REDUNDANT (DUPLICATE) PUBLICATION IN A PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Notes
- The instructions to authors should state the journal's policy on redundant publication.
- To help in future investigations, ask authors at submission stage to verify that their manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere.
- ICMJE advises that translations are acceptable but MUST reference the original. Editors may consider publishing a correction (ie, the link to the original article) rather than a retraction/notice of duplicate publication in such cases.

POST-PUBLICATION DISCUSSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

REDUNDANT (DUPLICATE) PUBLICATION IN A PUBLISHED ARTICLE


No significant overlap
Minor overlap ('salami publishing' with some element of redundancy) or legitimate repetition (eg, subgroup analysis/extended follow-up/repeated methods)

Major overlap/redundancy (ie, based on same dataset with identical findings and/or evidence that authors have sought to hide redundancy, for example, by changing title or author order or not referring to previous papers)

Contact author in neutral terms expressing concern/publishing correction giving reference to original paper.

Check extent and nature of overlap/redundancy
INFORM READER OF DECISION AND LEAVE PUBLICATION AS IT STANDS
Where editor has reason to believe failure to refer to previous paper(s) was deliberate, consider informing author's superior or person responsible for research governance.

Author responds
No response
Attempt to contact all other authors (check Medline/Google for current affiliations/emails)

Satisfactory explanation (honest error/legitimate publication)
Unsatisfactory explanation/admits guilt

INFORM READER OF OUTCOME/ACTION
Write to author(s), explaining position and expected future behaviour. Consider if need for retraction or correction.

INFORM EDITOR OF PUBLICATION OR RETRACTION, AS APPLICABLE
Consider if need for retraction or correction.
INFORM READER OF OUTCOME/ACTION
INFORM READER ABOUT REDUNDANT PUBLICATION
Thank reader and say you plan to investigate. Get full documentary evidence if not already provided

Minor overlap (same publishing with some element of redundancy or legitimate repetition)

Contact author in neutral terms expressing concern/publishing correction giving reference to original paper.

Where editor has reason to believe failure to refer to previous paper(s) was deliberate, consider informing author's superior or person responsible for research governance.

Author responds
No response
Attempt to contact all other authors (check Medline/Google for current affiliations/emails)

Satisfactory explanation (honest error/legitimate publication)
Unsatisfactory explanation/admits guilt

INFORM READER OF OUTCOME/ACTION
Write to author(s), explaining position and expected future behaviour. Consider if need for retraction or correction.

Contact author's institution requesting your concern is passed to author's superior and/or person responsible for research governance.

INFORM EDITOR OF OTHER JOURNAL INVOLVED.
CONSIDER PUBLISHING RETRACTION, OR STATEMENT OF REDUNDANT PUBLICATION IF OTHER JOURNAL AGREES TO RETRACT
If no response, keep contacting institution every 3-6 months
CONSIDER INFORMING AUTHOR'S SUPERIOR AND/OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCH GOVERNANCE

If other journal agrees to retract, consider informing editor of other journal involved.