

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

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Acknowledgement of receipt is sent for all articles, letters or comment, with a reference number for future correspondence.

Peer Review All papers undergo initial screening for suitability for the *BDJ* by the Editors. Suitable papers are then peer reviewed by two or more referees. Additional specialist advice may be sought if necessary, for example from a statistician, before a final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief.

Length of contributions Ideally contributions should be no more than 3000 words, including tables and figures. Tables count as 100-500 words depending on size and figures represent the same.

Titles must be descriptive and concise. Research articles must have a structured abstract; Practice articles (including Case Reports), Education, Opinion and General articles should be introduced with a short abstract.

Abstracts should be able to stand alone. Do not insert references in the abstract and use few abbreviations. Abstracts may be up to 200 words in length, depending on the paper's complexity.

Data or Tables may be submitted in Excel format or included at the end of the Word document.

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Units used in manuscripts must conform to the *Système Internationale d'Unités* (SI).

References must be in the Vancouver style. They should be numbered in the order in which they appear in the text, and these numbers should be inserted as superscripts each time the author is cited (Smith³⁻⁵ reported similar findings). Other references to the paper should be given in the same way after punctuation (Other studies have shown this to be true.^{4,5} Jones *et al.*⁶ demonstrated...) At the end of the article the full list of references should give the names and initials of all authors unless there are more than six, in which case only the first three should be given followed by *et al.* The authors' names are followed by the title of the article; the title of the journal abbreviated according to the style of *Index Medicus* and *Index to Dental Literature*; the year of publication; the volume number; and the first and last page numbers in full. Titles of books should be followed by the place of publication, the publisher, and the year.

Examples of reference styles

Reference to an article

1. Field J V, Balfour-Paul A, Wright D W. Perimandibular space infections. *Br Dent J* 1981; 150: 255-258.

Reference to a book

4. Hargreaves I A, Craig J W. *The management of traumatised anterior teeth of children*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1981.

Reference to a book chapter

7. Harding S R, Fryer J I. Recurrent oral ulceration in Greenland natives. In Caselli G (ed) *Coeliac diseases*. 3rd ed. pp 307-324. London: Stoma Press, 1982.

Reference to a report

2. Committee on Mercury Hazards in Dentistry. Code of practice for dental mercury hygiene. London: Department of Health and Social Security, 1979, publication no. DHSS 79-F3 72.

The author is responsible for the accuracy of the reference list at the end of the article.

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