

An increasing amount of [funding](#) in [neurosurgery research](#) comes from [industry](#), which may create a [conflict of interest](#) (COI) and the potential to [bias results](#). The reporting and handling of COIs have become difficult, particularly as explicit policies themselves and definitions thereof continue to vary between medical [journals](#). In a study, de Lotbiniere-Bassett et al. sought to evaluate the [prevalence](#) and [comprehensiveness](#) of COI policies among leading [neurosurgical journals](#).

The authors conducted a [cross-sectional](#) study of publicly available online [disclosure](#) policies in the 20 highest-ranking neurosurgical journals, as determined by [Google Scholar](#) Metrics, in July 2016.

Overall, 89.5% of the highest-impact neurosurgical journals included COI policy statements. Ten (53%) journals requested declaration of nonfinancial conflicts, while 2 journals specifically set a time period for COIs. Sixteen journals required declaration from the corresponding author, 13 from all authors, 6 from reviewers, and 5 from editors. Four journals were included in the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#) list of [publications](#) that follow the [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#) (currently known as [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#)). Five journal policies included COI declaration verification, management, or enforcement. The neurosurgery journals with more comprehensive COI policies were significantly more likely to have higher h5-indices ( $p = 0.003$ ) and higher impact factors ( $p = 0.01$ ).

In 2016, the majority of, but not all, high-impact neurosurgical journals had publically available [COI](#) disclosure policies. Policy inclusiveness and comprehensiveness varied substantially across neurosurgical journals, but COI comprehensiveness was associated with other established markers of individual journals' favorability and influence, such as [impact factor](#) and [h5-index](#) <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

de Lotbiniere-Bassett MP, Riva-Cambrin J, McDonald PJ. Conflict of interest policies and disclosure requirements in neurosurgical journals. *J Neurosurg*. 2018 Aug 1;1-7. doi: 10.3171/2018.4.JNS172751. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PubMed PMID: 30117775.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:49**

