Preface

Before presenting the IJCR template of review articles, we will introduce you to the types of review articles. Three different types of literature review articles exist: *the narrative reviews, the qualitative systematic reviews, and the quantitative systematic reviews (meta-analyses)*.

At the International Journal of Clinical Research, we only accept Narrative Reviews which can be further divided into three categories: *Editorials, Commentaries, and Narrative overview articles.*

*1. Editorials*

Editorials are written by an editor or a guest editor. They can be about any topic, as long as the author has an opinion to make that can be supported by facts. Some of the purposes of editorials:

* Commenting on articles published in the same issue
* Reviewing topics of interest that do not warrant full-length reviews
* Commenting on topics that are deemed to be important to the readers of the journal

The author should raise an issue, suggest possible answers, provide supporting evidence, assess counter arguments, and conclude with an answer. The editorial must be clear, simple and short. It should grab a reader’s attention, include supporting data, and acknowledge both sides of an argument.

The **International Journal of Clinical Research** will consider unsolicited editorials for publication, *all within 1,000 words and less than 10 references.*

***2. Commentaries***

Commentaries are also short, and narrowly focused articles that are **made by recognized experts** in a particular field. They are supposed to provide a balanced overview of the field, covering published articles, and are generally not peer-reviewed.Commentaries should also be within 1,000 words and have a maximum of ten references. Typically, no figures or tables are included.

*3. Narrative Overview Articles or Nonsystematic reviews*

Narrative overview articles are a condensed review of previously published material. Since they gather a lot of information, they are useful educational articles that are often more up to date than textbooks, and provide a single source for readers on a specific topic. They are not only useful for students and residents to learn from, but also for keeping physicians up to date. We hereby present the IJCR template on this type of narrative review.

This will be the title of the paper which will include the primary focus of the article preceded by “Narrative Review:”

**First name & family name of first author e.g. “Josh A. Murray”1, Second author2, Third Author3**

1Affiliation of the first author in the form of: Department Name, Name of Institution, City, Country

2Department Name, Name of Institution, City, Country (second author’s affiliation)

3Department Name, Name of Institution, City, Country (third author’s affiliation)

**Corresponding Author’s information:** Full name, address, email address, telephone and/or fax number of the author responsible (these will not be made for the submission. DO NOT include titles such as Dr., General Manager... To avoid confusion, the family name must always be written as the last part of each author name (e.g. Josh A. Murray).

Name of Department and Institution where the work was done.

Financial support: in the form of grants, “quoting the number granted”, instruments or other. If no financial support received please write as follow: “none”.

Conflict of interest: if any please specify here, if no conflict of interest is identified please write “none”.

Abstract

Objective: Start by stating the purpose of the paper.

**Background:** This is where you describe what prompted the review and why it was written. Briefly summarize the relevant information and context for the overview, WITHOUT CITATIONS. Kindly note that the use of the “Times New Roman” font with a 12-point typeface, 1.5 line spacing and a 2.5 cm margin (1 inch) from all borders of the page must be maintained, in accordance with the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.*

**Methods:** In this section, you will describe the method used in creating the manuscript, defining the sources from which the information used was collected.

**Discussion:** In this section you will describe what information the review presents to the readers.

**Conclusion:** Determine what the overview adds to the literature. State the new conclusion drawn after the synthesis of the literature review.

**Keywords:** Specify the medical subheadings (MeSH keywords) and additional words related to the topic.

**Introduction**

Citations in square brackets “[1]” may begin in this section of the manuscript. Kindly note that they should be numbered in the order in which they were cited; **TIP:** *DO NOT do this manually, seek an automated web-based bibliography and database manager such as RefWorks, EndNote, Mendeley, etc.… This will make it easier for you to keep the numbers in order and automatically formats the paper and bibliography in seconds.*

In this section, the importance of the article is highlighted, and the research focus is stated, with the context of the overview defined. Unusual terms that are used in the article are defined and background information is provided.

**Methods**

The methods section should provide a detailed description of how the overview was performed, with regard to:

* *Sources of information:* which electronic databases were used, were searches through the references of retrieved articles also done, examples of databases commonly included when performing literature search for medical topics include MEDLINE/PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane database of systematic reviews, Web of Science, etc.
* *Search terms and delimiting:* defining the terms used, mostly through determining the keywords of the database.
* *Selection criteria employed:* specifying which papers were included and which were excluded based on specific criteria. Which factors did the authors consider to include a paper in the review? Must be careful not to have very wide criteria or very limiting ones.

**Discussion**

*1. Synthesis*

This is the section that will require most of the work and mental energy of the authors in order to synthesize the information retrieved into well written and divided paragraphs with a smooth and comprehensive flow of ideas.

Depending on the topic, this section will be *divided into subheadings*. It is strongly recommended that these subheadings are specified and divided among the contributors prior to the initiation of the work. This will make it easier to categorize the information by topic, and divide the work. Clinical and medical topics will commonly include subheadings like: definition, epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, management, prognosis, etc. Depending on the objective and topic of the review, these will be modified properly in a way that is most useful to the reader. The authors must think clearly about this section as there is no single way to write it.

*2. Limitations*

Weak points of the study and areas of improvement are addressed in this section to warn the reader about existing limitations since no article is perfect. This may be hard to do by the authors themselves who are deeply involved in the writing process, and referring to a trusted colleague could be a possible method to determine the limitations.

**Conclusion**

A concise summary of the main findings is provided. The derived conclusions must be related to the initial purpose of the overview and supported by the literature synthesis. Specific propositions on new research initiatives should be made as the literature review may have provided the authors a vantage point

**Acknowledgements**

Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed here to acknowledge their efforts and support, and consent must be taken from these people for their name to appear (technical assistants, writing assistants or head of department who provided only general support). Financial support should be disclosed and acknowledged.

**References:**

References are to be written in the American Medical Association (AMA) reference style followed by the PMID if applicable and the **doi link** as follows:

1. Green BN, Johnson CD, Adams A. Writing narrative literature reviews for peer-reviewed journals: secrets of the trade. J Chiropr Med. 2006;5(3):101-117. PMID: 19674681. <https://doi.org/10.1016/s0899-3467(07)60142-6>

Your references must be up to date. Please avoid using old publications, you must provide important additional reading opportunities. Make sure you accurately describe previous work and adequately reference it within the text. You may not provide any literature data without referencing. In-text citations are checked and inappropriate style or double referencing will be returned for modification, only prolonging the process.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this template. This document is provided to you in the form of .docx, so that you can use it as a template before submitting your manuscript. We hope we have answered your questions. For more information, feel free to contact us.**