TITLE

Indicates the focus of the paper and includes important relevant ‘keywords’ allowing the study to be identified by electronic searches. This should be concise, precise, and informative.

*NOTE: Text in blue text is for guidance and should be deleted; HEADINGS may be left in, or deleted in the final version for submission.*

ABSTRACT

Many journals require a structured abstract, typically providing key information on:

## Objectives

## Methods (setting, participants, interventions or exposures, outcomes)

## Results

## Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Should clearly explain why the study was undertaken and what question(s) were asked.

Should be brief and relevant to the study:

starting from the broad context of what is already known,

proceeding to the specific unknown problems.

Should finish with clearly stated study objectives.

METHODS

The text should be clear, accurate, and complete (providing enough details to repeat, assess, and compare with other studies)

Content should correspond to the Results section.

Describes in a logical sequence how the study was designed, carried out, and analysed. A typical methods section provides key information on the following:

## Study Design

## Setting, Location

## Participants (or objects)

## Intervention (Exposure)

## Outcomes (Variables)

## Sample Size

## Statistical Methods

## Ethical Issues

RESULTS

Should report results of the investigations described in the Methods section (in same order) using text, tables, figures, and statistics.

Should be as brief and clear as possible (but without leaving out ‘disappointing’ results) A typical structure and chronology includes:

-Description of study participants (separate for important subgroups)

-Presentation of answers to the main questions (starting with primary outcomes, then secondary outcomes, and any other analyses)

Need to report on harms (adverse effects) as well as benefits.

Special attention should be paid to the design of tables and graphs.

## Study Participants

## Primary Outcomes

## Secondary Outcomes

## Other Analyses

DISCUSSION

Discusses what the findings mean and where they stand in the context of other studies.

A typical Discussion section structure and chronology includes:

Brief presentation of the main findings

Assessment of study strengths and weaknesses

Comparison of findings with previous studies

Consideration of clinical and scientific implications

If relevant, suggestions for future research

## Main Findings

## Strengths and Weaknesses

## Comparisons

## Implications

## Future Research

CONCLUSIONS

(This section is not always present separately in a research article). Any conclusions should be fully supported by the study findings.

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