Good, bad and ugly of Online Journals: Beware of the predators

Sanjay Dhawan¹ Ashok Shyam²³

It all began to change with MCI rules in 2011, which made publications compulsory for everyone holding academic positions in Medical college. The ruling is good, no doubt, and was meant to improve the research culture in India, but the effect was not so utopian.

With MCI rule enforced for college recognition and promotions of professors, everyone started looking for avenues for publishing their articles. In this scenario many predatory publishers saw an opportunity. New Journals in orthopaedics started cropping up at rapid pace and now we have many orthopaedic journals in Country. Many of these journals are from predatory publishers and poor-quality articles get published without even a basic peer review. Multiple grammar and spell errors mark the articles in these journals. Many academicians publish in these journals, but we must understand that these are poor quality journals and publishing there does add to academic credibility.

These journals can be identified by poor peer review, promise of immediate review, cheap processing fees and tall claims of Indexing. Another way to spot these journals is that, they will not be associated with any academic society or body and will be owned by publishers themselves.

Our sincere appeal to everyone is to check the journal credentials before submitting your research. Our academic credential and our Name is most important and none of us want to be associated with journals with questionable practices.

Sincere regards
Dr. Sanjay Dhawan
Dr. Ashok Shyam