

Materials and methods

- How many details you give in this section will depend on your field and the purpose of the paper
- Use references to describe standard procedures (e.g. as described by Smith (1990)).
- Just occasionally describing a new method may be a major part of the paper
- Use *sub-headings* to help your reader find information

Materials and methods

Information order:

1. Overview of the experiment
2. Population/sample
3. Location
4. Restriction/Limiting conditions
5. Sampling technique
6. **Procedures (usually in chronological order)**
7. **Materials**
8. Variables
9. Statistical treatment

Instructions for *Dynamic Medicine* authors

- **Methods**

This should include the design of the study, the setting, the type of participants or materials involved, a clear description of all interventions and comparisons, and the type of analysis used, including a power calculation if appropriate.

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Tenses

Use the present tense to describe (a) populations and sites, and (b) standard or conventional material

Examples

1. The study site is on a south-facing slope between 1000 and 1500 m a.s.l..
2. A standard trap is cylindrical in shape

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Tenses

Use the past tense to describe (c) samples used in the study, (d) specifically designed or modified material, and (e) procedure

1. The animals tagged were all males that were at least one year old.
2. The traps were protected from direct sunlight by an outer mesh.
3. We applied stress to the stems, gradually increasing the load until...

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Conventionally procedures is described in the passive, but the active voice may be used to make your writing feel livelier, for better information flow or to show that you were innovative in your method.

1. The permanent plots were staked out and relevees performed in each.
2. We interviewed a representative samples of foresters in each canton.