

Instructions for Authors

World Journal of Pediatrics is a peer-reviewed journal published by Children's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, China. The journal gives priority to reports of outstanding clinical and experimental works as well as important contributions related to common problems of infants, children and adolescents worldwide.

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Manuscripts should meet the following criteria: original material, clear writing, appropriate study methods, valid data, and reasonable conclusions supported by the data. In short, they should contain important information or topic of general medical interest.

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All the manuscripts that adhere to its style and *Instructions for Authors* are referred to peer-review. Some of them are rejected immediately after an in-house review. The rejection at this stage is due to insufficient originality, serious scientific flaws or absence of message. The remaining articles are sent to at least two reviewers expert in the subject. Manuscripts are reviewed with due respect for authors' confidentiality, and the identity of peer reviewers is also kept confidential. A decision is made from 6 to 12 weeks according to the response from reviewers, revision by the author(s) and reappraisal on the revision.

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Categories of Articles

Articles can be considered for publication as editorials, original articles, review articles, special communications, brief reports, letters to editor, commentaries, or clinical image.

Original article

Original articles should report original research relevant to basic and clinical pediatrics including randomized trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, cohort studies, cost-effectiveness analyses and case control studies. While reporting randomized controlled trials (RCT), authors must attempt to be in conformity with the consolidated standards of reporting trials (CONSORT) statements.^[1] Each manuscript should be accompanied with a structured abstract (divided into background, methods, results and conclusions) in no more than 250 words. Four to five key words to facilitate indexing should be provided in alphabetical order along with the abstract. The text should be divided in sections on introduction, methods, results and discussion. Number of tables and figures should be limited to a maximum of 5 and 3 respectively. The typical text length for such contributions is 2500-3500 words (excluding title page, abstract, tables, figures, acknowledgements and references).

Research letter: Short accounts of original articles will also be considered for publication as research letters. These focused research letters must not exceed 1500 words, 3 illustrations or tables and up to 20 references, preferably recent publications. No abstract should be included. Research letters will be peer reviewed in a manner identical to original articles.

Review article, Systematic review & Meta-analysis

Review articles or systematic, critical assessments of literature are also published. Normally, a review article on a subject already published in the *World Journal of Pediatrics* is not accepted for a period of 3 years. The typical length for review articles is 4000 words or fewer, excluding tables, figures, and references. Authors submitting review manuscripts should include a structured abstract of around 250 words describing the need and purpose of review, methods used for selection, extraction and synthesis of data, and main conclusions. While reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, authors must attempt to be in conformity with the PRISMA statement (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>); a completed PRISMA checklist and flow diagram should also be submitted as supplemental files for checking. The templates of the checklist and flow diagram can be downloaded from the PRISMA website (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/statement.htm>).

Correspondence

Letters commenting upon a recent article in the *World Journal of Pediatrics* are welcome. Such letters should be received within 6 months of the article's publication. At the editorial board's discretion, a letter may be sent to authors/experts for comments and both letter and reply may be published together. Letters may also relate to other topics of interest to pediatricians and others, and/or useful clinical observations. Letters should not be more than 400 words. The number of authors should not exceed 2, including the authors' reply in response to a letter commenting upon an article published in this journal.

Clinical image

A short text of about 150 words depicting the condition with color photographs (vide infra) is needed. Normally only clinical photographs are accepted but accompanying skiagrams or pathological images could also be considered for publication. Photographs should be of high quality, clearly identify the condition and preferably add to the existing knowledge.

Personal viewpoint

Such articles are published on topical pediatric issues including social aspects. It is expected that the authors have sufficient credible experience on the subject for giving viewpoints. These should not exceed 1500 words.

Preparing Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*.^[2] A summary of technical requirements for preparing the manuscript is provided below:

- Double-space throughout the maintext including abstract, text, acknowledgements, references, figure legends. Start each of these sections (in same order) on a new page, numbered consecutively in the upper right hand corner.
- Use at least 11 point font size (Times New Roman or Arial).
- Conventional units are preferred with SI units in parenthesis, if available. The metric system is preferred for the expression of length, area, mass and volume.
- Use nonproprietary names of drugs, devices and other products.
- Tables, figures or crafts should be prepared and submitted in separate files.

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Title page

The page should contain (i) the title of the article: which should be concise but informative (simpler the title the better; preferably it should contain all the key words to help electronic retrieval reliably); (ii) a short running title of less than 40 characters; (iii) initials and surname of each author with the highest academic degree(s) and designation at the time when the work was done; (iv) name, address, telephone, fax, email address of the corresponding author; (v) funding source; (vi) ethical approval; (vii) conflict of interest for all authors. If none, say "No financial or non-financial benefits have been received or will be received from any party related directly or indirectly to the subject of this article."; and (viii) contributors' statement.

Authorship

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Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy the authorship criteria of *World Journal of Pediatrics*. The use of an LLM should be properly documented in the Methods section (and acknowledgements, if appropriate) of the manuscript. If a Methods section is not available, the Introduction section (or another appropriate section) can be used to document the use of the LLM.

Conflict of interest

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Abstract and key words

The second page should carry an abstract in case of original article (250 words or fewer), review article (250 words or fewer), brief report (100-150 words), respectively. For original article and reviews, the abstract should be structured as detailed earlier. For brief reports, the abstract should state the purpose of the study, basic methodology, main findings (giving specific data and statistical significance) and key conclusion(s). Below the abstract, authors should provide 3-5 key words for indexing; terms from the Medical Subject Headings (MESH) list of *Index Medicus* should be used.

The basic structure of a paper follows the well known acronym IMRAD, which stands for Introduction (what questions was asked), Methods (how was it studied), Results (what was found) and Discussion.^[2]

Introduction

The introduction must clearly state the question that the author(s) tried to answer in the study. It may be necessary to briefly review the relevant literature. Only cite those references that are essential to justify the proposed study.

Methodology

The methods section should describe, in a logical sequence, how the study was designed (e.g., how randomization was done), carried out (e.g., how subjects were chosen or excluded, ethical considerations, accurate details of materials used, exact drug dosage and form of treatment, etc.) and data were analyzed (e.g., an estimate of the power of the study, exact test used for statistical analysis, etc.). For standard methods, appropriate references are sufficient, but if standard methods are modified these should be clearly brought out. Authors should provide complete details of any new methods or apparatus used (manufacturer's name and address in parentheses).

Ethics: When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1964, as revised in 2000.^[3] They should indicate whether the study was approved by the Institutions' Ethical Committee; and informed consent was obtained for all research individuals.

For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants (or their parent or legal guardian in the case of children under 16) and a statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript. For manuscript reporting studies involving vulnerable groups (for example unconscious patients) where there is the potential for coercion (for example prisoners) or where consent may not have been fully informed, manuscripts will be considered at the editors discretion. In the case of articles describing human transplantation studies, authors must include a statement declaring that no organs/tissues were obtained from prisoners and must also name the institution(s)/clinic(s)/department(s) via which organs/tissues were obtained.

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This section should include only relevant, representative data and not all information collected during the study. Major findings should be presented clearly and concisely. Text, tables, and illustrations should be used sensibly while avoiding repeating in the text all the data depicted in the tables or illustrations and emphasizing or summarizing only important observations. Tables and figures should be restricted to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess its support. It is necessary to cite the tables in the text and type them on separate sheets. It may also be useful to mention what the study did not find.

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Discussion ordinarily should not be more than one third of the total length of the manuscript. This section should include a summary of the major findings, their relationship to other similar studies, limitations of methods and implications of these findings in future research. Conclusions should be linked to the goals of the study. Unqualified statements and conclusions which are not completely supported by the data should be avoided. Authors should also refrain from making statements on economic benefits and costs unless their manuscript includes economic data and analyses.

Acknowledgements

In acknowledgements section, it is suitable to list all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship, such as a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department head who provided only general support. Groups of persons who have contributed materially to the paper but whose contributions do not justify authorship may be listed under a heading such as "clinical investigators" or "participating investigators", and their function or contribution should be described, for example, "served as scientific advisers", "critically reviewed the study proposal", "collected data", or "provided and cared for study patients". A written consent is required from all the persons acknowledged, indicating their acceptance for the same. Acknowledgements section should be placed after the manuscript's Discussion or Conclusion section and before the References section.

References

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The references must be verified by the author against the original documents. The Springer Vancouver style is our journal's Uniform Requirements style.

Journal article

List all authors when 6 or less. When 7 or more, list only first six and add et al.

O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 2004;31:555–63. doi:10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3.

Frumin AM, Nussbaum J, Esposito M. Functional asplenia: demonstration of splenic activity by bone marrow scan. *Blood*. 1979;59 Suppl 1:26–32.

Organization as author

American Academy of Pediatrics. Clinical practice guideline: treatment of the school-aged child with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. *Pediatrics*. 2001;108:1033–44.

Complete book

Department of Health. Shifting the balance of power within the NHS: securing delivery. London: DoH; 2001.

Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

Book chapter

Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology*. London: Academic; 1980. p. 251–306.

Conference proceedings

Kimura J, Shibasaki H, editors. Recent advances in clinical neurophysiology. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology; 1995 Oct 15-19; Kyoto, Japan. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 1996.

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Stedman's medical dictionary. 26th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; 1995. Apraxia; p.119–120.

Unpublished accepted material

Leshner AI. Molecular mechanism of cocaine addiction. *N Engl J Med*. In Press 1996.

Material from Internet

Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

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Abbreviations and symbols

Only standard abbreviations are used in the text while avoiding abbreviations in the title and abstract. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement. Year, month, day, hour, minute and second should be abbreviated as y, mon, d, h, min, and s in tables respectively.

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- Moher M, Schulz KF, Altman DG, for the CONSORT Group. The CONSORT Statement: revised recommendations for improving the quality of reports of parallel group randomized trials. *Lancet*. 2001;357:1191-4. (Also available from: URL: <http://www.consort-statement.org/>). Accessed 28 June, 2002.
- Hall GM. Structure of a scientific paper. In: Hall GM, eds. *How to write a paper*. London: BMJ Books, 2000.
- 52nd WMA General Assembly. World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. Available from: URL: <http://www.wma.net>. Accessed 28 June, 2002.