<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>What to look for</th>
<th>Red flags</th>
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| Who is the editor in charge of the journal content? | • A person who has a reputation in the discipline?  
• Direct contact information for the editor is provided. | • You cannot find any evidence of the Editor's standing in the discipline.  
• "Lack of transparency or honesty regarding the ownership and headquarter location of the publisher." |
| What is the journal’s process for assuring quality of content? | • A clear description of the process for review of manuscripts prior to publication is stated.  
• A visible statement of the retraction policy.  
• The names and duties of editorial advisory or review panel members are listed. | • A promise of rapid review of publication (quality reviews take time).  
• No retraction policy, and no retraction statements are found in previous publications.  
• Mystification of those who are involved in the review process.  
• Plagiarism can be detected in previously published articles of the journal. |
| Does the journal have sound business publishing practices? | • The journal is a member of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics). ([https://publicationethics.org/members](https://publicationethics.org/members))  
• The publisher is a member of STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers). ([http://www.stm-assoc.org/membership/our-members](http://www.stm-assoc.org/membership/our-members))  
• Information about author processing charges (APC), if any, is clear and easily accessible.  
• If the journal shows an impact factor, it is verifiable in Web of Science, Cabell’s, or SCOPUS?  
• Is the publisher location and contact information easily identified on the web site? | • The journal is listed in Cabell’s Journal Blacklist.  
• Journal name or other information is suspiciously like another journal.  
• The journal/publisher solicits manuscripts using excessively complimentary emails and/or spam-like techniques.  
• The journal owner cannot be identified.  
• Publisher contact information or business address cannot be identified. |
