ANAESTHESIA CRITICAL CARE & PAIN MEDICINE

Official journal of the French Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation, SFAR)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Impact Factor p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.4

DESCRIPTION

Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine (formerly Annales Françaises d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation) publishes in English the highest quality original material, both scientific and clinical, on all aspects of anaesthesia, critical care & pain medicine.

Official journal of the French Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation, SFAR), ACCPM is signatory to the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE Recommendations), and to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) code of conduct for editors. ACCPM follows COPE's guidelines.

ACCPM is published in electronic form only (e-only journal) and indexed in the main international databases.

Issues contain (guest) Editorials, Original articles, Reviews, Special articles, Letters to the Editor, Technical notes, Short communications. Original works include clinical or laboratory investigations and clinical or equipment reports. Reviews include narrative reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

All articles must: bring new, interesting, valid information - and improve clinical care or guide future research; be solely the work of the author(s) stated; not have been previously published elsewhere and not be under consideration by another journal; be written in excellent English; be in accordance with the journal’s Guide for Authors.

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 2.734 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Current Contents - Clinical Medicine
PubMed/Medline
Embase
Scopus
Hinari
Science Citation Index Expanded

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-chief
Jean-Yves Lefrant, Nimes University Hospital Centre Division of Anaesthesiology Intensive Care Pain Medicine and Emergencies, Nimes, France

Deputy Editor
Emmanuel Lorne, CHU Amiens-Picardie, Dept. of Anaesthesiology and Critical care Medicine, Amiens, France

Managing Editor
Rosanna Njeim, French Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medecine, Paris, France

Editor
Karim Asehnoune, University Hospital Centre Nantes Faculty of Pharmacy, Nantes Cedex 01, France
Sylvain Ausset, Val de Grace Hospital French Military Medical Service Academy Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Paris, France
Pierre Beaulieu, CHUM Hospital, Université de Montréal, Anesthesiology, Montréal, Canada
Matthieu Biais, University Hospital Centre Bordeaux Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Bordeaux, France
Jean-François Brichant, Central University Hospital of Liege, Liège, Belgium
Beny Charbit, University Hospital Center of Reims Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Reims, France
Philippe Cuvillon, Nîmes University Hospital, CHU Carémeau, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, Pain Dept, Nîmes, France
Christophe Dadure, Lapeyronie Hospital, Pediatric Anesthesia Department, Montpellier, France
Jean-Stéphane David, Civil Hospices of Lyon Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Lyon, France
Thomas Fuchs-Buder, University of Lorraine, CHRU of Nancy, Anaesthesiology, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine Dept., Nancy, France
Thomas Geeraerts, CHU de Toulouse, Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine Dept, Toulouse, France
Anne Godier, The Fondation Adolphe de Rothschild Hospital, Paris, France
Jean-Luc Hanouz, University Hospital Centre Caen, Caen, France
Olivier Joannes-Boyau, University Hospital Centre Bordeaux Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Bordeaux, France
Eric Kipnis, Lille University School of Medicine, Loos, France
Vincent Laudenbach, University Hospital Centre Rouen, Rouen, France
Matthieu Legrand, Hospital Saint-Louis, Paris, France
Morgan Le Guen, Hospital Foch Department of Anaesthesiology, Suresnes, France
Thomas Lescot, Sorbonne University Saint Anthony Hospital Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Paris, France
Emmanuel Marret, American Hospital of Paris, Neuilly sur Seine, France
Nicolas Mongardon, Hospital Henri Mondor, Creteil, France
Sébastien Pierre, Cancer University Institute Toulouse Oncopole, Toulouse, France
Romain Pirracchio, European Hospital Group Georges Pompidou Anaesthesia and Resuscitation Service, Paris, France
Jason Alexander Roberts, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, Australia
Antoine Schneider, University Hospital of Lausanne Intensive Care Unit, Vaud, Switzerland
Jean-Pierre Tourtier, Paris Fire Brigade, Paris, France
Laurie Tran, University Hospital Centre Nice, Nice, France

Guest Editor
Mette Berger, Lausanne University Hospital Department of Adult Critical Care Medicine and Burns Center, Lausanne, Switzerland
Jean-Michel Constantin, University of Clermont-Ferrand, Perioperative Medicine Department, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Daniel De Backer, ULB Department of Intensive Care, Brussels, Belgium
Karen Domino, University of Washington Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Seattle, United States
Jeffrey Lipman, The University of Queensland, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Brisbane, Australia
Didier Payen, Denis Diderot University, Paris, France
Rupert Pearse, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry William Harvey Research Institute, London, United Kingdom
Paulo Pelosi, University of Genoa Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Genova, Italy
Jean-Charles Preiser, Erasmus Hospital Intensive Care Unit, Brussels, Belgium
Mervyn Singer, University College London Centre for Intensive Care Medicine, London, United Kingdom
Jean-Louis Vincent, Erasmus Hospital Intensive Care Unit, Brussels, Belgium
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine (ACCPM) publishes in English the highest quality original material, both scientific and clinical, on all aspects of Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine. Official journal of the French Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (Socit Francaise d'Anesthsie et de Ranimation /SFAR), ACCPM is signatory to the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE Recommendations), and to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) code of conduct for editors. ACCPM follows COPE's guidelines.

Types of article

ACCPM publishes (guest) Editorials, Original articles, Reviews, Special articles, Letters to the Editor, Technical notes, Short communications. Original works include clinical or laboratory investigations and clinical or equipment reports. Reviews include narrative reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses. All articles must: Be written in excellent English; Bring new, interesting, valid information - and improve clinical care or guide future research; Be solely the work of the author(s) stated; not have been previously published elsewhere and not be under consideration by another journal; Be in accordance with these Guide for Authors' instructions. All articles are published in full on the journal's website http://www.sciencedirect.com.

Case Reports : Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine (ACCPM) do no accept Case Report submissions.

Contact details for submission

For pre-submission inquiries, questions or concerns regarding the submission and review process (not addressed on these pages), please contact the journal's editorial staff: Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine, Editorial office, Mrs Rosanna Njem, e-mail: redaction@sfar.com, phone: +33 [0]1 45 25 92 45.

Page charges
This journal has no page charges.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:

• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)

Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations

• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements
For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

Important Information: All article submissions must be accompanied by a completed Ethical Statement using the editable PDF form which can be downloaded here. Please save this form to your computer, and fill it in using Adobe reader or equivalent.

Studies in humans and animals

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

Declaration of interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

Submission declaration and verification

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

Preprints

Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Use of inclusive language

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive
language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping (e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

**Author contributions**

For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. More details and an example

**Authorship**

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

**Changes to authorship**

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

**Clinical trial results**

In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.

**Reporting clinical trials**

Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

**Registration of clinical trials**

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

**Reporting systematic reviews and observational studies**
For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, the Journal expects authors to follow and provide at manuscript submission the PRISMA checklist: [http://www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org) For observational studies, the STROBE checklist must be provided: [http://www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org) The latest versions of these statements and other useful resources are available on the EQUATOR Network website. Peer reviewers are also requested to access and consider the relevant reporting guidelines/checklists during their manuscript assessment.

**Copyright**

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' ([see more information on this](#)). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

**Author rights**

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. [More information.](#)

**Elsevier supports responsible sharing**

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

**Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

**Funding body agreements and policies**

Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the gold open access publication fee. Details of [existing agreements](#) are available online. After acceptance, open access papers will be published under a noncommercial license. For authors requiring a commercial CC BY license, you can apply after your manuscript is accepted for publication.

**Open access**

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

- **Subscription**
  - Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [universal access programs](#).
  - No open access publication fee payable by authors.
  - The Author is entitled to post the [accepted manuscript](#) in their institution's repository and make this public after an embargo period (known as green Open Access). The [published journal article](#) cannot be shared publicly, for example on ResearchGate or Academia.edu, to ensure the sustainability of peer-reviewed research in journal publications. The embargo period for this journal can be found below.

- **Gold open access**
  - Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
  - A gold open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For gold open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following [Creative Commons user licenses](#):
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
For non-commercial purposes, let's others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Author Services.

Informed consent and patient details
Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals. Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via https://www.editorialmanager.com/accpm/

Referees
Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees. For more details, visit our Support site. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

PREPARATION
Double-blind review
This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. More information is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

Title page (with author details): This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.
Blinded manuscript (no author details): The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Manuscript types and word count**

Please adhere to the following maximum word and reference counts when submitting manuscripts. The word count excludes Title Page, Description of Study, Abstract, References, Tables, Figure Legends, and Supplementary data.

**Editorials**

Editorials provide perspective on articles published in the Journal or express the general policies or opinions of the Editorial board. Editorials are commissioned by the Editorial Board. Editorials do not have abstract, but include two or three keywords. They typically should not be longer than 1500 words and include more than 20 references. Editorials can be submitted directly to the publication's editorial office.

**Original articles/Research reports results of fundamental research in the fields of the journal**

Research reports describe original clinical or laboratory investigations. They should not exceed 3000 words of text and 30 references. They should include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words and six keywords, and the following sections: introduction, patients (or equipment) and methods, results, discussion, conclusion. Introduction. It justifies the work carried out and states its aims, briefly recalling the literature's data. Patients (or equipment) and methods. This section details the patient selection criteria, defines groups, describes techniques used (possible cross-referenced with a description of an unusual technique) and the chosen parameters in order to assess the results' value. This chapter ends on the presentation of statistical tests used. This section should be written in the perfect and/or imperfect tense. Results. Depending to their number and type, results should be given in the form of isolated figures, averages with their index of dispersion (SD: standard deviation, SEA: standard error of the average), medians with their extreme values or confidence belt, tables and/or figures. The results detailed in the form of tables or figures should not be quoted again in the text and vice versa. The statistical significance of the differences or relations observed should be based on appropriate tests. This section should be written in the perfect and/or imperfect tense. Discussion. It should comment on the results without reiterating them, confronting them to data from published articles. Nothing should be asserted that has not been proven or vouched for. Conclusion. It should answer the question(s) formulated in the introduction and should be logically deduced from the results and the discussion. It should not assert facts that have not been justified by facts in the body of the text. It should not be redundant in relation to the abstract.

**Reviews**

Review articles synthesize previously published material into an integrated presentation of current understanding of a topic. Review articles should describe aspects of a topic in which scientific consensus exists, as well as aspects that remain controversial and are the subject of ongoing scientific disagreement and research. Review Articles are expected to be comprehensive in scope. If the author used a formal strategy to search the medical literature, this strategy should be described. Reviews are either commissioned by the Editor from another Author or proposed by the latter. In this event, the Author should contact the ACCPM Editorial office before starting any writing in order to: a) make sure that the subject is liable to interest the Editorial board and that a similar subject is not in the process of being published by the publication; b) supply a detailed plan of the review; c) ask for specific "instructions" for the writing of this article. Review articles typically should be fewer than 5000 words and 100 references, and should include an unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words and six keywords. Progress reports follows the same general instructions as those for "general" Reviews, but take an in-depth look at the recent developments in the chosen subject. Apart from a few essential references, publications analysed must have been published in the past five years. Their less exhaustive character makes it different from general Reviews. They should not exceed 2500 words and 50 references, and should include an unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words and six keywords.

**Special articles**
Special articles are pieces of work that cannot be classified in one of the journal’s sections (for example: the history of anaesthesiology, the demographics of anaesthetist-intensive care doctors, etc.). They should be fewer than 5000 words and 100 references, and should include or not an abstract which may be structured or unstructured (depending on the topic) of no more than 250 words and six keywords. Statements issued by organizations to guide clinical care (e.g., guidelines, practice parameters, recommendations, consensus statements, position papers) are published as Special Articles. Societies interested in publishing such statements in ACCPM should contact the Editorial office to discuss the process of publishing guidelines in the Journal.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor enable either to give an opinion on an already published article, either to open up a discussion or give an account of a personal experience. Their publication, subject to approval from the Editorial board, considers the following points. Authorship. Letters to the Editor shouldn't be written by more than five authors. Consent. Letters to the Editor about one or more patients also require ethics committee approval and informed consent. Focus. A letter should address a single issue, not an entire subject. Scientific accuracy. Letters do not necessarily have the imprimatur of external peer review. Nevertheless, scientific accuracy is crucial. Tone. Letters must be respectful. Letters that attack authors, the Journal, our readership (or are self-promoting) won't be published. We'll publish Letters to correct a record if the Editorial board believes that the claim is meritorious and important for the scientific record. Timeliness. A Letter written in response to a published paper should be submitted no later than 4 months after the paper has been published. Conflict of Interest. Conflict of interest disclosure is required for all submissions to the Journal, including Letters. Brevity Letters to the Editor include a title. They do not have abstract, but two or three keywords. They typically should not be longer than 1000 words for fewer than five references.

Technical notes

Technical notes look at new equipment, new methods of measurement or reports on technical incidents. They should not exceed 2000 words of text and 20 references, and should include an unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words and six keywords. Technical notes also shouldn't be written by more than five authors.

Short communications

Short communications enable a fact or original results to be rapidly published in a condensed format. These articles contain an Introduction, Methods, Results, and a very brief (1 paragraph) Discussion. They also require an abstract of no more than 250 words, which may be structured or unstructured (depending on the topic). Short communications typically should be no longer than 1500 words, and include fewer than five references and six keywords.

Article structure

Subdivision - numbered sections

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to ‘the text’. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Introduction

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Material and methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.
Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

Glossary
Please supply, as a separate list, the definitions of field-specific terms used in your article.

Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information
- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Highlights
Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

Structured abstract
A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

Graphical abstract
Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site.

Authors can make use of Elsevier’s Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

Keywords
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, ‘and’, ‘of’). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.
**Abbreviations**
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**Body of the text**
Style. Written text should be clear, concise and accurate, free of any verbiage or jargon. Avoid too many word wraps. Verb tenses. Past events should be reported in the imperfect and preferably the perfect tense. This applies to the "patient and methods", "results", "presentation of observations", "discussion" and "comments" sections (presentation of experiences reported by other authors). Quoting names of authors in the text. Author names should be quoted as little as possible to avoid overloading the text. This restriction does not apply to authors of first articles on a particular drug, piece of equipment or technique. In the event of the authors' name being mentioned in the text, two author names should be quoted if there are only two authors; if there are more than two authors, the name of the first author is followed by "et al." Names should bear a capital letter. Drugs and equipment. Drugs are identified by their international non-proprietary name (no capital letters), possibly followed during their first appearance in the text by their specialty name (with a capital letter) in parentheses, with the symbol © and the name of the pharmaceutical firm, if the drug is relatively unknown. The sales name of a piece of equipment should bear the symbol ™ and in parentheses the name of the manufacturer and/or distributor. Numbers. Except for statistical data (results), numbers 0 to 9 are to be written in full. Taxonomic Latin names. These should be written in italics, the name of the genus with a capital letter and the name of the species with a lower case letter. For example: *Saccharomyces boulardii*

**Acknowledgements**
Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**
List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Units**
Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

**Math formulae**
Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

**Footnotes**
Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

**Artwork**
Electronic artwork

General points
- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.
A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats
If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format. Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

Please do not:
- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) in addition to color reproduction in print. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Illustration services
Elsevier's Author Services offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Tables
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References

Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the
journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

**Reference links**

Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

**Web references**

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

**Data references**

This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

**References in a special issue**

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

**Reference management software**

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:


When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

**Reference style**

- **Text**: Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.
- **List**: Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

**Examples:**

Reference to a journal publication:


Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

Reference to a book:

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Reference to a website:

Reference to a dataset:

Note shortened form for last page number. e.g., 51–9, and that for more than 6 authors the first 6 should be listed followed by 'et al.' For further details you are referred to 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals' (J Am Med Assoc 1997;277:927–34) (see also Samples of Formatted References).

Journal abbreviations source
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.

Video
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Supplementary material
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

Research data
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

Data linking
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.
There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Mendeley Data
This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the Mendeley Data for journals page.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

Revised Manuscripts
When returning a revised manuscript to the Editor, provide a covering letter in the 'Enter Comments' section of the journal submission's website, replying to the Editor's and referees' comments, describing the changes which have been made in the revised version. Highlight the changes in the revised manuscript to facilitate editorial reassessment. Time for revision must never exceed 60 days.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction
Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.
If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.
We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

Offprints
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's Author Services. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.
AUTHOR INQUIRIES
Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch. You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | https://www.elsevier.com