

An Incessant Need for Review Articles

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It is well proved that the highest and strongest evidence of research is achieved by systematic reviews and meta-analyses. In this era of evidence-based practice (EBP), every healthcare professional relies on such a highest order of evidence. Medical review articles written before the era of EBP were conventionally unsystematic and lacked application of statistical methods to arrive at a definitive conclusion on a controversial subject. By means of a good, extensive systematic review on a contemporary interesting, or even a controversial topic, we can considerably enrich both the scientific community and the public.

The classical and most common form of review is the narrative review through which an author can offer to the readers adequate information and critiques of many research works based on his/her interpretation of the data. The systematic review is at the peak level of hierarchy of evidence in healthcare. It is a methodological approach to gather, appraise, and compile the available data on a predefined research question. There are nearly 14 different types of review articles mentioned in the literature.¹ Each one is unique and has its own strengths and weaknesses. Through different types of review articles, one can either enlighten the research community on a new idea or find a solution to a controversial problem.

A well-written and an effective review can offer the readers with rich information on various aspects of a topic, provide better understanding of the same, pose challenges to existing opinions, identify existing gaps, and synthesize new ideas for future research. Further, a review can be helpful in summarizing the pros and cons of the issues and at times in decision-making on a specific research question or a controversial topic.² Every review cannot cover all these aspects but most of the information can be obtained through an effective review article. A review written with extensive analysis and compilation of findings of many research works by a well-experienced researcher can provide a fruitful and meaningful

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outcome. Such a review can generate new insights in the topic in particular and area of knowledge in general.³

The present issue of *Annals of SBV* features a few but diverse articles with different flavor of expressions. This is just a beginning. We can expect a stream of review articles and new columns to be added in the future to make this journal a unique journal among the ocean of scientific literature.

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