

Izjava o primjerenom izboru riječi u studijama ovisno o vrsti dokaza koji opisuju ishode

Statement on matching language to the type of evidence used in describing outcomes data

Skupina urednika kardiovaskularnih časopisa The HEART Group*

Editors of the HEART Group Journals*

Postoje različite vrste studija koje se mogu provoditi radi osiguranja dokaza za klinička istraživanja i istraživanja ishoda. To ne uključuje samo retrospektivne opservacijske analize, studije parova i randomizirana kontrolirana istraživanja, već i druge vrste istraživanja. Svaka od ovih analiza ima prednosti i nedostatke, ali najvažnije je da sve dovode do različitih vrsta zaključaka o nekoj intervenciji.

Kao što je prikazano nizom primjera u zasebnom preglednom članku,¹ neprimjeren izbor riječi za opis rezultata može dovesti do znanstvene netočnosti. Stoga skupina urednika The HEART Group (koja predstavlja svjetske kardiovaskularne časopise) preporuča da svi istraživači i urednici pažljivo prilagode izbor riječi ovisno o vrsti provedene studije, bez preuveličavanja nalaza ili donošenja pogrešnih zaključaka o uzročnosti kada se isti ne mogu utvrditi.

Kao ilustrativni primjer, kada izvještavamo o rezultatima opservacijske studije koja ukazuje na manji broj smrtnih ishoda u jednoj skupini u odnosu na drugu, trebali bi koristiti opisne izjave kao npr. "intervencija je povezana s nižom smrtnosti", a ne koristiti zaključne izjave kao npr. "intervencija smanjuje smrtnost". Kada izvještavamo o rezultatima

There are many different types of studies that can be conducted to provide evidence for clinical and outcomes research, including but not limited to retrospective observational analyses, case-control studies, and randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Each of these analyses has strengths and limitations, but most importantly, they all result in different types of conclusions about an intervention.

As illustrated in a series of examples provided in a separate review,¹ inappropriate word choice to describe results can lead to scientific inaccuracy. Therefore, the editors of the HEART Group (representing the world's cardiovascular journals) recommend that all investigators and editors carefully select language to "match" the type of study conducted, without overstating findings or drawing erroneous conclusions about causality when they cannot be established.

As an illustrative example, when reporting results from an observational study that shows fewer deaths in one arm than in another, one should use descriptive statements such as, "the intervention is associated with lower mortality," rather than definitive statements such as, "the intervention reduces mortality." Conversely, when reporting the results of

Table 1. Suggested language based on study type.

Type of language	Randomized trial	Observational study
Descriptive statements	"Reduced the risk by"	"A lower risk was observed," "there is a relationship," "there is an association"
Descriptive nouns	"Relative risk reduction," "benefit"	"Difference in risk," "risk ratio"
Verbs	"Affected," "caused", "modulated risk", "treatment resulted in", "reduced hazard"	"Correlates with", "is associated with"
Incorrect terms/avoid using		"Reduced risk" (active verb), "lowered risk" (active verb), "benefitted"

With permission from Kohli and Cannon.¹

strogo provedenog randomiziranog kontroliranog istraživanja uz potpuno praćenje, u kojem je intervencija jedina razlika između dvije skupine, prikladno je koristiti više deklarativne izjave kao što su "intervencija smanjuje rizik". Dodatni primjeri primjerenosti izbora riječi sukladno vrsti studije navedeni su u **Tablici 1**.

Zaključno, prilikom pisanja i uređivanja rukopisa potrebno je obratiti pozornost ne samo na znanstvenu točnost, nego i na primjerenost izbora riječi koje se koriste za opis razine dokaza koju donosi predmetna studija.

a rigorously conducted RCT with complete follow-up, in which the only difference captured between the 2 groups was the intervention, it may be appropriate to use somewhat more declarative statements such as, "the intervention reduced risk." Additional examples of language matched with corresponding study type are listed in the **Table 1**.

In conclusion, all manuscripts should be written and edited not only for scientific accuracy but also for appropriateness of language used in describing the level of evidence provided by the study.

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Literature

1. Kohli P, Cannon CP. The importance of matching language to type of evidence: avoiding the pitfalls of reporting outcomes data. *Clin Cardiol.* 2012;35:714-7.



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