

Additional Information for Authors

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Title Page

Title/subtitle – if using a subtitle, please separate this from the main title with a colon. Titles and subtitles of manuscripts reporting the results of original research should describe the intervention/methodology/setting, rather than describe the study results.

Running heading – a running heading (short version of the title), of up to 100 characters, should be provided.

Abstract – for narrative reviews, abstracts should be unstructured (i.e. no headings). For original research articles, abstracts should be structured (e.g. following the guidance of the CONSORT statement for manuscripts reporting the results of randomized clinical trials, the PRISMA Statement for systematic reviews, with or without a meta-analysis, and the STROBE statement for observational studies).

Plain language summaries (PLSs) - PLSs are not mandatory. If provided, they should be up to 250 words in length and placed after the abstract of the article under the heading 'Plain Language Summary'.

Keywords – a list of keywords is not required.

Key points – two to three short bullet points should be provided summarizing the key findings and implications of the paper. These should be presented in non-technical language and not repeat verbatim text found in the abstract. Key points should not describe the objectives or methods of the paper. They should be placed beneath the abstract under the heading of 'Key Points'.

Declarations – a section entitled 'Declarations' should be provided that contains the following subsections (if any of these sections is not applicable, state "Not applicable" under the subsection heading):

- I. Funding – a statement is required for all manuscripts that outlines whether or not any sources of financial assistance were used to conduct the study/analysis described in the manuscript and/or used to assist with the preparation of the manuscript. If no funding was received, this should be stated. In addition, for papers published open access, authors should include a statement that outlines the sponsor(s) of the open access fee.
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- III. Availability of data and material – a statement is required for all manuscripts that provides information on where data supporting the results reported in the article can be found, including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study/analysis. Data availability statements can also indicate whether data are available on request from the authors and where no data are available, if appropriate.
- IV. Ethics approval – for manuscripts that report the results of a study that involved human participants, their data or biological material, a statement is required to confirm that the study was approved (or granted exemption) by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee (including the name of the ethics committee and approval number) and certify that the study was performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. For studies in animals it should be stated if all institutional and national guidelines for the care of the laboratory animals were followed.
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- VI. Consent for publication - if an identifiable clinical photo of a patient is published, or if an article contains patient data that could be identifiable, a statement should be included to confirm that consent of patients was obtained to publish their data.
- VII. Code availability – for manuscripts that use a software application or custom code in the study.
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Acknowledgements – this section should be used to acknowledge the assistance of individuals who do not meet the criteria for authorship but who have made a substantial contribution to the manuscript/study. Acknowledgment of any medical writing support should include the nature of the support, the name of the medical writer and their employer, and the funding sources for the support. You must obtain written permission from any individual you acknowledge.

Text

Please use double-spaced text, page numbering (starting with the title page) and line numbering.

Headings – the headings of the sections/subsections should be numbered using the decimal system (e.g. 1; 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2; 3; 4; etc.), starting with the Introduction and finishing with the Conclusions.

Language - the journal does not have a preference for British vs US English, but whichever style is used, it must be consistently applied throughout the manuscript.

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Abbreviations - all abbreviations used in a table or figure should be defined in an abbreviations list placed beneath the table body, or in the figure legend. Abbreviations in the abbreviations list should be presented in alphabetical order.

References

Authors should ensure that material cited in their article was published in peer-reviewed scholarly publications; citation of non-peer-reviewed material (such as conference posters/abstracts, unpublished data on file, and preprints) should be clearly identified and kept to a minimum. If information from preprints is presented in a manuscript, it can be included in the reference list, but it should be made clear in the text where the data are mentioned that they originate from a preprint, e.g. "A recent study on drug x (currently only available as a non-peer reviewed preprint [1]) has suggested ...". The reference citation in the reference list should include the name and location of the preprint server and the DOI of the preprint.

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Clinical trial registration - while the journal's preference is to publish trials that have been included in public clinical trials registries, the journal will continue to consider all well designed and presented trials for publication. The aim of the journal is to ensure that all meaningful clinical trial data are available to clinicians worldwide, with the goal of improving medical practice. If registered, authors should list the registration number of the trial at the end of the abstract and in the methods section of the main text. Purely observational studies do not require registration.

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Surveys - ethics review/approval is generally required for all studies that involve human participation, including survey research. Investigators/authors are advised to ensure that any surveys used to generate data submitted to the journal were assessed by an Institutional Review Board prior to the initiation of the survey. While some survey research may be eligible for ethics approval exemption, the determination of exempt status rests with an Institutional Review Board, not with the investigators.

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