

INSTRUCTION FOR AUTHORS

HepatoBiliary Surgery and Nutrition (HBSN; Print ISSN 2304-3881; Online ISSN 2304-389X)

Thank you for your interest in *HepatoBiliary Surgery and Nutrition* (HBSN). The following instruction for authors are drafted according to CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR JOURNAL EDITORS (1), COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics). Please consult the instructions to help you prepare your manuscript, and feel free to contact us with any questions. To ensure fast peer review and publication, manuscripts that do not adhere to the following instructions will be returned to the corresponding author for technical revision before undergoing peer review. We are looking forward to your submission.

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1. ABOUT THE JOURNAL

HepatoBiliary Surgery and Nutrition (Print ISSN 2304-3881; Online ISSN 2304-389X; Hepatobiliary Surg Nutr; HBSN) is a bi-monthly peer-reviewed publication that is dedicated to the advancement of hepatobiliary surgery and nutrition. The main focus of the journal is to describe new findings in hepatobiliary diseases, provide current and practical information on diagnosis and nutrition and to prevention and clinical investigations. Specific areas of interest include, but not limited to, multimodality therapy, biomarkers, imaging, biology, pathology,

immunology, drug metabolism and technical advances related to hepatobiliary diseases and nutrition research. Contributions pertinent to hepatobiliary diseases are also included from related fields such as public health, human genetics, basic sciences, education, sociology, and nursing. Article categories of the journal include Original Article, Review, Research Highlight, Editorial, Case Report, How We Do It, Commentary, Editorial, Viewpoint and Images in Clinical Medicine. The aim of the Journal is to provide a forum for the dissemination of progresses in all areas related to hepatobiliary diseases worldwide. It is an international, peer-reviewed journal with a focus

on cutting-edge findings in this rapidly changing field, while providing practical up-to-date information on diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. The editorial board brings together a team of highly experienced specialists in hepatobiliary diseases treatment and research. The diverse experience of the board members allows our editorial panel to lend their expertise to a broad spectrum of hepatobiliary subjects. The entire submission and review process are managed through OJS system, an electronic system, which provides an efficient way and ensures a rapid turnaround of papers submitted for publication.

2. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES

Original Article

Word limit: 5,000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 450 words maximum, structured with sub-headers (background, methods, results and conclusions).

References: no limit.

Figures/ tables: no limit, but 8 figures should be sufficient.

Description: Full-length reports of current research in either basic or clinical science. Original article should entail a section describing the contribution of each author made to the manuscript. See section “Author contributions” for details. Meta-analysis will be categorized into this type.

Review Article

Word limit: 6,000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 450 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).

References: no maximum.

Figures/tables: minimum 1 image or figure.

Description: Reviews are comprehensive analyses of specific topics. They are submitted upon invitation by the Editors. Proposals for reviews may be submitted; however, in this case authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration. Both solicited and unsolicited review articles will undergo peer review prior to acceptance. Review article should entail a section describing the contribution of each author made to the manuscript. See section “Author contributions” for details.

Research Highlight

Word limit: 1,500 words maximum.

Abstract: 300 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).

Description: Research Highlight is ‘digest’ of the best/most interesting research findings that have been recently published in the field of hepatobiliary diseases and nutrition. They are usually solicited by editors and written by outstanding experts.

How We Do It

Word limit: 1,000 words maximum, but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: Not required.

References: 5 maximum.

Figures: 5 maximum.

Description: “How We Do It” should present a novel or improved technique or procedure. The article should focus on the technique or procedure itself and describe the detailed surgical procedure. The case can be briefly introduced but discussions on specific preoperative evaluation, postoperative care, and outcomes are not necessary. Photos, illustrations and videos are encouraged.

Commentary

Word limit: 1,000 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 10 maximum, including the article discussed.

Figures/tables: 2 maximum.

Description: Commentary, upon Editor’s invitation, discusses a paper or report or event within the past few months or so, or in the near future. It should set the problems addressed by the paper/report/event in the wider context of the field. Proposals for Commentary may be submitted; however, in this case authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration. Commentaries will be reviewed and decided to be accepted or not by the (Deputy) Editors-in-chief without peer-review process.

Editorial

Word Limit: 1,500 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 15 maximum.

Figures/tables: 2 maximum.

Description: Editorial is written by recognized leader (s) in the field. Editorials will be reviewed and decided to be accepted or not by the (Deputy) Editor(s)-in-chief without peer-review process.

Case Report

Word limit: 2,000 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 300 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).

References: 20 maximum.

Figures/ tables: 4 Maximum.

Description: Only cases of exceptional interest and novelty are considered.

The authors should provide a statement at the end of the main text to confirm that the patient has given their consent for the Case reports to be published. The editorial office may request copies of the informed consent documentation at any time. We recommend the following wording is used for the consent section: "Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this Case report and any accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal."

If the patient has died, then consent for publication must be sought from the next of kin of the patient. If the patient is a minor, or unable to provide consent, then consent must be sought from the parents or legal guardians of the patient. In these cases, the statement in the 'Consent' section of the manuscript should be amended accordingly.

Note, although we believe reporting case materials is important for the advancement of medicine, the space reserved for case report remains limited for each issue. The decision to publish or not publish a case material submission can sometimes depend on the available space of the journal. For manuscripts that do not qualify, Editors may ask authors to shorten them and rewrite as Letter to the Editor.

Viewpoint

Word limit: 1000 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 7 maximum.

Figures/tables: Only 1 table or figure.

Authors: no more than 3 authors.

Description: Viewpoints may address virtually any important topic in medicine, public health, research, ethics, health policy, or health law and generally are not linked to a specific article. Viewpoints should be well focused, scholarly, and clearly presented.

Letter to the Editor

Word limit: 1000 words maximum excluding references, tables

and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 10 maximum.

Figures/tables: Only 1 table or figure.

Description: Letter to the Editor on content published in the Journal or on other topics of interest to our readers is welcomed. The journal might invite replies from the authors of the original publication, or pass on letters to these authors.

Images in Clinical Medicine

Word Limit: Should contain no more than 150 words. No abstracts are required.

Title: Should contain no more than eight words.

Authors: No more than two authors may be listed.

References: Not allowed.

Description: Images in Clinical Medicine are classic images of common medical conditions. Images are an important part of much of what we do and learn in medicine. This feature is intended to capture the sense of visual discovery and variety that physicians experience. Images in Clinical Medicine are not intended as a vehicle for case reports. Original, high-quality images are considered for publication (subject to editing and abridgment) provided they do not contain material that has been submitted or published elsewhere. Images in Clinical Medicine will be reviewed and decided to be accepted or not by the (Deputy) Editor(s)-in-chief without peer-review process. To submit an image for publication in the Journal, please follow the submission instructions below. Please include a title for your submission. The title should contain no more than eight words. No more than two authors may be listed. The maximum length is 150 words. No abstracts are required.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE MANUSCRIPT

The length of manuscripts must adhere to the specifications under the section Manuscript Categories. Manuscripts should be presented in the following order: (i) title page; (ii) abstract and key words; (iii) text; (iv) acknowledgments; (v) disclosure; (vi) references; (vii) supplementary material; (viii) figure legends; (ix) tables (each table complete with title and footnotes) and (x) figures. Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

Title Page

The title page should contain (i) the title of the manuscript. Authors should include all information in the title that will make electronic retrieval of the article both sensitive and

specific; (ii) the full names of the authors and (iii) the addresses of the institutions at which the work was carried out together with (iv) the full postal and email address, plus facsimile and telephone numbers, of the corresponding author. The present address of any author, if different from that where the work was carried out, should be supplied in a footnote; (v) a short running title (less than 60 characters) should also be provided. In keeping with the latest guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, for the original article and review article, the information of author contribution is needed (See section “Author Contributions” for details).

Abstract and Keywords

The length of abstracts must adhere to the word count specifications under the section Manuscript Categories. The abstract should state the main problem, methods, results and conclusions. Do not use reference, table or figure in the abstract. It must be factual and comprehensive. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be limited and general statements (e.g., “the significance of the results is discussed”) should be avoided. The abstract of an original article should be structured into four paragraphs with sub-headers: background, methods, results and conclusions. The abstracts for other manuscript types should be unstructured. Three to five key words should be supplied below the abstract. Use terms from the medical subject headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus (2).

Text

Authors must use the following subheadings to divide the sections of their Original Article manuscript: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment, Disclosure, References, and when relevant, Supplementary Material. However, review, perspective, opinion and commentary articles do not require these specifically outlined sections, and they can be written in several sections with their own headings, as suitable.

Author Contributions

This section is only required for systematic review/meta-analysis, original and review article. It describes the contribution of each author made to be manuscript. Authorship credit should be based on: (I) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; (II) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; (III) final approval of the version to be published. (IV) Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions that related to the accuracy

or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Author should meet conditions (I), (II), (III), and (IV), and all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors. Those who do not meet all four criteria should be acknowledged (see section “Acknowledgements” for details). Please note that acquisition of funding, collection of data, language editing or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship.

The “Author Contributions” section should be completed as follow:

- (I) Conception and design:
- (II) Administrative support:
- (III) Provision of study material or patients:
- (IV) Collection and assembly of data:
- (V) Data analysis and interpretation:
- (VI) Manuscript writing: All authors.
- (VII) Final approval of manuscript: All authors.

Note: I) Manuscript writing part and Final approval of manuscript part are required to be included while other parts are based on actual applicability; II) contribution is not required when there is only one author.

Acknowledgements

- I) All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing or language editing assistance, or a department chairman who provided only general support. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.
- II) Funding: Details of all funding sources for the work in question should be included in the Acknowledgment section.

The following rules should be followed:

The sentence should begin: “This work supported by...”; The full official funding agency name should be given, i.e. “National Institutes of Health”, not “NIH” (full RIN approved list of UK funding agencies). Grant numbers should be given in brackets as follows: “[grant number XXX]”. Multiple grant numbers should be separated by a comma as follows: “[grant numbers XXX, YYY]”; Agencies should be separated by a semi-colon (plus “and” before the last funding agency). Where individuals need to be specified for certain sources of funding the following text should be added after the relevant agency or grant number “to [author initials]”; An example is given here: “This work was supported by the National Institutes of

Health [AA123456 to C.S., BB765432 to M.H.]; and the Alcohol & Education Research Council [hfygr667789]”.

- III) When there is nobody or funding to be acknowledged, please describe as “None”.

Footnote

- I) Conflicts of Interest: See section “Conflicts of Interest” for details.
- II) Financial Disclosure: Some variables, such as “measures of income inequality and degree of financial openness, are not included in our study because of the limited availability of good quality data across countries over the sample period”. When there is no financial disclosure, this section should be removed.

References

In the text, references should be cited using Arabic numerals in round brackets in which they appear consecutively [e.g., “cancer-related mortality (19)”; “heart failure (29,30)”. If cited in tables or figure legends, number according to the first identification of the table or figure in the text.

In the reference list, the Vancouver system of referencing should be used (3). Cite the names of all authors when there are three or fewer; when more than three, list the first three followed by *et al.* Do not use *ibid.* or *op cit.* Reference to unpublished data and personal communications should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text only (e.g. Smith A, 2000, unpublished data). All citations mentioned in the text, tables or figures must be listed in the reference list. Names of journals should be abbreviated in the style used in *Pubmed* (4). Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.

The format of reference sees as follow.

- Journal article
e.g.: Gibas Z, Prout DF Jr, Pontes JR. Chromosome changes in germ cell tumours of the testis. *Cancer Genet Cytogenet* 1986; 19: 254-52.
- Online article not yet published in an issue
An online article that has not yet been published in an issue (therefore has no volume, issue or page numbers) can be cited by its Digital Object Identifier (DOI). The DOI will remain valid and allow an article to be tracked even after its allocation to an issue. e.g.: Furuya R, Takahashi R, Furuya S, et al. Is urethritis accompanied by seminal vesicu-litis? *Int J Urol*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2042.2009.02314.x.
- Book
e.g.: Ernstoff M. *Urologic Cancer*. Blackwell Science,

Boston, 1997.

- Chapter in a Book
e.g.: Gilchrist RK. Further commentary: Continent stroma. In: King LR, Stone AR, Webster GD (eds). *Bladder Reconstruction and Continent Urinary Diversion*. Year Book Medical, Chicago, 1987; 204-5.
- Electronic material
e.g.: Fasquel J, Chabre G, Zanne P, et al. A role-based component architecture for computer assisted interventions: illustration for electromagnetic tracking and robotized motion rejection in flexible endoscopy. *MIDAS Journal, Systems and Architectures for Computer Assisted Interventions 2009*, Available online: <http://www.midasjournal.org/browse/publication/648>.

Tables

Tables should be self-contained and complement (but not duplicate) information contained in the text. Number tables consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. Type tables on a separate page with the legend above. Legends should be concise but comprehensive – the table, legend and footnotes must be understandable without reference to the text. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. Column headings should be brief, with units of measurement in parentheses; all abbreviations must be defined in footnotes. Footnote symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, should be used (in that order) and *, **, *** should be reserved for *p*- values. Statistical measures such as SD or SEM should be identified in the headings. If tables have been reproduced from another source, a letter from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be attached to the covering letter.

Figures

All illustrations (line drawings and photographs) are classified as figures. Figures should be cited in consecutive order in the text. Magnifications should be indicated using a scale bar on the illustration. If figures have been reproduced from another source, a letter from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be attached to the covering letter.

- Size
Figures should be sized to fit within the column (82 mm), intermediate (118 mm) or the full text width (173 mm).
- Resolution
Figures must be supplied as high resolution saved as .eps or .tif. Halftone figures 300 dpi (dots per inch), Color figures 300 dpi saved as CMYK, figures containing text 400 dpi, Line figures 1000 dpi.

- **Color figures**
Files should be set up as CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) and not as RGB (red, green, blue) so that colors as they appear on screen will be a closer representation of how they will print in the *HBSN*.
- **Line figures**
Must be sharp, black and white graphs or diagrams, drawn professionally or with a computer graphics package.
- **Text sizing in figures**
Lettering must be included and should be sized to be no larger than the journal text or 8 point (Should be readable after reduction – avoid large type or thick lines). Line width between 0.5 and 1 point.
- **Figure legends**
Type figure legends on a separate page. Legends should be concise but comprehensive
- **the figure and its legend must be understandable without reference to the text. Include definitions of any symbols used and define/explain all abbreviations and units of measurement.**

Video

HBSN will accept digital files in mp4, flash video (flv.), MPEG(MPEG video file), DVD video format, mov., avi., and mww. formats or video on CD/DVD. Contributors are asked to be succinct, and the Editor-in-chief reserves the rights to require shorter video duration if necessary. Video files can be submitted with a manuscript online: <http://hbsn.amegroups.com/pages/view/submit-multimedia-files>.

Duration: Video files should be limited to 20 minutes.

Quality: Please set the video aspect ratio as 4:3 or 16:9 (widescreen). The original video should be of high quality. The resolution is no less than 1280*720, the frame rate no less than 24 frames per second and the bit rate no lower than 5Mbps.

Text in video: All the text notes, explanations or descriptions, etc. in the video must be in English. And the logo or watermark of hospital should not be stick on the screen. Plus, the information of patients should be erased from the video.

Video legends: Legends for the video files should be provided. The video files should be numbered consecutively in the order of reference in the text.

Appendix

The supplementary appendix should be paginated, with a table of contents, followed by the list of investigators (if there is one), text (such as methods), figures, tables, and then references. The supplementary appendix should not be included in the article's reference list.

The appendix must be submitted in a Word file. The appendix will not be edited for style. It will be presented online as additional information provided by the authors.

The published article will contain a statement that supplementary material exists online and will provide the reader with a URL and link. To reference the supplementary appendix in the text of the article, refer to it as in the following example:

“Many more regressions were run than can be included in the article. The interested reader can find them in a supplementary appendix online”.

Equations

Equations should be numbered sequentially with Arabic numerals; these should be ranged right in parentheses. All variables should appear in italics. Use the simplest possible form for all mathematical symbols.

4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Authors must state that the protocol for the research project has been approved by a suitably constituted Ethics Committee of the institution within which the work was undertaken and that it conforms to the provisions of in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2013, available at: <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/%20index.html>. The journal retains the right to reject any manuscript on the basis of unethical conduct of either human or animal studies. All investigations on human subjects must include a statement that the subject gave informed consent. Patient anonymity should be preserved. Photographs need to be cropped sufficiently to prevent human subjects being recognized (or an eye bar should be used).

◆ For studies in the following categories:

Randomized controlled trials or other intervention research: This category includes any study that carries out medical intervention(s) on patients or healthy individuals.

Case-control study: A case-control study is designed to retrospectively analyze the exposure to the risk factor of interest in subjects with known outcomes (with or without disease; dead or alive; or, with or without other pre-determined endpoints).

Prospective cohort study: In a prospective cohort study, patients with known exposure to a risk factor are followed and then the outcomes (with or without disease; or, dead or alive) were identified.

Cross-sectional studies: Cross-sectional studies are

performed to investigate the occurrence of a specific disease or the status quo of a clinical condition.

Basic or translational medical research using human specimens:

- Authors must state whether their studies had been approved by an institutional review board (IRB) (if yes, please provide the number of approval document). For a multi-center study, IRB approval must be obtained from each center.
- The authors must state whether all the subjects had signed the informed consent forms. For subjects under 18 years of age or those with limited capacity for civil conduct, the authors must state whether their caregivers had signed the informed consent forms.
- Also, the authors should state whether the study outcomes will affect the future management of the patients.

◆ **For other categories:**

Retrospective and ambispective cohort studies: In these studies, the patients' exposure to risk factor(s) were retrospectively identified, followed by the retrospective follow-up of the patients to determine the relationship between the future or current endpoints (with or without disease; or, dead or alive) and the exposure.

- For studies in this category, authors must state whether their study had been approved by an institutional review board (IRB) (if yes, please provide the number of approval document). For a multi-center study, IRB approval must be obtained from each center.
- Also, the authors should state whether the study outcomes will affect the future management of the patients.
- The authors must state whether all the subjects had signed the informed consent forms before enrollment. For subjects under 18 years of age or those with limited capacity for civil conduct, the authors must state whether their caregivers had signed the informed consent forms. For deceased patients or those who had lost capacity for civil conduct, the informed consent forms could be signed by their family members or caregivers. For studies on patient data retrieved from hospital medical record system or social insurance systems, an informed consent form is not required; however, the authors still need to declare whether the patient's personal data have been secured.

Systematic review and meta-analysis, review, opinion, hypothesis, and editorial

- No statement on medical ethics is required.

Case report and visualized surgery:

- No statement on medical ethics is required. However, in cases of involving new and controversial treatments, approval from IRC might be required.
- Informed consent must be obtained from the subjects or their caregivers.

Diagnostic accuracy tests: These studies are performed to evaluate the efficiency of a specific index test in disease diagnosis.

- For studies in this category, authors must state whether their study had been approved by an institutional review board (IRB) (if yes, please provide the number of approval document). For a multi-center study, IRB approval must be obtained from each center.
- Also, the authors should state whether the study outcomes will affect the future management of the patients.
- If the study has a prospective design: the authors must state whether all the subjects had signed the informed consent forms before enrollment. For subjects under 18 years of age or those with limited capacity for civil conduct, the authors must state whether their caregivers had signed the informed consent forms. However, for retrospective studies based on a hospital medical record system, no informed consent is required.

Nested case-control study: In a nested case-control study, the patients were followed up after the biological samples are obtained from the subjects, and then a subset of patients are chosen for the analysis.

If the study has a prospective design:

- Authors must state whether their study had been approved by an institutional review board (IRB) (if yes, please provide the number of approval document). For a multi-center study, IRB approval must be obtained from each center.
- Also, the authors should state whether the study outcomes will affect the future management of the patients.
- The authors must state whether all the subjects have signed the informed consent forms before they enter the study, no matter whether they enter the final analysis. For subjects under 18 years of age or those with limited capacity for civil conduct, the authors must state whether their caregivers had signed the

informed consent forms.

If the study is based on a previously available specimen bank, the authors must:

- State whether the specimen bank had been approved by the IRB upon its establishment;
- State whether all the subjects had signed the informed consent forms during the establishment of the bank (attached with the numbers of approval documents).

Post hoc analysis: In a post hoc analysis, the authors re-examines the currently available data from different perspectives.

- The authors need to state whether the previous studies had been approved by the local medical ethics committee(s)
- Also, it is important to state whether all the subjects had signed the informed consent forms in the previous studies.

For more information on statement of ethics, please feel free to consult our editorial staff.

5. INFORMED CONSENT

Identifying information, including names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent is required for **Case report, original/research articles and visualized surgery**. The statement should be included in the footnote.

It may be possible to publish without explicit consent if the report is important to public health (or is in some other way important); consent would be unusually burdensome to obtain; and a reasonable individual would be unlikely to object to publication (all three conditions must be met).

6. POLICIES ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Our journal complies with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' uniform requirements on Conflict of Interest statement.

Conflict of Interest exists when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships with other persons or organizations that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions. The existence of such relationships does not necessarily represent true conflict of interest. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the

relationship affects their judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patents) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, and of science itself (<http://www.icmje.org/index.html>).

1. Participants

All participants in the peer-review and publication process—not only authors but also peer reviewers, editors, and editorial board members of journals—must consider their conflicts of interest when fulfilling their roles in the process of article review and publication and must disclose all relationships that could be viewed as potential conflicts of interest.

a. Authors

When authors submit a manuscript of any type or format they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias or be seen to bias their work.

b. Peer Reviewers

Reviewers should be asked at the time they are asked to critique a manuscript if they have conflicts of interest that could complicate their review. Reviewers must disclose to editors any conflicts of interest that could bias their opinions of the manuscript, and should recuse themselves from reviewing specific manuscripts if the potential for bias exists. Reviewers must not use knowledge of the work they're reviewing before its publication to further their own interests.

c. Editors and Journal Staff

Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts should recuse themselves from editorial decisions if they have conflicts of interest or relationships that pose potential conflicts related to articles under consideration. Other editorial staff members who participate in editorial decisions must provide editors with a current description of their financial interests or other conflicts (as they might relate to editorial judgments) and recuse themselves from any decisions in which a conflict of interest exists. Editorial staff must not use information gained through working with manuscripts for private gain. Editors should publish regular disclosure statements about potential conflicts of interests related to the commitments of journal staff. Guest editors should follow these same procedures.

2. Reporting Conflicts of Interest

Articles should be published with statements or supporting

documents, declaring:

- Authors' conflicts of interest;
- Sources of support for the work, including sponsor names along with explanations of the role of those sources if any in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; the decision to submit the report for publication; or a statement declaring that the supporting source had no such involvement;
- Whether the authors had access to the study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is on-going.

To support the above statements, editors may request that authors of a study sponsored by a funder with a proprietary or financial interest in the outcome sign a statement, such as "I had full access to all of the data in this study and I take complete responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis." If there is conflict of interest for the authors, authors must state conflict of interest based on the actual condition; if there is no conflicts of interest, state conflict interest section as the following format: "The author has no conflicts of interest to declare." or "The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare."

7. CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY

We require, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrollment. This policy applies to any clinical trial starting enrollment after January 1, 2006. For trials that began enrollment before this date, we require registration by April 1,

2006, before considering the trial for publication. We define a clinical trial as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g., phase I trials) are exempt.

We do not advocate one particular registry, but registration must be with a registry that meets the following minimum criteria:

- accessible to the public at no charge;
- searchable by standard, electronic (Internet- based) methods;
- open to all prospective registrants free of charge or at minimal cost;
- validates registered information;
- identifies trials with a unique number;

- includes information on the investigator(s), research question or hypothesis, methodology, intervention and comparisons, eligibility criteria, primary and secondary outcomes measured, date of registration, anticipated or actual start date, anticipated or actual date of last follow-up, target number of subjects, status (anticipated, ongoing or closed) and funding source(s). Registries that currently meet these criteria include: 'the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (6); the International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry (7);
- the Australian Clinical Trials Registry (8); the Chinese Clinical Trials Register (9); and the Clinical Trials Registry - India (10).

8. RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

Reporting of randomized controlled trials should follow the guidelines of The CONSORT Statement (11).

9. COPYRIGHT

All rights of the submitted article is to be transferred and assigned to AME Publishing Company, for sole right to print, publish, distribute and sell in all languages and media internationally. The transfer of copyright is deemed in effect if and when the submitted article is accepted for publication. If the submitted article contains any material already protected by prior copyright, the corresponding author will deliver to the AME Publishing Company written permission from the copyright holder, for the reproduction of the material in this article.

Permission from AME Publishing Company (permissions@amegroups.com) is required if one would like to reuse any materials published and copyrighted. Royalty fee is exempted in case of the authors asking permission to reuse the materials (figure, tables) for non-commercial purposes.

10. STYLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Manuscripts must follow the style of the Vancouver agreement detailed in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' revised 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication' (12).

Author name

Each author's given name should be followed by his/her surname. Capitalize each letter of the surname. A hyphen

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Spelling

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Units

All measurements must be given in SI or SI-derived units. For more information about SI units, please go to the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website (13).

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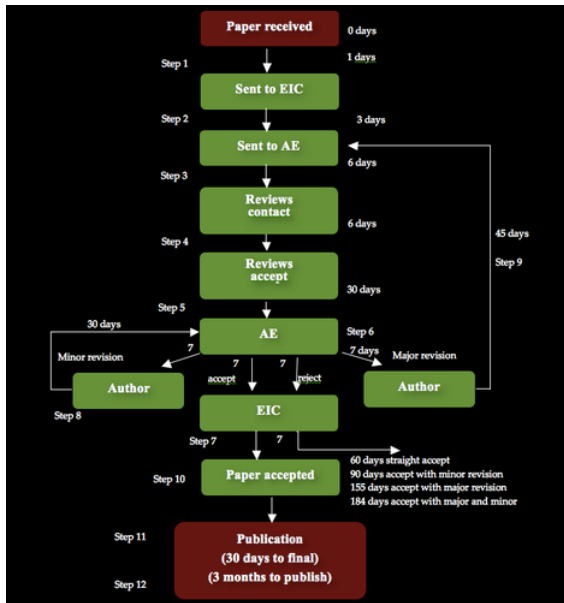
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