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TIPS FOR THESIS WRITING AND PREPARING RESEARCH PAPERS

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Main body of the report

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For an updated version, see
Basic Methods of Medical Research, Fourth Edition
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Framing KEY MESSAGES

Information explosion has forced developments of new methods to keep abreast about new developments without devoting too much of time. Many journals now provide key messages in a box to summarise the salient features of the study in a few bulleted points. This certainly looks like a welcome development, and seems very friendly not only to the readers but also to the reviewers and editors of journals who need to evaluate each paper for its technical worth and space in the journal. If you were clear about what you did and what was the main result, it would not be difficult to write key messages of your report.

Key message box would generally contain one bulleted sentence on each of (i) what is already known, (ii) what the research adds, (iii) what methodology was adopted, and (iv) what are the limitations. Each message should be complete in itself. The box containing key messages

is not necessarily placed at the end in a printed paper. But it is customary at the time of writing to place it at the end of the manuscript. Considering importance and utility of these messages, it would not be surprising if over time they receive precedence even over abstract.

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