



JEADV

JOURNAL OF
THE EUROPEAN
ACADEMY OF
DERMATOLOGY &
VENEREOLOGY

Reviewing Manuscripts: Best Practices

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Kick starting the review process



ACCEPT

Accept the review invitation within 5 days or propose an alternate reviewer

Accept only if you have the relevant **expertise**, adequate **time** and no conflicts of interest (**COI**)

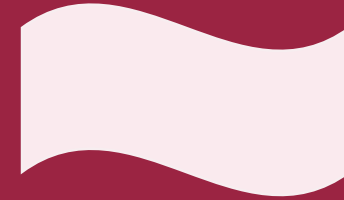


TITLE

Should be **short, clear, impactful** and **accurate**

Should incorporate the key findings

Should not be overpromising and questioning



ABSTRACT

focus on the clarity and originality of the research question, aims, methodology, and results in brief

(forms the **first impression of relevance and suitability for J EADV**)



Reading the manuscript

Read the entire manuscript thoroughly (at least twice or thrice)



Read each section critically



Assess the clinical relevance and implications for disease understanding or care



Check for major discrepancies between the abstract and the text

INTRODUCTION

- Should establish the need for this research
- Summarise recent literature
- Demonstrates the originality and novelty
- Novelty – search Google Scholar, PubMed or other databases for recent literature and duplicate publications
- Ends by summarising the aims

AIMS AND METHODS

- Replicable, repeatable and robust
- Adequate sample size and control population
- Up to date methodology
- Follow established best practice and ethical standards- e.g.: CONSORT statement for RCTs

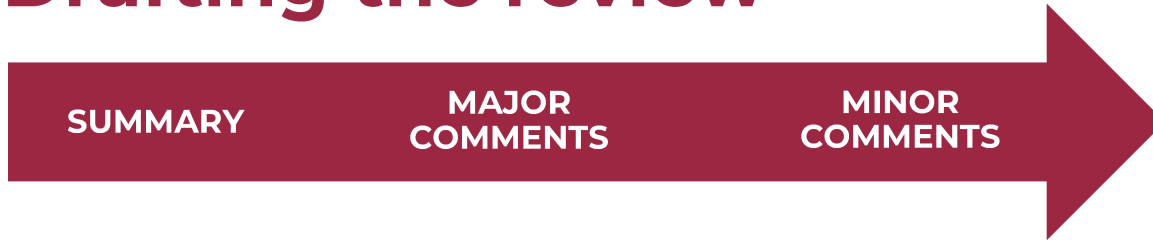
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Clear depiction of data
- Clear presentation of controls
- Proper statistical tools
- Clearly labelled tables and figures for structured representation of data
- Discussion-focused critical analyses of the whole information from results including the limitations
- Should avoid overinterpretation of data

CONCLUSION AND REFERENCES

- Based on the aims
- 1-2 paragraphs
- Should not contradict the data
- Check format and number of references
- To be cited in order
- Recent articles to be cited

Drafting the review



Maintain full confidentiality and follow a constructive attitude



In simple language, number the comments precisely with the page and line numbers



If needed, communicate directly with the editorial team about specific needs, such as statistical reviews



Summary – a brief description of the study with its strengths and weaknesses- helps the reviewer, editor and the authors to capture the essence of the study.



Major comments – based on research question and originality, methodology, comment if previously similar work has been done without being acknowledged, ethical issues and on conclusion



Minor comments – on limitations, literature search, figures, spelling errors, language clarity



Be specific and suggest to prove the point and further improve the article



Major comments need to be addressed to proceed further



Limitations to be discussed as every study cannot meet the top standards



Comments to authors and confidential comments to editors are given separately



Give a positive feedback but don't OVERDO

Do's and don'ts

- ❑ Check consistency between data, charts/ tables/ figures, the text and the conclusion
- ❑ Maintain strict confidentiality of the work
- ❑ Language issues are to be addressed only if they affect the clarity
- ❑ Do not forget to check references – check the format, recent ones
- ❑ Preferably, do not instruct the authors to cite your own papers
- ❑ When recommending rejection, focus on scientific reasons; be professional and avoid being rude to the authors.
- ❑ Complete and submit the review within 3 weeks



Address the study
WITHOUT
BLAMING THE
AUTHORS



Inform the editor
if you suspect that
the authors may
have any COI
which they have
not declared



Inform the editor
if you suspect that
images have been
edited



Seek statistical
help if required



Do not include
comments on
acceptance, to the
authors. The
editor may be
informed

Why become a reviewer?



Access

Early exposure to latest research



Career Boost

A good reviewer will be a good author with up-to-date knowledge



Connect

Build a reputable connection with the editorial board



Recognitions

Web of Science reviewer recognition which maybe exported to your ORCID profile

IMPROVE PEER REVIEW SKILLS- SUGGESTED READING

1. Spigt M, Arts ICW. How to review a manuscript. J Clin Epidemiol. 2010;63(12):1385-1390.
2. Molloy EJ, Overbey L, Bearer CF. How to review a scientific manuscript and get credit! Pediatr Res. 2024;95:862-863.
3. Mannino DM. How I review a paper to help improve citability and impact. Chest. 2021;160(6):2017-2018.
4. Annesley TM. Seven reasons not to be a peer reviewer—and why these reasons are wrong. Clin Chem. 2012;58(4):677-679.
5. Sear R. What makes a good or a bad peer review? Tips for excelling at reviewing [Internet]. London: The Royal Society; 2020 Feb 7 [cited 2026 Jan 8]. Available from: <https://royalsociety.org/blog/2020/02/what-makes-a-good-or-bad-peer-review>
6. American Society of Clinical Oncology. Peer review process [Internet]. ASCO Publications; [cited 2026 Jan 8]. Available from: <https://ascopubs.org/authors/peer-review-process>
7. Hill JA. How to review a manuscript. J Electrocardiol. 2016;49(2):109-111.
8. Wiley. Wiley Author Services – Reviewers [Internet]. Wiley; [cited 2026 Jan 8]. Available from: <https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/index.html>

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FOR BETTER