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Sugestões da revista *Clinical Rehabilitation* sobre como elaborar a introdução

Introduction - why did you ever start on this study?

This sets up the puzzle; why was this study necessary? The first sentence should attract the reader and must indicate what the paper is about. The introduction should encourage the reader to continue reading.

The introduction can usually be covered in three or four paragraphs which should:

- Specify the general topic and field of study with a broad justification of its relevance
- Outline important earlier work, including any systematic reviews or meta-analyses (but the introduction is **not** the place for a detailed review of previous work).
- Identify gaps or uncertainties in existing knowledge that require more research.
- Conclude with a brief statement of the main hypotheses you are testing, or your research questions.

Common mistakes are:

- To start with a non-specific general statement (e.g. "*Osteoarthritis is the commonest disabling condition seen in primary health care, with the exception of mental health problems.*" Always mention your specific question in the first sentence (e.g. "*Osteo-arthritic knee pain often reduces mobility and quality of life and is not well controlled by existing non-surgical treatments.*")
- To make the introduction too long, giving detailed reviews of all previous work,
- To start giving information about the methods used and/or results found.

The introduction should answer four questions:

- What question or topic is this article or research about?
- What is already known?
- What is not known, or still reasonably uncertain and why is this important?
- What particularly is this research investigating?