

Adherence to Reporting Guidelines Across Clinical Neurology Journals: A Preliminary Study



Andrew Tran, B.S., Kellen Stadler, B.S., Zachary Ernst, B.S., Caleb A. Smith, B.S., Danya Nees, B.S., Griffin Hughes, B.A., B.S., & Matt Vassar, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

High-quality research is depended upon by clinicians for daily practice and the advancement of medicine. Reporting guidelines (RG) and clinical trial registration helps ensure that studies are performed in a transparent and unbiased manner. However, the extent to which journals enforce these methods in the field of clinical neurology is still being determined. Therefore, the objective of this study was to examine the proportion of journals that require or recommend adherence to RGs for their study designs in the field of clinical neurology.

METHODS

- A Systematic Review was conducted over the Top 100 Journals in Clinical Neurology according to the 2021 Scopus CiteScore.
- Data were obtained from each journal's "Instructions to Authors" webpage regarding mention of the Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of health Research (EQUATOR) Network and requirement/recommendation of popular RGs as outlined by the EQUATOR Network.
- Statements regarding clinical trial registration were analyzed in a similar fashion.
- Editorial team of each journal was contacted to confirm the article types that are accepted.

RESULTS

Of the Top 100 journals:

- EQUATOR Network reference in 51% of journals.
- Most referenced RG: Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT).
- Least referenced RG: QUOROM.
- MOOSE was not mentioned in 92% of journals.
- ARRIVE was recommended in 46%, and required in 5%.

	Overall, N = 100
CONSORT	
Not Mentioned	36 (36%)
Recommended	42 (42%)
Required	22 (22%)
QUOROM	
Not Mentioned	98 (98%)
Recommended	2 (2.0%)
PRISMA	
Not Mentioned	49 (49%)
Recommended	39 (39%)
Required	12 (12%)

Table 1: Data by Guideline Reporting

Clinical Trial Registration

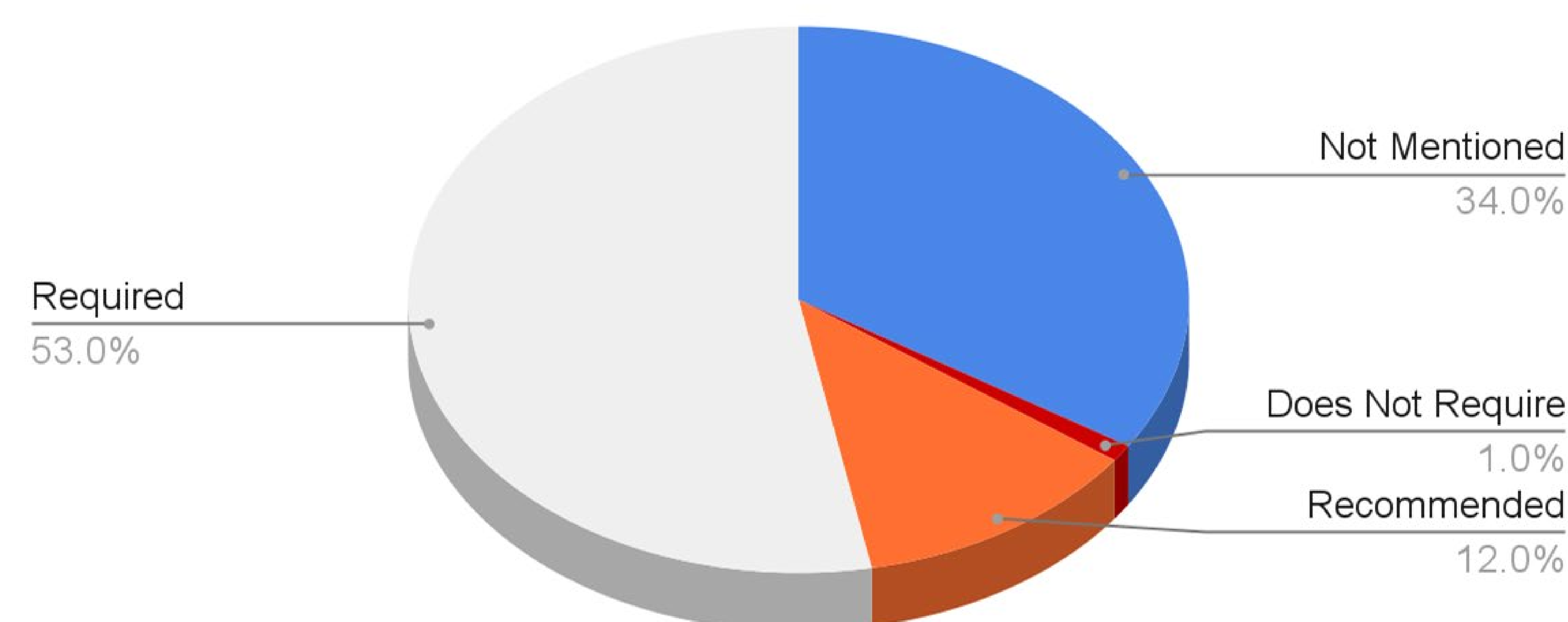


Figure 1: Clinical Trial Registration in Top 100 Journals

CONCLUSION

There are inconsistencies in the adoption of RG requirements/recommendations and clinical trial registration policies across the top clinical neurology journals. Therefore, we recommend that journal editors better enforce policies regarding these tools to improve the quality of research published.

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REFERENCES

