



Tips for Authors of Reviews

Clinical Therapeutics, Current Therapeutic Research, The American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, and Gender Medicine

The editors of *Clinical Therapeutics*, *Current Therapeutic Research*, *The American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy*, and *Gender Medicine* expect all manuscripts to conform to the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals,” also known as Vancouver style (*N Engl J Med.* 1997;336:309–315). Authors are encouraged to refer to the latest edition of the *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. The journals’ specific styles can be found in the “Information for Authors” printed in the back of each issue.

The following are selected tips for authors of reviews from the editors-in-chief, section editors, editors, and peer reviewers of the journals.

GENERAL REMARKS

- Reviews published in the journals are evidence driven. Support all claims with *evidence*, usually defined as data from the primary literature. Replace any general or nonspecific claims with data from published references.
- Whenever statistics are presented, please provide the actual data as well, so that the reader can evaluate the information and verify that there were true differences between groups. Whenever the word “significant” or “significantly” is used, please provide a *P* value or similar statistic along with the data. Likewise, whenever data are reported or compared, or when a claim is made, please provide a *P* value or similar statistic. If statistical analysis is not available, please indicate this also.
- Include information from the primary literature. Information from tertiary sources (such as review articles or prescribing information) should be kept to a minimum.
- Define in a quantitative manner or eliminate subjective words and phrases such as: high, low, mild, moderate, severe, good, poor, few, many, most, increased, greater, less, vast majority, usually, young, elderly, quick, rapid, short, long, standard, generally, commonly, and randomly selected.

ABSTRACT

- Provide a structured abstract of ~300 words or less with background, objective, methods, results, and conclusion sections, and 4 to 6 key words.
- The abstract's results should contain a summary of the actual data presented in your review. Avoid broad statements such as: "In this review, clinical trials evaluating the efficacy and safety of this drug are presented."
- Everything mentioned in the abstract should be contained in the body of the paper. All data and *P* values should match between the abstract, body text, tables, and figures.

INTRODUCTION

- Clearly indicate the objective of your review and its scope.

METHODS

- Provide details of the search including the names of the databases, years searched, search terms, and limits used. Searching at least 2 databases is recommended. Indicate the date that the original searches were conducted. Update the literature search to make sure it is current and represents the latest evidence.
- Clearly indicate the inclusion/exclusion criteria used for the selection of references.

RESULTS

- For each study cited, describe the study design, inclusion/exclusion criteria, the population (*n/N*), and relevant demographics, and provide a summary of the findings with substantiating data and statistics. Consider summarizing the data in tables.
- Rather than indicating that the authors of the original manuscript suggest or conclude something, please indicate your opinion of the results presented.
- Whenever adverse events are reported, please provide a sense of their frequency (eg, percent of subjects for each adverse event).

DISCUSSION

- Discuss the limitations of the studies (eg, design, duration), the evidence (eg, no comparative studies), and your review (eg, not systematic, publication bias).

CONCLUSIONS

- The conclusions should reflect the evidence presented and avoid unjustified extrapolations.

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- Any current or previous support that the authors received from industry or institutions (including grants, honoraria, consultancies, speakers' bureau or advisory board positions, and significant stockholdings) for the present or any other research/work must be acknowledged.

REFERENCES

- Use primary peer-reviewed references whenever available instead of other review articles, abstracts, unpublished data, or unofficial Web sites.
- Unpublished or "data on file" references are not acceptable to support major efficacy and safety claims.
- Update the references to make sure they are current and represent the latest evidence.