It is generally felt that fresh medical graduates lack such day to day skills in patient care as catheterization, incision and drainage of superficial abscesses, venesection, etc. Present day medical school curricula pay little importance to the development of these skills nor is the evaluating system geared to assess a candidate’s psychomotor ability. Jaffery’s article “The Final MBBS certifying examination” brings home this point.

Procedure, commonly used in clinical practice, are described in textbooks though not necessarily in condensed form. Many textbook accounts ignore conditions prevalent in developing societies. The JPMA undertakes to publish a series of articles describing the aims and methods of commonly used clinical procedures starting with this issue – Incision and drainage of superficial abscesses.