Greetings from the Editors desk

After a fairly good success with the first issue, it is time to look forward and publish the second issue; with greater responsibility and passion to out beat expectations. Faced with some real time situations which I did encounter while attempting to compile the second issue, the choice of subject for the editorial became simple and obvious - Duplicate Publications.

As we all know, “Triple O” refers to Oral pathology, Oral Medicine and Radiology and Oral surgery. With a new case in the college OPD, the first entry point is the OMDR, subsequently being guided to Oral Surgery and/or Oral Pathology departments. The scheme of events followed - examination, investigation, diagnoses, treatment and finally follow-up to close the case. With an increased awareness, excitement and hurry if I would add, to document and publish unique findings, a case closure from a patient’s standpoint simply opens a Pandora’s Box throwing up precarious questions like -which “O” should lead the authorship, which “O” should prepare the manuscript and which “O” should send it for publication. Quite amazingly, it can so happen that with complete unawareness of the other 2 “O”, one of the “O” has already prepared the paper, got approved and also possibly published in some journal. One sunny day, the unaware “O’s” suddenly awakens and prepares a paper to dispatch it for publication and this one ignorantly or miraculously gets accepted; And holla we now have duplicate papers of the same case.

In another scenario - a case with mandibular defect on the right side has been successfully treated and 2 of the “O’s” collaborate and publish the paper. The third “O” feels kind of left out and chooses to build a paper highlighting the defect on the left side of the mandible for a same case and same treatment delivered. Indeed, it is defying the readers by using the computer application for editing the image from right to left.

After addressing two scenarios of competing with one another, lets address a scenario involving perfect collaboration; all the 3 “O” conund together and prepare 2 papers of the same case. First one, published in non-indexed journal which always remained safe and undetectable, defying the open access database and the second copy of the paper published in the indexed journal. 2 papers of the same case with no evidence of Duplicate Publication.

This discussion is not specific to “O” departments alone but to every other department which is involved in providing interdisciplinary treatment. Presentation of such kind of paper leads to many questions: Who should be the lead author; what to do when the salami technique of paper publication is done; can one department take the lead and others be left unaware; Should the college take a lead role to monitor; can anybody and everybody who has even touched the case should be the author of the paper……….. The list of questions does not end here. Even in the presence of publication policies and journal instructions to authors requesting to perform due-diligence, necessary cross checks and respect no Duplicate Publication, the authors ignore all of this and submit multiple papers of the same case. It is critically important to be conscious of the fact that Duplicate Publication is an unethical practice.

While signing off, I humbly request all the potential authors to submit their original work to our journal for our forthcoming issue in January 2015.

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