

JOURNAL SUBMISSION

CAN WE INTERPRET ANALYSES OF ETIOLOGIC HETEROGENEITY WHEN MOLECULAR MARKERS ARE USED TO CLASSIFY TUMORS?

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Journal Submission Report

Job code	xxxxxxx
Manuscript title	Can We Interpret Analyses of Etiologic Heterogeneity When Molecular Markers Are Used to Classify Tumors?
Date	xxxxx
Author preferences	**Keywords:** Etiologic heterogeneity, molecular markers, tumor subtyping, causal inference, mediation analysis, exposure–disease association
Comments on Adherence to Author Preferences	All recommended journals have regularly published articles on topics related to the authors' Area of Research / Idea

Journal Recommendations

Journal name	Comments
Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention (CEBP) *Publisher: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)*	**The Reason for the recommendation:** 1. ***Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*** is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on research exploring the causes, biomarkers, and prevention of cancer. The journal publishes original research, methodological papers, and conceptual articles that address etiologic mechanisms and the use of molecular markers in cancer studies. Its emphasis on biomarker-based tumor classification and etiologic heterogeneity makes it a highly suitable platform for articles examining the interpretation of etiologic analyses using molecular markers. 2. The journal published several articles on topics like authors' Area of Research / Idea, e.g., • Yang, X. R., Sherman, M. E., Rimm, D. L., Lissowska, J., Brinton, L. A., Peplonska, B., Hewitt, S. M., Anderson, W. F., Szeszenia-Dabrowska, N., Bardin-Mikolajczak, A., Zatonski, W., Cartun, R., Mandich, D., Rymkiewicz, G., Ligaj, M., Lukaszek, S., Kordek, R., & García-Closas, M. (2007). Differences in risk factors for breast cancer molecular subtypes in a population-based study. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, 16(3), 439–443. https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-06-0806 • Wallstrom, G., Anderson, K. S., & LaBaer, J. (2013). Biomarker discovery for heterogeneous diseases. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, 22(5), 747–755. https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-12-1236

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Cancer Research *Publisher: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).*	**The Reason for the recommendation:** 1. The *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy* is a leading peer-reviewed journal focused on musculoskeletal rehabilitation and evidence-based clinical practice. The journal publishes research and narrative reviews addressing assessment, management, and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders, including neck pain and cervical spine dysfunction. Articles highlighting conservative management approaches, clinical guidelines, and emerging therapeutic practices align well with the journal's scope. 2. The journal published several articles on topics like authors' Area of Research / Idea, e.g., • Holm, J., Eriksson, L., Ploner, A., Eriksson, M., Rantalainen, M., Li, J., Hall, P., & Czene, K. (2017). Assessment of breast cancer risk factors reveals subtype heterogeneity. Cancer Research, 77(13), 3708–3717. https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-16-2574 • Gaudet, M. M., Gierach, G. L., Carter, B. D., Luo, J., Milne, R. L., Weiderpass, E., Giles, G. G., Tamimi, R. M., Eliassen, A. H., Rosner, B., Wolk, A., Adami, H.-O., Margolis, K. L., Gapstur, S. M., Garcia-Closas, M., & Brinton, L. A. (2018). Pooled analysis of nine cohorts reveals breast cancer risk factors by tumor molecular subtype. Cancer Research, 78(20), 6011–6021. https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-18-0502
JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute *Publisher: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)*	**The Reason for the recommendation:** 1. *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute* is a high-impact, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to publishing influential research on cancer etiology, prevention, and control. The journal features original research and interpretive articles that address methodological and analytical issues in cancer studies. Its strong focus on cancer etiology and the integration of molecular markers into analytic frameworks makes it well suited for articles evaluating the interpretation of etiologic heterogeneity in tumor-subtyped analyses. 2. The journal published several articles on topics like authors 'Area of Research / Idea, e.g., • Weigelt, B., & Reis-Filho, J. S. (2014). Back to the basis: breast cancer heterogeneity from an etiological perspective. Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 106(8), dju211–dju211. https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/dju211 • Kumar, N., Ehsan, S., Banerjee, S., Fernandez Perez, C., Lhuilier, I., Neuner, J., Friebel-Klingner, T., Fayanju, O. M., Nair, B., Niinuma, S. A., Nampoothiri, S., & McCarthy, A. M. (2024). The unique risk factor profile of triple-negative breast cancer: a comprehensive meta-analysis. Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 116(8), 1210–1219. https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djae056

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Journal Comparator

Key Parameters		Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention (CEBP)	Cancer Research	JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute
Publisher		American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)	American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)	Oxford University Press (OUP)
Similar research published		Yes	Yes	Yes
Indexing database		MEDLINE/PubMed, Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Scopus (SJR classification)	Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, and others (typical for AACR journals)	BIOSIS Previews, Biological Abstracts, PubMed/MEDLINE, Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), CINAHL, CAB Abstracts, ProQuest collections, and more
Impact factor		3.4	16.6	7.2
Review duration		4–6 weeks	3–5 weeks	4–6 weeks
Publication type		Original research articles, Methodological and conceptual papers, Systematic reviews and meta-analyses, Commentaries and perspectives	Original research articles, Translational and mechanistic studies, Methodological and conceptual cancer research, Priority reports	Original research articles, Reviews and systematic reviews, Brief communications, Commentaries and editorials
Rejection rate		~75%	NA	>90%
Acceptance rate		~25%	NA	<10%
Article processing charges		**$4,000** (CC BY-NC-ND license). **$5,000** (CC BY license).	$7,000 (CC BY-NC-ND license). $8,000 (CC BY license).	**$4,000**–**$5,000**+ depending on the specific license (CC BY or CC BY-NC),
Limit	**Word count**	4000 words	5000 words	3000 words or fewer
	Figure/Tables	6 total	8 total	As needed
	References	Maximum 100	Maximum 50	No limits

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Supporting Information - Rationale for Inclusion and Scope

Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention (CEBP)	
Rationale for inclusion	A peer-reviewed, internationally recognized journal published by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) that focuses on cancer etiology, risk factors, biomarkers, and prevention research. The journal provides an appropriate platform for methodological and conceptual articles examining etiologic heterogeneity and the interpretation of cancer risk when molecular markers are used to classify tumors.
Scope	Covers cancer epidemiology, molecular and genetic biomarkers, exposure–disease relationships, tumor subtyping, prevention strategies, and statistical and methodological approaches relevant to population-based cancer research. The journal emphasizes translational relevance and integrative analyses linking molecular data with epidemiologic inference.

Cancer Research	
Rationale for inclusion	A high-impact, peer-reviewed journal and flagship publication of the AACR, Cancer Research publishes influential studies that advance fundamental and translational cancer science. It is well suited for conceptual and analytical articles addressing the biological and methodological implications of tumor classification using molecular markers and their impact on etiologic interpretation.
Scope	Encompasses basic, translational, and mechanistic cancer research, including molecular oncology, tumor biology, cancer genetics, biomarkers, and innovative analytical frameworks. The journal highlights studies that improve understanding of cancer development, heterogeneity, and the biological basis of disease classification.

JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute	
Rationale for inclusion	A leading peer-reviewed journal published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the National Cancer Institute, JNCI is internationally respected for publishing rigorous research on cancer etiology, prevention, and methodology. The journal is an appropriate venue for articles exploring etiologic heterogeneity and challenges in causal interpretation arising from molecular tumor classification.
Scope	Covers cancer epidemiology, etiology, prevention, biomarkers, molecular classification, biostatistical methods, and population-based cancer research. JNCI emphasizes high methodological standards, interpretive clarity, and research that informs cancer risk assessment and public health relevance.

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Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why are these journals suitable for this research topic?

A: CEBP, Cancer Research, and JNCI publish high-quality work on cancer etiology, molecular markers, and tumor classification. They are well aligned with methodological and conceptual analyses of etiologic heterogeneity.

Q2: What article formats are most relevant for this topic?

A: Conceptual and methodological articles, original research, and narrative or systematic reviews are most appropriate. Commentaries and perspective pieces addressing etiologic interpretation are also suitable.

Q3: How quickly are submissions typically reviewed?

A: Initial editorial decisions are typically issued within 3–6 weeks, depending on the journal. Cancer Research is more selective, while CEBP and JNCI follow standard peer-review timelines.

Q4: How widely are these journals indexed?

A: All three journals are indexed in PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, and Web of Science. This ensures strong global visibility and discoverability.

Q5: How does publishing in these journals impact academic reach?

A: Publication offers high international exposure and strong citation potential within cancer research communities. It facilitates dissemination to epidemiologists, molecular scientists, and public health researchers.

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