Title and abstract

Rakesh Aggarwal
Department of Gastroenterology
AIIMS, New Delhi
Title: Purposes

- To draw the attention of a prospective reader to the paper

- To induce him to read the entire paper or at least the abstract
Title

Simple and concise, but informative
Interesting and eye-catching
Accurate and specific about paper’s content
State the subject in full
Indicate study design, animal species
Grammatically correct
State results or not?
Title

Do not

Use abbreviations (unless well accepted)
Use literary titles
Use interrogative/exclamatory titles
Use all capitals
Title

Pediatric intussusception: A report of 55 cases

Studies on cobalt estimation in liver disease

Comparative study of two new hypoglycemic drugs
Title

Pediatric intussusception: A report of 55 cases

*Small bowel intussusception in children: A report of 55 cases*

Studies on cobalt estimation in liver disease

Comparative study of two new hypoglycemic drugs
Title

Pediatric intussusception: A report of 55 cases
Small bowel intussusception in children: …

Studies on cobalt estimation in liver disease
Serum cobalt levels in patients with cirrhosis of liver

Comparative study of two new hypoglycemic drugs
Pediatric intussusception: A report of 55 cases
Small bowel intussusception in children: ...

Studies on cobalt estimation in liver disease
Serum cobalt levels in patients with cirrhosis of liver

Comparative study of two new hypoglycemic drugs
Comparison of hypoglycemic effects of A and B with chlorpropamide in diabetic nude mice
Keywords >> Possible title

Key words

- Coeliac disease
- Children
- India
- Studied
  - Clinical features
  - Nutritional status
  - Histopathology findings
Keywords >> Possible Title

Key words

- Coeliac disease
- Children
- India
- Clinical features, nutritional status, histopathology findings

Title

Coeliac disease in Indian children: Assessment of clinical, nutritional and pathologic characteristics
Keywords >> Possible title

Key words

- Hepatitis E virus
- Subclinical infection
- Transmission of infection
- Viral excretion
- Experimental model
  - Animal model
  - Primate model
  - Cynomolgus macaques
Keywords >> Possible Titles

- Subclinical hepatitis E virus infection in a primate model (cynomolgus macaques) is associated with fecal viral excretion and transmission of disease
- Subclinical hepatitis E virus infection: An experimental study on its possible role in disease transmission
- Studies on subclinical hepatitis E virus infection in a primate (an experimental) model
- Subclinical infections may play a role in transmission of hepatitis E virus infection: results of an experimental study
Title: examples

- **Original paper**
  
  Persistent GB Virus C infection and survival in HIV-infected men

- **Editorial**
  
  HIV and GB Virus C — Can two viruses be better than one?
Title: examples

- A placebo-controlled trial of interferon gamma-1b in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Efficacy and safety of low-dose aspirin in polycythemia vera
- Daily aspirin -- only half the answer
- Relation of serial changes in childhood body-mass index to impaired glucose tolerance in young adulthood
Abstract

- A succinct, accurate, summary of the paper

- Purposes
  - Included in several abstracting services (including Medline)
  - Helps readers browse and decide

- Independent (stand-alone)
Abstract

- A brief statement of chief points
- Short but intelligible
- Informative and interesting
- Avoid unnecessary detail
- Stand alone
- Accurate
Abstract

IMRAD pattern: purpose, basic procedures, main findings, principal conclusions

Structured/unstructured

Length: 150-250 words

No information not included in main body

Not a copy of sentences in the text

No references or abbreviations

Include main statistical conclusions
Structured abstract

**Background:** Little information is available on knowledge about scientific writing among medical teachers.

**Methods:** We administered a 10-point questionnaire to test knowledge about scientific writing among medical teachers participants attending a writing workshop.

**Results:** 32 medical teachers participated. Of these, only 20 (63%) achieved a score of 50% or above. The younger participants (aged less than 30 years) scored worse than the older participants (aged ≥ 30 years), the average scores in the two groups being 6.5 ± 1.5 and 4.5 ± 1.7, respectively (t-test; p<0.05).

**Conclusion:** Indian medical teachers lack skills in medical writing and steps to improve this are needed.
Little information is available on the knowledge about scientific writing among medical teachers. We administered a 10-point questionnaire to test knowledge about scientific writing among medical teachers participants attending a writing workshop. 32 medical teachers participated. Of these, only 20 (63%) achieved a score of 50% or above. The younger participants (aged less than 30 years) scored worse than the older participants (aged ≥ 30 years), the average scores in the two groups being 6.5 ± 1.5 and 4.5 ± 1.7, respectively (t-test; p<0.05). Indian medical teachers lack skills in medical writing and steps to improve this are needed.
Structured abstract: Drug trial

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of a single large oral dose of vitamin A in treating acute shigellosis in children in Bangladesh.

Design: Randomized, double-blind, controlled clinical trial.

Setting: Dhaka Hospital, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

Subjects: 83 children aged 1-7 years with bacteriologically proved shigellosis but no clinical signs of vitamin A deficiency; 42 were randomized to treatment with vitamin A and 41 formed a control group.

Intervention: Children were given a single oral dose of 200,000 IU of vitamin A plus 25 IU vitamin E or a control preparation of 25 IU vitamin E.
Structured abstract: Drug trial

Main outcome measures: Clinical cure on study day 5 and bacteriological cure.

Results: Baseline characteristics of the subjects in the two treatment groups were similar. Significantly more children in the vitamin A group than in the control group achieved clinical cure [19/42 (45%) vs 8/14 (20%); $\chi^2 = 5.14$, 1 df, $P = 0.02$; risk ratio = 0.68 (95% confidence interval: 0.50 to 0.93)]. When cure was determined bacteriologically, the groups had similar rates [16/42 (38%) vs 16/41 (39%); $\chi^2 = 0.02$, 1 df, $P = 0.89$; risk ratio = 0.98 (0.70 to 1.39)].

Conclusion: Vitamin A reduces the severity of acute shigellosis in children living in areas where vitamin A deficiency is a major public health problem.