# Title

Experiences of researchers submitting manuscripts to journals with false impact factors: cross-sectional study

# Abstract

Subheadings are used because this journal requires a structured abstract. Note that the authors have mainly used the active voice.

The Background provides the reader with the major research question.

In this combined Methods/Results section, the Methods subsection is quite short and the Results subsection makes up the largest proportion of the Abstract, because the reader is most interested in what you discovered. The order of the results goes from general to specific facts, and key data are included.

The tense is the simple past because the study and analyses have finished. However, theoretical and modeling studies often use present tense throughout the abstract.

# Introduction

To medical researchers and health care professionals, the most credible source of medical information is generally accepted to be “mature” research, that is, studies published in peer-reviewed journals. Among the reasons are the following: Firstly, although peer review is imperfect—most notably, it cannot prevent research fraud —it is the standard process by which independent experts vet the reliability and validity of submitted research, by scrutinizing aspects such as methodology, analysis, and interpretation. Secondly, publication status indicates the “maturity” of research, and journal publication often represents the formal end-point of a research study. Medical research news based on published studies can thus be regarded as being more credible than news generated from other sources, such as scientific or press meetings presenting preliminary findings that are not yet published. Finally, journal publication creates a retrievable archive of medical information that can be evaluated for quality and usefulness, as reflected by the strength of the presented evidence (e.g. study design, sample size, and clinical relevance). Appraisal of this aspect of medical studies—the basis of evidence-based medicine (EBM)—helps health care practitioners to identify, filter, and apply the current best evidence to solve specific clinical problems.

# Discussion

Here are some further tips for writing the discussion:

* Present your most important findings and conclusions first, but be careful to match the scope, precision, and certainty of the conclusion to your actual findings.
* If you presented any inconclusive or unexpected results, you need to explain these as well as you can.
* Suggest additional studies that are needed to clarify or confirm any results or interpretations; suggest new directions for further study.
* Briefly describe both strengths and weaknesses (limitations) of your study; explain how limitations were minimized or mitigated, or suggest improvements for future studies.
* If your findings are preliminary, suggest future studies that could be done.
* Suggest what your results could mean for researchers in your field and in the broader context, such as for researchers in other fields and for the general public.
* Include theoretical and practical implications; for example, recommend how your findings could be applied to training, practice, and policy.
* End with a paraphrased recap of the answer to your research question and the most important implication.

# Results

In the Results section, factually state what you found in your study. Do not explain your findings or discuss their implications (unless your target journal asks for a combined Results and Discussion section). The results should summarize the raw and/or transformed data from your study and be supported with display items (illustrations), such as tables and figures (e.g., graphs, drawings, photographs). You must be as concise and objective as possible.

Here are some general tips for drafting the results section:

* Organize your results in a logical order (e.g., chronological order of experiments or different stages of the study, from the most to least important findings, from single variables to the multivariable model, or from synthesis/preparation/isolation to a description of properties).
* Use subheadings to separate the results of different experiments or stages of your study.
* Do not repeat parts of the methods section, but you may refer to techniques briefly in introductory phrases and clauses.