

Point-by-point reply for 88561

Reviewer #1:	Reply:
This is a well written editorial summarizing the general pros and cons on the use of meta-analysis in medical research. I recommend to be accepted for publication.	Thank you for the positive comments.
Reviewer #2:	
The letter to the editor, 'The Importance of Well-Designed Meta-Analyses in Assessing Medical and Surgical Treatments,' presents an intriguing and coherent idea. Meta-analyses are a tool that enables the consolidation of results and the creation of much more robust study models.	Thank you for the positive comments.
However, the author could delve deeper into what constitutes the elements that allow for the creation of a robust meta-analysis, distinguishing them from unreliable ones.	The following is added: Good meta-analysis involves several key elements: clear research objective, precise research questions, comprehensive literature search via different scientific databases as well as the reference lists of included articles, well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, objective quality assessment with standard tools (e.g. Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool or the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale), meticulous data extraction and statistical analysis, and thoughtful consideration of publication bias.
Furthermore, it would be advisable for the author to consider including an opinion on the commonly used PRISMA guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) in the development of meta-analyses. Kind regards	The following is added: These elements are actually defined in the widely recognized PRISMA guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses). It plays a vital role in promoting transparency, consistency, and quality in the development of meta-analyses. However, it is important to acknowledge that adherence to these guidelines does not guarantee the quality or validity of a meta-analysis. Proper implementation and interpretation of these guidelines rest on the expertise and judgment of the researchers involved.