



# **How to run a journal club?**

Raana kousari

M.Sc in Medical Library & Information Science,

Head of the central library of DUMS, 2020

# Introduction

- ❖ Journal clubs are a well-recognized **quality improvement** strategy used by health practitioners to **critique** and **keep up-to-date** with relevant health literature

# History

- ❖ The earliest reference to the term ‘journal club’ is in the memoirs of **Sir James Paget**, describing a small room near St. Bartholomew’s Hospital in London during **1835e1854** where pupils met and read journals. The first organized journal club is widely accredited to **Sir William Osler** who established one at McGill University, Montreal, in **1875**.

Have **an established and agreed overarching goal** for the long term journal club intervention. The overarching journal club purpose should be reviewed regularly, and agreed by participants

## **Journal club goals**

- ❖ **Keep up to date** with the latest scientific advances in the world
- ❖ Teaching **critical assessment skills** of literature
- ❖ **Improving performance** (clinical, educational, etc.)

Establish **the purpose of each journal club meeting**, and link this to the paper being read, or the skill acquisition being addressed.

## **Journal club purpose**

- ❖ Improving **methodological** knowledge & skills
- ❖ Improving **research** knowledge & skills
- ❖ Improving **peer review** knowledge & skills
- ❖ Encouraging **EBM** (Evidence Based Medicine)
- ❖ Improving **clinical** skills
- ❖ **Continuing Professional Development** (CPD)

# Efficiently running the journal club

- ❖ Conduct journal clubs at **regular predictable intervals** (suggest monthly)
- ❖ Teach **critical assessment skills, vital statistics & principles of epidemiology** to the participants
- ❖ These papers should be of **interest to all participants**
- ❖ Articles should be chosen **in line with the overarching purpose** of the journal club
- ❖ have a **leader**

# Roles and responsibilities

- ❖ **Leader**: in charge of the running and organisation of journal club
- ❖ **Chairperson**: introduce new members, provides food, ensures smooth running of meeting
- ❖ **Presenter**: the individual who picks and presents a journal article
- ❖ **Scriber**: records group discussions and share for CPD
- ❖ **Administrator**: provides copies of the article and sheets

# **Tow main variations of journal clubs**

## **❖ Critical appraisal clubs:**

In this approach, an article on a topic of interest is selected and appraised to assess its validity before using it to inform clinical decisions. (download the CASP check-list from [here](#))

## **❖ Evidence-based clubs:**

In this style of journal club, participants try to understand how useable the evidence presented is in order to change clinical practice.

<b>Clinical topic</b>	<b>Study type</b>
Etiology	Cohort or case control
Screening	Cross sectional
Diagnosis	Cross sectional
Treatment	Randomized control trial
Prognosis	Cohort



# Library support

The clinical library can:

- ❖ aid the initial setting up of a journal club by providing evidence and examples from other NHS journal clubs.
- ❖ ensures the smooth running of pre-existing journal clubs.
- ❖ help source suitable journal articles for discussion and advise on getting copies.
- ❖ provide critical appraisal skills training and offer advice on which critical appraisal tools to use.
- ❖ help with planning and structuring sessions.

# References

- Deenadayalan Y, Grimmer-Somers K, Prior M, Kumar S. How to run an effective journal club: a systematic review. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. 2008; 14: 898–911.
- Coghill J. Running a successful journal club. *Paediatrics and Child Health*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paed.2019.11.010>
- K Aronson J. Journal Clubs: 2. Why and how to run them and how to publish them. *Evid Based Med*. 2017; 22(6): 232-34.
- Shariat mohareri R, Asl soleimani H. How to manage a journal club: A review article. *Studies in Medical Sciences*. 2008; 19(3): 257-64.[In persian]
- <https://casp-uk.net/casp-tools-checklists/>