What is a Primer?

**primer, n.** An introductory review article—covering one disease—that describes global epidemiology, molecular mechanisms, diagnosis and management.

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Nature Reviews Disease Primers – from mechanisms to management

Nature Reviews Disease Primers publishes review articles—called Primers—that provide overviews of diseases and disorders. Primers are intended to give an authoritative, global perspective for the benefit of biomedical scientists, putting current clinical and translational challenges into context. Complementary to the more-focused, specialized articles that are published by the existing Nature Reviews titles, Nature Reviews Disease Primers aims to cover a broad spectrum of diseases and will be an invaluable resource for researchers and educators alike.

Inside a Primer article

Modular in nature, Primer articles cover epidemiology; disease mechanisms; diagnosis, screening and prevention; management; and quality of life. Authored by recognized scientific and clinical experts, each Primer provides a global overview of the field and outline key open research questions. Primer articles are used by biomedical researchers looking to gain a broad perspective of all aspects of a disease, and by those entering a new medical specialty or field of research.

Each article covers all the following aspects of a given disease:

**EPIDEMIOLOGY**

Epidemiology summarizes the global burden of a disease and those who are primarily affected in different regions.

**MANAGEMENT**

Management illustrates the current standard of care from a global perspective, the efficacy of treatment and associated adverse effects.

**MECHANISMS**

Mechanisms/pathophysiology focuses on the molecular aspects of the disease or disorder. Supported by detailed figures, readers are able to compare disease processes against the ‘healthy’ state, highlighting key therapeutic targets.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Quality of life explores the major issues for patients and how these influence the treatments prescribed. Topics include life expectancy, patient-reported outcomes, palliative care and comorbidities.

**DIAGNOSIS, SCREENING AND PREVENTION**

Diagnosis, screening and prevention describes the risk factors (genetic and environmental) for the disease, how the disease is clinically diagnosed and the utility of, for example, point of care tests, imaging and histology. For diseases with screening protocols, the associated advantages and disadvantages are critically discussed. Prophylactic measures are described in terms of mode of action, efficacy and the impact made on the burden of disease – for the patient and from a global public health perspective.

**OUTLOOK**

Outlook examines the key outstanding research questions and discusses where the field will focus its efforts over the next 5–10 years. Key for researchers and clinicians, the issues raised will focus on advances to look out for, from emerging technologies to advances in other fields that will likely influence the research trajectory.
Each Primer is accompanied by an illustrated summary of the article:

**PRIMEVIEW POSTERS**

Dedicated posters for each Primer article visually and concisely dissect the disease

- Provides a snapshot of the topic for time-poor students and researchers
- Editorially written and illustrated
- High production quality of the Nature Reviews journals
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**Nature Reviews Disease Primers: readership**

The journal is of interest to PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, clinical researchers and medical students, as well as other biomedical researchers entering a new field or medical specialty.

**Nature Reviews Disease Primers: specialties covered include**

- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Ear, nose and throat
- Emergency medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology and obstetrics
- Hepatology
- Hematology
- Infectious diseases
- Maxillofacial and oral medicine
- Neurology
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Psychiatry
- Respiratory medicine
- Rheumatology
- Sleep medicine
- Urology

With new advances in medicine, from genetic risk factors being unraveled to the latest drugs brought to market, some diseases or disorders will be revisited frequently. Backed with a strong background in clinical and biomedical sciences, the editorial team of Nature Reviews Disease Primers will pay close attention to the rapidly moving medical landscape to inform the journal’s commissioning strategy.

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