

Exploring Peer-review Patterns for Supplementary Material in Scientific Journals

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INTRODUCTION

Provide additional data that directly support the conclusions of a scientific article^{1,2}

Includes completed checklists of publication guidelines, helping journal decisions^{1,2}

Supplementary material house valuable information that can't be accommodated in scientific articles due to word-count limitations^{1,2}

Provides additional information for readers who wish to delve deeper into the findings^{1,2}

Provides detailed technical descriptions of methods, facilitating reproducibility^{1,3}

As supplementary material has become an ubiquitous feature of scientific articles, checking it's scientific validity and relevance with a robust peer-review has become imperative

However, many journals do not provide clear guidance regarding peer-review process for supplementary material, thereby encouraging ad hoc reviewing practices¹

OBJECTIVE

This study assessed whether supplementary material in biomedical journals undergoes peer-review process, which determines the validity and quality of scientific content

METHODS

Methodology

Article selection

Strategy

Inclusion Criteria:

- Biomedical journals
- From 5 different therapeutic areas*
- Impact factor>1
- Accepting supplementary material

Author guidelines of biomedical journals were assessed for instructions regarding peer-review process of supplementary material

*oncology, neurosciences, cardiovascular disease, dermatology and infectious diseases and vaccines

References:

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Disclosures:

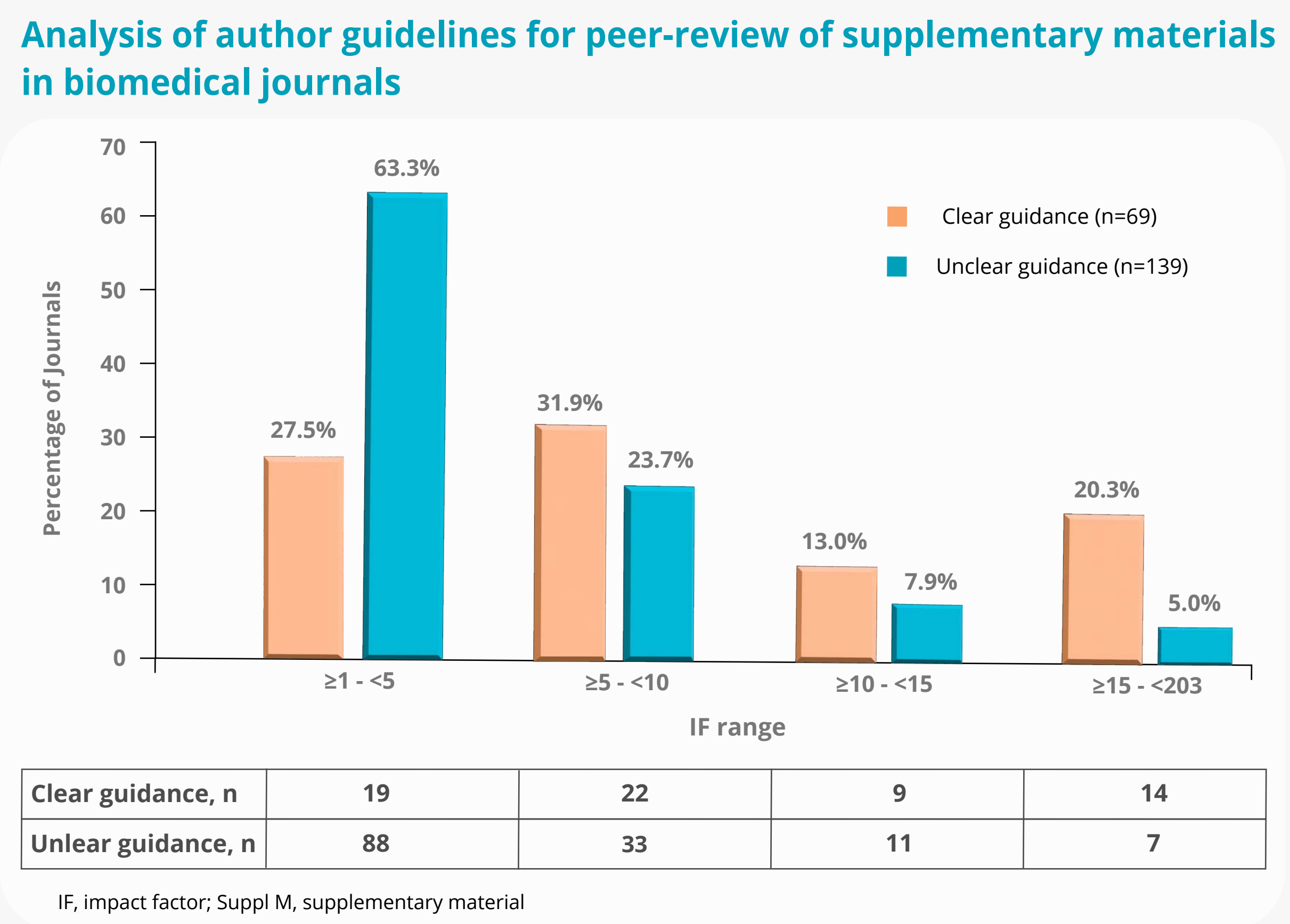
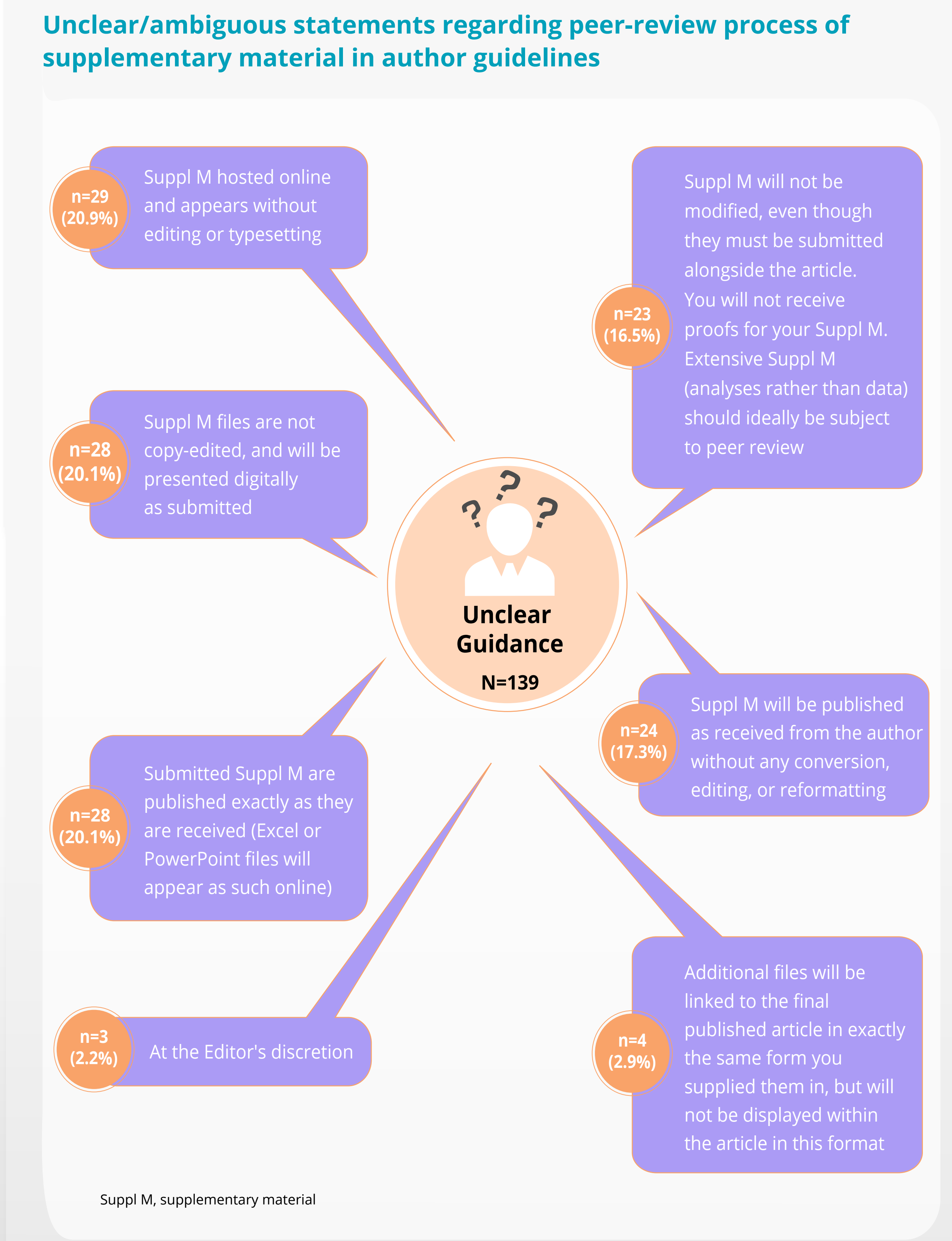
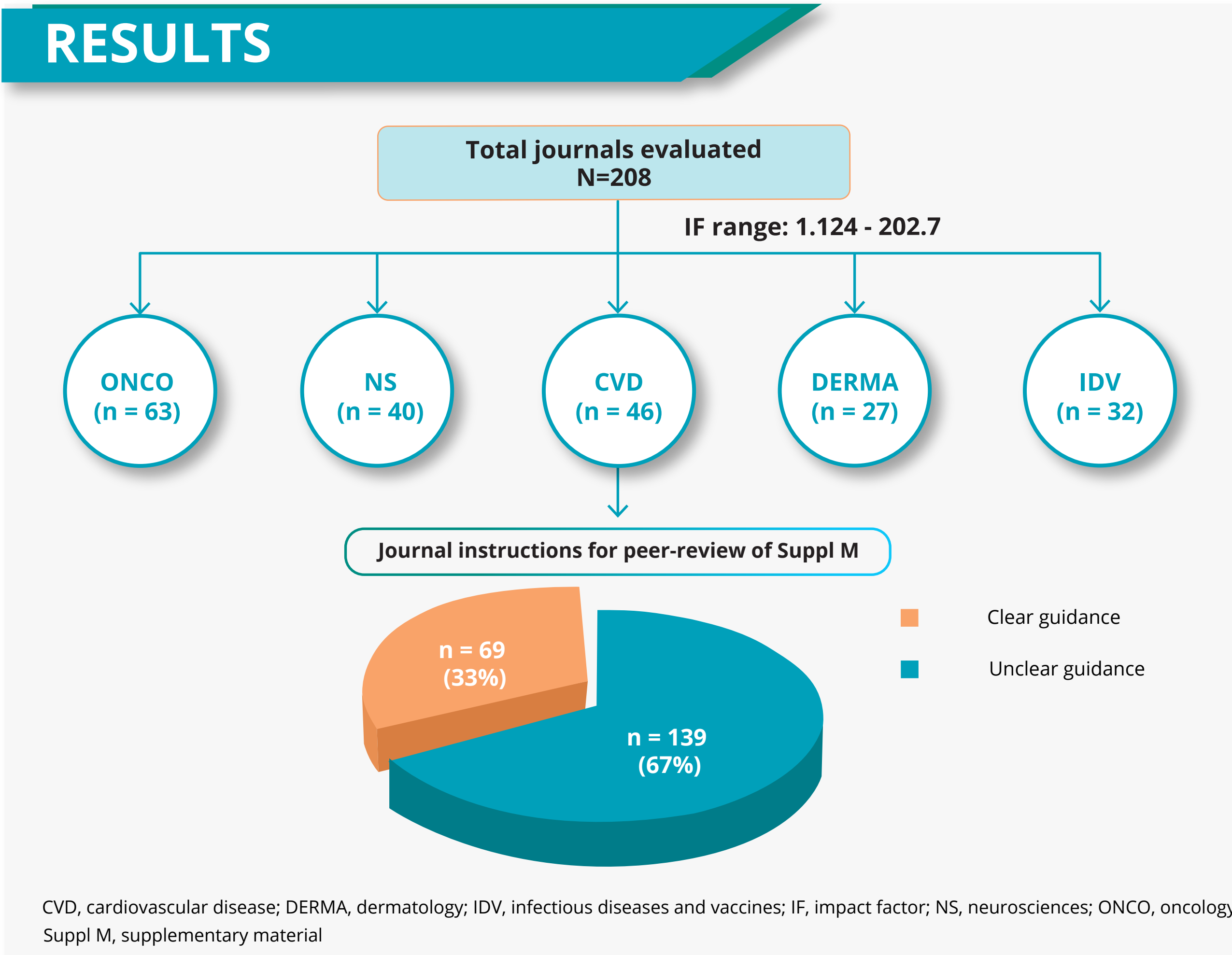
All authors are employees of SIRO Clinpharm Pvt Ltd..

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CONCLUSIONS

Although supplementary material directly support and enhance content of scientific articles, we observed that the majority journals had not provided clear guidance regarding their peer-review process for supplementary material

Given the importance of supplementary material, it is vital for biomedical journals to provide clear and consistent guidelines for the review of supplementary material

Based on our research observations, we propose that author guidelines of biomedical journals be harmonized for specifications of supplementary material and their peer-review process

