

I think I submitted to a predatory journal. What do I do now?



01. Do not pay the publication fee

Before you confirm the legitimacy of the journal, **do not pay** any relevant article processing charges. E-mail the journal's editor to withdraw the accepted submission if you are concerned about the journal.

02. Do not sign a copyright agreement

If the paper you submitted to a predatory journal gets accepted, **do not** sign a copyright agreement. Instead, try to email the journal's editor to withdraw the accepted submission.



03. Write to the journal to withdraw/retract the submitted/accepted manuscript

Persistence is key, if you do not get a response, follow-up. If the Editor-in-Chief does not respond, consider copying the e-mails of Editorial Board members in your correspondence. Consider if there is a resource at your institution to support you in your correspondence.



04. Resist the journal's request for any withdrawal/retraction fee

Some predatory journals might ask you to pay a withdrawal/retraction fee to remove your paper. **Do not** pay the fee. Instead, continue persistently to ask them to retract your paper. Maintain professionalism and highlight the lack of ethics in any refusal to withdraw your work.



05. Publish responsibly in the future

Submit your work to a new legitimate journal; if the predatory journal refused to retract your article, let the editor of the new journal know about this situation at the time of submission. Prevent this from recurring by learning to identify predatory journals and publishers before submission.



Please direct questions to [Dr. Kelly Cobey](#).

