



HONG KONG PHYSIOTHERAPY JOURNAL

Official publication of the [Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association](#)

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DESCRIPTION

The Hong Kong Physiotherapy Journal (HKPJ) is the official peer-reviewed publication of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association. It is published twice a year, in June and December, by Elsevier.

The Journal publishes papers related to all spheres of physiotherapy (education, research, practice, policies) and is committed to facilitating communication among educators, researchers and practitioners in the field with the aim of promoting evidence-based practice.

We are particularly interested in publishing randomized controlled trials, systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Animal studies are also welcome if the study question and findings have important relevance to physiotherapy practice.

The Journal welcomes submissions from all over the world in the form of original research papers, reviews, editorials, treatment reports, technical notes, and correspondence.

Indexed in: CINAHL, DOAJ, Embase, ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index), Physiotherapy CATS (British Library), ScienceDirect, Scopus, SIIC Data Bases, SPORTDiscus (Sport Information Resource Centre)

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

The *Hong Kong Physiotherapy Journal (HKPJ)* is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association Limited that contributes to and documents the advancement of the principles and practice of physiotherapy. It is published twice a year, in June and December, by Elsevier. Authors are welcome to submit research papers, treatment reports, technical notes, review papers and correspondence for consideration.

The Editorial Board requires authors to be in compliance with the *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals* which are compiled by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and which are available at <http://www.icmje.org>.

These Instructions to Authors are revised periodically by the Editors as needed. Authors should visit [the journal's homepage](#) for the latest version of these instructions. Authors are requested to ensure that submissions adhere exactly to the stated instructions and format. Recent issues of the journal should be consulted for specific examples. Any manuscript not prepared according to these instructions will be returned immediately to the author(s) without review.

Types of article

The categories of articles that are published in the journal are listed and described below. Please select the category that best describes your paper. If your paper does not fall into any of these categories, please contact the Editorial Office.

Editorials

These are usually written by the Editor-in-Chief, editorial board members or invited authors and are comments on recent news or articles published in the journal.

Format guide

- Word limit: 1000 words (excluding references)
- References: 10 or less
- Tables/Figures: none

Review papers

These should be critical appraisals of the literature on a specific topic which may further the viewpoint or theoretical approach to that topic. They should cover aspects of the 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 or 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.

These reviews are normally written by acknowledged experts and usually by invitation. Potential authors may nominate themselves through communication with the Editor-in-Chief. Invited reviews will also go through the usual peer review process.

Format guide

- Word limit: 5000 words (excluding abstract and references)
- References: 60 or less
- Abstract: up to 500 words, structured, with the subheadings 'Background', 'Objective', 'Methods', 'Results', 'Conclusion' for systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and unstructured (i.e., no subheadings) for all other types of reviews
- Keywords: 3–6
- Tables/Figures: no limit, but data in text should not be repeated extensively in tables or figures

Research papers

These are reports of original research studies of any nature (clinical, scientific, professional or educational) that used an acceptable method or design to address a research question or test a hypothesis. Section headings should be: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conflicts of Interest Statement, Funding/Support Statement, Acknowledgements (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, patient samples or animal specimens used, the essential features of any interventions, the main outcome measures, the laboratory methods followed, or data sources and how these were selected for the study), and state the statistical procedures employed in the research.

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Format guide

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- Keywords: 3–6
- Tables/Figures: up to 6 tables/figures (data in text should not be repeated extensively in tables or figures)

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These report on the clinical management of a patient or a series of patients that provides new insights into the treatment or natural history of a clinical condition.

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These are original reports that describe the specifications, mechanical or technological aspects and evaluation of device(s) used in assessment, treatment, management or education.

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Format guide

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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.

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Results should be clear and concise.

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This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusion

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusion section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of the Discussion section.

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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.

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

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Abstracts for Research Papers, Treatment Reports and Technical Notes should have 350 words or fewer, and be structured by means of the subheadings 'Background', 'Objective', 'Methods', 'Results', and 'Conclusion'. The abstract should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study participants, 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.

An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

No abstract is required for Editorials and Correspondence.

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Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords in alphabetical order, using British spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). If possible, keywords should be selected from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

No keywords are required for Editorials and Correspondence.

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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.).

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