

AUTHORS' CHECKLIST**Title**

- Does it really reflect the content of the manuscript?
- Does it avoid statements not supported by the data?
- If a 'creative' title is chosen, make sure that it is scientifically appropriate

Abstract - Introduction and objectives

- Start with a brief introduction of the subject of the study
- Make sure that the objectives of the study are clearly stated

Abstract – Methods

- Start with study design, context, and participants
- Check that the basic methodology used is mentioned

Abstract – Results

- Start with the results of the primary objectives
- Make sure you included the main results you wish to report
- Ensure that the section ends linking the results and conclusions

Abstract – Conclusions

- Ensure that 'the message' of the article has been explained
- Avoid repeating the results
- Ensure that you have not extrapolated beyond the available data

Keywords

- Have you chosen the most important keywords from the title?
- Has the main topic of the manuscript been included as one of the key words?

Introduction

- Make sure that the general subject has been raised
- Briefly mention the current literature and its gaps, if any
- Justify the need for this study

- Make sure the study hypothesis is mentioned
- Describe the main references
- Check that all abbreviations have been explained on first use

Methods

- Have you detailed the design of the study, the physical context and the time frame?
- Have you detailed the inclusion and exclusion criteria?
- Have you reported the outcome measures? Are the primary-secondary variables or objectives of the study defined?
- Have you defined the primary and secondary objectives?
- Have you detailed the basic methodology?
- Describe all special tests carried out initially and during follow-up
- Describe the follow-up, clinical or otherwise
- Include the brand, company and country of the material used
- Make sure that the relevant ethics committee approval has been obtained
- Has the statistical methodology been detailed?

Results

- Is the results section direct and concise?
- Does it include a flow chart of patients?
- Does it adequately describe the population included?
- Are the primary and secondary objectives explained?
- Have you explained the key results?
- Except for the most important results, avoid duplicating the results of the tables in the text

Discussion

- Does the first paragraph of the discussion summarize the main findings of the study?
- Have you compared and contrasted your work with the available literature?
- Include a paragraph with the limitations of the study
- Does the last paragraph elaborate on the conclusions drawn?
- Are the implications of the main conclusions mentioned?
- Check that your claims are supported by solid data

Acknowledgements

- Have you acknowledged the funding agencies, if any?
- Have you acknowledged people who have collaborated in the study but do not meet the authorship criteria?

References

- Make sure that the references fit the requirements of the journal
- Make sure that the main references are mentioned in the introduction
- Where appropriate, cite your previous works on the topic

Figures and tables

- Have the instructions of the journal been followed?
- Are the figures clear and of good quality?
- Are the tables clear, concise, and complete?
- Avoid duplication of data presented in the text
- Make sure all figures and tables are cited sequentially in the text

Ethics

- Verify that the declaration of ethical approval is complete
- Provide the statement of contribution and authorship
- Include the declaration of conflict of interest, even if there are no conflicts
- Detail the sources of funding and their role in the study, if applicable
- Make sure to obtain the reproduction permits to reuse previously published figures or tables