DESCRIPTION

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**Randomised Controlled Trials**

All randomised controlled trials submitted for publication in International Journal of Surgery must include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart and ensure that all elements in the CONSORT checklist are covered. A copy of the CONSORT checklist must be uploaded as supplemental material. Please refer to the CONSORT statement website at [http://www.consort-statement.org](http://www.consort-statement.org) for more information.

**Systematic Reviews**

Systematic reviews must be reported in accordance PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) Guidelines ([http://www.prisma-statement.org/](http://www.prisma-statement.org/)) and must include the flow diagram as a figure and the checklist as supplemental material ([http://www.prisma-statement.org/2.1.2%20-%20PRISMA%202009%20Checklist.pdf](http://www.prisma-statement.org/2.1.2%20-%20PRISMA%202009%20Checklist.pdf)).

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Cohort, Case-control and Cross-sectional studies must all be compliant with the STROBE criteria ([Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology](http://www.strobe-statement.org)). Please see [http://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=available-checklists](http://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=available-checklists) - each study type has its own checklist which must be uploaded as a supplemental file.

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  3. 3-part question
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In addition, a table summarising the Best Bets evidence should be added as an appendix containing six columns. I.e.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, Country and Date</th>
<th>Patient Group</th>
<th>Study Type and Level of Evidence</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Key Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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Acknowledgements

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