

Journal Club Guidelines

An important milestone in academic medicine is mastering the art of critically appraising the primary literature related to one's clinical practice. To help develop trainees' skill in this realm, the National Capital Consortium Pediatrics Residency Program hosts monthly, trainee-led journal clubs for the Department of Pediatrics. Each trainee will be required to give at least one formal journal club presentation during their intern year.

Interns should identify a faculty mentor 3-4 weeks prior to their Journal Club. To perform a literature search for articles of interest, interns are encouraged to work with Ms. Michele Mason-Coles, Clinical Librarian and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (michele.l.mason-coles.civ@mail.mil). Ms. Mason-Coles has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and she can assist with the selection of an article of interest. Interns should review a few articles of choice with their faculty mentor prior to finalizing their selection. The finalized article should be sent to the Chief Resident no later than 2 weeks prior to the presentation.

When leading the journal club discussion, the trainee should first discuss issues specific to the article, including:

1. Research question asked and main outcome of interest
2. Methodology used: case-control study, case series, randomized trial, etc.
3. Subjects used including inclusion and exclusion criteria
4. How the study was done and how the outcome of interest was measured
5. Describe the results of the study in detail, including the statistical analyses performed*
6. What conclusions were drawn by the authors
7. How this article impacts their clinical practice

**Interns are encouraged to use additional articles from the "Users Guide to the Medical Literature" or other resources to aid in the discussion of statistics and their use in the article being presented.*

Next, the trainee should perform a critical analysis of the research in an interactive manner. The presenter should facilitate a discussion among the audience in regards to the findings and their impact. Ideally, there will be a meaningful discourse among the group in regards to the strengths and applicability of the data, limitations of the findings (i.e., potential sources of bias, conflicts of interest, study design, etc.), and important caveats in interpreting the findings. Ultimately, there should be a clear discussion of the applicability of the article to clinical practice.

The time allotted for journal club is approximately 40 minutes (i.e. during lecture time, from 0810 - 0850). 30-35 minutes should be spent reviewing the article and covering the seven listed prompts above. 5-10 minutes should be allocated for group discussion. It is not necessary to use PowerPoint to deliver an effective journal club, though many utilize this format

Each intern will work with a faculty journal club mentor in the creation of this presentation. The faculty mentor will help the trainee finalize their article selection, dissect the article, and think critically about the analyses used to draw conclusions. Each trainee will be given a list of available mentors and should try to identify a mentor 3-4 weeks prior to the presentation. Trainees experiencing difficulty identifying a faculty mentor are advised to contact the Chief Resident, who can assist with connecting trainees to available mentors.

In order to facilitate a productive conversation, it is critical that the audience is prepared ahead of time (i.e., has had adequate time to read the article). To that end, interns must send the Chief Residents an electronic copy of the article no later than two weeks prior to the journal club. This will be distributed to the department via email, both in a dedicated email message and in the Plan of the Week emails.

Updated January 2022

JAMA Articles to Guide Journal Club Preparation

□ JAMA articles are accessible from the nccpeds.com residency web page.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>JAMA CITATION</u>
How to Use an Article about Therapy or Prevention (2 parts)	1993: 270(21), 2598 1994: 271(1), 59
How to Use an Article about a Diagnostic Test (2 parts)	1994: 271(5), 389 1994: 271(9), 703
How to Use an Article about Harm	1994:271(20), 1615
How to Use an Article about Prognosis	1994:272(3), 234
How to Use an Article about Overview	1994:272(17), 1367
How to Use Clinical Practice Guidelines (2 parts)	1995:274(7), 570 1995:274(20), 1630
How to Use a Treatment Recommendation	1999:281(19), 1836
How to Use Guidelines and Recommendations About Screening	1999:281(21), 2029