

Types of Articles Quiz

by Laura King, MA, MFA, ELS

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Effective written communication requires the author to consider the intended message and audience and use a form appropriate to both. Medical journal articles fit into one of the following main types: reports of original data; review articles; descriptive articles; consensus statements and clinical practice guidelines; articles of opinion; correspondence; reviews of books, journals, and other media; and other types (those items that do not fit any of the other major categories). Read the following sentences and indicate in which type of article those sentences are most likely to appear. Consult **§1.0**, Types of Articles of the *AMA Manual of Style* for guidance.

1. We studied a cohort of 150 patients 65 years or older with recently diagnosed atrial fibrillation to determine the patterns of use of warfarin and the risk of subsequent stroke among older men and women.
 - a. report of original data
 - b. review article
 - c. clinical practice guideline
 - d. article of opinion

ANSWER: a. report of original data

Editor's Note: Articles that report the results of original research investigations are perhaps the most important types of articles published by scientific journals. These articles advance scientific knowledge and, in medical journals, help inform clinical practice and advance patient care. Journals often categorize reports that present data from scientific research as Original Investigations (or Original Articles, Research Reports, or a similar designation) to emphasize the new findings these articles communicate (**§1.1**, Research Reports).

2. We searched PubMed (January 1, 1976, through April 30, 2019), EMBASE (January 1, 1985, through April 30, 2019), and the Cochrane Library (January 1, 1987, through April 30, 2019) using common keywords related to fatty acids and cardiovascular disease.
 - a. report of original data
 - b. systematic review
 - c. consensus statement
 - d. narrative review

ANSWER: b. systematic review

Editor's Note: Systematic reviews are critical assessments of the literature and data sources that pertain to clinical topics and often include information about the etiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy, or prevention of a disease or condition. These reviews involve a complete and up-to-date systematic search of the literature using multiple databases, covering many years, and grading the quality of the available evidence (§1.2.1, Systematic Reviews).

3. This article addresses the current recommendations for diagnosing and treating cellulitis.
 - a. report of original data
 - b. systematic review
 - c. consensus statement
 - d. narrative review

ANSWER: d. narrative review

Editor's Note: Narrative reviews in medical journals provide an up-to-date review that involves a specific question or issue relevant for clinical practice from the perspective of recognized experts in the topic. Although a systematic review of the literature is not necessarily required, recommendations should be supported with current evidence and based on recent research, systematic reviews, and guidelines (§1.2.2, Narrative Reviews).

4. Sigmund Lustgarten died on January 22, 1911, at his home in New York City at the age of 53 years.
 - a. report of original data
 - b. descriptive article
 - c. article of opinion
 - d. other

ANSWER: d. other

Editor's Note: Journals also publish other articles and items that are relevant for their readers and may not fit into any of these categories. Examples may include news articles, educational articles, quizzes, obituaries, or poetry; articles intended for use by other potential readers, such as information for the public or for patients; or information in other formats, such as video, audio, and interactive material. Each of these other types of articles and material should follow consistent structure and format (§1.6, Other Article Types).

5. We believe evidence-based medicine promises to eliminate both intentional bias and the frequent misimpressions born of a physician's limited personal experience.
 - a. report of original data
 - b. descriptive article
 - c. consensus statement
 - d. editorial

ANSWER: d. editorial

Editor's Note: Editorials represent important opinion articles in scientific journals and generally serve 2 primary purposes. Editorials written by the editor of the journal or a member of the editorial staff may communicate information about the journal or about journal policies or procedures or may present the views of the editors or editorial staff about an issue relevant to journal readers or about an article the journal has published. Editorials also may be written by authors who are not members of the editorial staff but who are invited to provide an authoritative discussion and opinion about an accompanying article or about another topic. In most cases, these invited Editorials (also referred to as Invited Commentaries in some journals) accompany research articles or other articles being published by the journal and ordinarily serve to provide balance, additional context, and caveats about the importance and implications of the accompanying article. At times, invited editorialists may be asked to comment on separate topics of interest to the journal readers or editors (§1.4.2, Editorials [or Invited Commentaries]).

6. In last month's issue of your journal, Smith et al reported that purple urine is a symptom of urinary tract infection; however, purple urine can be a phenomenon that is related to factors other than urinary catheters or their bags.
- descriptive article
 - consensus statement
 - correspondence
 - review of books, journals, and other media

ANSWER: c. correspondence

Editor's Note: The correspondence section can include letters to the editor, responses from authors, and online comments and should provide readers with a mechanism for submitting comments, questions, or criticisms about published articles. As part of the responsibility that authors assume in return for having their articles published, they are held accountable for responding to critical points from readers. Letters that raise reasonable and important questions about the scientific, clinical, or ethical aspects of a study or appropriate interpretation, along with scholarly replies from the authors, can make for informative, useful, and lively exchanges. Another form of postpublication exchange between readers and authors of published articles involves online commenting and responses, with the exchanges posted on journal websites or other venues rather than published as letters in journals (§1.5.1, Letters).

7. This third edition of *Fracture Management for Primary Care*, published 8 years after the second, has been enhanced while maintaining its basic framework.
- descriptive article
 - article of opinion
 - correspondence
 - review of books, journals, and other media

ANSWER: d. review of books, journals, and other media

Editor's Note: Journals also publish other articles and items that are relevant for their readers and may not fit into any of these categories. Examples may include news articles, educational articles, quizzes, book/media reviews, or poetry; articles intended for use by other potential readers, such as information for the public or for patients; or information in other formats, such as video, audio, and interactive material. Each of these other types of articles and material should follow consistent structure and format (§1.6, Other Article Types).

8. This report provides the preliminary results on the potential therapeutic benefit and tolerability of interferon alfacon-1 plus corticosteroids for severe acute respiratory syndrome.
- narrative review
 - preliminary communication
 - consensus statement
 - systematic review

ANSWER: b. preliminary communication

Editor's Note: Subcategories of Research articles may have specific designations based on other criteria. For instance, the JAMA Network journals may use designations based on (1) the nature of the findings, such as Preliminary Communication to indicate articles that report preliminary findings and signal the need for further investigation; (2) the topic of the research, such as Caring for the Critically Ill Patient to identify research in a specific clinical or scientific area, or Less Is More, to identify studies on how overuse of medical care may result in harm and how less intervention may lead to better health; or (3) article length, such as Brief Report to designate short reports of original studies or novel reports that involve small studies, or Research Letters to designate focused concise reports published as Correspondence (§1.1, Research Reports).

9. As the current leaders of the Americas Hernia Society, one of the main cosponsoring societies of the “International Guidelines for Groin Hernia Management,” we aim to highlight the key points of these guidelines.
- consensus statement
 - editorial
 - narrative review
 - report of original data

ANSWER: a. consensus statement

Editor's Note: Other substantive nonresearch, nonreview articles may present educational content or other information using various article formats according to the specific topic and usually consist of brief, focused articles. For instance, Clinical Guidelines Synopsis articles provide a succinct summary of recent guidelines from authoritative sources; Guide to Statistics and Methods articles present a concise explanation of a focused statistical

concept, often based on that statistical approach as used in a related research report; and Clinical Challenge articles present a case-based clinical dilemma with diagnostic and treatment options in a question and answer format (§1.3, Other Substantive Article Types [Nonresearch, Nonreview]).

10. In this article, a medical school professor expresses gratitude for the caring and empathy expressed by the team caring for her mother hospitalized with COVID-19 and emphasizes the importance of humanity and compassion over facts and statistics for families physically separated from their critically ill loved ones.
- a. editorial
 - b. personal vignette
 - c. narrative review
 - d. preliminary communication

ANSWER: b. personal vignette

Editor's Note: Opinion articles based on personal experiences, anecdotes, or vignettes represent the importance of including narrative in scientific and biomedical journals and may be used to illustrate teaching points. For instance, most essays published as A Piece of My Mind articles in *JAMA* or as On My Mind articles in *JAMA Pediatrics* are based on personal vignettes that explore the dynamics of the patient-practitioner relationship and the wide-ranging experiences in medicine and health care or may express views and opinions about issues that affect the medical profession and other health care professionals. Articles published as Teachable Moments in *JAMA Internal Medicine* bring attention to the harms that can result from overuse of clinical care, such as with certain tests and treatments, and from underuse of needed clinical intervention (§1.4.3, Personal Vignettes and Reflections).