DESCRIPTION


ASJSUR has a growing reputation as an important medium for the dissemination of cutting-edge developments in surgery and its related disciplines in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Studies on state-of-the-art surgical innovations across the entire spectrum of clinical and experimental surgery are particularly welcome.

The journal publishes original articles, review articles, and case reports that are of exceptional and unique importance. The journal publishes original articles, review articles, and case reports that are of exceptional and unique importance. Authors of accepted articles will be charged a publication fee of US$800. The accepted article will be processed to the next stage only upon receipt of payment.

Benefits to authors
We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

IMPACT FACTOR

2017: 1.895 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2018
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

MEDLINE®
Scopus
EMBASE
CAB Abstracts
CAB Health
ScienceDirect
SIIC Data Bases
SciSearch/Science Citation Index Expanded
Current Contents
PubMed
Current Abstracts
Bioengineering Abstracts
EBSCOhost
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Jin-Tung Liang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

Executive Editor
Meng-Kun Tsai, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

Co-Editor
Gyu-Seog Choi, Medical Center, Kyungpook National University, The Republic of Korea
Tsann-Long Hwang, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – General Surgery
Chiung-Nien Chen, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Cardiovascular Surgery
Shoei-Shen Wang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Plastic Surgery
Yur-Ren Kuo, Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Thoracic Surgery
Jang-Ming Lee, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Endocrine Surgery
Shih-Horng Huang, Ren-Ai Branch, Taipei City Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Pediatric Surgery
Wen-Ming Hsu, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Neurosurgery
Dar-Ming Lai, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

SECTION EDITORS – Hepato-biliary-pancreatic Surgery
Cheng-Chung Wu, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery
Chih-Kun Huang, China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan
Kazunori Kasama, Yotsuya Medical Cube, Japan
Muffazal Lakdawala, Centre for Obesity & Digestive Surgery, India
Paryush Lakhtaria, Staten Island University Hospital, USA
Wei-Jei Lee, Min-Sheng General Hospital, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Hrishikesh Nerkar, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, India
Asim Shabbir, National University Hospital, Singapore
Kin-Hung Wong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong
EDITORIAL BOARD – Cardiovascular Surgery

Jang Yong Kim, St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, The Republic of Korea
Ngoh Chin Liew, University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia
InSung Moon, The Catholic University of Korea, The Republic of Korea
Peter Robless, Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre, Singapore
Ramesh Kaushal Tripathi, Narayana Hrudayala Hospitals, India

EDITORIAL BOARD – Colon and Rectal Surgery

Tzu-Liang Chen, China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan
Jy-Ming Chiang, Chang Gung University, Taiwan
Francis Seow Choen, Seow-Choen Colorectal Centre Pte. Ltd., Singapore
Ho-Kyung Chun, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, The Republic of Korea
Jin Gu, Cancer Hospital, Peking University, China
Hsi-Hsien Hsu, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
Seung-Yong Jeong, Cancer Hospital, Seoul National University Hospital, The Republic of Korea
Jeng-Kai Jiang, Dept. of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan
Kazushige Kawai, The University of Tokyo Hospital, Taiwan
Nam Kyu Kim, Yonsei University College of Medicine, The Republic of Korea
Seon-Hahn Kim, Anam Hospital, Korea University, The Republic of Korea
Wai Lun Law, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Suk-Hwan Lee, Kyung Hee University Hospital, Gangdong, The Republic of Korea
John Marks, Marks Colorectal Surgical Associates, USA
William Meng, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, Hong Kong
Mario Morino, University of Turin, Italy
Simon Ng, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Chi Yong James Ngu, General Surgery, Changi General Hospital, Singapore
Stefano Saad, Academic Hospital, Universität zu Köln, Germany
Jaw-Yuan Wang, Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Po-Li Wei, Taipei Medical University Hospital, Taiwan
Ming-Shiang Wu, Dept. of Internal Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taipei, Taiwan
Kun-Huei Yeh, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Endocrine Surgery

Wei Keat Cheah, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Kuen-Yuan Chen, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Quan-Yang Duh, Mount Zion Medical Center, University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco, USA
Shih-Ming Huang, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan
Kyu Eun Lee, Seoul National University Hospital, The Republic of Korea
Jacques Marescaux, IRCAD, France
Shih-Hsin Tu, Taipei Medical University Hospital, Taiwan
Hurng-Sheng Wu, Chang Bing Show Chawn Memorial Hospital, Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Esophageal Surgery

Hirofumi Kawakubo, Keio University School of Medicine, Japan
Simon Ying-Kit Law, Queen Mary Hospital, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Yasuyuki Seto, University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine, Japan

EDITORIAL BOARD – General Surgery

Shailesh Adhikary, B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal
Gustavo Carvalho, University of Pernambuco (UPE), Brazil
Feng Yih Chai, Hospital Keningau, Malaysia
Dar-Ren Chen, Changhua Christian Hospital, Taiwan
Giovanni Dapri, Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Saint-Pierre University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium
Serafin Hilvano, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines
Ming-Feng Hou, Kaoshiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital, Taiwan
Chiun-Sheng Huang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Masakazu Toi, Kyoto University, Japan
Vivencio Jose III Villaflor, Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital, Philippines
Chi-Chuan Yeh, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Hepato-biliary-pancreatic Surgery

Jan Jin Bong, Sunway Medical Centre, Malaysia
Kuo-Hsin Chen, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Gi Hong Choi, Yonsei University College of Medicine, The Republic of Korea
Kiyoshi Hasegawa, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Ming-Chih Ho, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Hong-Jin Kim, Medical Center, Yeungnam University, The Republic of Korea
Sarder A. Nayeem, Uttara Adhunik Medical College, Bangladesh
Chinnusamy Palanivelu, GEM Hospital & Research Centre, India
Vishalkumar.G. Shelat, Tan Yock Seng Hospital, Singapore
Yi-Ming Shyr, General Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan
Chung Ngai Tang, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong
Yu Wen Tien, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Yao-Ming Wu, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Head and Neck Surgery
Ichiro Tateya, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan
Tsung-Lin Yang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Neurosurgery
Han-Jung Chen, E-Da Hospital, Taiwan
Chung-Ching Chio, Chi Mei Hospital, Taiwan
Sheng-Jean Huang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Shiu-Lin Hwang, Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Lu-Ting Kuo, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
E-Jian Lee, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan
Kang Lu, E-Da Hospital, Taiwan
Hsin-I Ma, Tri-Service General Hospital, Taiwan
Daniel Walsh, King's College Hospital, UK

EDITORIAL BOARD – Orthopedic Surgery
Akira Myou, Hospital, Osaka University, Japan
Rong-Sen Yang, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Pediatric Surgery
Nicholas Chao, United Christian Hospital, UK
Yun Chen, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Tai-Wai Chin, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan
Jiin-Haur Chuang, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Seok Joo Han, Yonsei University College of Medicine, The Republic of Korea
Mila Kolar, Kingston General Hospital, Canada
Chin-Su Liu, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Plastic Surgery
Chien-Tzung Chen, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Shyi-Gen Chen, Tri-Service General Hospital, Taiwan
Kidakorn Kiranantawat, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand
Quan Dinh Ngo, Liverpool Hospital, Macquarie University, Australia
Francesco Perrone, Queen Victoria Hospital, Italy
Stamatis Sapountzis, Queen Victoria Hospital, Greece
Shyh-Jou Shieh, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan
Hao-Chih Tai, National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taiwan
Matthew Yeo, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

EDITORIAL BOARD – Thoracic Surgery
Shah-Hwa Chou, Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Han-Shui Hsu, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan
Sanghoon Jheon, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, The Republic of Korea
Wu-Wei Lai, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan
Chia-Chuan Liu, Koo Foundation Sun Yat-Sen Cancer Center, Taiwan
Hui Ping Liu, Beijing New Journey Cancer Hospital, Peking University, China
Yau-Lin Tseng, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan
Liang-Shun Wang, Shuang-Ho Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Taiwan
Hee Chul Yang, National Cancer Center, The Republic of Korea

EDITORIAL BOARD – Transplantation
Hideki Ishida, Hospital, Tokyo Women's Medical University, Japan
Hirotaka Tashiro, Kure Medical center, National Hospital Organization, Japan

EDITORIAL BOARD – Upper GI
Raad Almehdi, Royal Hospital, Australia
Cheul Su Byun, Ajou University School of Medicine, The Republic of Korea
Philip Wai Yan Chiu, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

*Asian Journal of Surgery*, launched in 1978, is the official peer-reviewed open access journal of the Asian Surgical Association, the Asia Pacific Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Society, the Taiwan Robotic Surgical Association, the Taiwan Society of Coloproctology, and the Taiwan Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. The Journal is published bimonthly by Elsevier and is Indexed in SCIE, Medline, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Embase, Current Contents, PubMed, Current Abstracts, BioEngineering Abstracts, SIIC Data Bases, CAB Abstracts, and CAB Health.

*ASJSUR* has a growing reputation as an important medium for the dissemination of cutting-edge developments in surgery and its related disciplines in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Studies on state-of-the-art surgical innovations across the entire spectrum of clinical and experimental surgery are particularly welcome.

The journal publishes original articles, review articles, and case reports that are of exceptional and unique importance. The journal publishes original articles, review articles, and case reports that are of exceptional and unique importance. Authors of accepted articles will be charged a publication fee of US$800. The accepted article will be processed to the next stage only upon receipt of payment.

The *Asian Journal of Surgery* is the official publication of seven professional surgical associations in the Asia-Pacific region, including: Asian Surgical Association Asia Pacific Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Society Taiwan Robotic Surgical Association Taiwan Society of Coloproctology Taiwan Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

The Editorial Board requires authors to be in compliance with the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (URMs)*; current URMs are available at [http://www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org).

The Guide for Authors are revised periodically by the Editors as needed. Authors should consult a recent issue of the Journal or visit [this page](#) for the latest version of these instructions. Any manuscript not prepared according to these instructions will be returned immediately to the author(s) without review.

**Article Categories**

Reviews of contemporary topics of regional interest may be submitted. These should aim to provide the reader with a balanced overview of an important and current subject in the field, and should be systematic and critical assessments of literature and data sources. They should cover aspects of a topic in which scientific consensus exists as well as aspects that remain controversial and are the subject of ongoing scientific research. All articles and data sources reviewed should include information about the specific type of study, analysis, population, intervention, exposure, and tests or outcomes. All articles or data sources should be selected systematically for inclusion in the review and critically evaluated. Personal views not based on documented evidence are discouraged.

Format guide Word limit: 4000 words Abstract: unstructured, up to 250 words References: 100 or less

**Review Articles**

Reviews of contemporary topics of regional interest may be submitted. These should aim to provide the reader with a balanced overview of an important and current subject in the field, and should be systematic and critical assessments of literature and data sources. They should cover aspects of a topic in which scientific consensus exists as well as aspects that remain controversial and are the subject of ongoing scientific research. All articles and data sources reviewed should include information about the specific type of study, analysis, population, intervention, exposure, and tests or outcomes. All articles or data sources should be selected systematically for inclusion in the review and critically evaluated. Personal views not based on documented evidence are discouraged.

Format guide Word limit: 4000 words Abstract: unstructured, up to 250 words References: 100 or less

**Original Articles**

These may be randomized trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, laboratory and animal studies, cohort studies, cost-effectiveness analyses, case control studies, and surveys with high response rates, which represent new and significant contributions to the field.
Section headings should be: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments (if applicable), Conflicts of Interest (if any), and References. The Introduction should provide a brief background to the subject of the paper, explain the importance of the study, and state a precise study question or purpose. The Methods section should describe the study design and methods (including the study setting and dates, patients/participants with inclusion and exclusion criteria, or data sources and how these were selected for the study, patient samples or animal specimens used, explain the laboratory methods followed), and state the statistical procedures employed in the research. The Results section should comprise the study results presented in a logical sequence, supplemented by tables and/or figures. Take care that the text does not repeat data that are presented in tables and/or figures. Only emphasize and summarize the essential features of any interventions, the main outcome measures, and the main results. The Discussion section should be used to emphasize the new and important aspects of the study, placing the results in context with published literature, the implications of the findings, and the conclusions that follow from the study results. Hypotheses and impressions should be stated as such and only if supported by available facts. Patient groups and applicable conditions must be carefully defined whenever recommendations for treatment are made.

Format guide Word limit: 3000 words Abstract: structured, up to 275 words References: 80 or less

Case Reports
These are short discussions of a case or case series with unique features not previously described that make an important teaching point or scientific observation. They may describe novel techniques, novel use of equipment, or new information on diseases of importance. Section headings should be: Abstract, Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, Acknowledgments (if applicable), Conflicts of Interest (if any), and References. The Introduction should describe the purpose of the present report, the significance of the disease and its specificity, and briefly review the relevant literature. The Case Report should include the general data of the case, medical history, family history, chief complaint, present illness, clinical manifestation, methods of diagnosis and treatment, and outcome. The Discussion should compare, analyze, and discuss the similarities and differences between the reported case and similar cases reported in other published articles. The importance or specificity of the case should be restated when discussing the differential diagnoses. Suggest the prognosis of the disease and possibility of prevention.

*Authors should note that case reports are rarely accepted unless the report is of a truly exceptional and unique case.*

Format guide Word limit: 1000 words Abstract: unstructured, up to 250 words References: 30 or less Tables/Figures: 5 figures/no limit for tables

Letters to the Editor
These are short comments on previously published articles in the Journal; it must be accompanied by a Cover Letter.

Format guide Author: 4 or less Word Limit: 500 words References: 5 or less Tables/Figures: 1 maximum

The Editors reserve the right to edit any letter received.

Technical Notes and Video Vignettes
Technical notes are a brief communication describing a novel surgical technique. Both images and videos may be included with submissions. While patient results may be included, individual case reports or case series should not be included in the text. The focus of the manuscript should be on the technique itself. The videos are included with technical notes.

Format guide Text limit: 1500 words Abstract: structured; follow the format of Technique; Results; Conclusions. References: No limit Video length: a single video up to 5 minutes in length, or up to 3 videos, with a total running time of up to 5 minutes. Video vignettes are submissions where the video is the major component of the article. Text should be limited to that which provides a brief introduction to the video only and should NOT include case reports or results.

Format guide Text limit: 300 words References: No limit Video length: a single video up to 5 minutes in length, or up to 3 videos, with a total running time of up to 5 minutes.
Videos for both technical notes and video vignettes MUST be narrated and in English. No accompanying music soundtrack should accompany the video(s). The content of the videos must be identical to that reviewed and accepted by the editors of the Asian Journal of Surgery.

Contact details for submission
Editorial Office
Asian Journal of Surgery
Room 929, Research Building
Department of Surgery
National Taiwan University Hospital
No. 7 Chun-Shan South Road
Taipei 100, Taiwan
Tel: (+886) 2-23123456 ext. 65113
Fax: (+886) 2-33938506
Email: ajsurg@ntu.edu.tw

Manuscript Submission
Manuscripts (meaning all submission items, including all text, tables, artwork, cover letter, conflicts of interest disclosures, and any other required documents/material) must be submitted online to the ASJSUR through the Elsevier Editorial System (EVIS) at https://www.evise.com/profile/api/navigate/ASJSUR. If assistance is required, please refer to the tutorials for authors and/or customer support that are available on the EVISE website; you may also contact the Editorial Office. Please do not post, fax or e-mail your manuscripts to the Editorial Office.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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

Human and animal rights
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; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals. 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.

Disclosure of conflicts of interest
A conflict of interest occurs when an individuals objectivity is potentially compromised by a desire for financial gain, prominence, professional advancement or a successful outcome. ASJSUR Editors strive to ensure that what is published in the Journal is as balanced, objective and evidence-based as possible. Since it can be difficult to distinguish between an actual conflict of interest and a perceived conflict of interest, the Journal requires authors to disclose all and any potential conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest may be financial or non-financial. Financial conflicts include financial relationships such as honoraria; educational grants; participation in speakers bureaus; membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest; expert testimony or patent-licensing arrangements. Non-financial conflicts include personal or professional relationships, affiliations, academic competition, intellectual passion, knowledge or beliefs that might affect objectivity. Please ensure that the name of each author listed in your manuscript appears in either Section I or Section II on page 2 of the ASJSUR Authorship & Conflicts of Interest Statement form (an authors name cannot appear in both Section I and Section II of the form).

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.

Reporting Clinical Trials
All randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart (available at http://www.consort-statement.org). This Journal has adopted the proposal from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) that require, as a condition of consideration for publication of clinical trials, registration in a public trials registry. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) do not require registration. Further information can be found at http://www.icmje.org.

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
This policy concerns the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship of accepted manuscripts. Before the accepted manuscript is published online, requests to add or remove an author, or to rearrange the author names, must be sent to the Journal Manager from the corresponding author of the accepted manuscript and must include:

(i) the reason the name should be added or removed, or the author names rearranged; and

(ii) an updated Authorship & Conflicts of Interest Statement with signatures from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement.

In the case of addition or removal of author names, this must include confirmation from the author(s) being added or removed. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will be forwarded by the Journal Manager to the corresponding author, who must follow the procedures as described above.

Note that: (1) Journal Managers will inform the Journal Editors of any such requests and (2) online publication of the accepted manuscript is suspended until authorship has been agreed. After the accepted manuscript is published online, any requests to add, remove, or rearrange author names in an article will follow the same policies as detailed above and result in a corrigendum.

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.
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.

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

Manuscripts published in the Asian Journal of Surgery become the permanent property of the Asian Surgical Association, Taipei, Taiwan, and may not be published elsewhere in any form without written permission. All articles published in the Journal are protected by copyright, which covers the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the article, as well as translation rights. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, by photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the Asian Surgical Association.

Open Access
This Journal is a peer reviewed, subsidized open access journal where the Taiwan Robotic Surgical Association pays for the publishing costs incurred by the Journal. Authors will be charged a publication fee. Please refer to the "Publication Charges and Reprints" section in the Guide for Authors. All articles will be available Open Access on ScienceDirect. Permitted (re)use is that outlined by the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) license, which states that for non-commercial purposes, others may distribute and copy the article, and 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.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
For non-commercial purposes, lets 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.

Elsevier Researcher Academy
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

Ethical Approval of Studies and Informed Consent
For human or animal experimental investigations, appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee approval is required, and such approval should be stated in the methods section of the manuscript. For those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed (World Medical Association. Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. Available at: http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html).

For investigation of human subjects, state explicitly in the methods section of the manuscript that informed consent was obtained from all participating adult subjects and from parents or legal guardians for minors or incapacitated adults, together with the manner in which informed consent was obtained (i.e., oral or written).

For work involving experimental animals, the guidelines for their care and use should be in accordance with European Commission Directive 86/609/EEC for animal experiments (available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm); this should be stated in the methods section of the manuscript.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via https://www.evise.com/profile/api/navigate/ASJSUR.
Important Information

- Articles submitted should be in Microsoft Word document format and prepared in the simplest form possible. We will add in the correct font, font size, margins and so on according to the Journal's style.
- You may use automatic page numbering, but do NOT use other kinds of automatic formatting such as footnotes, endnotes, headers and footers.
- Put text, references, and table/figure legends in one file.
- Figures must be submitted separately as picture files, at the correct resolution. The files should be named according to the figure number, e.g., "Manuscript1_Fig1", "Manuscript1_Fig2". Also see section Figures below.

A signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) patient descriptions, photographs and pedigrees should be obtained from all persons (parents or legal guardians for minors) who can be identified (including by the patients themselves) in such written descriptions, photographs or pedigrees. Such persons should be shown the manuscript before its submission. Omitting data or making data less specific to de-identify patients is acceptable, but changing any such data is not acceptable. State explicitly in the methods section of the manuscript that informed consent was obtained from all participating adult subjects or from parents or legal guardians for minors or incapacitated adults, together with the manner in which informed consent was obtained (i.e., oral or written).

Previous Publication or Duplicate Submission

Submitted manuscripts are considered with the understanding that they have not been published previously in print or electronic format (except in abstract or poster form) and are not under consideration in totality or in part by another publication or electronic medium.

Basic Criteria

Articles should be written in English (using American English spelling) and meet the following basic criteria: the material is original, the information is important, the writing is clear and concise, the study methods are appropriate, the data are valid, and the conclusions are reasonable and supported by the data.

PREPARATION

Supporting Documents

The following documents must be included (refer also to the Publication Checklist). Items (1), (2) and (3) are mandatory. Items (4), (5), (6) and (7) are required only if they are applicable to your manuscript.

1. Cover Letter. This must include the name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the corresponding author. The letter should be signed by the corresponding author.

2. Authorship & Conflicts of Interest Statement. Each author's contribution to the manuscript should be listed. Any and all potential and actual conflicts of interest should also be listed (see Section 2 for more information). Please use the Authorship & Conflict of Interest Statement Form. Your signature and those of all your coauthors must be included.

3. Copyright Transfer Agreement. In the event that your manuscript is accepted for publication in the ASJSUR, you are required to transfer all copyright ownership in and relating to the work to the Asian Surgical Association. Please use the Copyright Transfer Agreement Form. Your signature and those of all your coauthors must be included.

4. Ethics Statement. Articles covering human or animal experiments must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the relevant review committee or authorities. Also see Section 3 below.

5. Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart for randomized controlled trials submitted for publication. Also see Section 4 below.

6. Articles where human subjects can be identified in descriptions, photographs or pedigrees must be accompanied by a signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) the descriptions, photographs and pedigrees from each subject who can be identified. Also see Section 5 below.

7. Copyright Permission. If you have reproduced or adapted material from other copyrighted sources, the letter(s) of permission from the copyright holder(s) to reproduce or adapt the copyrighted sources must be supplied. Otherwise, such material must be removed from your manuscript.
**Manuscript preparation**

Text should be typed double-spaced on one side of white A4 (297 x 210 mm) paper, with outer margins of 2.5 cm. The manuscript should include a title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments (if any), references, and figures and tables as appropriate. Each section of the manuscript should begin on a new page. Pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the title page.

**The Editorial and Peer Review Process**

As a general rule, the receipt of a manuscript will be acknowledged within 2 weeks of submission, and authors will be provided with a manuscript reference number for future correspondence. If such an acknowledgment is not received in a reasonable period of time, the author should contact the Editorial Office.

Submissions are reviewed by the Editorial Office to ensure that it contains all parts. The Editorial Office will not accept a submission if the author has not supplied all parts of the manuscript and supporting documents as outlined in these instructions.

Manuscripts are then forwarded to the Editor-in-Chief, who makes an initial assessment of it. If the manuscript does not appear to be of sufficient merit or is not appropriate for the Journal, then the manuscript will be rejected without review. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned to authors unless requested.

Manuscripts that appear meritorious and appropriate for the Journal are reviewed by at least two Editorial Board members or expert consultants assigned by the Editor-in-Chief. The results of the peer reviews are then discussed in a committee meeting with the Associate Editors. Authors are usually notified within 10 weeks of whether the submitted article is accepted for publication, rejected, or subject to revision before acceptance. However, do note that delays are sometimes unavoidable.

**Peer review**

This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions are typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

**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.

**Title Page**

The title page should contain the following information (in order, from the top to bottom of the page):

- category of paper
- article title
- names (spelled out in full) of all authors*, and the institutions with which they are affiliated; indicate all affiliations with a superscripted lowercase letter after the author's name and in front of the appropriate affiliation
- declaration of any potential financial and non-financial conflicts of interest
- corresponding author details (name, e-mail, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers)
- running title not exceeding 50 characters

*The name of each author should be written with the family name last, e.g., Jing-Lin Chang. Authorship is restricted only to direct participants who have contributed significantly to the work.*

**Abstracts and Keywords**

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length. Abstracts for Original Articles should be structured, with the section headings: Background/Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion. Abstracts for Case Reports are unstructured, but should include the significance and purpose of the case.
presentation, the diagnostic methods of the case, the key data, and brief comments and suggestions with regard to the case. Abstracts for Review Articles are also unstructured. For all article categories (except Letters to the Editor), 3-5 relevant keywords should be provided in alphabetical order.

**Main Text**
The text for Original Articles should be organized into sections as follows: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion. Sections for Case Reports are: Introduction, Case Report, Discussion. The text for Review Articles should be divided into logical sections with appropriate headings. Each section should begin on a new page.

**Abbreviations:**
Where a term/definition will be continually referred to, it must be written in full when it first appears in the text, followed by the subsequent abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter, the abbreviation may be used. An abbreviation should not be first defined in any section heading; if an abbreviation has previously been defined in the text, then the abbreviation may be used in a subsequent section heading. Restrict the number of abbreviations to those that are absolutely necessary.

**Numbers:**
Numbers that begin a sentence or those that are less than 10 should be spelled out using letters. Centuries and decades should be spelled out, e.g., the Eighties or nineteenth century. Laboratory parameters, time, temperature, length, area, mass, and volume should be expressed using digits.

**Units:**
Système International (SI) units must be used, with the exception of blood pressure values which are to be reported in mmHg. Please use the metric system for the expression of length, area, mass, and volume. Temperatures are to be given in degrees Celsius.

**Names of drugs, devices and other products:**
Use the Recommended International Non-proprietary Name (rINN) for medicinal substances, unless the specific trade name of a drug is directly relevant to the discussion. Generic drug names should appear in lowercase letters in the text. If a specific proprietary drug needs to be identified, the brand name may appear only once in the manuscript in parentheses following the generic name the first time the drug is mentioned in the text.

For devices and other products, the specific brand or trade name, the manufacturer and their location (city, state, country) should be provided the first time the device or product is mentioned in the text, for example, "AKIBM SPSS Statistics 21.0 was used (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA)". Thereafter, the generic term (if appropriate) should be used.

**Statistical requirements:**
Statistical analysis is essential for all research papersexcept case reports. Use correct nomenclature for statistical methods (e.g., two sample t test, not unpaired t test). Descriptive statistics should follow the scales used in data description. Inferential statistics are important for interpreting results and should be described in detail.

All p values should be expressed to 2 digits to the right of the decimal point, unless $p < 0.01$, in which case the p value should be expressed to 3 digits to the right of the decimal point. The smallest p value that should be expressed is $p < 0.001$, since additional zeros do not convey useful information; the largest p value that should be expressed is $p < 0.01$.

**Personal communications and unpublished data:**
These sources cannot be included in the references list but may be described in the text. The author(s) must give the full name and highest academic degree of the person, the date of the communication, and indicate whether it was in oral or written (letter, fax, e-mail) form. A signed statement of permission should be included from each person identified as a source of information in a personal communication or as a source for unpublished data.

**Acknowledgements**
General acknowledgments for consultations and statistical analyses should be listed concisely at the end of the text, including the names of the individuals who were directly involved. Consent should be obtained from those individuals before their names are listed in this section.
All financial and material support for the research, work, writing and editorial assistance from internal or external agencies, including commercial companies, should be clearly and completely identified.

**Figures**

**General guidelines**

The number of figures should be restricted to the minimum necessary to support the textual material. Figures should have an informative figure legend and be numbered in the order of their citation in the text. All symbols and abbreviations should be defined in the figure legend in alphabetical order. Items requiring explanatory footnotes should follow the same style as that for tables as described in Tables section.

Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details (such as their name and date of birth) of the patient must be removed. If their face is shown, use a black bar to cover their eyes so that they cannot be identified (for further information, see [http://www.elsevier.com/patientphotographs](http://www.elsevier.com/patientphotographs)).

All lettering should be done professionally and should be in proportion to the drawing, graph or photograph. Photomicrographs must include an internal scale marker, and the legend should state the type of specimen, original magnification and stain.

Figures must be submitted as separate picture files at the correct resolution (see Section 9.7.2. below). The files should be named according to the figure number, e.g., "Manuscript1_Fig1", "Manuscript1_Fig2".

**Formats**

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please "save as" or convert the image to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

- EPS: Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as "graphics".
- TIFF: Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF: Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF: Combination of bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 600 dpi is required.
- DOC, XLS or PPT: If your electronic artwork is created in any of these Microsoft Office applications, please supply "as is".

Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (like GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low;
- Supply files that do not meet the resolution requirements detailed above
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.


**Tables**

Tables should supplement, not duplicate, the text. They should have a concise table heading, be self-explanatory, and numbered consecutively in the order of their citation in the text. Items requiring explanatory footnotes should be denoted using superscripted lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.), with the footnotes arranged under the table in alphabetical order. Asterisks (*, **) are used only to indicate the probability level of tests of significance. Abbreviations used in the table must be defined and placed after the footnotes in alphabetical order. If you include a block of data or table from another source, whether published or unpublished, you must acknowledge the original source.

**References**

In the main text, tables, figure legends

- References should be identified using superscripted numbers, and numbered consecutively in order of appearance in the text; the numbers should be placed after periods and commas and before colons and semicolons.
- References cited in tables or figure legends should be included in sequence at the point where the table or figure is first mentioned in the main text.
- Do not cite uncompleted work or work that has not yet been accepted for publication (i.e., "unpublished observation", "personal communication") as references (also see Section 'Personal communications and unpublished data').
- Do not cite abstracts unless they are the only available reference to an important concept.
In the references list
- References should be limited to those cited in the text and listed in numerical order, NOT alphabetical order.
- References should include, in order, authors' surnames and initials, article title, abbreviated journal name, year, volume and inclusive page numbers. The last names and initials of all the authors up to 6 should be included, but when authors number 7 or more, list the first 3 authors only followed by "et al". Abbreviations for journal names should conform to those used in MEDLINE.
- If citing a website, provide the author information, article title, website address and the date you accessed the information.
- Reference to an article that is in press must state the journal name and, if possible, the year and volume.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct text citation. Examples are given below. Standard journal articles


Journal supplement

Journal article not in English but with English abstract

Book

Book chapter in book with editor and edition

Bulletin

Conference proceedings

Thesis


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 datasets. 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.

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.

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.

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Publication Charges and Reprints**

Authors of accepted articles will be charged a publication fee of US$800. In the event that a manuscript is accepted, the corresponding author will be instructed by the Editorial Office on how to transmit their payment to the Journal. The accepted article will be processed to the next stage only upon receipt of payment. Professional reprints may be ordered at [http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints/](http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints/)

**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.

**Notices**

Announcements of forthcoming regional conferences and meetings are published free of charge. Please specify the title of the meeting, the dates and venue, organizers and correspondence or secretariat address. Notices should be e-mailed to the Editorial Office at ajsurg@ntu.edu.tw.

**FORMS**

Publication ChecklistCopyright Transfer AgreementAuthorship & Conflict of Interest Statement