

Policy Regarding Corrections and Retractions

All BRI journals have the same policy regarding corrections and retractions. We differentiate between Erratum, Corrections, Retractions (or Partial Retractions), Expression of Concern and Comments. BRI journals follow the [ICMJE](#) and [COPE](#) guidelines.

Erratum

An erratum refers to a correction of errors introduced to the article by the publisher, including format changes to the paper after publication, other non-scientific changes, and changes to authors. Formatting issues may include missing or unclear figures, or text deleted by accident. Very minor errors that do not affect readability or meaning do not require publication of an Erratum. Thus, we kindly request that all authors proofread the final version very carefully.

Corrections

A Correction notice will be issued when it is necessary to correct an error or omission which can impact the interpretation of the article, but where the scholarly integrity of the article remains intact. This will appear as a separate publication that links to the original paper (which is updated). A note will also be added to the Article Version Notes and to the abstract page, which tells the readers that an updated version was uploaded.

Expression of Concern

Expression of concern is used to remind readers that the article may not be credible, which may be a prelude to the retraction, but it is not entirely true. When the investigation is still in progress and the case has not been closed, or the evidence found is inconclusive, attention will be issued. Editors do not want the integrity of the paper to be unnecessarily questioned, and will also weigh the severity of the problem (such as clinical impact), confidentiality, and whether the journal reader should know it. This type of notification will provide brief information about the problem.

Retractions

A Retraction notice will be issued where a major error (e.g. in the analysis or methods) invalidates the conclusions in the article, or where research misconduct or publication misconduct has taken place (e.g. research without required ethical approvals, fabricated data, manipulated images, plagiarism, duplicate publication etc). BRI follows the recommendations of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) for retraction. The COPE retraction guidelines can be found on the [COPE website](#). If a Retraction is published, the original publication is amended with a “retracted” watermark, but will still be available on the journal’s website for future reference. Issue a separate retraction statement, titled "Retraction: [article title]", that will be linked to the retracted article.

Under the following circumstances, removing an article may be considered:

- It is clearly a defamatory article.
- It infringes others’ legal rights.
- The article is (expected to be) the subject of a court order.
- It contains medical error(s) that, if followed by a researcher or practitioner, could lead to significant physical or mental harm to patients or test subjects.

- In some cases, a quick action on an emergency basis is important in protecting the privacy of an individual or in avoiding medical harm, which is also accepted for article embargoes that are accidentally ignored.

In above circumstances, BRI would retain the Title and Author data, but the text would be replaced with a notice informing site visitors that it has been removed due to certain legal reasons.

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