

July 1, 2025

Dr. Kamran Abbasi, Editor
British Medical Journal (BMJ)
Sent electronically via email: editor@bmj.com

Dear Dr. Abbasi,

We are writing to you with a critical request to support our call for the retraction of a recently published guideline by *The BMJ*, which has raised significant concerns within the medical community.

In February 2025, *The BMJ* published a guideline as part of its Rapid Recommendations program, which advised against the use of interventional procedures, including steroid or anaesthetic injections, to treat chronic back pain. This guideline was informed by a meta-analysis and systematic review that has been widely criticized for its methodology and conclusions as they pertain to procedures frequently utilized by osteopathic physicians and specialists in interventional pain management.

To date, 34 medical societies have formally requested *The BMJ* to retract the publication. Their concerns center around the inappropriate pooling of data from varied procedures and patient groups, misrepresentation of studies, and an overall flawed analysis that may negatively impact patient care and clinical decision-making. The guideline's conclusions, which suggest that interventional procedures offer no significant benefit, are contradicted by the clinical experience of many physicians who routinely perform these procedures with appropriate patient selection.

Given the significant role our organization plays in the education, advocacy, and clinical practice of osteopathic medicine, we urge you to join us in this call for retraction. This is not only critical for maintaining the quality and integrity of our practice, but it is also essential for ensuring that patients continue to receive the best possible care based on evidence and sound clinical judgment.

We believe that such a retraction would demonstrate a strong, unified stance from our professions, highlighting our commitment to evidence-based practice while challenging publications that may undermine the care we provide.

We look forward to your response and hope to act together in ensuring the highest standards of care for our patients.

Sincerely,



Amir Mahajer, DO, FAOCPMR
President, AOCPMR