INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SURGERY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.5

DESCRIPTION

The International Journal of Surgery (IJS) is dedicated to the global advancement of surgical research, education and clinical practice. It aims to promote continued developments in surgery through the sharing of knowledge, ideas and good practice across all surgical specialties. The IJS provides readers with critically peer-reviewed, carefully selected/edited and up to date publications about advances in the field of surgery that are relevant to them.

The journal aims to develop and uphold the highest standards at the cutting-edge of research, provide a focus for evidence-based medicine through the publication of timely review articles and special issues and give the findings context, through the publication of editorials, commentaries and letters from the surgical community. We enforce reporting guidelines and mandate the registration of all research involving human participants in a publicly accessible research registry.

As a broad scope journal covering all surgical specialities, the IJS aims to facilitate the transfer of important ideas and lines of thought between and across specialties. In this way, the journal will help prevent the trend of increasing sub-specialisation leading to 'tunnel-vision' and the sequestration of important surgical advances within particular specialties.

The journal is published monthly and focuses on rapid submission to decision times. We provide open access options. All articles are made open access two-years after publication in our delayed open archive, maximising the long-term visibility, impact and influence of our content. We also recognise the efforts of peer-reviewers and publish their reviews (anonymously), which are indexed in PubMed along with the articles content.

The Harold Ellis Prize in Surgery

The International Journal of Surgery awards the prestigious annual Harold Ellis Prize (Est. 2003) in recognition of scientific papers judged to be outstanding. For terms and conditions, and details on how to apply, please click on the link.

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Please note, IJS no longer accepts case reports; however authors are encouraged to submit them to the sister journal, International Journal of Surgery Case Reports, an online-only, author-pays journal that is freely available to all without a subscription. For more details, and to submit your case report, go to http://www.casereports.com/

Reporting Guidelines

Compliance with the relevant reporting guideline is mandatory for submission of the following guidelines. You need to: 1. Submit a completed checklist, indicating the page numbers where compliance was achieved 2. Mention in your methods section that the research is being reported in line with the relevant guideline which should be named and cited

Randomised Controlled Trials

All randomised controlled trials submitted for publication in International Journal of Surgery should include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart and ensure that all elements in the CONSORT checklist are covered. A copy of the CONSORT checklist must be uploaded as supplemental material. Please refer to the CONSORT statement website at http://www.consort-statement.org for more information.

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Systematic reviews should be reported in accordance PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) Guidelines (http://www.prisma-statement.org/) and must include the flow diagram as a figure and the checklist as supplemental material. Please download a PRISMA Flowchart and a PRISMA Checklist from the link above.

Cohort, Case-control and Cross-sectional studies

Cohort, Case-control and Cross-sectional studies should all be compliant with the STROBE criteria (Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology). Please see http://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=available-checklists - each study type has its own checklist which should be uploaded as a supplemental file.

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Diagnostic Studies should be reported in accordance with the STARD statement criteria (Standards for the Reporting of Diagnostic accuracy studies) flow diagram and checklist please see (http://www.stard-statement.org/). Quality Improvement studies should comply with the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) criteria: http://squire-statement.org. Qualitative studies require the Consolidated criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research (COREQ) checklist, please see : http://intqhc.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/6/349.long

Health Economic Evaluation

Health Economic Evaluation studies should conform to the CHEERS statement: http://www.bmj.com/content/346/bmj.f1049.pdf%2Bhtml

Tumour Marker Prognostic Study

Tumor Marker Prognostic studies should be reported in accordance with the REMARK criteria, please see https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/reporting-recommendations-for-tumour-marker-prognostic-studies

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Before and After studies measuring particular characteristics of a population or group of individuals at the end of an event or intervention, compares them with those characteristics before the event or intervention: then gauges the effects of the event or intervention. These studies should conform to the STROBE statement. http://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=available-checklists

Best Evidence Topic

IJS no longer accepts Best Evidence Topic papers. If you would like to submit a Best Bets paper this could be submitted to IJS Open or to the Annals of Medicine and Surgery.

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Genetic Association Studies must comply with Strengthening the Reporting of Genetic Association Studies (STREGA) an extension of the STROBE statement, please see http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1000022.

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Animal studies must be reported in accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines (Animals in Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments) and must include the checklist as supplemental material. A blank form can be downloaded for completion here. An example of a completed checklist can be found at http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=1357. (The example checklist is based on an original publication by Kilkenny C, Browne WJ, Cuthill IC, Emerson M, Altman DG (2010) Improving Bioscience Research Reporting: The ARRIVE Guidelines for Reporting Animal Research. PLoS Biol 8(6): e1000412. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000412). The institutional protocol number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article.

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The International Journal of Surgery welcomes studies reporting in line with the IDEAL framework for interventional therapies: http://www.ideal-collaboration.net

**Qualitative Surveys**

Qualitative Surveys should be reported in accordance with the following criteria: SRQR Guidelines http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/srqr/ For synthesis of qualitative research: http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/entreq/ Interviews and Focus Groups - COREQ - http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/coreq/

**PROCESS Guidelines**

Please ensure your case series is compliant with the PROCESS Guidelines: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1743919116309803 and submit a completed PROCESS checklist. Please also ensure you state that the work has been reported in line with the PROCESS criteria and cite the following paper: Riaz A. Agha, Alexander J. Fowler, Shivanchan Rajmohan, Ishani Barai, Dennis P. Orgill for the PROCESS Group. Preferred reporting of case series in surgery; the PROCESS guidelines. International Journal of Surgery 2016.

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This journal is participating in the Publishing Peer Review Reports pilot. This means that, at the Editors discretion, the reviewer reports for all accepted articles submitted after the pilot launch date will be typeset and published online (with their own DOI) on ScienceDirect. The reports will be grouped together in a separate issue of the journal.

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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.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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

Work on human beings that is submitted to International Journal of Surgery should comply with the principles laid down in the Declaration of Helsinki (Recommendations guiding physicians in biomedical research involving human subjects. Adopted by the 18th World Medical Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, June 1964, amended by the 29th World Medical Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, October 1975, the 35th World Medical Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983, and the 41st World Medical Assembly, Hong Kong, September 1989). The manuscript should contain a statement that the work has been approved by the appropriate ethical committees related to the institution(s) in which it was performed and that subjects gave informed consent to the work. Studies involving experiments with animals must state that their care was in accordance with institution guidelines. Patients and volunteers names, initials, and hospital numbers should not be used.

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

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