

A 3-dimensional presentation is inappropriate for figures that contain only 2 dimensions of data (§4.2.6, Components of Figures, p 115 in print).

Because in 3-dimensional figures it may be difficult to read from the bar to the correct value on the axis, authors often insert read-across lines. Once the 3-dimensional aspect is eliminated, these read-across lines should be deleted (§4.2.6, Components of Figures, p 115 in print).

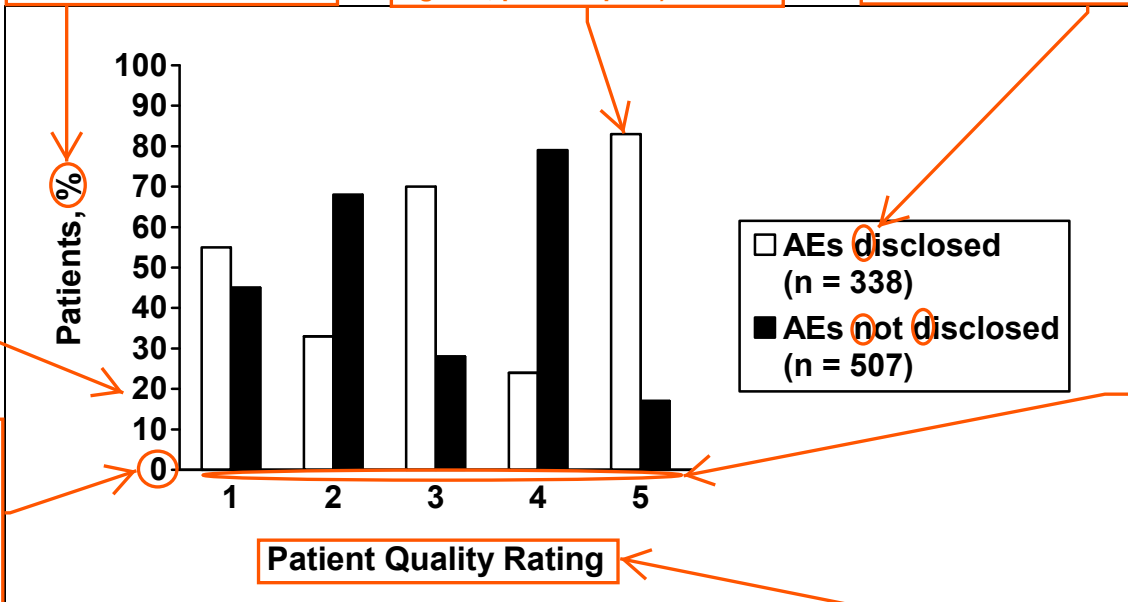
To alleviate an overcrowded axis, numbers can be eliminated in a logical pattern. Divisions of the axis scales should be indicated by appropriate intervals (eg, 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100) (§4.2.6, Components of Figures, p 114 in print).

Axes should be labeled with the type of data plotted and the unit of measure used (§4.2.6, Components of Figures, p 114 in print).

Color or shades of gray should be used instead of patterns and cross-hatching on bars (§4.2.1. Statistical Graphs, p 101 in print; §4.2.6, Components of Figures, p 114 in print).

In axis labels, each word should be capitalized. In nonaxis areas of the figure, sentence-style capitalization is easier to read and takes less space (§4.2.7, Titles, Legends, and Labels, p 119 in print).

The scale on the frequency axis should begin at 0 (§4.2.1. Statistical Graphs, p 101 in print).



The baseline of a bar graph is not a coordinate axis and therefore should not have tick marks (§4.2.1, Statistical Graphs, p 101 in print).

Figure. Disclosure and quality ratings for the 608 study patients who reported 845 adverse events (AEs). The patients' quality ratings, based on disclosure of AEs, were scored as follows: 1, excellent; 2, very good; 3, good; 4, fair; and 5, poor.

The figure title follows the designation "Figure" and does not appear in the figure itself (§4.2.7, Titles, Legends, and Labels, p 115 in print).

Abbreviations may be expanded individually in the text of the legend or collectively at the end of the legend (§4.2.7, Titles, Legends, and Labels, p 119 in print).

Expand abbreviations directly in the figure unless the abbreviation is too cumbersome (§4.2.7, Titles, Legends, and Labels, p 116 in print).