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TIPS FOR THESIS WRITING AND PREPARING RESEARCH PAPERS

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For an updated version, see
Basic Methods of Medical Research, Fourth Edition
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AITBS Publishers, Delhi
(Phones: 011-22009084) (available also at amazon.com)
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MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

It is customary to prepare a medical research report in IMRaD format. This is a suitable format for publication in a scientific journal, and quite often used for postgraduate thesis also. For details, click the required link given above. These provide tips for writing other forms of report also.

Box 1: Guidelines for contents of a manuscript of a paper

Title - Concise (generally not exceeding 15 words) yet informative.

Authors - Only those who have *substantially* contributed and are prepared to take up public responsibility of the contents.

Keywords - About 5-6 for indexing purposes that could retrieve the paper from a database.

Abstract - Generally structured into Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion; lucid, stand alone, and containing all salient features of the study in not exceeding 300 words (consult the journals instructions).

Introduction - Rationale of the study and what new is expected to be achieved: research questions, objectives and hypothesis.

Methods - Why the study was done in that particular manner including the impact on validity and reliability of results.

Results - Select data that focus on the stated objectives; make judicious use of tables and illustrations for precision and impact respectively without duplication.

and

Discussion - Implication of the results in the light of existing knowledge and resolution of conflict if any; conclusion based on evidence alongwith the limitations; keep opinions and comments separate from evidence-based results.

Acknowledgments - Thank those who contributed but not enough to qualify as author.

Key messages - Two or three messages in a box that highlight the achievements of the study.

References - Preferably in Vancouver format, and restrict the list to the minimum needed to substantiate the statements made in the text.

Appendix - Highly technical or specialised text not of much interest to the general reader.