

Palliative Care Journal Club: Guide to Presenting Articles

You are NOT expected to make writeups/powerpoints but you are welcome to if you think it will be helpful. Do bring 10 copies of your study to handout. We want to hear an intelligent, critical perspective but you don't need to understand all the in's and out's of the statistics etc. Basically: come with something interesting to say! Contact me with all questions, concerns: smarks@mcw.edu

I) Why did you choose the article? What are you hoping to accomplish by presenting it?

- x Prompted by a specific clinical scenario or patient?
- x New information about an important clinical issue?
- x Wondering if we should be changing/improving our practice?
- x Personal interest & General palliative care knowledge? It's new and interesting?

II) Summarize the article and its findings

a) Introduction

- a. What were the authors' primary intent? What question were they motivated to answer?
- b. Give us basic summary information about the article. "This was a prospective cohort study to see if X was associated with Y"

b) Methods

- a. Summarizing the methods is really important: what your audience wants to know is the following two things and the methods let us know this:
- b. Who were these patients in the study (i.e. are they like our patients)? What did the trial take place
they define "worsening pain" or "terminally ill"? How did they get this data? From where?
- d. In intervention trials: what is the primary outcome? Did they do power calculations to see if the N was adequate?

c) Results

- a. Go over the Table 1 with patient demographic characteristics with an eye to letting us know whether they are similar to our patients
- b.