

# JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

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- Final approval of the version to be published; AND

- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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Prior to the References, authors should include two items headed '**Disclosures**' and '**Funding**', where potential conflicts of interest and funding sources are listed, respectively. The disclosure statement should mention each author separately by name even if none of the authors have anything to declare.

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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.

### **Novel/novelty as defined by JNC**

The terms novel/novelty are frequently used by authors, reviewers, and editors to highlight the merits or demerits of a manuscript, and hence to recommend acceptance or rejection. The editors of JNC have adapted and contextualized the dictionary meanings of "novel" and "novelty," as well as brainstormed the usages within the field, in order to arrive at an agreed-upon definition. The main purpose for doing this is to ensure consistency in our review and editorial processes, so that the usage of the terms in our letters to authors can be clearly and fully understood. We believe that it is offensive and unproductive to label a work as "lacking novelty" without clear guidelines as to what "novelty" entails.

The editors define novel/novelty as:

- 1- Research that addresses a question that has not been categorically answered by previous work
- 2- Research that is an original work, that does not replicate previously performed studies
- 3- Research that provides an answer to a previously unanswered question, provides the solution to an unsolved problem, or otherwise improves existing methods
- 4- Research that rejects what is believed to be already established
- 5- Research that complements/confirms emerging, yet not completely established concepts
- 6- Research that reveals an established concept to be based on incomplete or erroneous data
- 7- Research that provides/rejects proof of an existing application. Almost all large clinical trials fall in this category.

Furthermore:

We believe that the JNC "New Knowledge Gained" section is a good testimony of novelty. If there is *true* new knowledge gained by the work, then there is innovation. That is why JNC requires all authors of original articles to include this section.

## STARD Guidelines

Authors of **diagnostic accuracy papers** must also provide a STARD 2015 checklist, completed as fully as possible, when uploading their manuscript via the journal's submission system. The STARD 2015 checklist is available for download at: [STARD 2015 checklist](http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/stard/). For further information, please visit: <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/stard/>

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*Journal of Nuclear Cardiology* prefers to receive all manuscript submissions electronically. To submit a manuscript, please follow the instructions below:

### Getting Started

1. Launch your web browser and go to the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology's* Manuscript Central homepage (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jnc>).
2. Log-in or click the "Create Account" option if you are a first-time user of Manuscript Central.
3. If you are creating a new account:
  - After clicking on "Create Account" enter your name and e-mail information and click "Next". Your e-mail information is very important.
  - Enter your institution and address information as prompted then click "Next."
  - Enter a user ID and password of your choice (we recommend using your e-mail address as your user ID) and then select your areas of interest. Click "Finish" when done.
  - **New requirement from March 2018**, users must select a minimum of 3 (and maximum of 6) Areas of Interest from a pre-defined list of keywords.
4. Log-in and select "Author Center."

### Submitting Your Manuscript

5. After you have logged in, click the "Submit a Manuscript" link in the menu bar.
6. Enter data and answer questions as prompted; **new requirement from March 2018**, users must select a minimum of 3 (and maximum of 6) relevant Keywords/Attributes for their submission from a pre-defined list.
7. Click on the "Next" button on each screen to save your work and advance to the next screen.
8. You will be prompted to upload your files:
  - Click on the "Browse" button and locate the file on your computer. (Mac Users: Please be sure to include the ".doc" extension in your file name before uploading)
  - Select the description of the file in the drop down next to the Browse button.
  - When you have selected all files you wish to upload, click the "Upload" button.
9. Review your submission (in both PDF and HTML formats) before sending to the Editors. Click the "Submit" button when you are done reviewing.

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## MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION – QUICK GLANCE

	Original Article	Brief Report	Review Article	Editorials	Debate Article	Theme Article	Images That Teach	Case-Presentation Corner	Technical Corner	Editor's Page	Letters to Editor
Max. Words	4,500	2,500	4,500	2,500	2,500	3,000	300	4,500	2500	2500	300
Abstract	Structured	Structured	Unstructured	No abstract	Unstructured	Unstructured	No abstract	Unstructured	Unstructured	No abstract	No abstract
Abstract Word Count	250	200	250	n/a	250	250	n/a	250	250	n/a	n/a
Max. Tables	10	2	10	2	6	6	1	10	10	2	2
Max. Figures (color if possible)	10	3	10	2	6	6	6	10	10	2	2
Max. References	100	20	100	20	50	100	10	20	20	20	3
Max Abbreviations	10	10	10	0	10	10	0	10	10	0	5
New Knowledge Gained	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Powerpoint Slides	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No

n/a – not applicable

## MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

### Original Articles (4,500 words or less)

**Please note that (when necessary) manuscripts that are likely to be accepted for publication may be selected by the Editor to undergo independent statistical review.**

**Title Page.** The title page should include authors' names and academic degrees<sup>1</sup>; departmental and institutional affiliations of each author; a disclosure of potential conflicts of interest (mentioning each author separately by name) and sources of financial assistance, if any. Listed authors should include only those individuals who meet all of [ICMJE's criteria for authorship](#). Designate one author as the correspondent, and provide address, business and home telephone numbers, fax number and e-mail address. Proofs will be sent to the corresponding author, as well as an order form for reprints at a later date.

**Abstract.** Full-length papers for the Original Articles section or special sections of the Journal should include a summation of 200 words or less, to appear after the title page. Abstracts for papers to appear in the Original Articles section must be written in structured form with paragraphs labeled Background, Methods and Results, and Conclusions. Authors are encouraged to use the general outline described by the Ad Hoc Working Group for Critical Appraisal of the Medical Literature (Ann Intern Med 1987;106:598-604).

**Abbreviations.** Complex terms used frequently in the manuscript may be abbreviated. Abbreviated terms should be spelled out at first mention, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Authors are required to list up to 10 abbreviations after the abstract. A list of the suggested abbreviations is available on page 8 at the end of this document.

**New Knowledge Gained:** Add a few lines at the end of the Discussion section on "New Knowledge Gained" based on your own assessment. Please note that this is different from "Conclusions."

**Laboratory Values.** Laboratory values should be described in both the International System of Units (SI units) and in metric mass units. The SI units should be stated first and the metric units in parentheses immediately thereafter. Conversion tables are available (see JAMA 1986;225:2329-39 or Ann Intern Med 1987;106:114-29).

**Devices.** The first mention of a device should use the following format: Device Name (Manufacturer, Location). Following this, device name only can be used.

**Disclosures and Funding.** A disclosure statement must be included in the manuscript text before the References section. For full instructions, please see the "Disclosures" section above.

**References.** Number references according to order of appearance in the text, following the format set forth in "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" (Ann Intern Med 1997;126:36-47), with journal abbreviations according to *Cumulated Index Medicus*. If the reference is to an abstract, letter or editorial, place the appropriate term in brackets after the title. Please do not use abstracts that are more than 2 years old.

EXAMPLES OF REFERENCES (if more than six authors, list first six and add "et al"):

*For journal articles:*

Oleske J, Minnefor A, Cooper R Jr, Smith PB, Oswald BR, Atkinson J, et al. Immune deficiency syndrome in children. JAMA 1983;249:2345-9.

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<sup>1</sup> Use only MD, PhD (or both) or similar degree (MBChB) or highest achieved degree (e.g. BS) and also include FASNC or MASNC if a Fellow or Master of ASNC respectively. If you have included the highest degree title achieved, you do not need to include any previously achieved qualification titles.

*For books:*

Bradley EL. Medical and surgical management. Philadelphia: WB Saunders; 1982. p. 72-95.

*For chapters in books:*

Bohl I, Wallenfang T, Bothe H, Smith PB, Oswald BR, Atkinson J, et al. The effect of glucocorticoids in the combined treatment of experimental brain abscess in cats. In: Scheifer W, Klinger M, Brock M, editors. Brain abscess and meningitis: subarachnoid hemorrhage-timing problems. Berlin: Springer Verlag; 1981. p. 125-33.

**Tables:**

- All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals
- Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order
- For each table, please supply a table heading
- The table title should explain clearly and concisely the components of the table
- Identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body
- Please place tables and figures at the end of the manuscript file. Please submit high resolution images as separate files as well

**Artwork:**

*Electronic Figure Submission*

- Supply all figures electronically
- Indicate what graphics program was used to create the artwork
- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; for halftones, please use TIFF format. MS Office files are also acceptable.
- Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files
- Save and name your figure files with "Fig" and the figure number (e.g., Fig1.eps)
- Please place tables and figures at the end of the manuscript file. Please submit high resolution images as separate files as well

*Line Art*

- Definition: Black and white graphic with no shading
- Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible at final size
- All lines should be at least 0.1 mm (0.3 pt) wide
- Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi

*Halftone Art*

- Definition: Photographs, drawing, or paintings with fine shading, etc.
- If any magnification is used in the photographs, indicate this by using scale bars within the figures themselves.
- Halftones should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi

*Combination Art*

- Definition: a combination of halftone and line art (e.g., halftones containing line drawing, extensive lettering, color diagrams, etc.)
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*Color Art*

- Color art is free of charge for online publication

- If black and white will be shown in the print version, make sure that the main information will still be visible. Many colors are not distinguishable from one another when converted to black and white. A simple way to check this is to make a xerographic copy to see if the necessary distinctions between the different colors are still apparent.
- If the figures will be printed in black and white, do not refer to color in the captions.
- Color artwork should be submitted as RGP (8 bits per channel).

#### *Figure Lettering*

- To add lettering, it is best to use Helvetica or Arial (sans serif fonts)
- Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 2-3mm (8-12 pt).
- Variance of type size within an illustration should be minimal, e.g., do not use 8-pt type on an axis and 20-pt type for the axis label.
- Avoid effects such as shading, outline letters, etc.
- Do not include titles or captions into your illustrations

#### *Figure Numbering*

- All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals
- Figure parts should be denoted by lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.)
- Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order
- If an appendix appears in your manuscript and it contains one or more figures, continue the consecutive numbering of the main text. Do not number the appendix figures, "A1, A2, A3, etc." Figures in online appendices (Electronic Supplementary Material) should, however, be numbered separately.

#### *Figure Captions*

- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.
- Figure captions begin with the term Fig. in bold type, followed by the figure number, also in bold type.
- No punctuation is to be included after the number, nor is any punctuation to be placed at the end of the caption.
- Identify all elements found in the figure in the figure caption; and use boxes, circles, etc., as coordinate points in graphs.
- Identify previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference citation at the end of the figure caption

#### *Figure Placement and Size*

- When preparing your figures, size figures to fit in the column width.
- For most journals the figures should be 39 mm, 84 mm, 129 mm, or 174 mm wide and not higher than 234 mm.

*Accessibility (in order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your figures, please make sure of the following)*

- All figures have descriptive captions (blind users could then use a text-to-speech software or a text-to-Braille hardware)
- Patterns are used instead or in addition to colors for conveying information (color-blind users would then be able to distinguish the visual elements)
- All figure lettering has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1

#### **Electronic Supplementary Material:**

##### *Submission*

- Supply all supplementary material in standard file formats.

- Please include in each file the following information: article title, journal name, author names; affiliation and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
- To accommodate user downloads, please keep in mind that larger-sized files may require very long download times and that some users may experience other problems during downloading.

#### *Audio, Video, and Animations*

- Resolution: 16:9 or 4:3
- Maximum file size: 25 GB
- Minimum video duration: 1 sec
- Supported file formats: avi, wmv, mp4, mov, m2p, mp2, mpg, mpeg, flv, mxf, mts, m4v, 3gp

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- Submit your material in PDF format; .doc or .ppt files are not suitable for long-term viability.
- A collection of figures may also be combined in a PDF file.

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- Spreadsheets should be converted to PDF if no interaction with the data is intended.
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#### *Numbering*

- If supplying any supplementary material, the text must make specific mention of the material as a citation, similar to that of figures and tables.
- Refer to the supplementary files as "Online Resource", e.g., "... as shown in the animation (Online Resource 3)", "... additional data are given in Online Resource 4".
- Name the files consecutively, e.g. "ESM\_3.mpg", "ESM\_4.pdf".

#### *Captions*

- For each supplementary material, please supply a concise caption describing the content of the file.

#### *Processing of supplementary files*

- Electronic supplementary material will be published as received from the author without any conversion, editing, or reformatting.

#### *Accessibility*

In order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your supplementary files, please make sure that

- The manuscript contain a descriptive caption for each supplementary material
- Video files do not contain anything that flashes more than three times per second (so that users prone to seizures caused by such effects are not put at risk)

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## **Brief Reports**

Brief Reports should follow the same general structure as Original Articles (as described above), with the following differences:

**Length.** Brief reports must be 2,500 words or less

**Abstract.** Brief reports must contain a structured abstract of 200 words or less

**Table/Figure.** Brief reports can contain at most 2 table, and at most 3 figure (color, minimum 300 dpi)

**References.** No more than 20 references should be included

Specifications and placement of the following items remain the same as stated in the 'Original Articles' section: Abbreviations, New Knowledge Gained, Laboratory Values, and Disclosure and Funding statements

## **Images That Teach**

JNC will consider original, high quality images showing novel findings, subject to revision. Text should consist of a title page, text of 300 words or less, including an introduction, a brief case summary and no more than 3 references. No abstract is needed, and a very brief author list is recommended. We accept submission of up to 5 images with figures legends that can be very descriptive (up to 250 words each). Images should be of high quality (at least 300 dpi), using color where appropriate and with labeling of abnormalities where necessary to direct the reader.

This new section replaces **Nuclear Cardiology Bullets**, so any case reports submitted will be returned to the author for possible reformatting according to the instructions cited above and then resubmission if desired.

Disclosure and Funding statements must be included at the end of the manuscript, prior to the References.

## **Editorial Correspondence (Letters to the Editor)**

Letters pertaining to articles published in the Journal or to related topics should include no more than 300 words and three references and should be prepared in the same style as other manuscripts. Letters can describe unusual findings in one or more cases such as an unknown side effect to an imaging agent. No abstract or images will be published with Letters to the Editor.

Disclosure and Funding statements must be included at the end of the manuscript, prior to the References.

## **News Items**

Announcements of scheduled meetings, symposia, or postgraduate courses of national interest may be sent for consideration to the Editor at least 5 months in advance of the meeting date. News items of general interest to the nuclear cardiologists will also be considered.

Disclosure and Funding statements must be included at the end of the manuscript, prior to the References.

## SUGGESTED STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND RULES

### GENERAL

- (1) 3VD – three vessel disease
- (2) 2VD – two vessel disease
- (3) 1VD – one vessel disease
- (4) ACS – acute coronary syndrome
- (5) CABG – coronary artery bypass grafting
- (6) CAD – coronary artery disease
- (7) ECG – electrocardiogram
- (8) ECG EKG – electrocardiogram/graphy/graph
- (9) FEV – forced expiratory volume
- (10) HDL – high density lipoprotein
- (11) HF – heart failure
- (12) IVUS – intravascular ultrasound
- (13) keV – kilo electron volt(s)
- (14) LAD – left anterior descending coronary artery
- (15) LBBB – left bundle branch block
- (16) LCx – left circumflex coronary artery
- (17) LDL – low density lipoprotein
- (18) LM – left main coronary artery
- (19) MET – metabolic equivalent of task
- (20) MI – myocardial infarction
- (21) MPHR – maximally predicted heart rate
- (22) NSTEMI – non-ST elevation myocardial infarction
- (23) PA – postero-anterior
- (24) PCI – percutaneous coronary intervention
- (25) PDA – posterior descending artery
- (26) PTCA – percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
- (27) PVC – premature ventricular contraction
- (28) RA – right atrium
- (29) RCA – right coronary artery
- (30) R – R interval Use hyphen RR interval
- (31) ST segment – no hyphen
- (32) STEMI – ST elevation myocardial infarction
- (33) SVG – saphenous vein graft
- (34) TG – triglycerides
- (35) tPA – thrombolytic therapy

### IMAGING-SPECIFIC

- (1) BMIPP – beta-methyl-p-iodophenylpentadecanoic acid
- (2) ED – end diastolic
- (3) EDV – end diastolic volume
- (4) EF – ejection fraction
- (5) ES – end systolic
- (6) ESV – end-systolic volume
- (7) FDG – fluorodeoxyglucose
- (8) DTPA – diethylamine triamine pentacetic acid
- (9) keV – kilo electron volt(s)
- (10) LAO – left anterior oblique
- (11) LHR – lung-to-heart ratio
- (12) LV – left ventricular
- (13) MBq – megabecquerel
- (14) mCi – millicurie
- (15) MIBG – Iodine-123-metaiodobenzylguanidine
- (16) MIBI – sestamibi
- (17) MPI – myocardial perfusion imaging

- (18) MUGA – multigated acquisition study
- (19) PET – positron emission tomography
- (20) QP/QS – pulmonary blood flow/system blood flow
- (21) RBC – red blood cell
- (22) RNA – radionuclide angiocardiology
- (23) ROI – region of interest
- (24) RV – right ventricular
- (25) SDS – summed difference score
- (26) SPECT – single photon emission computerized tomography
- (27) SRS – summed rest score
- (28) SSS – summed stress score
- (29) SV – stroke volume
- (30) Tc-99m – technetium-99m
- (31) TID – transient ischemic dilation
- (32) TI-201 – thallium-201
- (33) V/Q – ventilation perfusion

### RULES

- (1) Abbreviate mCi, MBq, R, mR, etc.
- (2) Beats per minute BPM 55 beats per minute
- (3) Beta blockers No hyphen beta-blocker
- (4) Body mass index BMI
- (5) Body mass index of \_\_\_ kg/m<sup>2</sup> body mass index of 29 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- (6) Doses of radiopharmaceuticals should have 2 units of measure – mCi and MBq (conversion factor: 1 mCi = 37 MBq)
- (7) Ejection fraction should be in percents rather than decimals
- (8) Gated should always be ECG-gated or non ECGgated
- (9) Leads should be in roman numerals with subscript numbers
- (10) Long terms (i.e., ECG, PTCA, CABG, and PET) should be written out on first use within an item with the abbreviation in parentheses
- (11) Mark units for all labs (creatinine, etc.)
- (12) mrem – millirem
- (13) Radiopharmaceutical names should be written out (e.g., Carbon-11 palmitate, Nitrogen-13 ammonia, Rubidium-82 chloride, Fluorine-18 fluorodeoxyglucose)
- (14) Use generic names only
- (15) Use myocardial perfusion SPECT imaging instead of study
- (16) Use stress/rest (not stress-rest)
- (17) X-ray – (with capital X)
- (18) Use US measurement with European in parentheses

## AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Upon acceptance of your article, the corresponding author will receive an email with a link to the special Author Query Application at Springer's web page where he/she can indicate whether they wish to order Springer Open Choice\* and offprints. Once the Author Query Application has been completed, the manuscript will be processed and the proofs will be sent to the corresponding author.

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### AUTHOR PROOFS

After a submission is accepted and processed through production, a proof of the article is made available to the corresponding author. The purpose of the proof is to check for typesetting or conversion errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables and figures. It is particularly important to check the proofs for accurate spelling of the author's names. It will be impossible to change an incorrectly spelled author's name after publication. Substantial changes in content, e.g., new results, corrected values, title and authorship, are not allowed without the approval of the Editor-in-Chief. Please note that the corresponding author will only receive one proof for review. Revised proofs are provided only upon request of the corresponding author. The article will be published online after receipt of the corrected proofs. This is the official first publication citable with the DOI (Digital Object Identifier). After online publication further changes can only be made – if approved by Springer's Quality Assurance team – in the form of an Erratum, which will be hyperlinked to the article. After release of the printed version, the article can also be cited by issue and page numbers.

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