Critical Review: Journal of Clinical Medicine (JCM)

Journal of Clinical Medicine (JCM) is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published by MDPI.

⬚ Strengths

- Indexed in major databases: PubMed/PMC, Scopus, Web of Science (SCIE)
- 2024 Impact Factor: ~2.9 (5-year IF ~3.3)
- Q1 ranking in "Medicine, General & Internal"
- Fast publication process:
  - First decision: ~17.7 days
  - Acceptance to publication: ~2.7 days
- Accepts negative results, reducing publication bias
- Transparent and publicly available peer-review reports (in some cases)

⚠ Areas of Concern

1. Publisher Reputation (MDPI)

- MDPI has been criticized for high-volume publishing and "special issue" overload
- Accusations of "quasi-predatory" behavior and aggressive solicitation practices
- Editorial oversight questioned in some circles

2. Impact Factor Volatility

- JCM's IF has fluctuated (e.g., peaked at ~4.9, then dropped to ~3.0)
- Potential reliance on high-citation review articles

3. Peer Review Speed vs Rigor

- Extremely rapid peer review (~2–3 weeks) may undermine thoroughness
- Concerns exist about consistency and depth of reviewer feedback

⬚ Summary

Strengths	Caveats
Legitimate, indexed journal	Associated with MDPI's fast-publishing model
Q1 ranking, rising IF	Questionable peer-review depth in some cases
Transparent and open access	Academic perception varies by field

🧠 Final Thoughts

JCM is a viable venue for rapid, open-access publication, especially when:

- Publishing negative or confirmatory results
- Requiring fast turnaround

However, for high-prestige or selective publication goals, more rigorous alternatives may be preferred.

Use case-by-case judgment: assess the editorial board, peer-review transparency, and relevance of special issues before submission.

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Last update: **2025/07/01 18:47**