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• *Prescrire*'s reviews are fully thought through and documented. References to other reviews previously published in *Prescrire* are included in order to facilitate navigation within *Prescrire*'s documentary database.

When it comes to so-called primary research publications, for example a report on the results of a clinical trial, it makes sense to mistrust teams of researchers who spend their time referring mainly to their own publications, and who do not participate in an open debate.

Thorough documentary research and well-supported statements

Prescrire is not a primary research journal, but rather publishes comprehensive reviews intended to provide continuing education and a solid documentary database to serve subscribers' individual needs.

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Prescrire's approach: perfecting knowledge and building a dynamic documentary database

Prescrire's policy is that once a source article has been analysed and referenced in *Prescrire*, it is not repeated in the references for subsequent articles. Instead, this type of documentary material is referred to implicitly by referencing the *Prescrire* review in which it was first examined. The only exception to this rule is when the new review mentions a specific detail or bit of information that has not yet been covered in *Prescrire*. Note, however, that the earlier source materials are re-examined and taken into account during the drafting of new reviews.

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