

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55471

Title: Pre-Analytical Errors in Sample Collection and Their Impact on Laboratory Results

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr. Sudheer Aluru

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript presents a descriptive observational study assessing the frequency and types of pre-analytical errors in routine clinical laboratory samples at a tertiary-care hospital. The topic is relevant to laboratory quality assurance and patient safety, and the study objective is clearly stated. The methodology and results are generally appropriate for a cross-sectional audit, and the conclusions are aligned with the descriptive nature of the data.

Overall, the manuscript is suitable for publication following minor clarifications.

Clarification on Assessment of "Impact on Laboratory Results"

In Table 3 ("Impact of Pre-Analytical Errors on Laboratory Results"), the manuscript lists affected parameters and the observed direction of change (e.g., hemolysis causing falsely increased potassium, LDH, and AST).

As a reader, it is **not entirely clear whether:**

1. These impacts were **directly observed and measured** in the current study's samples by comparing faulty and non-faulty specimens, **or**
2. These impacts represent **well-established analytical effects drawn from standard laboratory knowledge**, included to contextualize the observed errors.

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The authors are requested to clarify this point explicitly in the Methods or Results section.

If the effects were measured, brief information on how comparisons were made should be provided. If the effects are literature-based, this should be clearly stated to avoid misinterpretation.

2. Provide Brief Operational Definitions

To improve reproducibility and transparency, briefly define how major errors were identified (e.g., visual assessment of hemolysis, criteria for delayed transport).

This can be done concisely in the **Materials and Methods** section.

3. Clarify Sampling Approach

Indicate whether the 200 samples were collected consecutively and over what approximate time frame. This will address potential concerns about selection bias.

4. Minor Editorial Corrections

- Ensure consistent terminology (“pre-analytical” vs “preanalytical”).
- Correct minor grammatical and formatting issues.
- Ensure all tables and figures are clearly labeled and referenced in the text.

Final Recommendation

This is a relevant and well-presented descriptive audit of pre-analytical laboratory errors. With the requested clarification and minor editorial refinements, the manuscript would be suitable for publication.