# **Scientific Writing**

How to write an effective manuscript

-Title-

-Abstract-

- -Keywords-
- -Affiliation-
- -Citations-
- -Introduction-

**Presented by: Vahid Mansouri MD** 

# Why should we write articles? How about you?

- Helping people
- Expanding knowledge
- Approving yourself
- Becoming famous
- Earn money

#### **Business or science?**

**Citation - H index - G index - Impact Factor – Reputation - Acceptance** 

# Is it better to have articles published in high impact journals? Why?

## **Highest cited scientists of Iran**

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https://isid.research.ac.ir/ (Assessed on 9 September, 2021)

### **Nobel Prize Winners**

Noble Prize Winner's Name	Year	Research field	Web of Science	Scopus	Google Scholar
Serge Haroche	2012	Physics	21	34	35
David J. Wineland	2012	Physics	20	47	23
Saul Perlmutter	2011	Physics	35	38	32
Brian P. Schmidt	2011	Physics	21	46	62
Robert J. Lefkowitz	2012	Chemistry	31	106	167
Brian K. Kobilka	2012	Chemistry	24	63	70
Dan Shechtman	2011	Chemistry	11	5	13
Akira Suzuki	2010	Chemistry	85	56	79
Alvin E. Roth	2012	Economic Sciences	4	28	68
Thomas J. Sargent	2011	Economic Sciences	11	21	77
Christopher A. Sims	2011	Economic Sciences	13	13	64
Peter A. Diamond	2010	Economic Sciences	6	14	61

Ale Ebrahim, Nader & Farhadi, Hadi & Salehi, Hadi & Yunus, Melor & aghaei chadegani, Arezoo & Farhadi, Maryam & Fooladi, Masood. (2013). Does it Matter Which Citation Tool is Used to Compare the H-Index of a Group of Highly Cited Researchers?.

# Journal with highest bibliographic indexes

No.	Title 🗢	Subject Category	Publisher/ Holder	IF 👻	IF Quartile	CiteScore	CiteScore Quartile ≑	H-Index	Indexed in	Details
1	CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians ISSN/ISBN: 0007-9235, 1542-4863	1% Hematology Oncology	Wiley, ProQuest	508.702	Q1	463.20	Q1	168	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	J
2	Nature Reviews. Molecular Cell Biology ISSN/ISBN: 1471-0072, 1471-0080	Biology1%Cell Biology	Nature, ProQuest	94.444	Q1	99.70	Q1	431	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	Ľ
3	New England Journal of Medicine ISSN/ISBN: 0028-4793, 1533-4406	1% General Medicine	ProQuest	91.245	Q1	80.59	Q1	1,030	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	Ľ
4	Nature Reviews. Drug Discovery ISSN/ISBN: 1474-1776, 1474-1784	1% General Medicine Pharmacology	Nature, ProQuest	84.694	Q1	48.80	Q1	328	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	L.
5	The Lancet ISSN/ISBN: 0140-6736, 1474-547X	1% General Medicine	ClinicalKey, Elsevier, ProQuest	79.321	Q1	91.50	Q1	762	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	Ľ
6	Nature Reviews. Clinical Oncology ISSN/ISBN: 1759-4774, 1759-4782	5% Oncology	Nature, ProQuest	66.675	Q1	51.60	Q1	155	ISI, Scopus, PubMed, Embase	L
7	Nature Reviews Materials ISSN/ISBN: 2058-8437	1%	Nature	66.308	Q1	115.70	Q1	108	ISI, Scopus	J

#### https://rsf.research.ac.ir/ (Assessed on 9 September, 2021)

### Definitions

#### Impact Factor: (2-year or 5-year)

The **impact factor** (**IF**) or **journal impact factor** (**JIF**) of an academic journal is a scientometric index calculated by Clarivate that reflects the yearly mean number of <u>citations</u> of articles published in the last two years in a given journal, as indexed by Clarivate's Web of Science. As a journallevel metric, it is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field; journals with higher impact factor values are given status of being more important, or carry more prestige in their respective fields, than those with lower values.

 $\text{IF}_{y} = \frac{\text{Citations}_{y}}{\text{Publications}_{y-1} + \text{Publications}_{y-2}}$ 

For example, Nature had an impact factor of 41.577 in 2017:<sup>[8]</sup>

$$IF_{2017} = \frac{Citations_{2017}}{Publications_{2016} + Publications_{2015}} = \frac{74090}{880 + 902} = 41.577$$

#### **Definitions** Cite score

CiteScore (CS) of an <u>academic journal</u> is a measure reflecting the yearly average number of <u>citations</u> to recent articles published in that journal. This journal evaluation metric was launched in December 2016 by <u>Elsevier</u> as an alternative to the generally used JCR impact factors (calculated by <u>Clarivate</u>). CiteScore is based on the citations recorded in the <u>Scopus</u> database rather than in JCR, and those citations are collected for articles published in the preceding four years instead of two or five.

# $ext{CS}_y = rac{ ext{Citations}_y + ext{Citations}_{y-1} + ext{Citations}_{y-2} + ext{Citations}_{y-3}}{ ext{Publications}_y + ext{Publications}_{y-1} + ext{Publications}_{y-2} + ext{Publications}_{y-3}}$

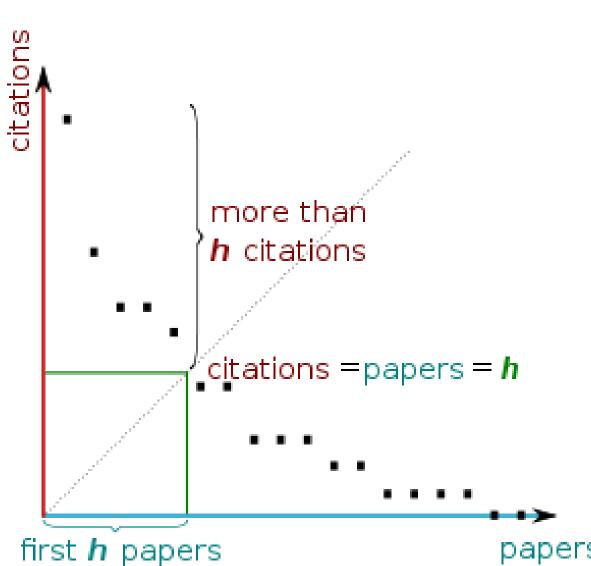
For example, Nature had a CiteScore 2019<sup>[2]</sup> of 51.0

$$\mathrm{CS}_{2019} = \frac{\mathrm{Citations}_{2019} + \mathrm{Citations}_{2018} + \mathrm{Citations}_{2017} + \mathrm{Citations}_{2016}}{\mathrm{Publications}_{2019} + \mathrm{Publications}_{2018} + \mathrm{Publications}_{2017} + \mathrm{Publications}_{2016}} = \frac{243894}{4786} = 51.0$$

### Definitions

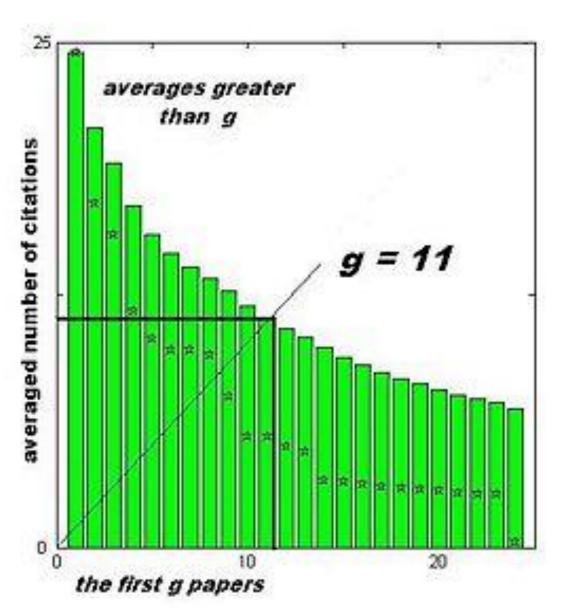
#### H index

The *h*-index is an author-level metric that measures both the productivity and citation impact of the publications, initially used for an individual scientist or scholar. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications.



#### **Definitions** *g*-index

The g-index is an author-level metric suggested in 2006 by Leo Egghe.<sup>[1]</sup> The index is calculated based on the distribution of <u>citations</u> received by a given researcher's publications, such that given a set of articles <u>ranked</u> in decreasing order of the number of citations that they received, the *g*-index is the unique largest number such that the top *g* articles received together at least  $g^2$  citations. Hence, a gindex of 10 indicates that the top 10 publications of an author have been cited at least 100 times ( $10^2$ ), a g-index of 20 indicates that the top 20 publications of an author have been cited 400 times  $(20^2)$ .



### Definitions

#### Eigenfactor score

The Eigenfactor score, developed by Jevin West and <u>Carl</u> Bergstrom at the University of Washington, is a rating of the total importance of a <u>scientific journal.[1]</u> Journals are rated according to the number of incoming citations, with citations from highly ranked journals weighted to make a larger contribution to the eigenfactor than those from poorly ranked journals. As a measure of importance, the Eigenfactor score scales with the total impact of a journal. All else equal, journals generating higher impact to the field have larger Eigenfactor scores.

#### Where to check for journal impact factor/ cite score/ ....?

- Rsf.research
- SJR database
- Bioxbio
- Scopus
- Journal website:

#### **CA:** A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

Editor-in-Chief: William G. Cance, MD Editor: Ted Gansler, MD, MBA, MPH Impact factor: 508.702 2020 Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics): 1/242 (Oncology) Online ISSN: 1542-4863 © American Cancer Society



ScienceDirect

Journals & Books



508.702!!

Register

502\*\*



WHEN

Sign in Finde

9.3 Cite

LATEST ISSUE >

Volume 71, Issue 5

September/October 2021





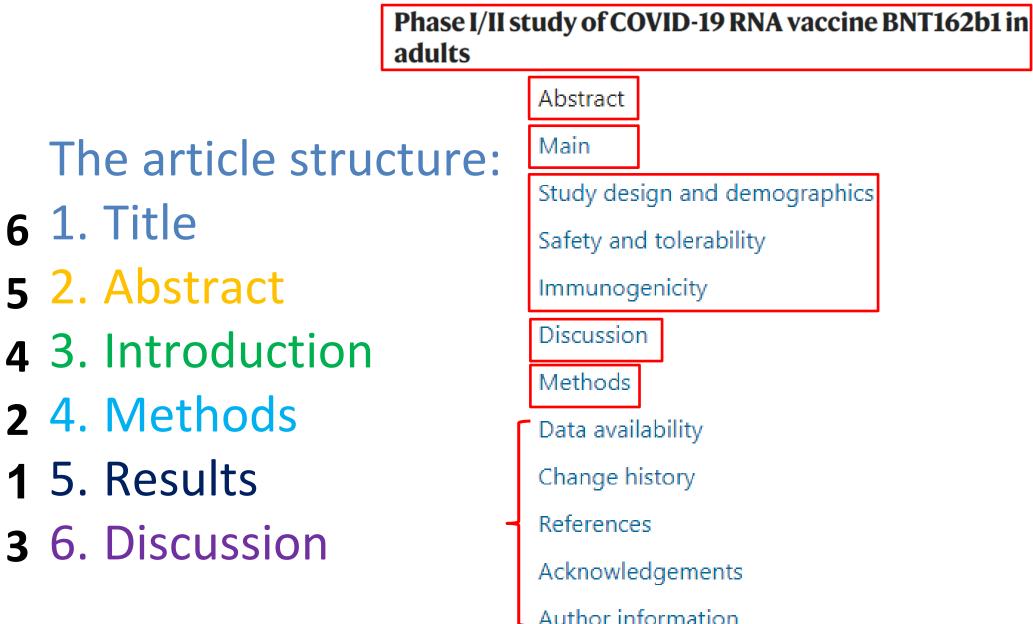
#### Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy

Open access

;	6.529
Score	Impact Facto

### **Overview**

Article | Published: 12 August 2020



#### The title, abstract, and keywords: Why it is important to get them right

The title, abstract, and keywords play a pivotal role in the communication of research. Without them, most papers may never be read or even found by interested readers<sup>1-4</sup>. Here's why:

- 1. Most electronic search engines, databases, or journal websites will use the words found in your title and abstract, and your list of keywords to decide whether and when to display your paper to interested readers.<sup>1,2,5-8</sup>Thus, these 3 elements enable the dissemination of your research; without them, readers would not be able to find or cite your paper.
- 2. The title and abstract are often the only parts of a paper that are freely available online.<sup>1,9</sup> Hence, once readers find your paper, they will read through the title and abstract to determine whether or not to purchase a full copy of your paper/continue reading.<sup>2-4</sup>
- 3. Finally, the abstract is the first section of your paper that journal editors and reviewers read. While busy journal editors may use the abstract to decide whether to send a paper for peer review or reject it outright, reviewers will form their first impression about your paper on reading it.<sup>10</sup>

Given the critical role that these 3 elements play in helping readers access your research, we offer a set of guidelines (compiled from instructions and resources on journals' websites and academic writing guidelines, listed in the references) on writing effective titles and abstracts and choosing the right keywords.

## Title

#### Article | Published: 12 August 2020

# Phase I/II study of COVID-19 RNA vaccine BNT162b1 in adults

Mark J. Mulligan, Kirsten E. Lyke, Nicholas Kitchin, Judith Absalon ⊠, Alejandra Gurtman, Stephen Lockhart, Kathleen Neuzil, Vanessa Raabe, Ruth Bailey, Kena A. Swanson, Ping Li, Kenneth Koury, Warren Kalina, David Cooper, Camila Fontes-Garfias, Pei-Yong Shi, Özlem Türeci, Kristin R. Tompkins, Edward E. Walsh, Robert Frenck, Ann R. Falsey, Philip R. Dormitzer, William C. Gruber, Uğur Şahin & Kathrin U. Jansen

Nature 586, 589–593 (2020) Cite this article

328k Accesses | 349 Citations | 3451 Altmetric | Metrics

Mulligan, M.J., Lyke, K.E., Kitchin, N. *et al.* Phase I/II study of COVID-19 RNA vaccine BNT162b1 in adults. *Nature* **586**, 589–593 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2639-4

# Writing the Title

Journal websites and search engines will use the words in your title to categorize and display your article to interested readers, while readers will use your title as the first step to determining whether or not to read your article. This is why a good title (typically 10–12 words long) will use descriptive terms and phrases that accurately highlight the core content of the paper (e.g., the species studied, the literary work evaluated, or the technology discussed).

### **Article Title**

- It is the first thing a reader will see
- Studies have shown that shorter titles receive more citations; most recommend
   10 to 15 words
- Commas and colons have been shown to increase citations
- Articles with question marks or exclamation points are cited less frequently
- make sure that your title accurately reflects the key concepts of your article
- Avoid abbreviations or jargon
- Title should be formal
- check and double check that the title is grammatical and everything is spelled and punctuated correctly

# Elements of a good title for a scholarly publication

Element	Good title	Poor title	
Length	10 to 15 words or 31 to 40 characters	Longer than 15 words	
Punctuation	Commas, colons, or semicolons	Question marks and exclamation points	
Keyword use	Yes	Νο	
Abbreviations	Νο	Yes	
Jargon	Νο	Yes	
Humor	Νο	Yes	
Geographic location	No	Yes	
Correct grammar and spelling	Yes	Νο	
Follows journal guidelines	Yes	Νο	
Clearly states the point of the article	Yes	Νο	

The best way to structure your title is to look at your hypothesis and experimental variables

Structure: The Effects of [Independent Variable] on [Dependent Variable] Example: Effect of cystatin C on NK and bactericidal activity

#### Titles can be of two types:

- Descriptive (e.g., The effect of AB antibody on CD virus) stating the main focus of the study
- Conclusive (e.g., AB antibody inhibits CD virus) stating the main conclusion of the study.

In some cases, a journal's Instructions to Authors will specify which style of title to use (e.g., descriptive or conclusive).

### Don't ...!!

- 1. Avoid using dashes or periods
- 2. Avoid using abbreviations
- 3. Commercial names
- 4. Omit nonspecific openings such as "Studies of..."
- 5. Omit ambiguous terms such as "with." This can be replaced with specific terms such as "induced by" or "-mediated"
- e.g., Pulmonary changes in rats with bleomycin

can be revised to

*"Pulmonary changes induced by bleomycin" or "Bleomycin-mediated pulmonary changes in rats"* 

6. Avoid making the titles unnecessarily lengthy. Keep it concise. For example

"Report on a case of specific developmental delay in an autistic child" can be written as

"Specific Developmental Delay in Autism: A case report"

## Writing the title

Here are some steps (with examples) you can follow to write an effective title:

- 1. Answer the questions: What is my paper about? What techniques/ designs were used? Who/what is studied? What were the results?
  - My paper studies whether X therapy improves the cognitive function of patients suffering from dementia.
  - It was a randomized trial.
  - I studied 40 cases from six cities in Japan.
  - There was an improvement in the cognitive function of patients.
- 2. Use your answers to list key words.
  - X therapy
  - Randomized trial
  - Dementia
  - 6 Japanese cities
  - 40 cases
  - Improved cognitive function

### Writing the title

- *3. Build a sentence with these key words.* 
  - This study is a randomized trial that investigates whether X therapy improved cognitive function in 40 dementia patients from 6 cities in Japan; it reports improved cognitive function. (28 words)
- 4. Delete all waste words (e.g., study of, investigates) and repetitive words; link the remaining.
  This study is a randomized trial that investigates whether X therapy improved cognitive function in 40 dementia patients from 6 cities in Japan; it reports improved cognitive function Randomized trial of X therapy for improving cognitive function in 40 dementia patients from 6 cities in Japan; from 6 cities in Japan (18 words)

### Writing the title

5. Delete non-essential information and reword.

Randomized trial of X therapy for improving cognitive function in 40 dementia patients from 6 cities in Japan reports improved cognitive function Randomized trial of X therapy for improving cognitive function in 40 dementia patients (13 words) OR (reworded with subtitle and a focus on the results) X therapy improves cognitive function in 40 dementia patients: A randomized trial (12 words)

#### Now write the title for these studies of:

- First phase of clinical trial regarding the use of Adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector for treatment of retinitis pigmentosa
- Study of the adverse events after vaccination with Barekat Covid-19 vaccine
- A review article on the best available vaccines for pregnant women
- A retrospective cohort study about the prophylactic effect of convalescent plasma therapy on health care workers
- A multicenter cohort study on the inequality of anti-depression drug prescription across different districts of Iran
- A unique case of cancer unknown origin with abrupt presentation of cerebrovascular accident
- Using inflammatory blood indices for predicting appendicitis through validation of a novel scoring system

# Keywords

- To facilitate online article searches
- Instructions for authors
- 4-8 keywords
- MeSH terms
- Google Scholar / Google Trends
- Title
- Target audience

#### Examples

1. Vitamin D Controls Tumor Growth and CD8+ T Cell Infiltration in Breast Cancer Immunonutrition, Vitamin D, breast cancer, CD8+ T cells, inflammation

2. Acute aerobic exercise effects on cognitive function in breast cancer survivors: a randomized crossover trial Breast cancer, Acute exercise, Cognitive function, Survivorship

3. The effect of vitamin D administration on serum leptin and adiponectin levels in end-stage renal disease patients on hemodialysis with vitamin D deficiency: A placebo-controlled double-blind clinical trial Adiponectin, chronic kidney disease (CKD), end-stage renal disease (ESRD), leptin, vitamin D deficiency

#### **Choosing your keywords**

Journals, search engines, and indexing and abstracting services classify papers using keywords. Thus, an accurate list of keywords will ensure correct indexing and help showcase your research to interested groups. This in turn will increase the chances of your paper being cited.

### **Choosing your keywords**

- 1. Read through your paper and list down the terms/phrases that are used repeatedly in the text.
- 2. Ensure that this list includes all your main key terms/phrases and a few additional key phrases.
- 3. Include variants of a term/phrase (e.g., kidney and renal), drug names, procedures, etc. (Google trends)
- 4. Include common abbreviations of terms (e.g., HIV).
- 5. Now, refer to a common vocabulary/term list or indexing standard in your discipline (e.g., GeoRef, ERIC Thesaurus, PsycInfo, ChemWeb, BIOSIS Search Guide, MeSH Thesaurus) and ensure that the terms you have used match those used in these resources.
- 6. Finally, before you submit your article, type your keywords into a search engine and check if the results that show up match the subject of your paper. This will help you determine whether your keywords are appropriate for the topic of your paper.

# Authorship Criteria Who Is an Author?

- The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:
- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html

#### Affiliations

- Ensure that the units within each affiliation are in hierarchical order from smallest to largest.
- If authors have multiple affiliations, all affiliations must be entered (as separate entries). This includes multiple departments within the same university/institution/.
- Do not use short forms or acronyms. Do not abbreviate "Dep." or "Dept.". An affiliation like "Nursing" should be changed into "Department of Nursing", and acronyms like "UHN" should be expanded to "University Health Network".

#### Affiliations

• Affiliations are usually in title case (which means that all words except minor words like "of" or "on" are capitalized. Do not enter information in ALL CAPS or all lower case.

"Department of Nursing" = correct

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#### Path Analysis on Determinants of Childhood Obesity and Associated Risk Factors of Cardiovascular, Renal, and Hepatic Diseases: The CASPIAN-V Study

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#### Now

# Write down your own Affiliation

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# **Introduction (Original article)**

- Introductions should be short and arresting and tell the reader why you undertook the study.
- After reading the introduction, your readers should be convinced that your research is the next logical scientific step, and be keen to read on.
- The best introductions fit on one page or even less.
  - Do not get stuck on the introduction; writing the introduction at last means that you are less likely to make it too long.
  - Limit the length of the introduction; 400-500 words is a good guide.
  - Do not overinflate the introduction at the expense of the discussion; in the discussion you'll have the opportunity to compare the findings of your study with others.

# Introduction (Cont.)

- Use the present tense for generalizations, and a past/present combination for specific findings that are now established fact. For example:
  - 1. Generalization: 'Repetitive strain injury (RSI) is [present tense] one of the commonest complications of writing a thesis.
  - 2. Specific finding: "The Postgraduate Writers' Trial has shown [past tense] that use of a wrist rest reduces [present tense] the risk of RSI.
- The introduction tells a story make sure it has a logical flow. Underline the logic with signaling words and phrases such as:
  - 1. 'Thus, it appears that ...';
  - 2. 'It was previously believed that ...';
  - 3. 'However, recent studies have shown ...'
- Do not be afraid to say what is new and important about the study; 'Placebocontrolled pilot studies have shown grottomycin to be effective in acute sinusitis, but so far no comparisons with other agents have been reported. We therefore conducted a multicentre, double-blind randomized trial to compare the efficacy of grottomycin with that of the standard treatment, scabicillin

#### **Introduction Structure**

First paragraph: -A very short summary of the current knowledge of your research area-Second Paragraph: -What other people have done--What limitations have been encountered--What questions still need to be answered-Last paragraph: -Should clearly state what you did and why- (with signaling

phrases...)

## Introduction last paragraph

#### Use "signaling" words and phrases to highlight the question;

- 1. 'However, it is not known whether ...'
- 2. 'To answer this question we ...'
- 3. 'To clarify the role of A in B, we ...'
- 4. 'To determine whether ...'
- 5. 'To compare the efficacy of X and Y in Z, we ...'
- Very briefly, state how you set out to answer the question; Mention the experimental method and the species, material or patient group as appropriate.
- The question and what was done to answer it can often be combined; 'To compare the efficacy of grottomycin with scabicillin in sinusitis, we conducted a multicentre, double-blind randomized trial in adults'.
- Always state the question in the present tense and what was done to answer it in the past tense; 'To determine whether X is effective in Y, we conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in ...'
- Clearly separate minor questions from the main question; 'We also investigated the effects of C on D'.

# **Title page**

#### **1. Article title**

- 2. Author names
- 3. Author affiliations

#### 4. Corresponding author information

(Optional depending on Journals Guidelines)

- 1. Headers Running title, First Author name
- 2. Footnotes Grant support, Conflict of Interest
- 3. Keywords
- 4. List of Abbreviations
- 5. Miscellaneous (Word count, article type)

#### **Example:**

**Full title**: Injection of Paraquat in the neck; A rare complicated case report

- Running title: Paraquat poisoning
- Manuscript type: case report
- Authors:
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Total word count (abstract only): 128 Total word count (text only): 918 the number of pages: 7 the number of tables: 0 the number of figures: 2 number of attachments: 0 **Conflicts of Interest** The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. Funding Statement None Acknowledgments We wish to thank

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# **Any questions?**

