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# Journal Club Talks General Guidelines

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24 November 2012



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## Steps in preparing a journal club talk:

1. Select the article
2. Read the article
3. Present the article
4. Discuss the article



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## Article Selection:

- Pick an article about a topic that interests you
- Consider articles from reputable journals
- Confer with colleagues/advisors
- Consider article's place in current literature
  - Impact on current guidelines
  - Contradiction of previous studies
  - Letters to the editor in response to article



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## Article Work-up:

- You are not expected to be an expert in the field, but should be proficient re: article
  - Consider hypothesis, design, bias, demographics, techniques, reproducibility, results, conclusions
  - What would you do differently?
  - Download the supplement!
- Read critically and take notes
- Do not rely on session supervisor for answers



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## Article Presentation: Summarise

- Begin with brief synopsis of article
  - Who, what, where, when, why?
  - Focus on 1-2 main messages
  - Identify any controversial issues
  - If you selected this article for a specific reason, state it here
  - If relevant, brief summary of previous work
  - Define unique/vital terminology



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## Article Presentation: Analyse

- Study design
  - Study type (RCT, cohort, cross-sectional, etc.)
  - Study sample (size, community, selection criteria, etc.)
  - Use authors' flowchart if available
- Results
  - Reproduce important figures
  - Statistical significance?



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## Article Presentation: Discuss

- Objectively:
  - Are the authors findings supported?
  - Is the support valid?
  - How do findings align with previous studies?
- Subjectively:
  - Are there alternative interpretations to results?
  - Is the article interesting?
  - Thoughts on impact of findings?



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## Guiding Discussion:

- Prepare questions for discussion
  - Do not assume that audience will readily participate in general discussion
- Prepare a few slides on background information/teaching points if necessary
- Presentation and discussion should be intermixed



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## Article Presentation: Conclude

- Summarise:
  - Author's main points
  - Your main points
- Future directions?
- Recommended reading



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## General tips: Figures

- Feel free to:
  - Reproduce authors' figures
  - Create your own figures
  - Create a handout
- Make sure that:
  - Figures are accurate
  - Figures can be seen by audience



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## General tips: Presentation

- You are not an expert in the field
- Try to focus on 2-3 main messages
- Know your audience
- One idea per slide
- Big figures, big font
- Teaching points/summary slide is crucial



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Thank you!

Questions?

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