

Guide for Appraisal of Original Articles

Aspects to consider

Title	Does it effectively reflect the study conducted? Is it short and clear? Is it free of acronyms and abbreviations?
Abstract and Keywords	Is it structured in Introduction (including objective(s)), Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion?
	Does it accurately describe the methodology and include the main results, inferences, and conclusions?
	Do the English and Portuguese abstracts have similar content?
	Do keywords reflect the content of the article?
Introduction	Does the "Introduction" describe the state of the art and outlines the relevance of the study?
	Is the study "Objective" or "Hypothesis" clearly stated?
Material and Methods	Is the target population clearly defined?
	Is the selection of the study sample adequately described, with inclusion/exclusion criteria clearly stated?
	Is the terminology of the sampling methods appropriate?
	Are the (dependent and independent) variables analyzed clearly described? Are the selected variables the most appropriate for characterizing the study problem?
	Is the statistical analysis appropriate to the study design and to answer the predefined objective(s) or hypothesis(es)?

Results, tables, and figures	Are study results presented in an organized and logical sequence throughout the text? The use of (sub) titles is desirable.
	Are results in tables repeated in the text? Results in the text should only emphasize or summarize relevant findings and not unnecessarily duplicate the content of tables and figures.
	Are the statistical analyses and tests listed in the Methods section actually presented in the Results section? (i.e., is there agreement between the statistical methods described in the Methods section and the results presented in the Results section?)
	Are all tables and figures self-explanatory?
	Do all tables and figures have a clear legend appropriate to their content?
Discussion	Are the main results effectively discussed based on the reference literature and/or compared with other studies?
	In quantitative studies, are inferences properly substantiated and supported by appropriate statistical analyses?
	Are the study's methodological and practical limitations discussed?
	Are "Conclusions" clear and supported by results?
References	Are references well organized and cited according to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (http://www.icmje.org)?
	Are references up-to-date and of appropriate quality? (Consider the adequacy of sources and their concordance with the information in the text)
Global requirements	Does the article follow the structure indicated in the Guide for Authors? (Consider the existence of clearly identifiable sections, presented in an appropriate and logical order: Title, Abstract, Text, Acknowledgements, References, Tables and Figures).
	Is the terminology used accurate and technically correct?
	Is the language clear and does it capture the reader's interest?
	Do you identify plagiarism, fraud, or duplicate publication?