

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'. Importantly, they should be written in language that a general reader can understand and be free of technical jargon.

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. 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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- 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.
- V. 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.
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- VII. Code availability – for manuscripts that use a software application or custom code in the study.
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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 all persons, institutions, or entities named in the Acknowledgement section.

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

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