



Vancouver Referencing Style



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Numbered references are extensively used in the biomedical and health sciences. Consult the National Library of Medicine for detailed instructions and examples of citation according to the Vancouver style. This is available at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

According to this style, a reference in the text to another source is signalled by a numeral giving the number of the citation. This numeral corresponds to a number in the list of references, which is arranged numerically. The citation within the text may appear either within or at the end of a sentence, for example:

It has been shown by Kahn and Marseille⁴ that the extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, together with the shortage of even basic resources in developing countries, makes cost-effective treatment and care a prime concern.

OR

The extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, together with the shortage of even basic resources in developing countries, makes cost-effective treatment and care a prime concern.⁴

Depending on the convention used, the reference numbers may be given as superscript or on the line numerals, in square or round brackets, without commas or full stops. Consistency is essential. The placement of the numeral in the sentence is important: Numbers have to be placed outside commas and full stops, but inside colons and semi-colons.

Things to remember about Vancouver style numbered references:

- The numbered references in the body of the text refer to footnotes or a list of references at the end of the paper.
- The first names of the author should be abbreviated to initials without full stops between initials. Separate the names of different authors by a comma.
- Give all the names of up to six authors for a single paper. If there are more than six, list the names of the first six, followed by "et al."
- If you want to make a second or subsequent reference to a source that has already been cited, re-use the same number as the one you used first.
- Only the first word of the book or journal article title is capitalised.
- Do not use italics or underlining for the title.
- Abbreviate journal titles according to the style used in Medline (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>).
- The name of the publisher follows the place of publication and the date of publication comes last.
- The list of references contains details only of those works cited in the text and the list of references is arranged in the same numerical order as they appear in the body of the text. An alphabetically arranged reference list can be included as well.

| Books | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Single author</i> | Gehlbach ¹ asserts that epidemiologists are probably most to blame for the glut of terminology. | 1. Gehlbach SH. Interpreting the medical literature. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2006. |
| <i>2 or 3 authors</i> | A classic example is the debate as to whether fluorine in the water supply is related to cancer mortality. ² | 2. Machin D, Campbell MJ, Walters SJ. Medical statistics: a textbook for the health sciences. 4th ed. West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons; 2007. |
| <i>No author</i> | At the regional level, more than 11 million Africans have already died, and another 22 million are now living with HIV/AIDS. That is two-thirds of all the cases presently on earth. ³ | 3. Intensifying action against HIV/AIDS in Africa: responding to a crisis. Washington, DC: World Bank; 2000. |
| <i>Section or chapter in a book</i> | The total thiamin concentration in the body is about 25-30 mg.... ⁴ | 4. Al-Tamimi EK, Haub MD. The role of the B group of vitamins. In Driskell JA, Wolinsky I, editors. Sports and nutrition: vitamins and trace elements. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis; 2006. p. 47-60. |
| <i>Electronic book with doi</i> | Ageing populations are an international phenomenon. ⁵ | 5. Murdoch I, Turpin S, Johnston B, MacLulich A, Losman E. Geriatric emergencies [Internet]. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons; 2014 [cited 2014 Aug 29]. doi: 10.1002/9781118655641. |
| <i>Electronic book without doi</i> | We discuss embryology in the developing fetus from zygote to birth. ⁶ | 6. Moore KL, Persaud TVN, Torchia MG, editors. Before we are born: essentials of embryology and birth defects [Internet]. 8th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier Saunders; 2013 [cited 2014 Aug 29]. Available from: https://www.clinicalkey.com . |
| Journals | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
| <i>Journal article</i> | Affirming the seriousness of this disease, Wallace ⁷ writes that prevention of colorectal cancer (CRC) has become the central activity of most practicing gastroenterologists in the United States. | 7. Wallace MC. Improving colorectal adenoma detection: technology or technique? Gastroenterology. 2007;132(4):1221-3. |
| <i>Journal article with doi</i> | While most authors agree that traditional criteria apply, there are particular aspects and concerns in the Internet environment that cause some new criteria to arise. ⁸ | 8. Zhang M, Holman CD, Price SD, Sanfilippo FM, Preen DB, Bulsara MK. Comorbidity and repeat admission to hospital for adverse drug reactions in older adults: retrospective cohort study. BMJ. 2009;338:a2752. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a2752. |

| Journal article—no author | It's a growing problem in the U.K. ⁹ | 9. Anorexia nervosa. BMJ. 1969;1:529-30. |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| World Wide Web | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
| <i>Document on WWW</i> | It's essential you learn how to reference. ¹⁰ | 10. Standler RB. Plagiarism in colleges in the USA [Internet]. 2000 [cited 2000 Dec 10]. Available from: http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm . |
| UpToDate | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
| <i>UpToDate</i> | Dysmenorrhea is a common problem experienced by women in their reproductive years. ¹¹ | 11. Smith RP, Kaunitz AM. Primary dysmenorrhea in adult women: clinical features and diagnosis. In UpToDate, Barbi-eri RL, editor. Waltham, MA.: UpToDate; 2015 [cited 2016 Apr 26]. Available from: https://www.uptodate.com . |
| Cases | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
| <i>Case files</i> | The presence of acanthosis is a sign of insulin resistance. ¹² | 12. Toy EC, Baker B, Ross PJ, Jennings JC. Case files: obstetrics and gynecology [Internet]. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education; 2016 [cited 2017 Jul 12]. Available from: https://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com . |
| Secondary sources | In-Text Example | Reference List Example |
| <i>Book</i> | Bauer ¹³ quoted the research done by Barr and Hayne | 13. Bauer PJ. Parameters of remembering and forgetting in the transition from infancy to early childhood. Monogr Soc Res Child Dev. 2000; 65(4):1-3. Record the work that you actually used. |