

Predatory publishing refers to the systematic for-profit publication of purportedly scholarly content in a deceptive or fraudulent way and without any regard for quality assurance.¹

A peculiar situation

- A **review article** developed based on pivotal randomized studies
- Couple of **journals rejected the article**
- Authors decided to target **low impact factor journal**

- Within **24 hours of submission**:
- Journal sent few editorial comments
 - Requested **quick payment of article processing fees (APCs)** to include article in current issue
 - Journal repeatedly followed up daily for payment

- Authors became suspicious and decided to **withdraw manuscript**
- Journal refused to withdraw; **offered some discount on APC**
- Provided metrics/claims for the publications

- Authors found that the claims were false and misleading
- Client consulted us at this stage. We further analyzed, checked **Beall's list** and found it's a **predatory journal**

Symptoms²

- 1 Journal title similar to reputable journals
- 2 Provide false/misleading information
- 3 Willing to publish article with a small fee
- 4 No transparency on peer-review processes
- 5 Promise of fast peer-review and publication

Consequences³

Creating academic confusion and negative social impacts, if the manuscript is flawed



Damage to organization/institution's reputation



Unable to deal with copyright infringement



Waste of time, efforts and funds



Warning signs¹

- 1 Lack an ISSN or use the one assigned to other journals
- 2 Poor language usage and low production quality
- 3 Vague journal scope, quick peer-review processes
- 4 Hidden publication charges notified post submission

- 5 Erratic publication schedule
- 6 Inadequate information on copyright, licensing, and publication ethics
- 7 Missing ownership and/or management details
- 8 Missing editorial team/contact information

Realize

- **Education** on warning signs
- Regularly update **whitelist/safelist** journals
- Check **quality** from journal's published articles
- Check if journals follows **COPE/DOAJ/OASPA/WAME**

Act

- Identify trustworthy journals from '**Think.Check.Submit**'
- **Reality check** for journal details
- **Don't pay** hidden author fees
- Use **DNS Checker** for suspected spam.

Guidance

- **Beall's list** of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers
- **Cabell's blacklist**: <https://www2.cabells.com>
- Think.Check.Submit