

AMA Manual of Style

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Studies of Diagnostic Tests

Margaret A. Winker and Stephen J. Lurie

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Item type: section

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Correct treatment depends on accurate diagnosis. Diagnostic tests may include simple procedures such as physical signs or physical examination, as well as blood tests and radiologic imaging. Few diagnostic tests, however, can be relied on to yield accurate diagnoses 100% of the time. Thus, it is important to study the performance of diagnostic tests. Bossuyt et al stated: Exaggerated and biased results from poorly designed and reported diagnostic studies can trigger their premature dissemination and lead physicians into making incorrect treatment decisions. A rigorous evaluation process of diagnostic tests before introduction into clinical practice could not only reduce the number

Study Design and Statistics

Margaret A. Winker and Stephen J. Lurie

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Statistical concepts, such as the margin of error in a public opinion poll or the probability of rain or snow, appear in everyday conversation. But, just as one may understand how the heart functions and how blood circulates but not be able to perform a cardiac catheterization, an understanding of statistical concepts does not enable one to perform the work of a statistician. Although the concepts may be familiar, the tools of statistics may be misapplied and the results misinterpreted without a statistician's help. In medical research, the quality of the statistical analysis and clarity of presentation of statistical results are critical to a study's validity. Decisions about statistical analysis are best made at the time that the study is designed and generally should not be deferred until after the data have been collected. Even the most sophisticated statistical analysis cannot salvage a fundamentally flawed study. Regardless of the statistician's role, authors (who may include statisticians) are responsible for the appropriate design, analysis, and presentation of the study's results...

Subentry Levels

Bruce McGregor and Harriet S. Meyer

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Tullar recommends using more main entries or first-level subentries rather than going beyond a third level of subentry, as in this example, adapted from Tullar: Not: cancer treatment of pharmacologic cyclophosphamide for adverse effects of thrombocytopenia Preferred: cancer treatment of pharmacologic See also individual drugs chemotherapy adverse effects of See also individual drugs cyclophosphamide adverse effects of thrombocytopenia from drug-induced disorders from cyclophosphamide thrombocytopenia thrombocytopenia from cyclophosphamide drug-induced Even when a main heading cites the entire page range of the discussion of a particular topic, it is useful to include subtopics as subentries so that the reader is aware that

Subject and Predicate Noun Differ in Number

Stacy Christiansen

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The predicate noun is the complement of a subject; it identifies, describes, or renames the subject. When the subject and predicate noun differ in number, follow the number of the subject in selecting the singular or plural verb form. Avoid this by rephrasing: Study results were most affected by interhospital variations in severity of illness. |

Subject-Complement Agreement

Stacy Christiansen

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Subjects and complements should agree in number. The child can take off his own shoes. We asked trial participants to return their pill dispensers. However, when the complement is shared by all constituents of the plural subject, it remains singular. The authors were asked to revise their paper. All study sites obtained approval from their institutional review board. Investigators inserted a catheter into the study participants' pulmonary artery. |

Subject-Verb Agreement

Stacy Christiansen

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The subject and verb must agree in number; use a singular subject with a singular verb and a plural subject with a plural verb. Unfortunately, this simple rule is often violated, especially in complex sentences. | Plural nouns take plural verbs and singular nouns take singular verbs, even if a phrase ending in a plural noun follows a singular subject or if a phrase ending in a singular noun follows a plural subject. A review of all patients with grade 3 tumors was undertaken in the university hospital. [The subject in this sentence is review. Ignore all modifying prepositional phrases that

Subject-Verb Agreement

Phil B. Fontanarosa and Stacy Christiansen

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Units of measure are treated as collective singular (not plural) nouns and require a singular verb. To control the patient's fever, 500 mg of acetaminophen was [not were] administered at the time of admission and 1000 mg was required 4 hours later. |

Subtitles

Cheryl Iverson

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Style for subtitles follows that for titles (see , Titles) for spelling, abbreviations, numbers, capitalization, and use of italics, except that for journal articles the subtitle begins with a lowercase letter. A colon and space separate title and subtitle, even if a period was used in the original. Do not change an em dash to a colon. If the subtitle is numbered, as is common when articles in a series have the same title but different numbered subtitles, use a comma after the title, followed by a roman numeral immediately preceding the colon. 1. Klein R, Klein BEK, Moss SE,

Suggestions for Authors Interacting With the News Media

Annette Flanagin

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The following recommendations are provided for interactions between authors and the news media.,,, # Authors should abide by agreements with journals not to publicize their work while their manuscript describing their work is under consideration or awaiting publication by a journal. If authors have any questions about prior release of such information, they

should contact the journal's editorial office., # Authors presenting research at clinical and scientific meetings may discuss their presentations with reporters but should refrain from distributing copies of their presentations, data, tables, or figures (see , Duplicate Publication)., # Authors should inform editors of previous news coverage

Supplements

Cheryl Iverson

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The following example illustrates the basic format: 1. Body JJ, Greipp P, Coleman RE, et al. A phase I study of AMG-007, a recombinant osteoprotegerin construct, in patients with multiple myeloma or breast carcinoma related metastases. *Cancer*. 2003;97(3)(suppl):887-892. If the supplement is numbered, and there is no issue number, use the following form: 2. McDougale CJ, Stigler KA, Posey DJ. Treatment of aggression in children and adolescents with autism and conduct disorder. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2003;64(suppl 4):16-25. If the supplement is numbered, and there is an issue number, use the form below: 3. Crino L, Cappuzzo F. Present and