



National Centre
for the Replacement
Refinement & Reduction
of Animals in Research

The ARRIVE guidelines:

Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments

ARRIVE Guidelines

- What are the ARRIVE guidelines?
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Why were the ARRIVE guidelines developed?

- The ARRIVE guidelines were proposed following an extensive review on the reporting of animals in research (Kilkenny et al., 2009). This was the largest survey of the quality of reporting of publically funded animal research in the UK and US.

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS one

Survey of the Quality of Experimental Design, Statistical Analysis and Reporting of Research Using Animals

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- The survey identified key areas for improvement:

Experimental design

Most papers did not report randomisation (88%) or blinding (86%) to reduce bias in animal selection and outcome measurements.

Statistical analysis

Only 70% of publications fully described statistical methods and presented the result with a measure of variability.

Reporting of studies

Only 59% included three important pieces of information: hypothesis, number of animals and characteristics of animals.

- The ARRIVE guidelines were created in response to this survey to improve the reporting of animal research.

Why do we need to improve the reporting of animal research?

- Improved reporting is needed to maximise information published and minimise unnecessary animal studies leading to improved translation of pre-clinical research.
- Failures in reporting of animal research have been demonstrated in a variety of research fields.

Cancer

Hess, KR. Statistical design considerations in animal studies published recently in Cancer Research. [Cancer Research](#) (2011) 71:625.

Stroke

Macleod, MR et al., Systematic review and metaanalysis of the efficacy of FK506 in experimental stroke. [Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism](#) (2005) 1-9.

Pain

Rice, ASC et al., Animal models and the prediction of efficacy in clinical trials of analgesic drugs: A critical appraisal and call for uniform reporting standards. [Pain](#) (2008) 139(2):243-7.

Multiple sclerosis

Vesterinen, HM et al., Improving the translational hit of experimental treatments in multiple sclerosis. [Multiple Sclerosis](#) (2010) 16(9): 1044-55.

Who supports the ARRIVE guidelines?

The ARRIVE guidelines are endorsed by journals, funders and learned societies.

Journals



Over 300 journals have incorporated the ARRIVE guidelines in their Instructions to Authors

Funders



The major funding bodies of biomedical research in the UK support the ARRIVE guidelines.

Learned Societies



A growing number of learned societies are endorsing the ARRIVE guidelines and sharing with their members.

How can you use the ARRIVE guidelines?

The guidelines can be used when reporting research. In brief, the ARRIVE guidelines include the following:

Title

1. Accurate & concise description

Abstract

2. Background, objectives, methods, key findings and conclusions

Introduction

3. Background
4. Objectives

Methods

5. Ethical statement
6. Study design (blinding/randomisation)
7. Experimental procedures (How? When? Where? Why?)
8. Experimental animals (species, sex, weight)
9. Housing and husbandry
10. Sample size
11. Allocation experimental groups
12. Experimental outcomes
13. Statistical methods

Results

14. Baseline Data
15. Numbers Analysed
16. Outcomes & estimation
17. Adverse events

Discussion

18. Interpretation & implications
19. Generalisability and translation
20. Funding

Why should you use the ARRIVE guidelines?

The ARRIVE guidelines can help the reporting of your research to be:

- Reproducible
- Transparent
- Accurate
- Comprehensive
- Concise
- Logically ordered
- Well written

The ARRIVE guidelines can be used when:

- Writing a manuscript
- Preparing a PhD thesis
- Designing experiments

The ARRIVE guidelines can help promote the 3Rs by ensuring maximal output from animal experiments and reduce the need for excessive animal use.

What resources are available?

The following resources are available :

Checklist

A checklist that can be used when writing manuscripts to record each item of the ARRIVE guidelines.

Examples

Examples for each point of the ARRIVE guidelines demonstrating how they can be used in practice to report animal research across a variety of research fields.

Presentation

A copy of this presentation and accompanying speaker notes can be used as reference.

Resources can be downloaded by visiting www.nc3rs.org.uk/ARRIVE

Z Cards

A handy pocket sized reference guide of the ARRIVE guidelines, available upon request from the NC3Rs



Conclusions & Further Information

The ARRIVE guidelines are designed to improve reproducibility and reporting standards.

To download the ARRIVE guidelines and for further information, please visit:

www.nc3rs.org.uk/ARRIVE



Kilkenny, C., Browne, W. J., Cuthill, I. C., Emerson, M., & Altman, D. G. (2010). Improving bioscience research reporting: the ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal research. *PLoS Biol*, 8(6), e1000412. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000412