

Abbreviations in Medical Manuscripts

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ABSTRACT

One will barely find a published scientific paper specifically: medical, where abbreviation; has not been used. An abbreviation is the shortened form of a word or phrase, mostly Latin in origin, where its proper and correct use in a medical manuscript is critical not only to the scientific community and literature but for a reader too. A medical paper goes through a rigorous process of scrutiny to make the published version error-free. This process starts from the author: passes through the editorial checks and peer-review, and the process repeated till a quality work is published. Despite: such an in-depth evaluation of the manuscript, in the pre-publication phase, if one encounters an incorrectly written abbreviation in the published paper, which will not only mislead the readers but makes the peer-review process controversial. All in line with the evaluation process, starting from the author, editorial team, especially clinical editor and reviewers, carry equal responsibility. This report highlights the notion that all in line of the publication process share the same responsibility: for incorrectly written abbreviations; and stresses the need for rigorous review that the published manuscript is error-free specifically, with respect to abbreviations.

Keywords: Abbreviations; COVID-19; Acronym; Initialism; Manuscript; Peer-review

EDITORIAL

Medical manuscripts, like; other branches of science, are a source of sharing scientific information to the medical community in specific and public in general. Before publication, a manuscript goes through a rigorous way of repeated scrutiny, which starts from the writer, passed through the review process till it is finally published. Each level of scrutiny aims to screen and improve the quality of the work before its publication. Such manuscripts: tend to be of high quality and error-free, concerning their content, language, and the abbreviation used. An abbreviation; [1] is a shortened form of a word or phrase, pronounced as a single word or distinctly, then called acronym and initialism subsequently [2,3]. The word/phrase should be properly; spelled out at first mention in the manuscript, maybe followed by the abbreviation in the subsequent use. The commonly used acronyms/initialisms in most papers related to the current pandemic of COVID-19; are SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, ARD, ARDS, and so-on. Of all the SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2), the etiological virus of the COVID-19 is the most frequently used and probably searched keyword. An abbreviation: of such frequent use in the publications specifically; related to the COVID-19, if written

mistakenly in the published paper, is not the sole responsibility of the author, but the reviewer and the editorial team, specifically the clinical, shared the same. An inaccurately written abbreviation not only mislead the readers and affect the quality of the paper: but makes the peer-review process controversial. In summary, this report highlights the notion that each in the line of a manuscript publication is responsible for correct use of abbreviations in medical manuscripts, and the peer review should be rigorous so that the final published version is error-free.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest to declare.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Not applicable.

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Received: October 15, 2021; **Accepted:** October 20, 2021; **Published:** October 25, 2021

Citation: Khan LA (2021) Abbreviations in Medical Manuscripts 11:573.

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