

# **PUBLISHING IN NEUROLOGICAL JOURNALS: FACTS, MYTHS AND FUTURE**

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# Disclosures

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# Learning objective(s)

- Understand the types of journals available for publishing
- Recognize which journals are a good fit for your paper
- Explain how an impact factor is generated, and what it means
- Discuss how a journal processes an article
- Understand what steps can be taken when an article is rejected

# Key Messages: Understanding the Landscape

- Journal scope matters—It is important to tailor your submission to an appropriate journal
  - Too broad-They may not accept, which leads to substantial waste of time
  - But aim as high as appropriate. Impact factor matters in terms of getting your work in front of as many eyes as possible

# Key Messages: Things many people don't know

- Yes, sometimes the reviewer knows less than you!
  - It is getting increasingly hard to find reviewers
  - But if the reviewer doesn't get the point of your work likely others will be in the same boat
- The largest rejection rate comes at the beginning
  - For higher impact journals, such as Neurology and Annals of Neurology, Rejection rate may be 80%, but 50-60% of articles are rejected without review in a few days to a week. Of the remaining 40-50%, 1/3 to 50% will be accepted.
- A rejection may not be “final”
  - If you truly believe a reviewer did not understand your work, you can (or your mentor can on your behalf) appeal for a second chance (it sometimes works!)
- If you are rejected, don't always lower your expectations-It is possible to re-tool and get the paper accepted at another journal with a higher or similar impact factor



Data from Publisher's report, Annals of Neurology 2025

# Key Messages: What happens if you are rejected

- Recently, many journals will refer you to a “sister” journal, with encouraging wording
- The journal you are referred to may have associated fees, and may have a very different impact factor-
  - It may be the right choice, but it may not
  - Either way, if the article was reviewed, read the reviews carefully