



Available online at
ScienceDirect
www.sciencedirect.com

Elsevier Masson France
EM|consulte
www.em-consulte.com



Editorial

Statement of level of expertise in scientific reports of hand surgery

Déclaration du niveau d'expertise dans les travaux scientifiques en chirurgie de la main



The surgical outcomes of hand surgery are heavily dependent upon the level of expertise of surgeons who perform the procedures. If the level of expertise of surgeons who perform the procedures in hand surgery is not clearly stated in the research papers, the readers will wonder about this critical point. Unfortunately, this critical point has been largely neglected in the past. I am happy to note that *Hand Surgery & Rehabilitation* is moving toward declaring this critical point, as exemplified by recent reports [1–4].

I applaud colleagues in *Hand Surgery & Rehabilitation* and authors regarding this important change and urge others who author hand surgery manuscripts to declare this point.

Making such a declaration is really easy, as I have explained [5,6] and as you can see in reports in this journal [1–4] and in the *Journal of Hand Surgery (European)* [7–10]. This important information is critical to the report of randomized trials [6], failures or complication rates [8], new procedures [9], and technically challenging procedures [10]. I hope this commentary will draw hand surgeons' further attention to its use. I believe it is just a matter of time that all surgical (or medical) communities will attend to this critical issue in scientific reporting. I applaud the authors in *Hand Surgery & Rehabilitation* who are among the first to take this issue in scientific reports seriously and who clearly declared the level of expertise in their reports.

Disclosure of interest

The author declares that he has no competing interest.

References

- [1] Boyer E, Igeta Y, Jiang S, Arianni M, Goldammer F, Prunières G, et al. Designing a minimally-invasive, ultrasound-guided, percutaneous flexor tendon sheath lavage technique: a cadaver study. *Hand Surg Rehabil* 2019;38:87–90.
- [2] Kamphuis SJM, Greeven APA, Kleinvelde S, Gosens T, Van Lieshout EMM, Verhofstad MHJ. Bennett's fracture: comparative study between open and closed surgical techniques. *Hand Surg Rehabil* 2018;38:97–101.
- [3] Huttin C, Diaz JJH, Vernet P, Facca S, Igeta Y, Liverneux P. Relevance of intraoperative ultrasound imaging for detecting foreign bodies in the hand: a series of 19 cases. *Hand Surg Rehabil* 2018;37:363–7.
- [4] Goorens CK, Van Royen K, Grijseels S, Provyn S, De Mey J, et al. Ultrasonographic evaluation of the distance between the flexor pollicis longus tendon and volar prominence of the plate as a function of volar plate positioning and pronator quadratus repair – A cadaver study. *Hand Surg Rehabil* 2018;37:171–4.
- [5] Tang JB. Re: levels of experience of surgeons in clinical studies. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2009;34:137–8.
- [6] Tang JB, Giddins G. Why and how to report surgeons' levels of expertise. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2016;41:365–6.
- [7] Iqbal HJ, Doorgakant A, Rehmatullah NNT, Ramavath AL, Pidikiti P, Lipscombe S. Pain and outcomes of carpal tunnel release under local anaesthetic with or without a tourniquet: a randomized controlled trial. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2018;43:808–12.
- [8] Kennedy JW, Ross A, Wright J, Martin DJ, Bransby-Zachary M, MacDonald DJ. Universal 2 total wrist arthroplasty: high satisfaction but high complication rates. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2018;43:375–9.
- [9] Clark NJ, Munaretto N, Elhassan BT, Kakar S. Ulnar head replacement and sigmoid notch resurfacing arthroplasty with minimum 12-month follow-up. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2019. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1753193419850116> [Epub ahead of print].
- [10] Wong J, Lin CH, Chang NJ, Chen HC, Lin YT, Hsu CC. Digital revascularization and replantation using the wide-awake hand surgery technique. *J Hand Surg Eur* 2017;42:621–5.

J.B. Tang

Editor-in-chief, *Journal of Hand Surgery (European)*

E-mail address: jinbotang@yahoo.com

Received 18 July 2019

Accepted 26 July 2019

Available online 2 August 2019