Primary Articles and Review Articles

A primary article in the biomedical literature:
- Reports the results of original research conducted by an individual author or by a group of scientists or physicians.
- The author(s) directly participated in the research ... they examined the patients, injected the rats, filled the test tubes ... or at least they supervised those who did the actual work
- Is published in a peer-reviewed medical or scientific journal

Some specific ways to identify a primary article:
1. It will not have any of the characteristics of review articles as noted below
2. The full-text article describes the research the authors undertook

A review article in the biomedical literature summarizes one or more primary or secondary sources, usually to provide an overview of the current understanding of a medical topic, to make recommendations, or to combine the results of several studies. Examples include systematic reviews and other types of review articles in medical journals ...

Some specific ways to identify a review article are:
1. In PubMed, at the bottom of the abstract, click on the Publication Types link. If the article is a review it will be stated here. The term “meta-analysis” (a particular type of review article) is sometimes used instead of the term “review”.

Many (not all) other research databases provide similar document type labels in the database record similar to what PubMed does.

Preoperative chlorhexi
Tourney M.
West End Anesthesia Group, Rich

Abstract
Chlorhexidine is a synthetic a products. In addition to oral iii
as urinary catheters, endotrache
chlorhexidine, severe reactor coronary artery bypass grafts administration. To our knowl
the anaphylaxis cascade, the
must be appreciated that life-

PMID: 20920072 [PubMed - index]

Publication Types, MeSH
Publication Types
Case Reports
Review
2. It is reported as a review or meta-analysis in the title or abstract of the PubMed record (see below)

Assessment of topical microbicides to prevent HIV-1 transmission: Concepts, testing, lessons learned

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Highlights
- Development of topical microbicides for the prevention of HIV-1 transmission has proven challenging.
- We analyze the development of this field over the past 20 years.
- We evaluate the limited success and failures in microbicide development and assess lessons learned.
- The future of microbicide development is discussed in light of its history.

Abstract
The development of topically applied products capable of preventing vaginal and rectal transmission of HIV-1 has been ongoing for nearly 20 years. Despite this, only one clinical trial has demonstrated protection against sexual transmission of HIV-1 in women. This review covers the development of microbicides, also

3. It is reported in the full-text of the article itself (usually in the introduction or methods sections) that it is a review article or meta-analysis

4. In the Methods and Discussion section of the article, the author(s) analyze and evaluate multiple studies done by other authors.