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# Medical Journals

Article in JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association · April 2006

DOI: 10.1001/jama.295.15.1860

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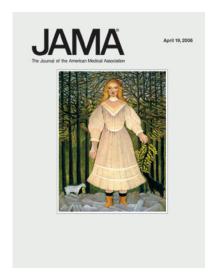
#### TYPES OF ARTICLES

- Research articles report the results of research studies on a range of topics varying from the basic mechanisms of diseases to clinical trials that compare outcomes of different treatments. Research articles on important topics may be covered by the news media after they are published in a medical journal.
- Review articles summarize and analyze the information available on a specific topic based on a careful search of the medical literature. Because the results of individual research studies can be affected by many factors, combining results from different studies on the same topic can be helpful in reaching conclusions about the scientific evidence for preventing, diagnosing, or treating a particular disease.
- Case conferences and case reports may be published in medical journals to educate clinicians about particular illnesses and how to treat them.
- Editorials in medical journals are short essays that express the views of the authors, often regarding a research or review article published in the same issue. Editorials provide perspective on how the current article fits with other information on the same topic.
- Letters to the editor provide a way for readers of the medical journal to express comments, questions, or criticisms about articles published in that journal. Short research reports and case reports may also be published as letters to the editor.

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Publications in medical journals are a major source of information for the improvement of medical care and for the continuing education of physicians and other health professionals. The evaluation and selection of articles for publication are important quality improvement processes that involve several stages.

- **Submission**—Authors preparing articles for submission to a medical journal should follow guidelines available for the content and format of specific types of articles.
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- **Publication**—All final decisions for publication are made by the journal editors.



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Source: AMA Manual of Style

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