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HOW TO READ A RESEARCH ARTICLE?

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Abstract: Reading a research article is essential for medical professionals involved in clinical care and academics alike. Knowledge of research methodology and biostatistics aids in interpreting a given article in the right manner. All sections of the research article have their own significance. It is imperative to read the entire article to understand and interpret it comprehensively to derive useful conclusion. Validity, reliability and generalizability are the key parameters to be considered while interpreting a research article.

Keywords: Research article, Critical appraisal, Validity, Reliability, Generalizability.

Points to Remember

- Reading research articles methodically and critically appraising them is essential for academicians and clinicians.
- Reading the title and abstract will give preliminary information on whether the article is relevant to the reader.
- Reading the entire article is necessary to understand and interpret the article correctly.
- Validity and reliability are key parameters to be considered while interpreting an article.
- Tools available for critical appraisal of articles are a set of questions that help in understanding the correctness and usefulness of the article.

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