



## Preparation guide for original articles

Acta adhered to the [ICMJE and EQUATOR](#) Network initiatives to improve writing in research manuscripts. The objective was to increase not only the publication potential but also the international dissemination of articles. Therefore, the following international guidelines should be used:

- In randomized clinical trials, authors must attach the [CONSORT](#) checklist;
- In observational epidemiology studies, authors must attach the [STROBE](#) checklist.

The manuscript text must contain distinct sections: **Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, and References**. For submission, authors must follow Acta's [publishing standards](#). The vocabulary must be typical of the area, and the writing must be concise and clear (as in the literature), thus improving readability.

- **Introduction** – Here, authors must present the theoretical foundation of the object of study within a literature context. The originality, validity, and purpose of the study as well as its intended application must be presented with appropriate justifications and explanations. No more than four citations should be used to support each idea. Citation of personal communication or unpublished material should be avoided. The objective(s) of the study should be presented in the last paragraph of the introduction.
- **Methods** – This section allows describing the techniques used in the research including the logic used to organize the procedures. The statistical method and mathematical criteria of data significance must be specified. The methods structure must contain the following items: type of research design, location, population (with selection criteria), sample size calculation, measurement instrument (with information on validity and precision), collection, and data analysis.



- **Results** – In this section, authors must present only what was obtained using the methods described above, without any literature citation, comment, or interpretation.
- Tables, Graphs, and Figures (three, maximum) must present original data. They express results better than a verbal description using the same number of words. In decimal places, rounding must correspond to the precision of measurements. Authors should consult Acta's [publishing standards](#).
- **Discussion** – This section is used for the author(s)' critical analysis of the meaning of the results obtained, relating them to other studies. Authors must start specifying the limits of results, remembering that they are related to the chosen methods. In the second paragraph, the contribution of the results obtained and their practical application must be specified. Verbs must be used in the past tense. The interpretation of the obtained results and their relationship with existing knowledge is the essence of the discussion, to reach a conclusion. Recent results may agree (or not) with the literature (not the opposite).
- **Conclusion** – This section must be written based on the results showing that the objective(s) was(were) achieved. Clear, simple, and direct sentences should be used (preferably with verbs in the present tense). A conclusion must be presented for each objective. No result or comment should be included in this section. Coherence must be observed in the title-objective-conclusion axis.