# REVIEWER’S CHECKLIST

## Introduction

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- Are the objectives clear?
- Is the importance of the study adequately emphasized?
- Is the subject matter of the study new?
- Is previous work on the subject adequately cited?

## Materials (patients) and methods

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- Is the study population detailed adequately?
- Are the methods described well enough to reproduce the experiment?
- Is the study designed clear?
- Are statistical methods included?
- Are ethical considerations provided?

## Results

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- Can the reader assess the results based on the data provided?
- Is the information straightforward and not confusing?
- Are there adequate controls?
- Are statistical methods appropriate?

## Discussion

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- Do the authors comment adequately on all their results?
- Have the authors explained why and how their study differs from others?
- Do the authors discuss the potential limitations with their study?
- Are the authors’ conclusions supported by the results?

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**FINAL POINTS**

**ACCEPTED** ✔️ **NOT ACCEPTED** ✗

Minimal acceptance points: 17
The recommendations concerning the INTRODUCTION:

1. The short review
   a. Outline the core of the subject;
   b. Concise, interesting and informative without long historical reviews;
   c. Supported by the major and more recent references.

2. Shortcomings of the existing studies addressing:
   a. The problems;
   b. Limitations;
   c. Shortcomings of previous studies.

3. The aim of the study:
   a. The study should answer a timely and important question;
   b. The rationale of the study must be strong and very clear;
   c. The results should be an addition to existing knowledge.

4. Scope of the study: a short paragraph setting out the scope of the study, providing a quick overview of the organization of the study that follows.

The recommendations concerning the MATERIALS & METHODS:

1. The materials or patients
   a. The patients fully described;
   b. The demographic characteristics of the patients;
   c. All detailed information relevant to the study.

2. The methods should be entirely relevant to satisfying the objectives of the study:
   a. All the methods (surgical technique, radiological technique, drugs [preparation, dose, route of administration, timing, etc.] used must be described;
   b. Only new methods need to be described in detail;
   c. For a common previously published method, use only reference;
   d. For an uncommon previously method give a short summary in addition to the reference;
   e. Any manufacturer's details must be mentioned.

3. The design of the study (separate paragraph):
   a. Provide a full description of the design of the study;
   b. If controlled, describe the control;
   c. If randomized, provide the type and method of randomization.

4. The statistical methods used (separate paragraph):
   a. Describe the statistical methods used;
   b. For uncommonly used statistical methods provide a reference;
   c. Not necessary to detail software sources if the methods used are standard.

5. Ethical considerations
   a. Any informed consent required;
   b. Ethical approval by a committee;
   c. The funding source;
   d. Conflict of interest statement;
   e. A statement about compliance with the declaration of Helsinki for animal studies (if applicable).

The recommendations concerning the RESULTS:

1. The presentation of data
   a. Provide in a respective and systematic manner;
   b. Present the results as text, tables, or graphs, but do not repeat the same data in more than one;
   c. The results must be written in a clear unequivocal and unambiguous manner.

2. Analysis of the results:
   a. The statistical analysis should be used to obtain an objective proof;
   b. In comparative studies, each comparison provided with its specific statistical evaluation.

The recommendations concerning the DISCUSSION:

1. An introduction to the discussion: a short paragraph summarizing the important findings from the results section.

2. Discussion of the results and new findings provided by the study:
   a. Each result obtained must be adequately discussed and compared with similar previous studies in a respective, logical and clear manner;
   b. If results of the study differ from previous give explanation;
   c. Each issue must be discussed in only one place;
   d. Previous studies must be highlighted regardless of their results.

3. The limitations of the study:
   a. Describe the advantages and disadvantages/limitations of the study and how these could be avoided in future studies;
   b. Recommendations based on the results of the study.

4. Summary/recommendations relevant to practice is not a repetition of the abstract, but an extended conclusion. It justifies and explains the conclusion of the study:
   a. Stress the most relevant findings ('take-home messages') of the study;
   b. A digest of the whole study.