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ABSTRACT

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State clearly the purpose of the paper. Do not review the subject extensively and give only pertinent references.

Provide a context or background for the study (i.e., the nature of the problem and its significance). State the specific purpose or research objective of, or hypothesis tested by, the study or observation; the research objective is often more sharply focused when stated as a question. Both the main and secondary objectives should be made clear, and any pre-specified subgroup analyses should be described. Give only strictly pertinent references and do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

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Describe the study population in detail including controls. Describe the methods and procedures, so that other workers can reproduce the results. If the methods used are new or substantially modified, describe them and state their limitations.

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Do not repeat in the text all the data displayed in the tables or illustrations. Only important observations should be emphasized or summarized.

Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations, giving the main or most important findings first. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasize or summarize only important observations. Extra or supplementary materials and technical detail can be placed in an appendix where it will be accessible but will not interrupt the flow of the text; alternatively, it can be published only in the electronic version of the journal.

When data are summarized in the Results section, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Restrict tables and figures to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess its support. Use graphs as an alternative to tables with many entries; do not duplicate data in graphs and tables. Avoid non-technical uses of technical terms in statistics, such as “random” (which implies a randomizing device), “normal,” “significant,” “correlations,” and “sample.”

Where scientifically appropriate, analyses of the data by variables such as age and sex should be included.

DISCUSSION

Emphasize only the new and important aspects and conclusions of the study, including the implications and the limitation of the findings and their relation to other relevant studies.

Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. For experimental studies it is useful to begin the discussion by summarizing briefly the main findings, then explore possible mechanisms or explanations for these findings, compare and contrast the results with other relevant studies, state the limitations of the study, and explore the implications of the findings for future research and for clinical practice.

Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not adequately supported by the data. In particular, authors should avoid making statements on economic benefits and costs unless their manuscript includes the appropriate economic data and analyses. Avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not been completed. State new hypotheses when warranted, but clearly label them as such.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions should be clearly linked with the objectives of the study. Avoid unqualified statements and conclusions that are not supported by the data. Do not claim priority and do not allude to work in progress.

Acknowledgements

Provide acknowledgement if any

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Tables should be numbered (with roman numerals) and each table should be typed on a separate sheet of paper. Tables should be self-explanatory and include a brief descriptive title. Footnotes to tables, indicated by lower case letters are accepted, but they should not include extensive experimental detail.

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