Improving the quality of research papers and journals:

where can reporting guidelines help

Iveta Simera



CRICS Scientific Editors Meeting 21 October 2012, Washington, USA C S M

Iveta Simera

Head of Programme Development EQUATOR Network; Oxford

Experience:

Laboratory research, systematic reviews, research reporting and reporting guidelines Writing, reviewing, training

Not editor but working closely with editors for 7 years



My talk today:

- EQUATOR Network
- What are the main problems with published research literature
- What help is here for authors, editors and peer reviewers to improve reporting of research studies
- Examples from journals: policies on research reporting, I to A, evaluations, editorials
- Focus on health research but relevant to other areas as well

The EQUATOR Network is funded by:

National Institute for

Health Research



Freiburg 2012 Symposium

2012 Scientific Symposium Including 4th EQUATOR Annual Lecture

> ACT now: Accuracy, Completeness, and Transparency in health research reporting

> > 11 – 12 October 2012 Historical Merchants' Hall Freiburg, Germany



organised by the EQUATOR Network and the German Cochrane Centre in cooperation with kongress & kommunikation, Freiburg



- Outstanding speakers
 Scientists, clinicians, editors
- Main messages of the meeting:
 - Despite huge effort invested into research publication process by all parties there are still wide spread deficiencies in published papers
 - This seriously undermines the value and usability of health research literature

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- Main messages of the meeting (cont):
 - Different problems
 - Different reasons why these problems arise
 - Need different strategies, initiatives, and activities to improve this situation
 - Very positive atmosphere
 - Lot of enthusiasm
 - Many initiatives and ideas presented
 - All we need now is to

Why a whole symposium on research reporting?

Serious deficiencies identified in research literature:

- Non-reporting (or delayed reporting) of whole studies
 - Often studies with 'disappointing' results
- Incomplete reporting
 - Omission of crucial aspects of research methods (study participants, interventions, randomisation in trials, etc.)
 - Incomplete results: data cannot be included in meta-analysis
 - Inadequate reporting of harms
- Selective reporting
 - Patient outcomes
 - Analyses, e.g. subgroups, alternative analyses
- Misleading reporting
 - Misinterpretation of study findings "spin" (e.g. presenting study in more positive way; discrepancies between abstract and whole text, etc.)
 - Misrepresentation of study design (e.g. study claiming is an RCT when is not)
- Unacknowledged discrepancies between sources
 - e.g. publication conflicts with study protocol or information in the register



Research article – `fit for purpose'

- A published research article is a permanent digital record that will be used by users for many different purposes
- Some readers might be satisfied with scanning an article, or a brief summary
- Others will scrutinise the study in detail for possible inclusion in a systematic review or to influence a clinical practice guideline
 - Only an adequately reported research study can be fully appraised and used appropriately
- Published research articles should be fit for multiple purposes
 - New ways of publishing (e.g., with online supplements with methodological information) can help to meet these varying needs
 (Simera & Altman, EBM 2009;14:132-134)



Research article

• Research article is 'end product' of one process ...



• ...and 'raw material' of other processes





Research article



network

Journals' "Instructions to Authors"

- Editors can influence authors through their I to A
- I to A vary considerably among journals
- "Instructions [to authors] provide little guidance about methodological and statistical issues, and the advice provided is often contradictory among journals" [Schriger et al 2006]
- It is much better for journals to support consensus guidelines developed by groups of experts
 - consistent advice on reporting across journals



Journals' "Instructions to Authors"





Editor-in-Chief: Kazuyoshi Hirota ISSN: 0913-8668 (print version) ISSN: 1438-8359 (electronic version) Journal no. 540

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts (URM) Submitted to Biomedical Journals" at: http://www.icmje.org/

I to A not easy to find (two references to instructions) provided – one goes to very generic publishers' help) Not much guidance on how to report scientific content (no reference to any reporting guideline)



ICMJE guidelines

Most journals endorse these guidelines and ask authors to follow them



Animals in Research

They are a great resource for basic principles but are very general and journals need to provide more specific instructions in their journals where relevant

ICMJE guidelines (2)



Reporting Guidelines for Specific Study Designs

Research reports frequently omit important information. <u>Reporting guidelines</u> have been developed for a number of study designs that some journals may ask authors to follow. Authors should consult the Information for Authors of the journal they have chosen.

The general requirements listed in the next section relate to reporting essential elements for all study designs. Authors are encouraged also to consult reporting guidelines relevant to their specific research design. A good source of reporting guidelines is the EQUATOR Network (<u>http://www.equator-network.org/home/</u>).



Reporting guidelines (RG)

- Focus on scientific content of the article
- Provide structured advice on what to include in a research report
- Definition:
 - Specify a minimum set of items required for a clear and transparent account of what was done and what was found in a research study, reflecting in particular issues that might introduce bias into the research
 - Form: often as a checklist (flow diagram)



Reporting guidelines

• Available RG vary greatly in

- Scope
- Development methods
- Presentation of recommendations

• Scope – two major RG types

- Study design / methodology
- Specific discipline / clinical area



RG: Study design / methodology

• Generic framework for reporting key methodology aspects of:

- Main study designs (generic guidelines)
- More specialised designs
- Specific methods, evaluations, analyses
- No details relating to specific diseases
- Examples:
 - **CONSORT** (randomised controlled trials)
 - **STROBE** (observational studies in epidemiology)
 - **STARD** (diagnostic accuracy studies)
 - **PRISMA** (systematic reviews of RCTs)
 - COREQ (qualitative research)
- These are internationally accepted RG
 - Based on evidence
 - Consensus of relevant stakeholders (multidisciplinary group)
 - Endorsed by number of journals



RG: Specific discipline / clinical area

- Key focus is on discipline / clinical area specific issues
 Disease / Type of investigation / Procedure / Combination of the above
- May or may not address general methodology items
- Examples:
 - TREND (non-randomised studies of behavioural and public health interventions)
 - REMARK (tumour marker prognostic studies)
 - STARE-HI (evaluation studies in health informatics)
 - STRICTA (CONSORT extension for acupuncture trials)
 - Economic evaluations in obstetrics
 - Quality of life assessment in cancer trials



RG outside clinical research

- Biomedical (laboratory) research –*omics* disciplines
 MIBBI portal
- Veterinary sciences
- Animal research
 - ARRIVE guideline (animal laboratory research)
 - REFLECT statement (RCT in livestock)
- Forensic sciences
- Software engineering

... growing interest in reporting quality and RG development



Reporting guidelines

• Benefits of using RG:

- Improved accuracy and transparency of publications
- Easier appraisal of reports for research quality and relevance
- Better further use of presented findings
- Improved efficiency of literature searching
- Large number of RG exist but they are still not being widely known and used
 - Many reasons

..... To promote RG and support their implementation we set up the EQUATOR Network (launched in June 2008)



EQUATOR Network

- EQUATOR Network is an international initiative set up to improve reliability and value of medical research literature
- Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency of health Research





EQUATOR focus

- Highlighting problems resulting from inadequate reporting and promoting rigorous research reporting
 - Accurate, complete, transparent, timely
- Provision of resources
- Education and training
- Research, evaluation, development
- Collaboration, global expansion



All in one place!

Resource Centre

Library for health research reporting

Reporting Guidelines

Reporting guidelines under development

Reporting quidelines in other research fields

Guidance on scientific writing

Guidance developed by editorial groups

Research funders' guidance on reporting requirements

Industry sponsored research additional guidance

Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice quidelines

Development and maintenance of reporting quidelines

Editorials introducing RGs

Examples of auidelines for peer

Library for health research reporting

The EQUATOR Network library currently contains:

- An introduction to reporting guidelines
- Comprehensive lists of the available reporting guidelines, listed by study type:
 - Experimental studies
 - Observational studies
 - Diagnostic accuracy studies
 - Biospecimen reporting
 - Reliability and agreement studies
 - Systematic reviews
 - Qualitative research
 - Mixed methods studies
 - Economic evaluations
 - Quality improvement studies
 - Other reporting guidelines
 - <u>Reporting data</u>
 - Statistical methods and analyses
 - Sections of research reports
 - Specific conditions or procedures.
- Reporting guidelines under development
- Reporting guidelines in other research fields
- Guidance on scientific writing
- Guidance developed by editorial groups
- Research funders' guidance on reporting requirements
- Industry sponsored research additional **guidance**
- Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines
- Resources related to development and maintenance of reporting guidelines
- Editorials introducing reporting guidelines
- Guidelines for peer reviewers
- Case studies: How journals implement reporting guidelines
- Examples of good research reporting C 1 1 1 1 1



Quick links to reporting auidelines:

> CONSORT checklist and flow diagram

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Link

- CONSORT extensions
- TREND checklist
- STARD checklist & flow diagram
- STROBE checklists
- PRISMA checklist and flow diagram
- COREO checklist
- SQUIRE checklist
- **REMARK** checklist

Download:

 Catalogue of reporting quidelines (full list)

All collated resources are available in our Library

Some of the resources are grouped according to relevance to our main user

roups									
			Resource Centre	Resources for editors and peer reviewers					
		1	ibrary for health research	The following resources will help you to p quality research publications: Developing a journal's policies on re-	produce high				
			reporting	reporting					
		:	Authors of research reports	Guidance for peer reviewers Other resources		\mathbf{i}			
			Editors and peer	 Do you want to write an editorial ab 					
urce Centre	Reso	urces for	reporting gui	delines developers	8. Network's				
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itoring use of resources	develo the dev	Editors and p	• <u>Othe</u>	r resources		-			
5	Moher Resear	Percenting	• what effort	can I do to support the BQUATOR Network's					
	Collec	guidelines developers	Planning) and conducting your research					
		Promote	It is import are plannin	ant to be aware of reporting requirements and g and conducting your research study:	think about reporting when you				
Cons		responsible reporting	UK N for ci	 UK National Health System <u>Research Flowchart</u> (tool providing resources and points for consideration for all stages of the research process: from formulating a research 					
	encour	Monitoring u our resource	se of quest s UK M	tion to the reporting and dissemination of new RC <u>Route Map</u> (Medical Research Council guid	r findings) ance through the legal and good				
		Links	medi	ice requirements when designing conducting cine studies)	and disseminating experimental				
			Writing	up your research					
			A good scie the research	entific article combines clear writing style with h content:	i a high standard of reporting of				
			• Guida	ance on scientific writing					
			<u>Repo</u> each	rting guidelines (comprehensive lists of the av study type)	anable guidennes appropriate to				
			Exam corre	ples of good research reporting (specific exan ctly describe important aspects of your trial o	nples showing why and how to ir other types of research studies)				
					21				

EQUATOR website re-design



Enhancing the Quality and Transparancy Of Health Research

Visit the Equator Spanish website

Home Library Projects Courses & Events News Education Resources About Us Contact

The Resource Centre For Good Reporting Of Health Research Studies



Info for new users

The EGHATOR Network is on international initiative that seeks to increave relability and value of medical research flerature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research tructes.



for guideline developers

HELP PROMOTE

Equator Highlights

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Interesting podcasts



and the

Comments

Comments sought on Foori draft Methodology Report

Editorial implementation achieves results

Publication of Concordat to support research integrity

Equator Scientific Symposium 2012 21670912

New Equator newsletter



Latest guest blogger



User testing

New website pages, including the Library for Health Research Reporting and database of reporting guidelines

WELCOME your: Comments Suggestions Impressions

Resources for editors

Resources for editors and peer reviewers

The following resources will help you to produce high quality research publications:

- Developing a journal's policies on research
 reporting
- Guidance for peer reviewers
- Other resources
- · Do you want to write an editorial about EQUATOR?
- What can I do to support the EQUATOR Network's effort

Developing a journal's policies on research reporting

The following resources will be useful for developing or updating a journal's policies and instructions for research reporting:

- · Guidelines developed by influential editorial groups (WAME, ICMJE, COPE, etc.)
- · Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines
- Publishers' policies on publication ethics
- How to implement reporting guidelines in your journal: guidance from EQUATOR
- <u>Reporting guidelines</u>
- · Case studies: How journals implement reporting guidelines
- Editorials introducing reporting guidelines and new reporting policies into a journal
- Instructions to Authors (collected by the Mulford Library, University of Toledo; note that not all listed instructions provide good guidance on research reporting)

Guidance for peer reviewers

Reporting guidelines are useful tools for strengthening the peer review process. Here are a few examples of how to implement this in your journal:

- Examples of guidelines for peer reviewers
- Free online course for peer reviewers (developed by the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group CEVG@US Project and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)

Other resources

An Instructional Guide for Peer Reviewers of Biomedical Manuscripts http://www3.us.elsevierhealth.com/extractor/graphics/em-acep/index.html

International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication (link to materials from all congresses held so far)

Nature <u>Peer Review Debate</u> (22 articles of analyses and perspectives from leading scientists, publishers and other stakeholders)

Hames, I. (2007) Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals. Guidelines for Good Practice. Blackwell Publishing

Godlee, F. and Jefferson, T. (Eds) (2003). Peer Review in Health Sciences (second edition). BMJ Books, London

Other **books** relevant to research publication selected by Council of Science Editors: <u>http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3348#online</u>

Explore also EQUATOR Links section

Do you want to write an editorial about EQUATOR?

If you are considering writing an editorial about the EQUATOR Network resources and activities you might find useful some of the <u>EQUATOR publications</u>.



What can editors do to support good research reporting



Editors actions to consider (1)

- Incorporate an explicit philosophy of transparent, complete and accurate reporting and the use of reporting guidelines into your editorial policies
- Explore the available reporting guidelines; select well developed guidelines_appropriate for the reporting of research studies published in your journal
- Ask or clearly instruct authors to adhere to these guidelines and motivate their use (incentives)



Editors actions to consider (2)

- Ask or instruct peer reviewers to refer to the appropriate reporting guidelines when assessing manuscripts
- Refer to the EQUATOR Network website in your 'Instructions to Authors'
- Promote and maintain the knowledge of principles of good reporting and available resources in your editorial office (new editors, etc.); EQUATOR newsletter



Key RG to consider implementing first

- CONSORT (randomised trials) Sp / Port / Fr
- STROBE (observational studies) Sp / Port
- STARD (diagnostic accuracy studies)
- PRISMA (systematic reviews) Sp
- COREQ (qualitative research) Sp
- SQUIRE (quality improvement studies) Sp

- CONSORT endorsed by more than 600 journals
- Impact of CONSORT: journals' adoption associated with better reporting



How can EQUATOR help editors?



1. Sharing editors' experience with implementation of RG

- Examples from journals
 on the EQUATOR website
 - Jason Roberts, *Headache*: Reporting policies and the smaller journal

How journals implement reporting guidelines

Some editors have shared with us their experience of setting up policies and procedures aiming to improve transparency and accuracy of research reporting in their journal. The contributions below describe first hand personal experience and provide valuable practical information for other colleagues contemplating the same activity.

Clinical trial reporting and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (January 2010)

Professor Hywel Williams, Clinical Trials Editor of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, has shared with us how their journal implements the CONSORT Statement and compulsory trial registration and how it checks on compliance to CONSORT. <u>Full text (pdf)</u>

Reporting policies and the smaller journal (January 2010)

Dr Jason Roberts, Managing Editor of Headache, summarised the experience of changing submission and peer review processes in their journal in order to raise the quality of published articles. Headache is a smaller sub-specialty medical journal and this article might be of interest to all editors of similar types of journals.

Full text (pdf)

Appendices:

<u>Appendix 1</u>: Behavioral/Nonpharmacological Clinical Trials Checklist for Headache <u>Appendix 2</u>: Case Reports Checklist for Headache

Related articles (freely available):

Roberts J. An Author's Guide to Publication Ethics: A Review of Emerging Standards in Biomedical Journals. Headache Volume 49 Issue 4, Pages 578 – 589 <u>http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122277842/abstract</u>

Loder EW, Penzien DB Improving the Quality of Research Reporting: Headache Steps Up to the Plate. Headache Volume 49 Issue 3, Pages 335 – 340 http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121677189/abstract

Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology: Introducing new policies on research reporting into guidelines for authors and peer reviewers (April 2009) Dr Chris Morris, Associate Editor of the Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology Full text (odd)



2. Setting up policies on research reporting – steps to consider

Guidelines for reporting health research: How to promote their use in your journal

Written by the EQUATOR Network Group; December 2011

Key points:

Reporting guidelines help to improve the accuracy, transparency and completeness of health research publications and increase the value of published research

EQUATOR provides free online resources in English at <u>www.equator-network.org</u> and in Spanish at <u>www.espanol.equator-network.org</u> including a comprehensive collection of reporting guidelines for health research studies

EQUATOR recommends that editors: explore the available reporting guidelines; select well developed guidelines appropriate for the reporting of research studies published by their journal; ask authors to adhere to these guidelines and ask peer reviewers to use them when assessing manuscripts

In this document you will find information on:

- How your journal can support better reporting of health research
 - How to introduce reporting guidelines into your journal
 - How to select reporting guidelines for your journal
 - How and where to use reporting guidelines in a journal
- How to refer to the EQUATOR Network and reporting guidelines in your Instructions to Authors and Instructions for Peer Reviewers
- How to describe the EQUATOR Network; text that might be inserted into your Instructions to Authors; examples of how some journals encourage the use of reporting guidelines and refer to EQUATOR

Examples of how some journals encourage the use of reporting guidelines and refer to EQUATOR

Editorials:

Kuhn JE. Levels of evidence and standardizing the reporting of research. J Shoulder Elbow Surg. 2010 Mar;19(2):165. PMID: <u>20185071</u>

Loder EW, Penzien DB. (2009), Improving the Quality of Research Reporting: *Headache* Steps Up to the Plate. Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain, 49: 335–340. doi: 10.1111/j.1526-4610.2009.01356.x Not listed on Pubmed.

This paper is freely available from Wiley at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1526-4610.2009.01356.x/abstract

Mäkelä M, Kaila M, Stein K. Mind sharpeners for scientists: the EQUATOR Network. Int J Technol Assess Health Care. 2011 Apr;27(2):99-100. PMID: 21429289

Tate RL, Douglas J. Use of reporting guidelines in scientific writing: PRISMA, CONSORT, STROBE, STARD and other resources. Brain Impairment. 2011 May;12(1):1-21.

This paper is not listed on Pubmed and is not freely available from the publisher. The abstract can be accessed at: http://www.atypon-link.com/AAP/doi/abs/10.1375/brim.12.1.1

Instructions to Authors:

BioMed Central journals publishing health research

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/ifora/ (accessed 16 September 2011)

"BMC Medicine also supports initiatives aimed at improving the reporting of biomedical research. Checklists have been developed for a number of study designs, including randomized controlled trials (<u>CONSORT</u>), systematic reviews (<u>PRISMA</u>), meta-analyses of observational studies (<u>MOOSE</u>), diagnostic accuracy studies (<u>STARD</u>) and qualitative studies (<u>RATS</u>). We recommend authors refer to the <u>EQUATOR</u> network website for further information on the available reporting guidelines for health research, and the <u>MIBB</u> Portal for prescriptive checklists for reporting biological and biomedical research where applicable. Authors are requested to make use of these when drafting their manuscript and peer reviewers will also be asked to refer to these checklists when evaluating these studies. For authors of systematic reviews, a supplementary file, linked from the Methods section, should reproduce all details concerning the search strategy. For an example of how a search strategy should be presented, see the <u>Cochrane</u> <u>Reviewers' Handbook</u>."

BMJ

http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/article-submission/article-requirements (accessed 16 September 2011)

"Article requirements

Please ensure that anything you submit to the BMD conforms to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, drawn up by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICM)E). The ICMUE requirements are long and comprehensive, and the BMD also has specific requirements for different types of articles and particularly detailed ones for research articles: we urge you to look carefully at all of these.



3. Collaboration with PAHO

EQUATOR Spanish website

- launched July 2010

We are looking for collaborators to establish local centres of activities supporting better reporting of research studies

Collaborators to help us further develop online resources in Spanish





Bienvenido al sitio web de EQUATOR Network, el centro de recursos para la presentación correcta de informes sobre estudios de investigación sanitaria



Novedades Más

Revisando las recomendaciones STROBE El grupo STROBE se reunió en Berna para discutir la revisión de las recomendaciones para el reporte de estudios observacionales.

Lea la historia completa

NHS

National Institute for

Health Research

Es muy frecuente que los datos de una investigación válida se desvirtúen por la baja calidad de los informes.

EOUATOR Network es una iniciativa internacional cuyo objetivo es mejorar la confiabilidad y el valor de la bibliografía de investigación médica por medio de la promoción de prácticas claras y precisas para la presentación de informes sobre estudios de investigación.

Puntos principales

Promueva la correcta presentación de informes Imprimir pantalla y folletos EQUATOR

Boletín informativo de EQUATOR (en Inglés) Nuevas directrices para la presentación de informes, eventos y otras noticias. Suscríbase ahora.

EQUATOR Network es patrocinada por:









Este página es una traducción al

Organización Panamericana

Oficina Regional de la Organización Mundial de la Salud

de la Salud







Examples of resources in Spanish

🥥 eq	uator	Enhancing t	Bu De OLIAlity and J	iscar:	Ir health Research
	network	Mejoramos la	calidad y la clar	idad de la investi	igación sanitaria
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Centro de recursos	Biblioteca para investigación s	a la prese sanitaria	ntación de	informes	de
	Actualmente, la bibliote	ca de EQUATOR	Network contien	e:	1000
Biblioteca, presentación informes canitarios	 Introducción a las de informes 	directrices par	a la presentación	ACA	110
Directrices para la presentación de informes	 Listas completas de las directrices disponibles para la presentación de informes, enumeradas por tipo de estudio: 				
Directrices:	 Estudios ex 	perimentales		-	
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Examples of resources in Spanish

Experimentales	 Investigació 	n básica en homeopa	<u>tía</u>
Estudios Dbservacionales Estudios de precisión	Directriz de presentación de informes para:	Nombre del sitio web de la directriz (si está disponible)	Referencias y número de PMID
diagnóstica Estudios sobre confiabilidad y acuerdo Revisiones de sistemáticas y netanálisis nvestigación cualitativa Estudios de nétodos mixtos Evaluaciones económicas Estudios de nejora de la calidad Otras directrices, presentación de latos Presentación de latos Métodos y análisis estadísticos Secciones de	Ensayos control ados aleatori zados	Declaración CONSORT	Schulz KF, Altman DG, Moher D, for the CONSORT Group. CONSORT 2010 Statement: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials. Ann Int Med 2010;152 (11):726–32. PMID: 20335313 BMC Medicine 2010, 8:18. PMID: 20334633 BMJ 2010;340:c332. PMID: 20332509 J Clin Epi 2010; 63(8): 834–40 PMID: 20346629 Lancet 2010; 375(9721):1136 supplementary webappendix Obstet Gynecol 2010;115(5):1063–70. PMID: 20410783 Open Med 2010;4(1):60–68. PLoS Med 2010;7(3): e1000251. PMID: 20352064 Trials 2010, 11:32. PMID: 20334632 Moher D, Hopewell S, Schulz KF, Montori V, Gøtzsche PC, Devereaux PJ, Elbourne D, Egger M, Altman DG, for the CONSORT Group. CONSORT 2010 Explanation and Elaboration: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trial. BMJ 2010;340:c869. PMID: 20332511 J Clin Epi 2010; 63(8): e1–e37 PMID: 20346624 Traducción al <u>español</u> (Med Clin (Barc). 2011 Jan 14. doi:10.1016/j.medcli.2010.09.034) La Declaración CONSORT 2010 reemplaza a Ia directriz CONSORT 2001 (PMID: 11323066: PMID: 11304107)

Examples of resources in Spanish

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Examples

- Implementing reporting guidelines
- Editorials
- Other possible journal activities



Pan American Journal of Public Health



Pan American Journal of Public Health: Instructions to Authors

1.6 Guidelines and research protocols

The RPSP/PAJPH follows the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, which was developed and is maintained by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and it is listed among the journals that follow these requirements. These guidelines, also known as the "Vancouver Style," apply to the entire journal, including ethical considerations, such as authorship and contributorship, peer review, conflicts of interest, privacy and confidentiality, protection of human subjects and animals in research, as well as editorial and publishing issues such as advertising, overlapping publications, references, and registering clinical trials.

The RPSP/PAJPH strongly recommends that authors follow the best research protocols available. Research protocols are described in the EQUATOR Network Resource Centre. Also, a complete list of the major biomedical research reporting guidelines is maintained and published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. The most frequently used in the public health field are: CONSORT (for randomized controlled clinical trials), TREND (for nonrandomized evaluations of behavioral and public health interventions), STROBE (for observational studies in epidemiology), MOOSE (for metaanalyses of observational studies), QUOROM (for systematic reviews and meta-analyses of randomized trials), as well as the COCHRANE handbook (for systematic reviews of interventions).



Pan American Journal of Public Health: Submission software I to A

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Pan American Journal of Public Health: Resources to Authors and reviewers



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Editorials supporting RG

Good reporting practices and the CONSORT

Boas práticas de redação e o CONSORT

RODRIGO PESSOA CAVALCANTI LIRA¹, CARLOS EDUARDO LEITE ARIETA¹

Increasing attention has been paid to the importance of good reporting practices as they relate to the potential utility of a manuscrip⁽¹⁾.

Randomised controlled trials, when appropriately designed, conducted, and reported, represent the gold standard in evaluating healthcare interventions. However, randomised trials can yield biased results if they lack methodological rigor⁽²⁾. To assess a trial accurately, readers of a paper need complete, clear, and transparent information on its methodology and findings. Unfortunately, attempted assessments frequently fail because authors of many trial reports neglect to provide complete descriptions of that critical information^(3,4).

The CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) statement, originally published in 1996 and updated in 2001 and 2010, provides a 25 item checklist for a minimum set of recommendations for reporting the trial design, analysis, and result⁽⁵⁾. It was developed to assist authors in writing reports of randomised controlled trials, editors and peer reviewers in reviewing manuscripts for publication, and readers in critically appraising published articles. It provides guidance for reporting all randomised controlled trials, but focuses on the most common design type-individually randomised, two group, parallel trials, which accounts for over half of trials in the literature.

The evidence based approach that has been used for CONSORT also served as a model for development of other reporting guidelines, such as for reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies evaluating interventions [PRISMA]^[6], and observational studies [STROBE]⁽⁷⁾.

However, as a potential drawback, a reporting guideline might encourage some authors to report fictitiously the information suggested by the guidance rather than what was actually done. Readers, peer reviewers, and editors should vigilantly guard against that potential drawback and refer, for example, to trial protocols, to information on trial registers, and to regulatory agency websites.

Although the Arquivos Brasileiros de Óftalmologia has not yet officially adopted the CONSORT, we encourage its use as well as other protocols such as STROBE and PRISM. This attitude will contribute to the improvement of our global insertion.



Editorials supporting RG

Review Article

Rev Bras Fisioter, São Carlos, v. 15, n. 4, p. 267-71, July/Aug. 2011 "Revista Brasileira de Fisioterapia

Transparent reporting of studies relevant to physical therapy practice

Como escrever de forma transparente artigos científicos relevantes para a prática da Fisioterapia

Leonardo O. P. Costa^{1,2}, Chris G. Maher², Alexandre D. Lopes¹, Marcos A. de Noronha³, Lucíola C. M. Costa^{1,2}

Abstract

Background: There was a clear grow, in the last 2 decades, of up to 6 fold in scientific articles that are directly relevant to physical therapy practice. However, along with this fast grow; little attention has been given to transparency when reporting research methods and results. More recently, groups of researchers around the world have made successful attempts to address this issue by creating guidelines that will help researchers not only on the preparation of manuscripts but also on making sure that important details related to design and methodology are controlled and reported. Objective: To present four specific reporting guidelines, which are best known as "statements". Discussion: A network named EQUATOR (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research) was created with the main mission of providing basic principles for responsible and transparent reporting. The EQUATOR network encompasses, among others, the CONSORT statement which is related to randomized controlled trials; the PRISMA statement, which is related to systematic reviews and meta-analysis; the STROBE Statement, which is related to observational studies; and the STARD statement, which is related to reporting of accuracy of diagnostic tests. Some journals have recommended the use of these statements, while in others their use is mandatory. The goal of the use of these statements by journals is to guarantee fast decisions regarding publication and the best possible quality of reporting. Ultimately, it will help readers, including physical therapists, to make better decisions in clinical practice.

Keywords: physical therapy; bias; guideline; editorial policies.



Resumo

Contextualização: Nas últimas duas décadas, ocorreu um nítido crescimento, de até seis vezes, do número de artigos científicos que são diretamente relevantes para a prática da Fisioterapia. No entanto, junto com esse rápido crescimento, tem-se dado pouca atenção

Active implementation brings results

Effect of editors' implementation of CONSORT guidelines on the reporting of abstracts in high impact medical journals: interrupted time series analysis

OPEN ACCESS

Sally Hopewell *senior research fellow*¹², Philippe Ravaud *professor*²³⁴⁵, Gabriel Baron *statistician*²³⁴, Isabelle Boutron *associate professor*²³⁴⁵

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Abstract

Objective To investigate the effect of the CONSORT for Abstracts guidelines, and different editorial policies used by five leading general medical journals to implement the guidelines, on the reporting quality of abstracts of randomised trials.

Design Interrupted time series analysis.

Sample We randomly selected up to 60 primary reports of randomised trials per journal per year from five high impact, general medical journals in 2006-09, if indexed in PubMed with an electronic abstract. We excluded reports that did not include an electronic abstract, and any secondary trial publications or economic analyses. We classified journals in three categories: those not mentioning the guidelines in their instructions to authors (*JAMA* and *New England Journal of Medicine*), those referring to the guidelines in their instructions to authors but with no specific policy to implement them (*BMJ*), and those referring to the guidelines in their instructions to authors with an active policy to implement them (*Annals of Internal Medicine* and *Lancet*). Two authors extracted data independently using the CONSORT for Abstracts checklist.

Main outcome Mean number of CONSORT items reported in selected abstracts, among nine items reported in fewer than 50% of the abstracts published across the five journals in 2006.

Results We assessed 955 reports of abstracts of randomised trials. Journals with an active policy to enforce the guidelines showed an immediate increase in the level of mean number of items reported (increase of 1.50 items; P=0.0037). At 23 months after publication of the guidelines, the mean number of items reported per abstract for the primary outcome was 5.41 of nine items, a 53% increase compared with the expected level estimated on the basis of pre-intervention trends. The change in level or trend did not increase in journals with no policy to enforce the guidelines (*BMJ, JAMA*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*).

Conclusion Active implementation of the CONSORT for Abstracts guidelines by journals can lead to improvements in the reporting of abstracts of randomised trials.

Introduction

Clear, transparent, and sufficiently detailed abstracts of journal articles reporting randomised trials are important, because readers often base their initial assessments of a trial on the content of the abstract. In some cases, health practitioners will have access only to the abstract, and could, therefore, make healthcare decisions based solely on the information in that abstract.¹ As such, the journal abstract should be a clear and accurate reflection of what is included in the journal article. However, several studies have highlighted problems in the accuracy and quality of abstracts, including a lack of information about the trial methodology and the robustness of the trial reported in a journal abstract with that reported in the text of the full publication have found claims that are inconsistent with, or missing from, the body of the full article.^{4 5} This inadequate

BMJ 2012;344:e4178 doi: 10.1136/bmj.e4178

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Edited by: John P.A. Ioannidis

Reporting standards for research

The EJCI complies with main reporting standards for key types of research, including clinical trials (CONSORT and its extensions), meta-analyses (PRISMA), diagnostic tests (STARD), prognostic tumor markers (REMARK), microarrays (MIAME), observational studies (STROBE), genetic epidemiology (STREGA) and others as outlined in the EQUATOR website (<u>http://www.equator-network.org</u>) and in the EQUATOR article published in the first issue of January 2010 of EJCI (<u>http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2362.2009.02234.x/abstract</u>). When a study is of a type that needs to adhere to such EQUATOR-listed standards, the authors should make appropriate citation to them to mention that the reporting is compliant with these standards.

Material and methods

Reporting of the study conforms to STROBE along with references to STROBE and the broader EQUATOR guidelines [17]. placebo). Reporting of the study conforms to CONSORT guidelines [15]. The local Ethic Committee approved the study protocol, and each patient gave the informed consent to the study.

Universities of Ulm and Heidelberg. Detailed descriptions of the KAROLA study, which complied with the Declaration of Helsinki, have been published previously [18,19]. Reporting of the study conforms to STROBE [20,21].



Workshops on reporting

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How we give you the best chance of getting your paper published and cited

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EQUATOR CONSORT, STARD, STROBE, PRSIMA, MOOSE Registration – RCTs, systematic reviews Stergios Doumouchtsis Scientific Editor, UK

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EQUATOR people

Steering Group

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With special thanks to Eleana Villanueva and Regina Castro



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Questions ?

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