



Editorial

The Significance of Orthopedic Journals in Advancing the Orthopedic Society

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In orthopedic surgery, publishing research findings is of utmost importance, regardless of the practitioners' geographical location or economic status. While the significance of research publication is widely recognized in developed countries, its value for orthopedic surgeons in developing countries is equally vital. Orthopedic journals play a crucial role in the progression of the orthopedic society by providing a platform for disseminating research, sharing clinical experiences, and promoting evidence-based practice. Understanding the value of the platform, Nepal Orthopedic Association established its journal way back in 2010. However, the Nepal Orthopedic Association Journal (NOAJ) could not gather the momentum as it was expected. There were several reasons behind the irregular publication of NOAJ in the past one of them was not enough submissions to the journal. It is not that orthopedic surgeons in Nepal did no research; instead, they chose to submit to other journals. This editorial aims to highlight the critical importance of orthopedic journals and their profound impact on the growth and development of the orthopedic field. Through a comprehensive analysis of relevant literature and research, we underscore the key reasons why orthopedic journals are indispensable for the advancement of the orthopedic society.

1. Dissemination of Cutting-edge Research:

Orthopedic journals serve as the primary channel for researchers, clinicians, and scientists to pub-

lish their original research findings. By disseminating novel discoveries and breakthroughs in surgical techniques, implant designs, biologics, and rehabilitation strategies, orthopedic journals facilitate the sharing of critical information within the orthopedic community. This enables orthopedic professionals to stay up-to-date with the latest advancements, promoting evidence-based decision-making and ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes.¹ Unfortunately, we Nepali orthopedic surgeons have inherent limitations in research and writing skills. Hence publication in high-ranked journals is challenging. NOAJ can be a platform for practicing and sharpening the research paper writing skills, as the objective of NOAJ is to provide preference to the research submitted by Nepali orthopedic surgeons.

2. Promotion of Evidence-based Practice:

The rigorous peer-review process employed by orthopedic journals ensures the quality and validity of published research. By subjecting articles to critical evaluation by experts in the field, orthopedic journals uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity. This, in turn, fosters evidence-based practice among orthopedic surgeons and healthcare providers. The availability of reliable and peer-reviewed information assists practitioners in making informed decisions regarding treatment options, surgical techniques, and patient care pathways.² Although NOAJ provides preference to Nepali orthopedic research, it will not compromise the quality of research and will receive rigorous peer review from national and international experts. This will surely enhance the capacity of our researchers.

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3. Advancement of Surgical Techniques and Innovations:

Nepal is a country where orthopedic surgeons are trained from different countries with various understandings of treatment. They have different techniques for doing the same thing. Orthopedic journals play a pivotal role in advancing surgical techniques and innovations. Through the publication of case reports, technical notes, and step-by-step surgical procedures, orthopedic journals provide a platform for surgeons to share their experiences and innovations. This promotes the dissemination of knowledge, facilitates the adoption of new techniques, and encourages the refinement of existing surgical approaches. Such sharing of experiences within the orthopedic community fosters continuous improvement in surgical outcomes and patient care.³

4. Facilitation of Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Approaches:

Over the last few years, the Nepali orthopedic fraternity has seen the development of various subspecialties. This has created a gap between the surgeons practicing different subspecialties. By publishing multidisciplinary research articles and promoting interdisciplinary approaches, NOAJ will foster cooperation and knowledge exchange among diverse specialties. NOAJ aims to act as a catalyst for collaboration among researchers, surgeons, and allied healthcare professionals. Collaborative efforts involving orthopedic surgeons, rehabilitation specialists, bioengineers, and other healthcare professionals lead to a comprehensive understanding of musculoskeletal disorders and encourage innovative solutions to complex orthopedic challenges.⁴

5. Lifelong Learning and Continuing Medical Education (CME):

Orthopedic journals serve as valuable resources for lifelong learning and continuing medical

education for orthopedic professionals. Educational articles, review papers, and clinical practice guidelines published in orthopedic journals facilitate ongoing professional development. They provide opportunities for clinicians to enhance their knowledge base, stay updated with emerging research, and acquire new skills.⁵ NOAJ will encourage many academic activities of the Nepal Orthopedic Association to be converted to a research paper and published on an appropriate platform.

Orthopedic journals are indispensable for the growth and advancement of the orthopedic society. Hence there is a need for our own journal (NOAJ) to be published with higher credentials. By disseminating cutting-edge research, promoting evidence-based practice, advancing surgical techniques, facilitating collaboration, and supporting lifelong learning, NOAJ aims to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of orthopedics in Nepal. Embracing and supporting orthopedic journals is essential for orthopedic societies to foster a culture of innovation, continuous improvement, and optimal patient care. As a member of the Nepal Orthopedic Association, it is our responsibility to nurture NOAJ with good quality research papers so that NOAJ can achieve greater heights of credibility in days to come.

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