THEMES IN RETRACTED RESEARCH IN EGYPT AND MENA REGION
WITH IN DEPTH ANALYSIS ON PLAGIARISM ROOT CAUSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
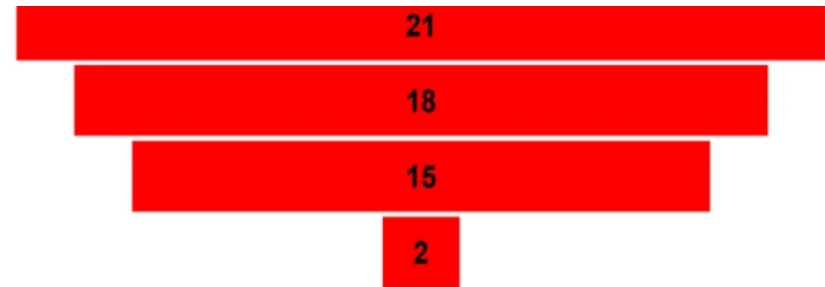
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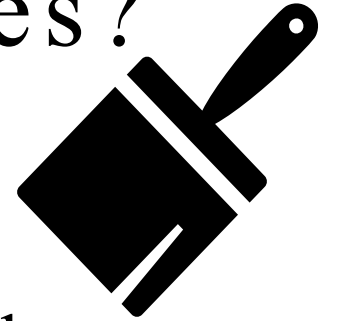
Retractions in Egypt and the MENA region

Scattered article retractions the region with few in depth studies characterizing retractions in the North Africa region.

Quick search on Retraction Watch Database: Libya 18, Sudan 52, Tunisia 150, Algeria 96, Morocco 67, Egypt 977

FFP type of misconduct — 21

Duplication — 18

Failure to Provide Data — 15

Consent Concern — 2

Ovarian parameters and ovarian blood flow of women living in the area of environmental crisis

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RETRACTED

Are we painting with broad brushstrokes? Or do we need to look deeper?

- Do we run the risk of labelling or categorizing regions and countries without reaching specific and meaningful solutions?

- Why you SHOULD consider Institutional perspectives when characterizing and analyzing retractions.

Specialties of Concern

- Anesthesia? Obgyn?

- "Biologically implausible distributions"

Data fabrication and other reasons for non-random sampling in 5087 randomised, controlled trials in anaesthetic and general medical journals

J B Carlisle [1]

Plagiarism

"Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal; bad poets deface what they take, and good poets make it into something better, or at least something different."
T S Eliot, The Sacred Wood

- **" Perhaps, the most widely recognized unethical practice in medical writing is plagiarism. " (Das et all, 2011)**

- Overall prevailing reasons for retraction are **misconduct** related, one of which is **Plagiarism**.

- *"plagiare"* **to "kidnap." Verbatim Plagiarism – Direct. Factors: Publish or Perish? Lazy writing? Lack of Knowledge? Lax or outdated policies? Technological Factors? Lack of tools? Cultural Factors? Language barriers?**

- Plagiarism can be detected by the authors, journals, readers

Results

In this cross-sectional study, 41.61% ($n = 129$) of manuscripts were deemed plagiarized out of a total of 310 papers that were analyzed. Plagiarism was identified in 35.07% of reviews ($n = 47$), and 46.6% of original research ($n = 82$). Among the plagiarized papers, the median number of copied sentences was 3 IQR 4. The highest recorded similarity report was 60%, and the highest number of copied sentences was 85. The discussion section of these articles was the most problematic area, with the average number of copied sentences in that section being 6.25 ± 10.16. The average time to judge all manuscripts was 2.45 ± 3.09 min. Among all the plagiarized papers, 72.09% belonged to papers where the similarity report was $\leq 15\%$ ($n = 93$). No significant differences were found with regards to plagiarism events among the quartiles.

Menshawey et al, 2023

Pitfalls in Plagiarism

- Inaccurate readings of score reports - The problem with a 15% threshold

- Improper timing of screening - is one screen enough?

- Is it cost effective – YES! Because the economic costs of dealing with misconduct will always be GREATER.

- ALWAYS corroborate the score report with the manuscript to determine if verbatim plagiarism is really there

EDITORIAL ► AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2015 Jun;36(6):1034–1038. doi: 10.3174/ajnr.A4234 ☒

Screening for Self-Plagiarism in a Subspecialty-versus-General Imaging Journal Using iThenticate

AU Kalnins [a], K Halm [b], M Castillo [b,c,✉]

► Author information   ► Article notes   ► Copyright and License information

PMCID: PMC8013017   PMID: 25634717

Take Home message

- Be critical of your analysis of retractions when focusing on regional issues in order to arise to more meaningful conclusions

- Plagiarism is a prevalent global issue with unique risk factors, solutions, and an evolving landscape.

- In medical research, MISCONDUCT= PATIENT HARM.

- If misconduct is a global issue, then regions should focus on defining themself by their response and attitudes towards research concerns

Retractions are Good?

- Science is Self Correcting. Retractions are an inevitable part of the scientific world for reasons less than misconduct.

- Retractions imply the presence of a healthy system that is able to detect concerns AND Address them. That is a Good thing.

- " A revitalised research culture that promotes ethics, and a no tolerance attitude towards misconduct is swiftly needed in this region to restore trust on the international scientific stage. Lasty, retractions should be interpreted as a positive trend that aims to rectify the scientific record which can only benefit individual and public health." (Menshawey et al, 2023)