Instructions to Authors

**Research Papers** should ordinarily report work not previously published or being considered for publication elsewhere. An exception may be made for important work which has earlier been published only for a small audience, e.g. in a language which is not widely accessible.

The **Length** of articles can vary very much depending on the topic. Very short reports on specific findings will be gladly considered.

**Style.** Clarity of expression and presentation, good syntax and the avoidance of technical jargon will be appreciated by readers and will play an important role in the acceptance of papers. The title should be clear and informative. It is generally better to avoid abbreviations; if a particular term occurs frequently in the text, it can be abbreviated, but in that case the full term should be given in parentheses the first time the abbreviation is used.

The **Title Page** should include author’s names and addresses, academic addresses, address for correspondence and grant support. Authorship should be assumed only by those workers who have contributed materially to the paper and to the underlying work; others who have assisted or collaborated in some way should be recognized at the end of the paper under the heading “Acknowledgement”.

The **Structure** of a paper should be clear from the section headings. A research paper will as a rule logically proceed through an Introduction, presentation of Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion. In such a paper the discussion of the background and review of the literature should not be disproportionate to the actual presentation of the study. Research papers should include a clear summary, and all papers should be accompanied by a proposed list of key words for indexing purposes.

**References** should be numbered consecutively (with parentheses) as they appear in the text. Type the reference list with double spacing on a separate sheet. References should accord with the system used in *Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals* (N Engl J Med 1991;324:425–428). Examples:


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