

Plagiarism and Appropriate Use of Figures and Graphs

PSW Emerging Writers Lunch and Learn Series

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Medical Writing for Banner Medical LLC

- Development of needs assessment documents for clinical education of professionals
 - Global conferences
 - Grants
 - Publications
- Research to fit the scope of the therapeutic area
- Identifying education gaps and shaping information to complete those gaps

Objectives

- Describe the importance of why plagiarism should be monitored while writing
- Explain the different types of plagiarism
- Discuss techniques on how to remove the risk of plagiarism from your writing

Effects of Plagiarism

- It does not matter if plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, the consequences remain the same
 - Article Retraction
 - Publication Ban
 - Loss of Research Funding
 - Loss of Employment
- Plagiarism has a legal component as well
 - Copyright law

Types of Plagiarism

- Plagiarism of Text
- Plagiarism of Ideas
- Mosaic Plagiarism
- Self-Plagiarism

Plagiarism of Text

- Known as “word-for-word” plagiarism
- Can be a little, can be a lot
 - Any amount of text copied is considered plagiarism
- Easily detectable via software programs
 - A simple Google search of phrasing can suffice
- Use information from a reference article to form thoughts in your own words

Plagiarism of Text Example

- Morse et al, 2021

- The epidemiology of CRSwNP has an estimated prevalence of 2-4% based on geographic region surveyed

- Hopkins et al, 2019

- The prevalence, on the basis of endoscopic examination in a Swedish population, is estimated at 2.7% of adults and is twice as high among men as among women.

“Globally, a prevalence of 2-4% has been noted with variations dependent on geographic region, with the prevalence in men shown to be twice as frequent when compared to women. [Morse 2021] [Hopkins 2019]”

Plagiarism of Text Example - Figures

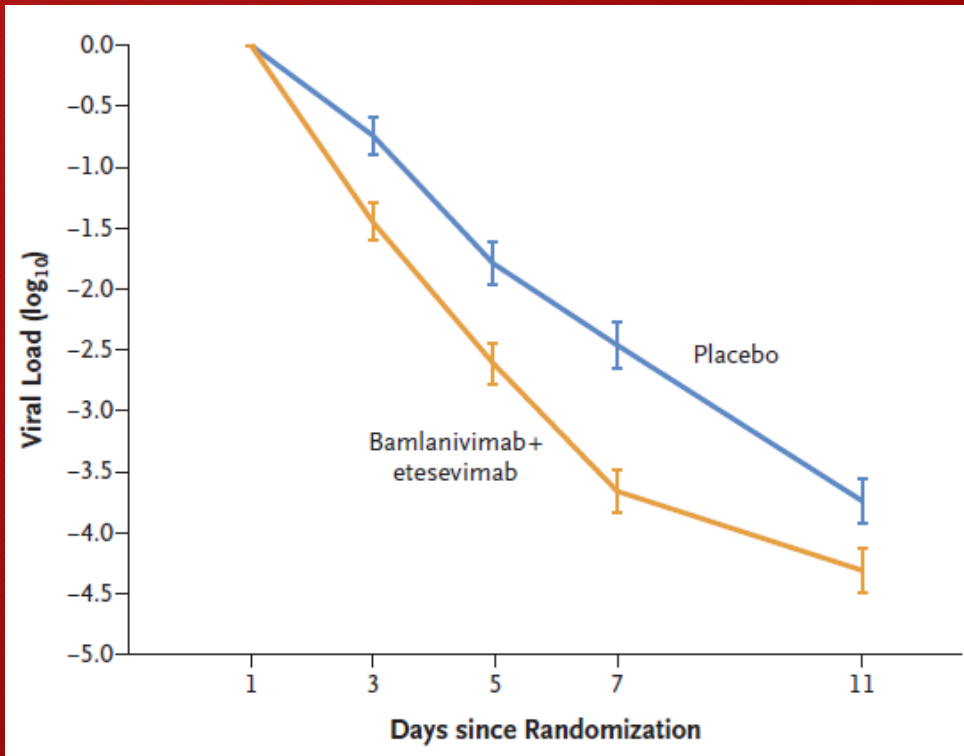


Figure 1: Change in Viral Load of Bamlanivimab-Etesevimab versus Placebo [Dougan 2021]

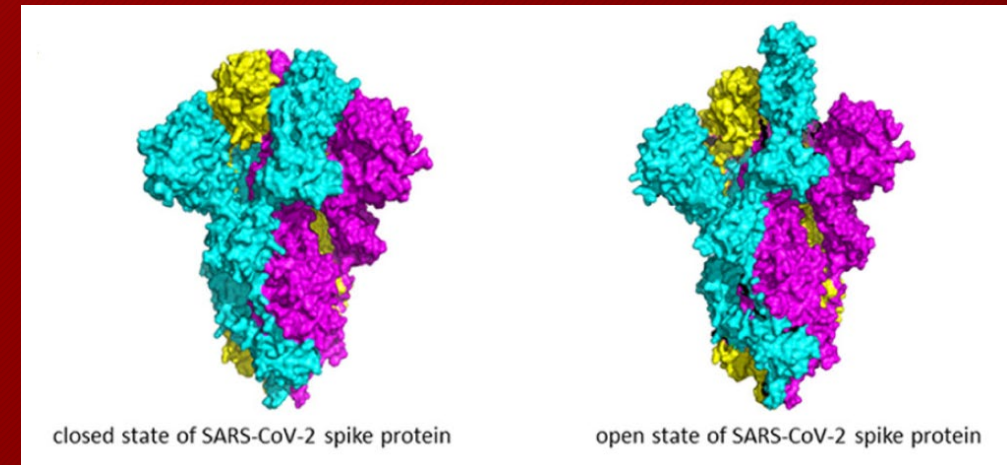


Figure 2: Cryo-EM structure of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein [Wang 2020]

Plagiarism of Text Example - Tables

Table 1: Primary End Point Results of OPERA I and OPERA II trials [Hauser 2017]

	OPERA I			OPERA II		
	Ocrelizumab (n=410)	Interferon Beta 1a (n=411)	p-value	Ocrelizumab (n=417)	Interferon Beta 1a (n=418)	p-value
Annualized relapse rate at 96 weeks (95% CI)	0.16 (0.12 to 0.20)	0.29 (0.24 to 0.36)		0.16 (0.12 to 0.20)	0.29 (0.23 to 0.36)	
Rate Ratio (95% CI)	0.54 (0.40 to 0.72)		<0.001	0.53 (0.40 to 0.71)		<0.001

Plagiarism of Ideas

- Presenting the ideas of others as your own
 - Range from a thesis to ideas shared in a conference meeting
- Important to cite any information used from an outside source
- Caution when asked to complete work originally started by someone else
 - Ensure that the authorship of each component is clearly cited

Mosaic Plagiarism

- Definition from the American Medical Association Manual of Style
 - *“... borrowing the ideas and opinions from an original source and a few verbatim words or phrases without crediting the original author. In this case, the plagiarist intertwines his or her own ideas and opinions with those of the original author, creating a confused, plagiarized mass.”*
- If combining ideas or information from multiple articles, always be sure to cite appropriately to maintain clarity

Self-Plagiarism

- Care must be taken to reference your own previous work that has been published
- Follow standard citation rules
 - If copyrighted, seek permission from copyright holder for reprinting
- Remember that readers expect scientific or medical writing to be unique in origin

Q&A



Presentation Feedback

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6W2okEbFBfHZ41w