

Brazilian Journal of Medical and Biological Research

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The purpose of the BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH is to publish the results of original research that contribute significantly to knowledge in medical and biological sciences.

Preference will be given to manuscripts that develop new concepts or experimental approaches and are not merely repositories of scientific data.

Methodological papers shall be considered for publication provided they describe new principles or a significant improvement of existing methods. Papers that report preliminary results or are only confirmatory in nature will not be accepted for publication.

When appropriate, papers in the area of Clinical Investigation should include a statement indicating that the protocol has been approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee (Hospital with which at least one of the authors is associated).

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The Journal will bill authors for "page charges" for all accepted papers submitted after October 1, 2003. The charge will be R\$960/paper for Brazilian authors and US\$320/ paper for authors outside Brazil.

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Manuscript Criteria and Information

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Submission of a manuscript to the *Brazilian Journal* implies that the data have not been published previously and will not be submitted for publication elsewhere while the manuscript is under review. The following are considered to represent "prior publication": any printed material in excess of 500 words describing results or methods of a submitted/in press manuscript; published tables or illustrations that duplicate the content of a manuscript; or electronic manuscripts or posters available via the Internet. When part of the material has been presented in a preliminary communication or in an unrefereed symposium, this should be cited as a footnote on the title page and a copy should accompany the submitted manuscript.

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The Journal publishes Full-length Papers, Short Communications, Review Articles, and sections containing Concepts and Comments, Overviews, Recollections and Reports of Scientific Meetings. The most frequent categories of articles are described herein.

The content of the *Brazilian Journal* is organized into sections. **Authors should specify the section they prefer for their submission in the cover letter.**

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Cell Biology
- Clinical Investigation
- Experimental Biology
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Full-length Paper. Each manuscript should clearly state an objective or hypothesis; the design and methods (including the study setting and time period, patients or participants with inclusion and exclusion criteria, or data sources and how these were selected for the study); the essential features of any interventions; the main outcome measures; the main results of the study; a comment section placing the results in the context of published literature, and the conclusions. It should contain:

- an abstract of no more than 250 words
- no more than 6 key words
- a running title
- the text should be divided into separate sections (Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion)
- no more than 40 references
- authors should state in the cover letter that the manuscript is intended to be a Full-length Paper

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- a maximum of 2 figures or tables (or one figure and one table)
- no more than 20 references
- a Short Communication should not be divided into separate sections (Introduction, Methods, etc.)
- authors should state in the cover letter that the manuscript is intended to be a Short Communication

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- no more than 6 key words
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- the text should be divided into sections with appropriate titles and subtitles (Headings in text)

Criteria for Manuscript Acceptance

Major criteria for acceptance are scientific quality, originality, and conciseness. Preference will be given to manuscripts that develop new concepts or experimental approaches and are not merely repositories of scientific data. Methodological papers shall be considered for publication provided they describe new principles or a significant improvement of existing methods. Papers that report preliminary results or are only confirmatory in nature will not be accepted for publication.

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2. Wrote the paper, or reviewed successive versions and took part in the revision process.
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Accepted manuscripts are copyedited and proofs will be sent to authors for the correction of printer's errors. Authors are responsible for all statements made in their work, including changes made by the copy editor and authorized by the corresponding author.

The dates of receipt and acceptance will be published. If the paper is sent to the authors for revision and not returned within 6 months, the date of receipt will be revised. The date of acceptance will be assigned when the authors return the manuscript after the final correction for English style and clarity.

Manuscript Preparation

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- Ensure that all references are cited in the text.

- Generic names must be used for all drugs. Instruments may be referred to by proprietary name; the name and location (state, city and country) of the manufacturer must be given in parentheses in the text.
- A file with good quality black-and-white figures could be supplied. Please send a .tif or .jpg file with 300 dpi resolution. We recommend Photoshop to prepare your figure file. More information in Figure Instructions.
- Color Figures. The *Brazilian Journal* normally publishes figures in black and white. However, color figures are published when absolutely necessary. The author must pay for the cost, which is US\$250.00 per plate. The author **must decide** about the use of color before submitting the paper since the reviewers will have to evaluate the paper in the form in which it will be published, if accepted.

Related Publications. All submissions must be accompanied by a list of the author's manuscripts on related subjects that are in press or currently under editorial review. A list of related published papers by the authors may also be helpful to the reviewers.

Cover Letter. A manuscript submitted for publication should be accompanied by a cover letter containing the following information.

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- Main subject area of the paper.
- A statement indicating if the paper is intended to be a full paper, short communication or review article.
- If the authors so wish, the names of five persons who could act as referees.
- If a version of the manuscript has been previously submitted for publication to the *Brazilian Journal* or to another journal, include comments from the peer reviewers and an indication of how the authors have responded to these comments.
- When appropriate, papers in the area of Clinical Investigation should include a statement indicating that the protocol has been approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee (Hospital with which at least one of the authors is associated).
- Provide permission for the reproduction of figures and tables from other sources.

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- Initials and last name(s) of author(s) (matched with superscript numbers identifying institutions).
- Institution(s) (Department, Faculty, University) of each author (in Portuguese if authors

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- Name, complete mailing address, including zip code, telephone number, Fax number and E-mail of author to whom correspondence and requests for reprints should be sent.
- **Running title.** This short title to be used as a page heading should not exceed 60 letters and spaces.

Key words. A list of key words or indexing terms (no more than 6) should be included. The Journal recommends the use of medical subject headings of Index Medicus for key words to avoid the use of several synonyms as entry terms in the index for different papers on the same subject. Remember, key words are used by the Scielo Database (see <http://www.scielo.br/bjmbr> articles search/subject) to index your article.

Abstract

- Since abstracts are published separately by Information Services, they **should contain** sufficient hard data to be appreciated by the reader, who may not have access to the full paper.
- The abstract should briefly and clearly present the problem, experimental approach, new results as quantitative data, and conclusions.
- The abstract should not exceed 250 words and should be written in a single paragraph **double-spaced** on a separate page following the title page.
- Undefined abbreviations may not be used.
- If the use of a reference is unavoidable, the full citation should be given within the abstract.
- Note that the *Brazilian Journal* publishes **unstructured abstracts**.

Writing a Good Abstract

- Since most indexing services provide abstracts free of charge, the abstract is especially important because it is generally the first contact a potential reader has with your paper.
- Our objective, as Editors, is to provide the reader with an abstract that contains an accurate description of the content of the paper and which stimulates the reader to go to Scielo to read and/or obtain a copy of the paper. Hopefully, the reader will quote your paper and the Journal as well. The problem is that the abstract cannot have more than 250 words and thus each word must be weighed carefully.
- In one paragraph without subheadings, references or undefined abbreviations the abstract should contain:
 1. a statement of justification and the objective(s) of the research
 2. a description of the most important method(s) used
 3. identification of the experimental species studied: age, weight,

sex if relevant, and the number of subjects in each experimental group

4. report of the most important statistically significant new results (not all results), preferably in numerical form reporting both control and experimental values
5. a closing statement with a conclusion which is not simply a restatement of the results

- These suggestions are meant to provide an accurate statement of the content of your paper. It will stimulate serious scientists to read the paper. Please don't worry about giving away your results - ethical scientists will give you credit for your work.
- These suggestions should be useful for most of the papers published in the Brazilian Journal.
- We suggest you study the content of abstracts in the Journal and/or leading international journals to see how others have approached the problem of writing a good abstract.

Footnotes. Text footnotes, if unavoidable, should be numbered consecutively in superscript in the manuscript and written on a separate page following the abstract.

Headings in Text

- Use only three levels of headings in the text. Clearly indicate the levels of headings by using the following typographic conventions.
- Position all headings flush with the left margin.
- First-level headings: **Initial capital letters, bold type.**
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- Explain all abbreviations in the figure and table legends.
- Do not explain abbreviations for units of measurement [3 ml, not 3 milliliters (ml)] or standard scientific symbols [Na, not sodium (Na)].
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- Abbreviate units of measurement when they appear with numerals (measured in milliliters, but 10 ml). Use abbreviations in figures and tables to save space.

Units. The Système International (SI) of metric units is used for units and abbreviations of units.

Examples:

- s for second
- min for minute
- h for hour
- l for liter
- m for meter
- kDa for kilodaltons
- 5 mM rather than 5×10^{-3} M or 0.005 M

Introduction. This should state the purpose of the investigation, relationship to other work in the field, and reasons for undertaking the research. An extensive listing or review of the literature is not recommended.

Material and Methods. Sufficient information should be provided in the text or by referring to papers in generally available journals to permit the work to be repeated.

Results. The results should be presented clearly and concisely. Tables and figures should be used only when necessary for effective comprehension of the data. In some situations it may be desirable to combine Results and Discussion in a single section.

Discussion. The purpose of the Discussion is to interpret the results and relate them to existing knowledge. Information given elsewhere in the text may be cited but not repeated in detail in the Discussion.

Acknowledgments. If appropriate, briefly acknowledge technical assistance, advice and assistance from colleagues, etc. Financial support for the research and fellowships should be acknowledged on the title page.

Tables

- Tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and grouped together after the Reference section.
- All tables must be cited in the text in numerical order.
- Each table should be typed double-spaced on a separate page (or, if exceptionally large or requiring special symbols or unusual treatment, the table should be submitted as an image as .tif or .jpg file).
- A descriptive title and legend, in the form as they appear in the Journal, should make tables understandable without reference to the text (see a recent issue of the Journal).
- Explain all abbreviations in table legends.
- Vertical and diagonal rules should not be used in tables; instead, indentation and vertical or horizontal space should be used to group data.

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- For important information on the preparation of graphics in .tif or .jpg formats, go to <http://cjs.cadmus.com/da/>
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Perfect Office (WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Presentations), Lotus SmartSuite (Freelance Graphics, 1-2-3, Approach, WordPro), Harvard Graphics and SigmaPlot because they are not intended for the high resolution imaging necessary for publication. Graphics created in one of these programs and saved as .jpg or similar also cannot be accepted.

- Color images need to be CMYK, at least 300 dpi, and have an accompanying color photograph - not a color laser print or color photocopy. Note: This photograph will be used at press for color reproduction.
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References should be typed double-spaced in **numerical** order on a separate sheet. Number references in the order in which they are first cited in the text, using arabic numerals in parentheses. Two or more references should be divided by a comma without a space (1,5,7), three or more consecutive references should be separated by a hyphen (4-9).

The following information must be given in the citation:

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- year of publication
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- if reference is a book, also give names and initials of editors, publisher and city.

Cite symposium papers only from published proceedings.

When citing an article or book accepted for publication but not yet published, include the title of the journal (or name of the publisher) and the year of expected publication.

References to unpublished material, i.e, papers presented orally at a meeting or unpublished work (personal communications, papers in preparation) **should be included in the text**, not in the references. A letter of permission from the cited persons to cite such communications should be annexed. **Submitted papers are considered unpublished material** and do not appear in the Reference list.

Provide complete data for each reference including an "available from" note for documents that may not be readily accessible.

Ensure that URLs used as references are active and available (the date on which the author accessed the URL should be included in the reference). For an example, see Citations of Electronic References, below.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct text citation.

Examples:

Standard article (list up to 10 authors; if more than 10, add et al. after the 3rd author's name)

Berridge MJ (1987). Inositol triphosphate and diacylglycerol: two interacting second messengers. *Annual Review of Biochemistry*, 56: 159-193.

Evans BA & Richards RI (1985). Genes for the α and γ subunits of mouse nerve growth factor are contiguous. *EMBO Journal*, 4: 133-138.

Evans BA, Drinkwater CC & Richards RI (1987). Mouse glandular kallikreins: structure and partial analysis of the kallikrein gene locus. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 262: 8027-8034.

Corporate author

The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (1996). Clinical exercise stress testing. Safety and performance guidelines. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 164: 282-284.

Supplement

Nolly HL, Carretero OA, Lama MC, Miatello RM & Scicli AG (1994). Vascular kallikrein in deoxycorticosterone acetate-salt hypertensive rats. *Hypertension*, 23 (Suppl I): I-185-I-188.

Abstracts

Enzensberger W & Fischer PA (1996). Metronome in Parkinson's disease. *Lancet*, 347: 1337 (Abstract).

Books: List all authors or editors

Author

Snedecor GW & Cochran WG (1980). *Statistical Methods*. 7th edn. Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA.

Editors

Norman IJ & Redfern SJ (Editors) (1996). *Mental Health Care for Elderly People*. Churchill Livingstone, New York, 455-468.

Chapter in a book

Scicli AG, Farthy R, Scicli G & Nolly HL (1992). The kallikrein-kinin system in heart and vascular tissue. In: Bonner G (Editor), *The Role of Bradykinin in the Cardiovascular Action of the Converting Enzyme Inhibitor Ramipril*. Hoechst, Frankfurt.

Published proceedings paper

More J (1999). Characterization and formulation development of a new liquid intravenous immunoglobulin. Bio Products Laboratory, Elstree, Herts, UK. *Plasma Product Biotechnology Meeting 1999*, Daydream Island, Queensland, Australia, March 27-30.

Thesis

Gontijo B (1998). A reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR) no diagnóstico da leishmaniose tegumentar americana. Doctoral thesis, Departamento de Clínica Médica, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.

Other Citations in Reference List:

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Sumiyoshi H, Tignor GH & Shope RE (1996). Characterization of a highly attenuated Japanese encephalitis virus generated from molecularly cloned cDNA. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* (in press).

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- **Online journals with volume and page information**

Simon JA & Hudes ES (1999). Relationship of ascorbic acid to blood lead levels. *JAMA* (serial online), 281: 2289-2293. Available from: American Medical Association, Chicago, IL. Accessed August 24, 1999.

- **Online journals without volume and page information**

Gordon GF (1999). Bypassing heart surgery. *Alternative Medicine* (serial online), July, issue 30.

- **Online website**

Terre Haute Center for Medical Education. The THCME Medical Biochemistry page. [<http://www.indistate.edu/thcme/mwking/home.html>]. Accessed August 24, 1999.

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- () When appropriate, papers in the area of Clinical Investigation should include a statement indicating that the protocol has been approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee (Hospital with which at least one of the authors is associated). Animal studies should be carried out according to ethical guidelines.
- () Include a title for each table and figure - a brief, succinct phrase, preferably no longer than 10 to 15 words.
- () Send a file with good quality black-and-white figures. For photographic material (for example, photomicrographs, radiographs, etc.), submit a glossy copy by mail. All photomicrographs carry scale bars.
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