JAMA Neurology

JAMA Neurology is one of the most prestigious journals in clinical neurology, with a recent impact factor around 20–21, placing it among the global top three in the field. However, its status brings strengths and limitations that should be critically evaluated.

⬜ Strengths

- **High visibility**: The elevated impact factor ensures broad dissemination among neurologists and neuroscientists.
- **Editorial rigor**: Peer review is fast and detailed (average 3–4 weeks according to SciRev).
- **Efficient publishing**: Articles are often published online ahead of print, speeding dissemination.
- **Author engagement**: Includes author interviews, podcasts, and media visibility.
- **Focus on cutting-edge topics**: Regular publication of high-impact reviews, consensus statements, and original research.

⬜ Limitations

- **Citation-driven bias**: As with many high-IF journals, editorial decisions may be shaped by citation potential.
- **Limited methodological diversity**: Replication studies, negative results, and regional data may be underrepresented.
- **Industry influence risks**: Potential conflicts of interest from funding sources require critical appraisal, despite formal disclosure policies.
- **Impact factor inflation practices**: The journal may (as many do) prioritize citable items like reviews, potentially distorting publication balance.

⬜ Summary Judgment

Aspect	Assessment
———————	—————
Scientific Rigor	High
Visibility & Prestige	Very High
Editorial Transparency	Moderate
Methodological Breadth	Limited

⬜ Recommendation

For authors: Target JAMA Neurology if your work is novel, broadly relevant, and of high methodological quality. For readers: Critically evaluate articles, especially industry-funded studies or those with extraordinary claims. Look beyond the impact factor—rigor and reproducibility matter more than prestige.

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