

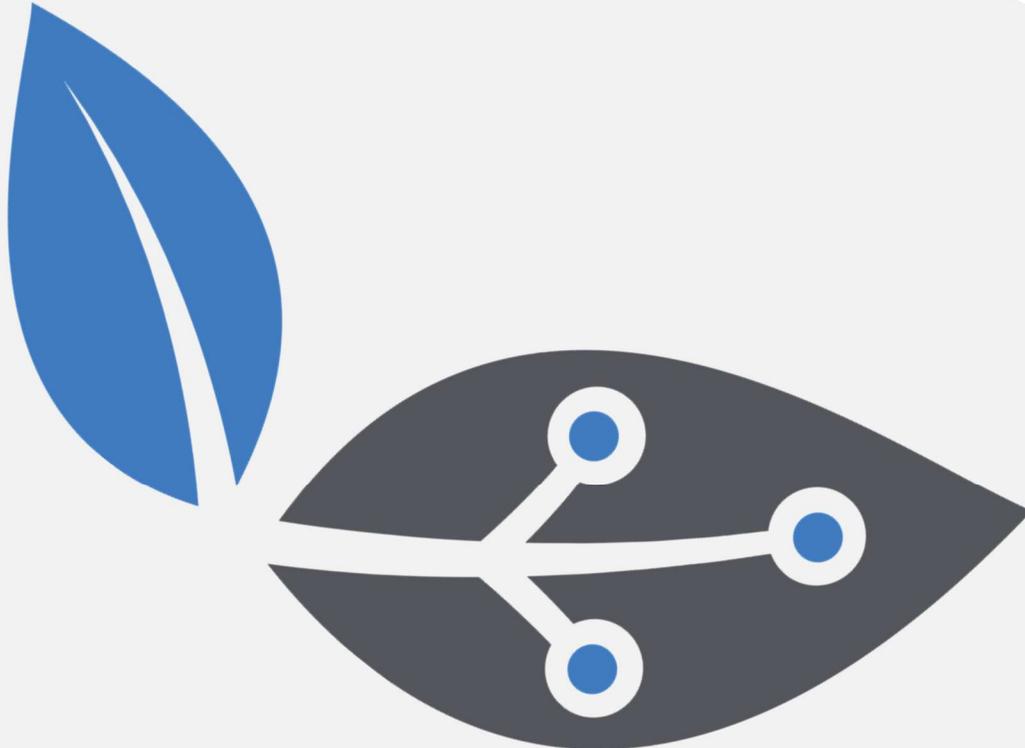


SCIENTIFIC REVIEW FORM

[Author name and title]

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1. The form below is intended to provide a structure for evaluating the article in terms of its scientific merit, and to minimise or eliminate the major reasons for rejection through journal peer review. We have constructed the form to enable review of the article according to general IMRaD structure. Any additional comments outside of the below sections that the editor considers important should be added to the Additional Comments box at the end of this form.

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	SECTIONAL QUESTION	COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION NEEDED BY AUTHOR BEFORE JOURNAL (RE)SUBMISSION
TITLE & KEYWORDS	Are the title and keywords appropriate to the content, and to the target journal (if provided)? Does the title indicate the type of study or trial, where appropriate?		
ABSTRACT	Does the abstract adequately describe the paper, its main findings, and its conclusions?		



INTRODUCTION	Does the introduction satisfactorily define the hypothesis/outline the aims of the study?		
	Does the Introduction satisfactorily explain the importance of the hypothesis being tested or the goals of the research?		
	Does the study adequately convey the context of what is already known about the problem/hypothesis, and identify the gap in knowledge addressed by the present work?		
	Do the authors adequately express their rationale for the choice of experiment or study design?		
	Do the authors adequately express the scientific advantages of their approach? For this question, please also consider whether or not the authors have provided adequate information to enable readers not familiar with the specific field to understand the hypothesis or the research question.		
	Does the introduction summarise recent advances in the field, and cite relevant literature?		



METHODS	Are the study design and methods appropriate to the research objectives?		
	Is sufficient information provided on procedures, replications, and controls (as appropriate)?		
	Is sufficient information provided on materials used and subjects?		
	CLINICAL SCIENCES/MEDICINE PAPERS: Is sufficient detail provided on interventions and outcome measures?		
	Is sufficient detail provided on analysis and statistical methods? Is any further statistical analysis required?		
	Is sufficient information included to enable another researcher to judge the experiment and repeat the experiment itself?		
	Are any additional experiments required?		



RESULTS	Are the results clearly explained, without unwarranted interpretation?		
	Has the author made appropriate use of tables and/or graphs to demonstrate their findings? Have error bars been used appropriately for quantitative data?		
	Is there any duplication of data or findings in the text and figures/tables?		
	Have the authors adequately highlighted their findings in response to the study questions/hypothesis tested?		
	Have the authors adequately reported any significant negative results?		
DISCUSSION	Have the authors adequately expressed what is novel and either different or not different to what was previously known about the hypothesis?		



	Have the authors adequately described how their findings move knowledge in the field forward or advance the understanding of the research topic?		
	Are there any negative results or limitations that are addressed, or should be addressed, in the paper? <i>(Note that this could also be relevant to the conclusions)</i>		
	Are there any unsupported claims, or instances where findings have been interpreted and data not shown?		
CONCLUSIONS	Have the authors adequately summarised the major conclusions, based on synthesis of the results and the introduction and discussion?		
	Have the authors adequately summarised the importance of their work, based factually on their results?		



REFERENCES & CITATIONS	Are the citations and references relevant to the study?		
	Are there any important studies that have not been cited?		
	Are any citations missing, or any statements made that don't carry appropriate citation?		
	Is the level of self-citation appropriate, given the context of the study and the article length?		
REPORTING & ETHICAL GUIDELINES	LIFE SCIENCES/MEDICINE PAPERS: Is the article compliant with the appropriate ethical standards and considerations, especially relating to human or animal subjects?		
	Are conflicts of interest provided?		
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