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Authors should ensure that the presentation and statistical testing of data are appropriate and should seek the advice of a statistician if necessary. A number of common errors should be avoided, e.g.: -

- Use of parametric tests when non-parametric tests are required
- Inconsistencies between summary statistics and statistical tests such as giving means and standard deviations for data which were analysed with non-parametric tests.
- Multiple comparisons undertaken with multiple t tests or non-parametric equivalents rather than with analysis of variance (ANOVA) or non-parametric equivalents.
- Post hoc tests being used following an ANOVA which has yielded a non-significant result.
- Incomplete names for tests (e.g. stating "Student's t test" without qualifying it by stating "single sample", "paired" or "independent sample")
- n values being given in a way which obscures how many independent samples there were (e.g. stating simply n=50 when 10 samples/measurements were obtained from each of 5 animals/human subjects).
• Stating that \( P=0.000 \) (a figure which is generated by some computer packages). The correct statement (in this case) is \( P<0.0005 \).

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