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For an updated version, see  
Basic Methods of Medical Research, Third Edition  
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## **TIPS FOR THESIS WRITING AND PREPARING RESEARCH PAPERS**

### Initial parts of a manuscript

- [Choice of TITLE](#)
- [Providing AUTHORSHIP credits](#)
- [Selection of KEY WORDS](#)
- [Structure of the ABSTRACT](#)

### Main body of the report

- [Contents of INTRODUCTION](#)
- [Describing the METHODS](#)
- [Stating RESULTS](#)
- [Writing DISCUSSION](#)

### End features of a report

- [Ethics of ACKNOWLEDGMENTS](#)
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- [Contents of APPENDIX](#)

## **MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT**

It is customary to prepare a medical research report in IMRaD format. This is a suitable format for publication in a scientific journal, and quite often used for postgraduate thesis also. For details, click the required link given above. These provide tips for writing other forms of report also.

### Box 1: Guidelines for contents of a manuscript of a paper

**Title** - Concise (generally not exceeding 15 words) yet informative.

**Authors** - Only those who have *substantially* contributed and are prepared to take up public responsibility of the contents.

**Keywords** - About 5-6 for indexing purposes that could retrieve the paper from a database.

**Abstract** - Generally structured into Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion; lucid, stand alone, and containing all salient features of the study in not exceeding 300 words (consult the journals instructions).

**Introduction** - Rationale of the study and what new is expected to be achieved: research questions, objectives and hypothesis.

**Methods** - Why the study was done in that particular manner including the impact on validity and reliability of results.

**Results** - Select data that focus on the stated objectives; make judicious use of tables and illustrations for precision and impact respectively without duplication.

**and**

**Discussion** - Implication of the results in the light of existing knowledge and resolution of conflict if any; conclusion based on evidence alongwith the limitations; keep opinions and comments separate from evidence-based results.

**Acknowledgments** - Thank those who contributed but not enough to qualify as author.

**Key messages** - Two or three messages in a box that highlight the achievements of the study.

**References** - Preferably in Vancouver format, and restrict the list to the minimum needed to substantiate the statements made in the text.

**Appendix** - Highly technical or specialised text not of much interest to the general reader.