
Journal search and commentary

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While nearly all modern clinical fields suffer from information overload, this is particularly the case for sleep medicine. The sleep medicine clinician is expected to cover both all of medicine involving the sleep period and all that disturbs either the ability to sleep or stay awake. While there has been a de facto specialization among sleep clinicians more or less along established disciplines the general clinical responsibilities of sleep medicine cover all of these specialty fields as they apply to sleep. This not only involves a very wide range of medicine but it is also complicated by sleep being a new field with less established journals and no single journal recognized as exclusively dedicated to providing the clinical information for the field. Thus many of the more important articles of clinical significance are published in the more established journals of another specialty. No sleep medicine clinician can possibly read or review all of the related specialty journals. In an attempt to partially compensate for this problem this section is devoted to reporting on a small select group of articles which while very clinically relevant to sleep medicine were published in journals not widely read or available to the international community of sleep clinicians. To accomplish this task we are in the process of establishing a review panel that includes sleep clinicians who routinely read the journals in their field and who will recommend the most clinically significant articles for consideration. The selection criteria we are currently using are: first, clinical significance, second, scientific quality, and third, general clinical interest. Some preference will be given to articles from journals less known to the sleep field. It is hoped that this will develop a better global coverage of journals not limited to those published in English. The articles reviewed will, usually, not have appeared in any of the sleep specialty journals.

We recognize that any selection of a handful of articles will be somewhat arbitrary. It cannot and does not in any way represent judgment on quality or relative significance of the articles selected versus other published articles. It is only hoped that the articles selected will be of interest to you, the reader, so that when you get your copy of this journal you will turn with interest to these pages as one snapshot of the wider world of sleep medicine. In this regard for this first issue we have selected two articles related to common problems in sleep medicine involving sleep disordered breathing. One involves some developing concepts about managing sleep problems of patients with congestive heart failure and the second deals with the very important issue of increasing CPAP compliance. Sleep medicine clinicians can expect to encounter both of these problems in their practice. The three other articles deal with developing diagnostic categories in sleep medicine related to insomnia. The first concerns nocturnal eating and the other two relate to fatal familial insomnia. These last three articles reflect new factors to be considered in diagnosis and treatment in sleep medicine.

We offer these reviews hoping you will find them informative and interesting.