

## Review of the Article

entitled

### Efficacy of Recombinant Human Erythropoietin in Critically Ill Patients: A Randomized Controlled Trial

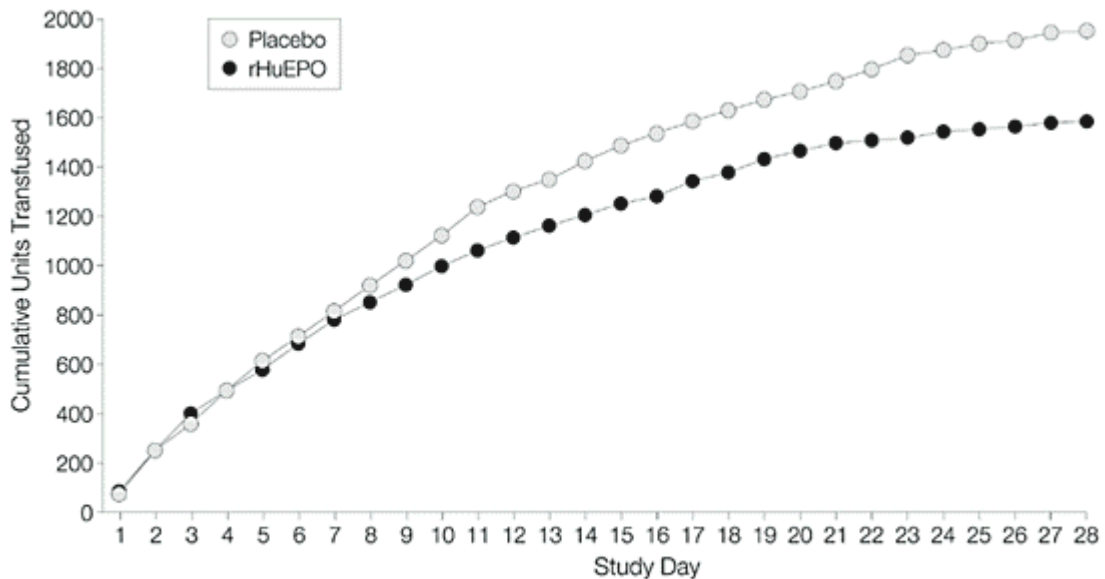


Figure 3. Cumulative Units of Red Blood Cells Transfused

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Assignment # 2: Scientific Article Review

12/17/02

### What is the article's format and organization?

This Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) article provides the following sections easily accessed by Web site links:

- **Abstract.** This summary contains bold subheadings with one to two sentences of explanation.
  - **Context.** Reason for the trial.
  - **Objective.** Goal that the trial attempted to prove or disprove.
  - **Design.** Type of trial.
  - **Setting.** Location the trial was conducted.
  - **Patients.** Numbers of who received the drug and who received placebo.
  - **Intervention.** Method of administering the drug.
  - **Main Outcome Measures.** Endpoints for the tests in the trial.
  - **Results.** Statistical information of results.
  - **Conclusions.** Interpretative text of results.
- **Introduction.** Four paragraphs describe information such as why blood transfusion practice is being reevaluated, who receives transfusions, what causes anemia, and why the substance was administered.
- **Methods.** Describes sufficient detail to duplicate the trial. Includes subheadings of baseline assessment; study population, design, outcomes, regimen, and follow-up; statistical analysis; and subgroup analysis.
- **Results.** Explains the effects on blood transfusions, hemoglobin levels, mortality and adverse events, length of stay and mechanical ventilation, and subgroup analyses.
- **Comment.** Discusses and interprets the results.
- **Author/Article Information.** Provides a list of authors, their contributions, their affiliations, and the group in which they participated; point-of-contact information for correspondence such as to obtain reprints; and disclosure of funding sources.
- **References.** Cites the research sources. The text contains superscript numbers with links to the References section to prove the information's origination.
- **Index of Figures and Tables.** Provides one-page summary of figures (graphs and charts) and tables accessed by selecting the corresponding icons. The readers can also access the figures and tables by selecting the links parenthetically embedded within the text in context. The figures and tables provided not only proof of the findings, but also trends and comparisons of data that can be easily digested by the readers.

### What did you think of the writing style? Why?

The writing style seems to be appropriate for its readers. Excluding the Author/Article Information, References, and Index of Figures and Tables, the JAMA article's usability statistics are interesting compared to the average of a dozen science writing articles from the New York Times. Amazingly, both types of writing contain the same five characters per word statistic—although the JAMA article seems to contain longer terms. The JAMA article probably uses industry-standard terminology in the journal-requested format so that readers can easily understand and access the information. Notice the JAMA article contains five times as many paragraphs as the science writing statistic. Although higher than science writing, the passive sentences in the JAMA article are still used judiciously in order to highlight the information instead of the players.

	Science Writing	JAMA Article
Words	845	4,819
Sentences	18	59
Paragraphs	40	197
Sentences/Paragraphs	2	4
Words/Sentence	22	24
Character/Word	5	5
Passive Sentences	15%	26%
Ease	46	27
Grade Level	11	12

## Work Cited

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### **Efficacy of Recombinant Human Erythropoietin in Critically Ill Patients A Randomized Controlled Trial**

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<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v288n22/rfull/joc21553.html>

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