LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
Cancer Center

Converting an Accepted Abstract into a High-Impact Surgical Manuscript

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October 20, 2025

Disclosures

- No relevant disclosures

Agenda



What to KNOW before you write



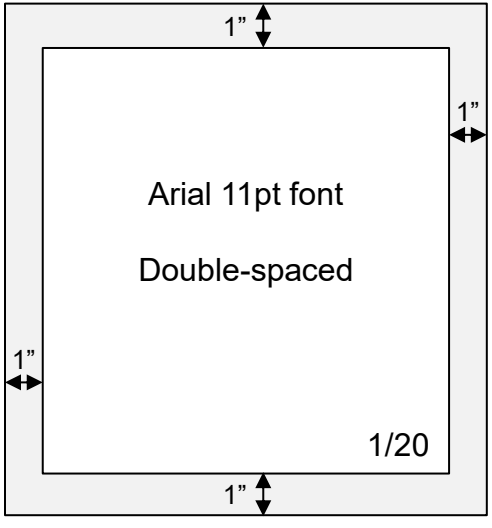
How to GET STARTED with writing



How to ACTUALLY WRITE a manuscript

What to KNOW before you write

KNOW the format



- No acronyms in the title, sentence start, Conclusions
- p-value to thousandths (0.023)
- Decimals to the tenths (32.4%)

KNOW the journal requirements


Annals of Surgical Oncology

Disclosure

Any author affiliation with or financial involvement in any

CONTENTS

Categories of Ar

Research

Article Type

Original Investigation

full info

Research Letter

full info

The American Journal of Surgery

Supports open access

Title page

You are required to include the following details in the title page information:

- Article title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g. DNA.
- Author names. Provide the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author. The order of authors should match the order in the submission system. Carefully check that all names are accurately spelled. If needed, you can add your name between parentheses in your own script after the English transliteration.
- Affiliations. Add affiliation addresses, referring to where the work was carried out, below the author names. Indicate affiliations using a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the corresponding address. Ensure that you provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the email address of each author.
- Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence for your article at all stages of the refereeing and publication process and also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about your results, data, methodology and materials. It is important that the email address and contact details of your corresponding author are kept up to date during the submission and publication process.
- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in your article was carried out, or the author was visiting during that time, a "present address" (or "permanent address") can be indicated by a footnote to the author's name. The address where the author carried out the work must be retained as their main affiliation address. Use superscript Arabic

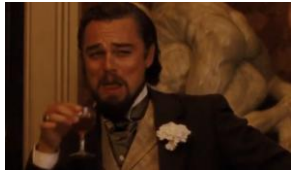
KNOW the audience



Reviewer 1



Reviewer 2



Reviewer 3



How to GET STARTED with writing

Complete a literature review

What is known?

What is unknown?

How we plan to study the unknown…

File sections of your abstract into the manuscript sections

Association of Institutional Case Volume with Surgical Quality After Robotic Partial Colectomy for Primary Colon Cancer

Sheldon Vogt MD BScN, Liang Ji DrPH, Rhami Khorfan MD MS, Justin Greco MBBCh, David Row MD, Sharon S Lum MD MBA, Raja R Narayan MD MPH

Background: Robotic surgery for colon cancer has expanded rapidly, yet the impact of institutional experience on postoperative and oncologic quality metrics remains unclear. This study aims to investigate the association between institutional robotic colectomy annual volume and oncologic quality metrics for patients with primary colon cancer.

Methods: Adults in the National Cancer Database who underwent robotic partial colectomy for primary colon cancer between 2010-2022 were included from 1073 institutions reporting ≥2 years of robotic cases. Hospitals were classified as low-, medium-, or high-volume using thresholds derived from restricted cubic splines identifying inflection points in the rate of conversion-to-open.

Results:

	Low-volume (≤4 cases/y) n=558	Med-volume (5-24 cases/y) n=505	High-volume (≥25 cases/y) n=10	P
Median age (IQR), y	69 (59-77)	69 (60-77)	68 (58-77)	0.075
Charlson-Deyo score ≥2	1080(14.1%)	4905 (13.8%)	397 (10.1%)	**<0.001**
Clinical T3-T4 stage	658 (43.0%)	2601 (41.2%)	372 (46.7%)	0.427
Clinical N0 stage	4755(69.3%)	22229(69.8%)	2483 (71.7%)	**<0.001**
Academic facility	1414(18.8%)	8006 (22.9%)	2247 (59.0%)	**<0.001**
Median time dx to OR, d	22 (3-41)	24 (4-42)	29 (14-46)	**<0.001**
Conversion to open rate	806 (10.5%)	2285 (6.4%)	200 (5.1%)	**<0.001**
Median length of stay, d	4 (2-6)	3 (2-5)	3 (2-5)	**<0.001**
Unadjusted 90d mortality	201 (3.3%)	909 (3.2%)	67 (2.1%)	**0.012**
Positive surgical margins	271 (3.6%)	1164 (3.3%)	97 (2.5%)	**0.006**
Median lymph nodes ex	19 (15-25)	20 (15-27)	23 (17-31)	**<0.001**
Median time OR to AT, d	43 (35-58)	43 (34-56)	40 (32-51)	**<0.001**

IQR=interquartile range, dx=diagnosis, OR=operating room, AT=adjuvant therapy, d=days, y=years, ex=examined

Conclusion: High-volume robotic colectomy centers were associated with improved postoperative and oncologic quality metrics. These findings suggest that institutional experience may play a role in optimizing surgical quality and oncologic quality metrics following robotic partial colectomy for patients with primary colon cancer. Future studies will investigate patient selection strategies at high-volume practices to inform other settings.

Organize the needed sections

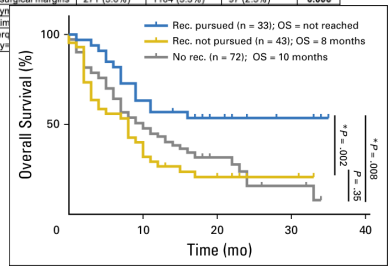
1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Intro
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Acknowledgements
8. References
9. Figure Legends
10. Tables
11. Figures*

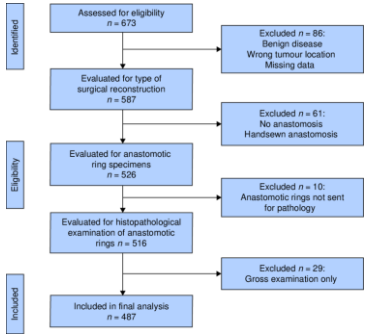
*consider in separate ppt

How to ACTUALLY WRITE a manuscript

Tables/Figures

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The Order of Attack

Abstract → **Methods** → **Introduction**

Results ← **Discussion**

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Components of the **Introduction**

What is known? →



~~Pancreatic cancer is most commonly diagnosed at the late stage.~~

Pancreatic cancer is uniformly lethal.

What is unknown? →



Describe the knowledge gap
Set your study up to fill the void

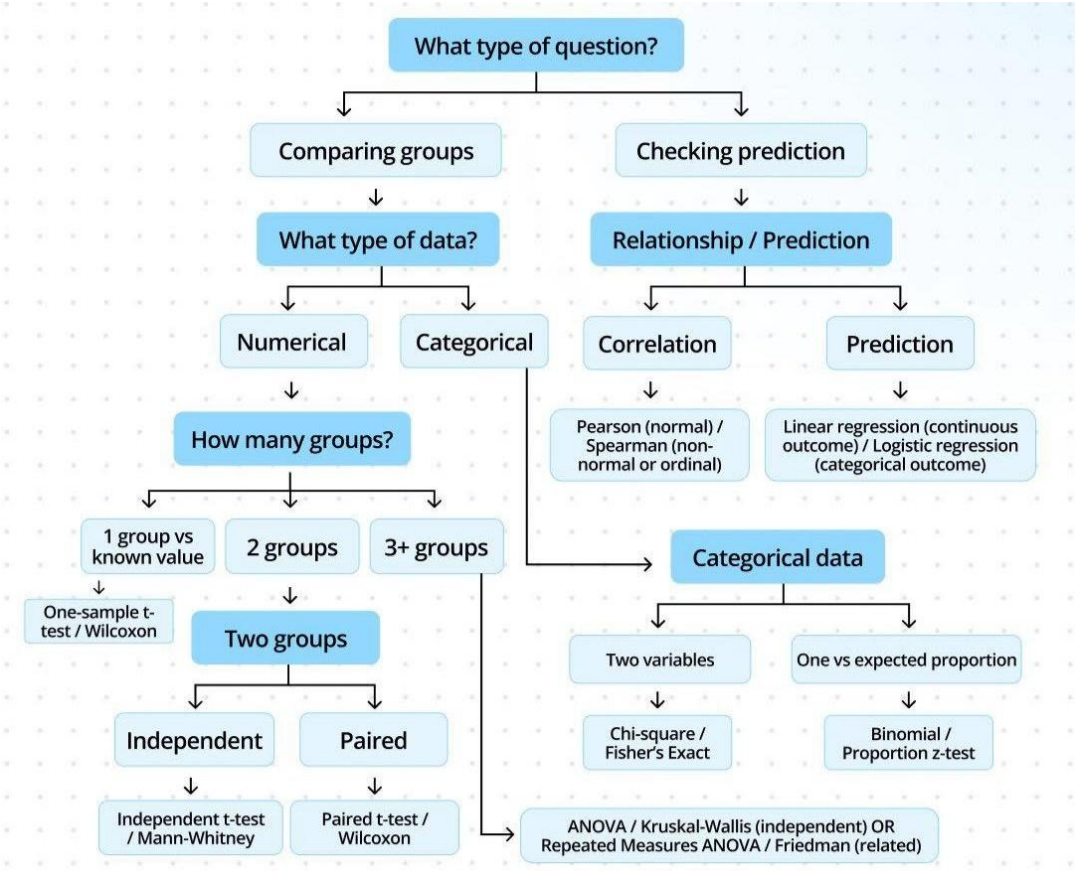
How we plan to study the unknown →

The aim of this study is to investigate…

Components of the **Methods**

1. **Data Source** → Retrospective/Prospective, database?
2. **Patient Selection** → Years of accrual, inclusion/exclusion criteria
3. **Variable Definition** → Unique, novel variables. Imaging/path review
4. **Outcomes of Interest** → Define t=0, what's included in censored events
5. **Statistical Analysis** → Tests for significance, software used

When to Use Each Statistical Test



@jayenthakker

Components of the **Results**

- Prioritize “visual” data (tables, figures, diagrams)
- Use legends to make figures/tables self-explanatory
- Do not repeat in the text what is already in the tables/figures → **highlight the clinical story in words**



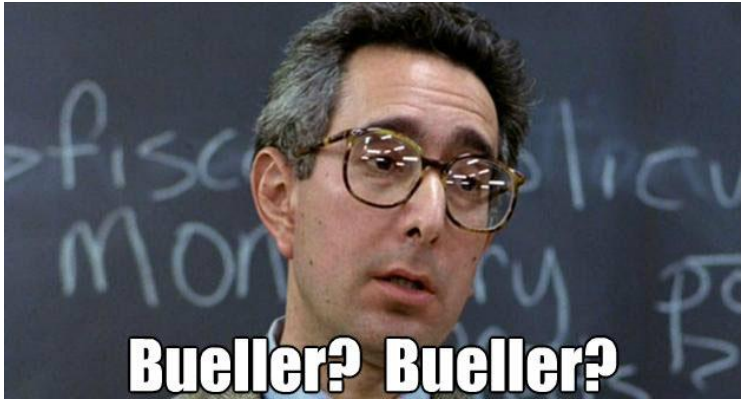
Components of the **Discussion**

1. **Recap main findings** → Sets up the points you make below
2. **Contextualize findings** → Compare to what's been published
3. **Contextualize findings** → Compare to what's been published
4. **Contextualize findings** → Compare to what's been published
5. **Limitations** → But spin it to reinforce strengths of the study
6. **Conclusions** → Recap main findings, clinical implications, plans for future work

Academic Journal Mysteries Revealed…



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Keep it short (<20%)

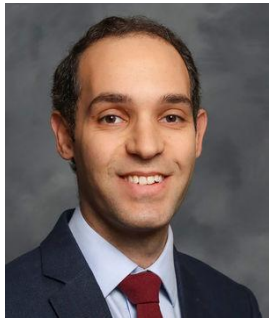
Don't spew epidemiology

No one's out to get you

Abstract Date	Meeting	Meeting Date	Location	Journal
July	AACR Pancreas	9/28/25-10/01/25	Boston, MA	NA
August	ASC	2/03/26-2/04/26	Lake Buena Vista, FL	J Surg Res
September	SCCACS	1/09/26-1/11/26	Santa Barbara, CA	Am Surg
9/9/25	ASCO GI	1/08/26-1/10/26	San Francisco, CA	J Clin Onc
9/11/25	PCSA	2/05/26-2/06/26	Oahu, HI	JAMA Surg
10/3/25	AHPBA	3/19/26-3/22/26	Miami, FL	HPB (oxford)
10/13/25	SSO	3/05/26-3/08/26	Phoenix, AZ	Ann Sug Onc
10/20/25	SSORT	2/14/26-2/16/26	Scottsdale, AZ	Ann Sug Onc
November	ASA	4/24/26-4/26/25	San Diego, CA	Ann Surg
December	SSAT	5/03/26-5/05/26	Chicago, IL	J Gastrointest Surg
1/27/26	ASCO	5/29/26-6/02/26	Chicago, IL	J Clin Onc
March	ACS	10/04/25-10/07/25	Chicago, IL	J Am Coll Surg
April	SAAS	September	Cincinnati, OH	Am J Surg
June	ASCO QC	10/10/25-10/11/25	Chicago, IL	J Clin Onc
June	SSA	12/07/25-12/10/25	Palm Beach, FL	NA

Get your manuscripts submitted soon after presentation!

Breakout Workshops



Sherif Aly
Loma Linda



Eric Yeates
UCLA-Harbor



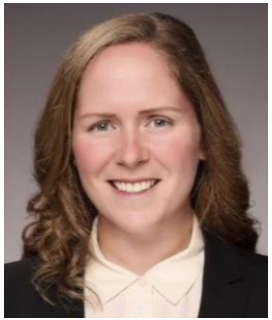
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Raja Narayan
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Christina Colosimo
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Mallory Jebbia
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Joyce McCrae
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Southern California *Chapter*

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