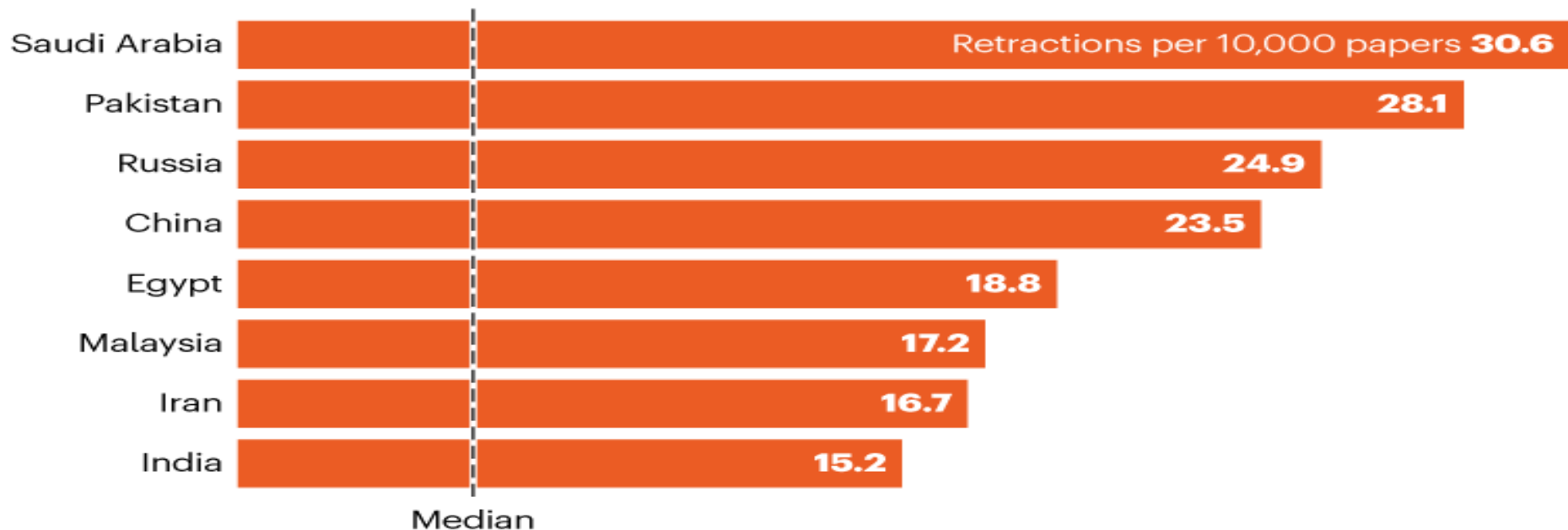
Journal articles Conference papers



Countries with the most Rate of Retracted Papers

COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST RETRACTION RATES

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Russia and China have the highest retraction rates among countries with >100,000 papers* published over the past two decades.



*Total number of research papers according to Scopus: articles and reviews. Analysis excludes conference papers (and their retractions)

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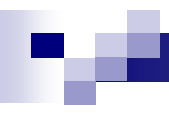


Reasons for Retraction



Reasons for Retraction

- Scientific **Misconduct**
- **Ethical** Violations
- **Errors**
- **Duplicate** or **Redundant** Publication
- **Publisher** Errors
- **Fraudulent** Peer Review
- **Violations** of Journal Policies
- **Post-Publication** Discovery of Flaws



Scientific Misconduct

- **Fabrication:** Making up data or results that were never collected or observed.
- **Falsification:** Manipulating data, research materials, or processes to misrepresent findings.
- **Plagiarism:** Using another researcher's work or ideas without proper attribution.
- **Image Manipulation:** Altering images (e.g., gels, micrographs) in ways that mislead or distort findings.



Example of **Data Integrity Concerns**

Since publication, significant concerns have been raised about the integrity of the data and reported results in the article. When approached for an explanation, the authors have not adequately addressed the concerns raised, and they have not provided their original data to verify that the research and published article comply with the journal's Editorial Policies. As verifying the validity of published work is core to the integrity of the scholarly record, we are therefore retracting the article. The authors have been informed, and they do not agree with the retraction.

We have been informed in our decision-making by our editorial policies and COPE guidelines.

The retracted article will remain online to maintain the scholarly record, but it will be digitally watermarked on each page as 'Retracted.'



Example of Image Manipulations

Retraction Note: BMC Med 17, 223 (2019)

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-019-1457-8>

The Editor has retracted this article. After publication, concerns were raised regarding the images presented in Fig. 7. Specifically:

The left PHA image in Fig. 7a appears highly similar to the middle PHA image in Fig. 7b (rotated);

All the Medium images in Fig. 7a and b appear highly similar; the left and right images in Fig. 7b appear to be missing some features compared with the other images.

The authors have been able to provide the quantified data, but stated that the original images are no longer available. The Editor therefore no longer has confidence in the presented data.

None of the authors agrees to this retraction.



Image Manipulation

- **Image manipulation** in academic publications refers to the unethical alteration, fabrication, or misrepresentation of images in research to distort or enhance findings. It is a serious form of scientific misconduct and, if detected, can lead to **retractions**, loss of credibility, and damage to the scientific record.



Image Manipulation

- 1) Duplication of Images
- 2) Image Fabrication
- 3) Image Falsification
- 4) Inappropriate Cropping
- 5) Misuse of Image Processing
- 6) Splicing
- 7) Improper Reuse Without Citation
- 8) Mislabeling



Duplication of Images

- **Reusing** the same image in **multiple** parts of the manuscript while labeling it as representing different experiments or conditions.
- **Example:** Using the same microscopy image to show different cell treatments.



Image **Fabrication**

- Creating or falsifying images that did not originate from actual experiments.
- Example: Generating graphs or figures without conducting the reported analysis.



Image **Falsification**

- Altering images to exaggerate, hide, or misrepresent results.
- Example: Enhancing bands in a Western blot or adding/removing features in microscopy images.



Inappropriate **Cropping**

- Cutting parts of an image to mislead or change its context.
- Example: Cropping out data points that don't support a hypothesis.



Misuse of Image Processing

- Using software (e.g., Photoshop) to enhance, modify, or obscure elements in a way that changes the interpretation of the data.
- Example: Adjusting brightness/contrast to amplify features that are not naturally visible.



Image **Splicing**

- Combining sections of different images into one without disclosing it in the methods or figure legends.
- Example: Splicing together parts of gels or blots to fabricate desired results.



Image **Improper Reuse** Without **Citation**

- Using images from another study without permission or proper attribution, even if unaltered.



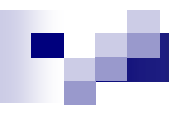
Image **Mislabeling**

- Intentionally or unintentionally assigning incorrect labels to images, misrepresenting the data.



Tools to **Detect** Image Manipulation

- Proofing
<https://www.proofing.com>
- ImageTwin
<https://imagetwin.ai>
- ORI Forensic Tools
<https://ori.hhs.gov/forensic-tools>
- Adobe Photoshop Forensic Features



Ethical Violations

- **Failure to Obtain Ethical Approval:** Not adhering to ethical standards, particularly in studies involving human or animal subjects.
- **Authorship Disputes:** Disagreements over who should be credited as authors.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Undisclosed relationships or biases that may have influenced the research.



Errors

- **Data Errors:** Honest mistakes in data analysis, calculations, or reporting.
- **Experimental Errors:** Flawed experimental design or methods leading to invalid conclusions.
- **Reproducibility Issues:** Inability to replicate results, raising questions about reliability.



Duplicate or Redundant Publication

- Publishing the same study or substantial parts of it in multiple journals, often referred to as "self-plagiarism".



Publisher Errors

- **Editorial Mistakes:** Errors in the publication process, such as publishing a paper that **failed peer review**.
- **Technical Issues:** Problems like **incorrect** file uploads or misinterpretation of the manuscript.



Fraudulent Peer Review

- Submission of **fake peer reviews** to expedite publication, often using manipulated reviewer identities or email addresses.



Example: **Fraudulent** Peer Review

Abstract

The following article, published online on {First published: 27 January 2023} in Wiley Online Library {<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hsr2.1080>} has been retracted by agreement between the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Charles Young and John Wiley & Sons Ltd. The retraction has been agreed given the journal has received evidence confirming that the peer review process of this paper was manipulated. As a result, the conclusions reported in the article are not considered reliable.



Violations of Journal Policies

- Failure to **disclose key details**, such as **funding sources**, **conflicts of interest**, or **methodology**.



Post-Publication Discovery of Flaws

- Identification of flaws in the study after publication, often through critiques by other researchers or whistleblowers.

Post-Publication Peer Review

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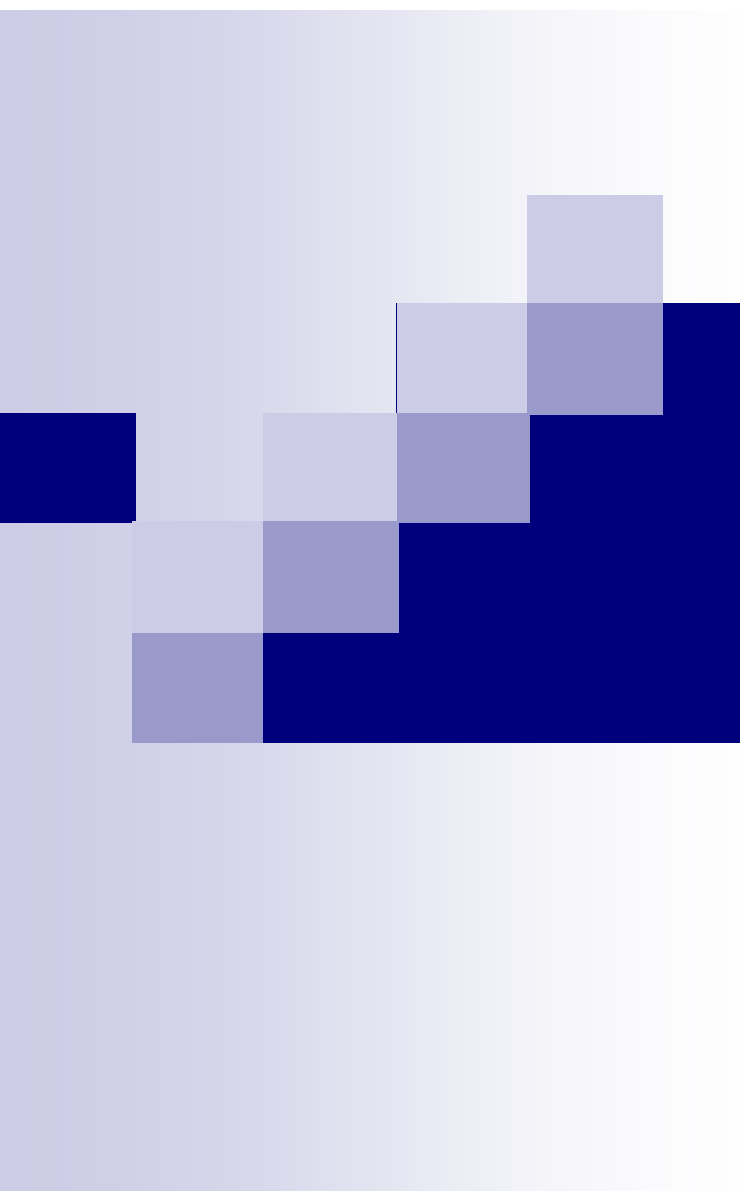
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1 comments



How to Find Retracted Papers?

Retraction Watch Database

<http://retractiondatabase.org>

Version: 1.0.8.0

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The Retraction Watch Database

PLEASE NOTE: The best way to make use of this database is to download it from [here](#), thanks to the [acquisition of the database](#) by Crossref.

We have also made changes to the search functionality to maintain reliability. For more information, read our [User Guide](#).

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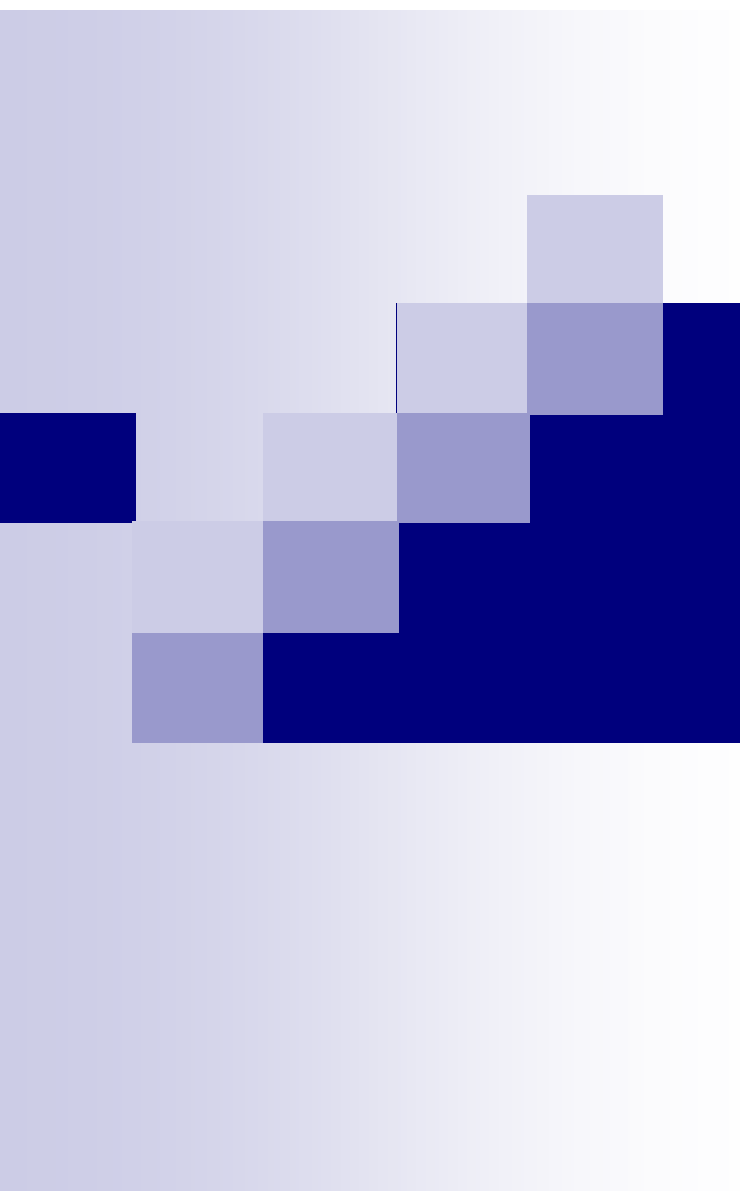
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Retraction or Other Notices



Impact of Retraction



Impact of Retraction

- Retractions can have **significant** consequences for the **authors**, the **journal**, and the broader **scientific community**.
- They can damage the reputation of the **authors** and the **journal**, and can lead to **loss of funding** or **job opportunities**.
- Additionally, retractions can **mislead** other researchers who may have relied on the flawed findings.

Impact of Retraction: Journal

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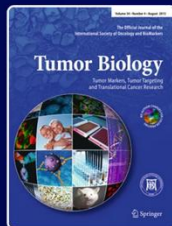
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Impact of Retraction: Journal

Retractions and delisting [\[edit \]](#)

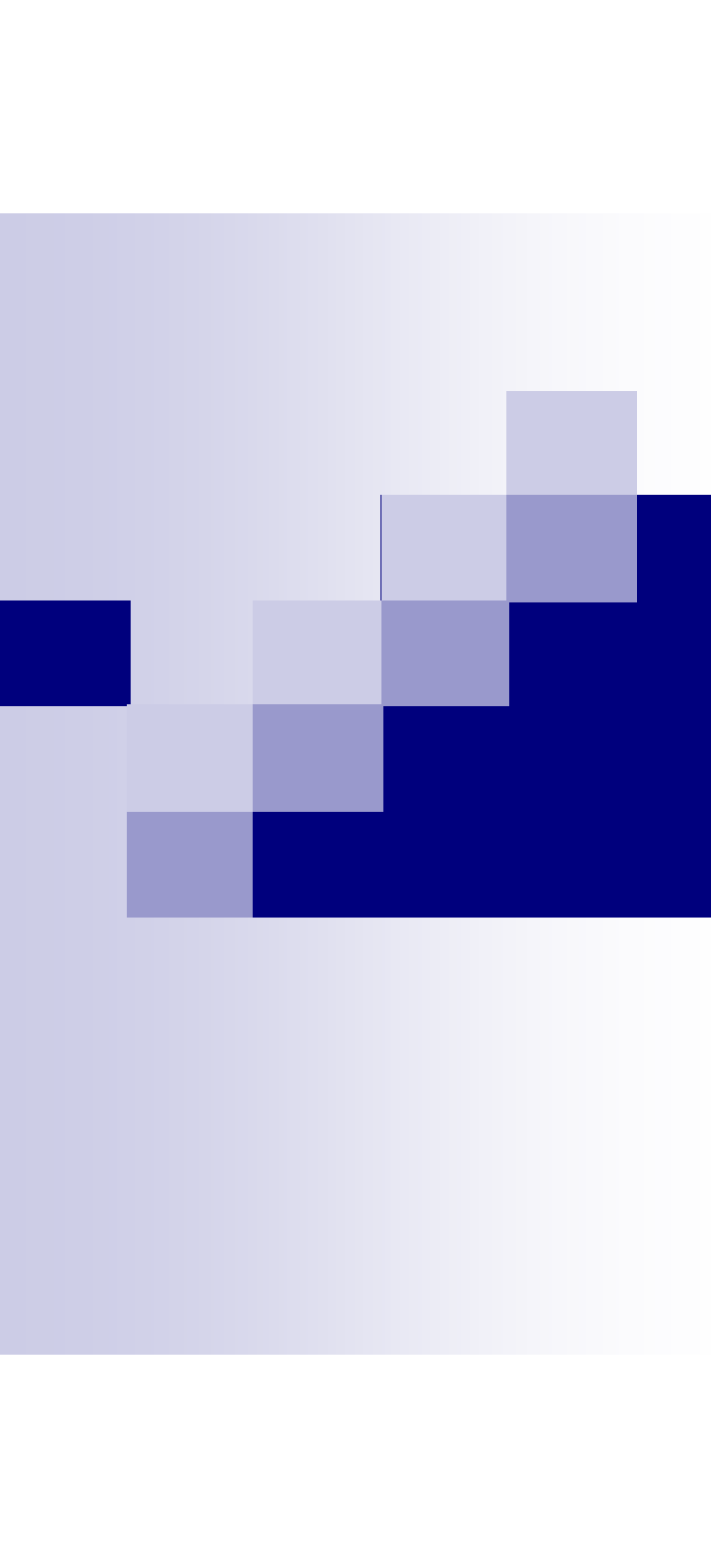
In April 2017, Springer announced it was retracting 107 papers that had been published in *Tumor Biology* while they were publishing it. According to [Retraction Watch](#), this made *Tumor Biology* the journal with the most retracted articles out of all the journals indexed by the [Web of Science](#) at the time.^[8] The cited reason for the retractions was that the papers in question had been accepted on the basis of fake peer reviews.^[9] Specifically, the authors of the now-retracted studies had supplied fraudulent email addresses to external reviewers which purportedly belonged to their "recommended reviewers". This led to these papers receiving fake reviews and eventually being published.^{[7][10]}

In response, the [Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China](#) announced that it would investigate the retractions, as all 107 papers were co-authored by Chinese researchers. In July, the Ministry announced that, based on the results of its investigation, it would punish the Chinese researchers who co-authored the retracted papers with disciplinary actions, including banning some of them from conducting additional research.^[2] In August, [Clarivate Analytics](#) announced that articles published in the journal after July 19, 2017, would no longer be included in the [Web of Science](#).^[11]



Importance of Retractions

- While retractions may seem **negative**, they are an essential part of the **self-correcting nature of science**.
- They help **maintain the integrity** of the **scientific literature** and **protect the public from misleading information**.



Retraction Avoidance



Retraction Avoidance

- To avoid the retraction, you may follow these to ensure the integrity and quality of your research, including:
 - 1) Maintain **Ethical Standards**
 - 2) Ensure **Data Integrity**
 - 3) Use **Robust Methodology**
 - 4) Write and Cite **Responsibly**
 - 5) **Verify** Before Submission
 - 6) Adhere to **Ethical Guidelines**
 - 7) **Declare Conflicts of Interest**
 - 8) Give Proper **Authorship** Credit



Maintain **Ethical Standards**

- **Adhere to Ethical Guidelines:** Obtain proper ethical approval for studies involving human or animal subjects.
- **Declare Conflicts of Interest:** Be transparent about financial or personal relationships that could bias the research.
- **Give Proper Authorship Credit:** Clearly define and agree on the contributions of all authors to prevent disputes.



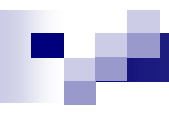
Ensure Data Integrity

- **Avoid Fabrication or Falsification:** Report data honestly without manipulation.
- **Keep Detailed Records:** Maintain accurate and thorough documentation of research protocols, data collection, and analysis.
- **Make Data Accessible:** Share data openly when appropriate to enable reproducibility and verification.



Use **Robust Methodology**

- **Design Experiments Carefully:** Ensure methods are valid and capable of answering the research questions.
- **Perform Peer Review Before Submission:** Get feedback from colleagues or experts to identify and address potential flaws.



Write and Cite Responsibly

- **Avoid Plagiarism:** Use plagiarism detection tools to check for inadvertent overlap with other works.
- **Follow Journal Guidelines:** Adhere to the submission and citation policies of the target journal.
- **Cite All Sources:** Give credit for ideas, figures, or data that are not your own.



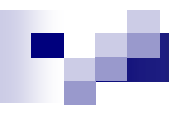
Verify Before Submission

- **Double-Check Data and Calculations:** Reanalyze results to confirm their accuracy.
- **Proofread the Manuscript:** Correct errors in grammar, references, and formatting.
- **Use Image Processing Ethically:** Avoid inappropriate image manipulation or enhancement.



Engage in **Transparent Peer Review**

- **Respond Constructively to Reviewers:** Address concerns raised during the review process thoroughly and respectfully.
- **Avoid Fake Peer Reviews:** Do not engage in unethical practices like creating false reviewer profiles.



Post-Publication Practices

- **Correct Errors Promptly:** If errors are found after publication, notify the journal immediately and work towards a **correction**.
- **Stay Updated:** Monitor **feedback** and comments on your work to address concerns proactively.



Train and Collaborate

- **Educate Team Members:** Ensure all co-authors and collaborators are aware of ethical standards and journal requirements.
- **Seek Mentorship:** Learn from experienced researchers to understand best practices in your field.



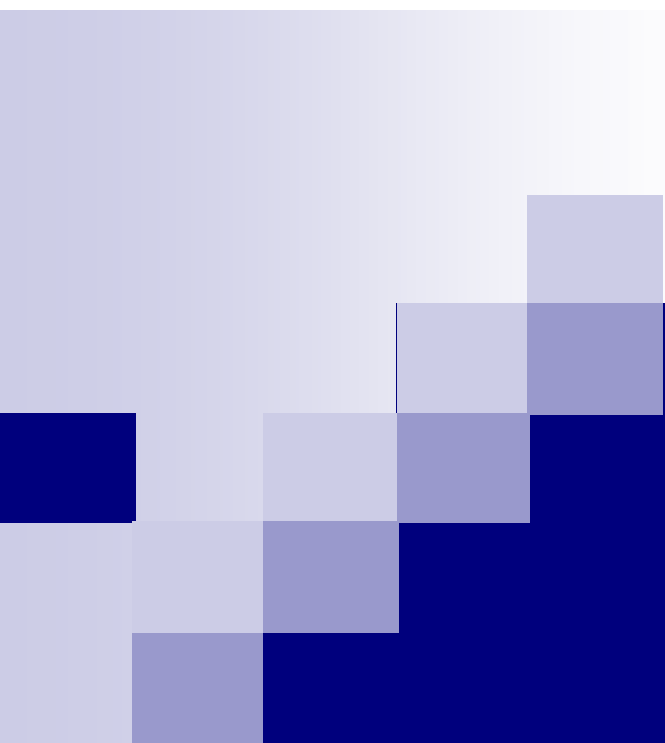
Publication Ethics Codes & Protocols

- You can find more guidelines & protocols of publication ethics in **COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics)** Website.
- <http://www.publicationethics.org>

A tale of two citations !



Errami M. Garner H. A tale of two citations Nature, Volume 451, Issue 7177, 24 January 2008, Pages 397-399



اگر میل داشتید Email بزنید !

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