

JMBE Research Section Review Criteria

Criteria	Acceptable as submitted; no change or simple corrections (1)	Needs modifications or improvements (2)	Fundamental revisions or additions required (3)
Worthwhileness			
Hypothesis	The hypothesis is clear, stating the problem.	The hypothesis is not clear.	Hypothesis is absent.
Impact	The study augments or deepens understanding of the field or takes field in new direction.	The study adds to or deepens the field of knowledge, but only mildly.	The study does not add to or deepen the field of knowledge.
Assessment	Appropriate assessment of learning outcomes is included.	Assessment is present, but inappropriate or wrongly interpreted.	Assessment is incomplete or poorly evaluated.
Coherence			
Research Methods & Techniques	The research methods and techniques appropriately evaluate the research hypothesis.	The research methods and techniques weakly evaluate the research hypothesis.	The research methods and techniques employed to evaluate the research hypothesis are not appropriately matched.
Analysis Techniques	The analysis techniques employed are well matched to the research hypothesis.	The analysis techniques employed are somewhat matched to the research hypothesis.	The analysis techniques employed to evaluate and answer the hypothesis are not appropriately matched.
Competence			
Data Collection	The study was conducted by effective application of appropriate data collection, analysis, and interpretation techniques.	The study lacks clarity with regard to the process of data collection, analysis and interpretation and/or application of these methods.	Data collection, analysis and interpretation have not been conducted appropriately.

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Following Research Guidelines	The researcher(s) followed existing guidelines (as defined within the relevant discipline) for conducting interviews, designing instruments, reducing data, selecting samples, etc.	Needs articulation with regard to whether the researcher(s) followed existing guidelines for conducting interviews, designing instruments, reducing data, selecting samples, etc.	Established guidelines for conducting interviews, designing instruments, reducing data, selecting samples, etc. were not followed.
Openness	Acceptable as submitted (1)	Needs modifications (2)	Fundamental revisions required (3)
Biases & Assumptions	Conduct of study appears to be free of personal biases and assumptions or self-discloses any assumptions/biases that underlie the investigation.	Unclear about potential personal biases and assumptions or inadequately discloses any assumptions/biases that underlie the investigation.	Fails to address whether there are personal biases and assumptions or fails to disclose any assumptions/biases that underlie the investigation.
Theoretical Basis & Research Methodology	Clearly identifies conceptual/theoretical basis for the study and describes the research methods and techniques used in sufficient detail for public scrutiny (including how data were collected, analyzed and used to make interpretations).	Unclear as to conceptual/theoretical basis for the study and/or inadequately describes the research methods and techniques used in sufficient detail for public scrutiny (including how data were collected, analyzed and used to make interpretations).	Fails to identify conceptual/theoretical basis for the study and/or fails to describe the research methods and techniques used in sufficient detail for public scrutiny (including how data were collected, analyzed and used to make interpretations).
Ethics			
Use of Human Subjects	The manuscript demonstrates appropriate data collection and/or the use of human subjects, such as informed consent and confidentiality.	The manuscript inadequately demonstrates appropriate data collection and/or the use of human subjects, such as informed consent and confidentiality.	The manuscript fails to demonstrate appropriate data collection and/or the use of human subjects, such as informed consent and confidentiality.
Acknowledgement	The authors have completely and properly cited the work of others from the primary literature.	The authors incompletely or improperly cite the work of others from the primary literature.	The authors have failed to cite the work of others from the primary literature.

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Credibility	Acceptable as submitted (1)	Needs modifications (2)	Fundamental revisions required (3)
Credible Sources	The hypothesis is supported by credible sources.	The hypothesis is logical, but not easily supported by credible sources.	The hypothesis is not supported by credible sources.
Claims & Conclusions	Claims and conclusions are believable.	Claims and conclusions are exaggerated or understated.	Claims and conclusions are not believable or are misleading.
Arguments & Interpretations	Arguments and interpretations are able to be verified so as to support conclusions.	Arguments and interpretations cannot be substantiated or refuted.	Arguments and interpretations do not support conclusions.
Organization & Other Qualities			
Organization	The manuscript is clear, concise and well organized.	The manuscript is not clear or concise, but is well organized, OR the manuscript is concise, but not clear or well organized.	The manuscript is not clear, not concise and not well organized.