# JOURNAL OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL HEPATOLOGY

## DESCRIPTION

*Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology (JCEH)* is an international peer-reviewed journal of hepatology and is published quarterly. JCEH publishes outstanding basic and clinical papers on all aspects of liver diseases, including both human and animal studies. JCEH is directed to gastroenterologists, hepatologists, liver transplant surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, and others involved in the research and treatment of a broad range of liver diseases.

The journal accepts original articles on clinical or laboratory research in the field of liver diseases and review articles on topics of current interest (mainly by invitation). In addition, the journal features articles of educational value to postgraduate students such as 'Hepatology Quiz' and 'What is your diagnosis?', 'Liver Transplantation Forum', 'Hepatology Elsewhere' and 'From Bench to Bedside'.

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

- PubMed/Medline
- Scopus
- Embase
- Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)
- Web of Science

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Radha K Dhiman, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India

**Associate Editors**  
Paul J Thuluvath, The Institute for Digestive Health & Liver Disease at Mercy, Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
Sheikh Md. Fazle Akbar, Toshiba General Hospital, Tokyo, Japan  
Anil C Anand, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi, India  
Paolo Angeli, Università degli Studi di Padova, Padua, Italy  
Anil Dhawan, King’s College Hospital, London, UK  
Ajay Duseja, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India  
Alexander Gimson, University of Cambridge (Addenbrooke’s Hospital), Cambridge, UK  
David Mutimer, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Birmingham), Birmingham, UK  
Vivek A Saraswat, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow, India  
Shivram P Singh, Shri Ramachandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttuck, India
Dominique Charles Valla, AP-HP Hôpital Beaujon, Clichy, France
Manav Wadhawan, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, India
Ian R Wanless, University Health Network - Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada
Surendra Yachha, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow, India
Ghulam Nabi Yattoo, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, India
Zobair M Younossi, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, USA
Shaukat A Zargar, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, India
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology (JCEH) is an international peer-reviewed journal of Hepatology and is published by the Indian National Association for the Study of the Liver (INASL). JCEH welcomes contributions from anywhere in the world. The Editorial Board comprises approximately 60 eminent hepatologists/gastroenterologists from all parts of the world.

JCEH publishes outstanding basic and clinical papers on all aspects of liver diseases, including both human and animal studies. JCEH is directed to gastroenterologists, hepatologists, liver transplant surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, and others involved in the research and treatment of a broad range of liver diseases.

The Journal accepts original articles on clinical or laboratory research in the field of liver diseases and review articles on topics of current interest (mainly by invitation). In addition, the Journal features articles of educational value to postgraduate students such as 'Hepatology Quiz' and 'What is your diagnosis?', 'Liver Transplantation Forum', 'Hepatology Elsewhere' and 'From Bench to Bedside'.

The Editorial Board requires authors to be in compliance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (URMs), which are compiled by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE); current URMs are available at http://www.icmje.org. This Guide for Authors is revised periodically by the Editors as needed. Authors should consult a recent issue of the Journal or visit http://www.jcehepatology.com/ for the latest version of this guide. Any manuscript not prepared according to this guide will be returned immediately to the author(s) without review.

**Article categories**

**Original Manuscripts**

Manuscripts submitted in this category are expected to be concise, well organized, and clearly written. The maximum length is 6,000 words, **including** the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends. The structured abstract must not exceed 300 words. The title must not exceed 150 characters. References should be limited to those critical and relevant to the manuscript and should not exceed maximum of 50. Acceptance of original manuscripts will be based upon originality and importance of the investigation. These manuscripts are reviewed by editors and, in majority of cases, by two experts in the field. Manuscripts requiring extensive revision will be at a disadvantage for publication and will be rejected. Authors shall be responsible for the quality of language and style and are strongly advised against submitting a manuscript grammatically incorrect. The editors reserve the right to reject poorly written manuscripts even if their scientific content is qualitatively suitable for publication.

**Animal Studies:** In studies involving animal experimentation, authors must include a statement giving assurance that all animals received human care and that study protocols comply with the institutions guidelines.

**Human Studies:** Manuscripts reporting data from research conducted on humans must provide assurance that (a) informed consent in writing was obtained from each patient, and (b) the study protocol confirmed to the ethical guidelines of the 1975 Declaration of Helsinki as reflected in a priori approval by the appropriate institutional review committee.

**Randomized Controlled Trials:** Reports of randomized controlled trials should follow the revised CONSORT statement (http://www.consort-statement.org) published in JAMA 2001;285:1987–91, as closely as possible.

**Review Articles**

Review articles on selected clinical and basic topics of interest for the readers of the JCEH will primarily be solicited by the editors. Review articles are also welcome by experts; however, any proposals for reviews should be discussed with the editor before submission. Review articles are expected to be clear, concise, and updated. Review articles must be accompanied by a title page and summary. The
The word limit for review articles is **6,000 words excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures. References should not exceed a maximum of **150**. The inclusions of colored, high-quality tables and figures to summarize critical points are highly desirable. Review articles are reviewed by the editors and may be sent to outside expert reviewers before a final decision for publication is made. Revisions may be required.

**Editorial**

This section consists of editorial comments on articles published in the JCEH. The length of an editorial should not exceed **3,000 words excluding** references. Please limit reference count to a maximum of 50 references. A table and a figure can be included.

**Seminar**

This section consists of comprehensive and in-depth review of all aspects of a chosen topic by experts in the field in a set of 2–5 articles. Seminar review articles are primarily solicited by the editors. Seminar review articles must be accompanied by a title page and summary. The word limit for seminar review articles is 6000 words excluding the summary, references, tables, and figures. References should not exceed a maximum of 150. The inclusions of colored, high-quality tables and figures to summarize critical points are highly desirable. Seminar review articles are reviewed by the editors and may be sent to outside expert reviewers before a final decision for publication is made. Revisions may be required.

**Liver Transplant Forum**

Articles for Liver Transplant Forum will review recent advances in the field of liver transplantation and will be primarily solicited by the editors. Review articles are also welcome by experts; however any proposals for reviews should be discussed with the editor before submission. Articles are expected to be clear, concise, and updated. The review must be accompanied by a title page and summary. The word limit for the article is **5,000 words excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures. The inclusions of colored, high-quality tables and figures to summarize critical points are highly desirable. Liver Transplant Forum articles are reviewed by the editors and may be sent for expert reviews before a final decision on publication is made. Revisions may be required.

**From Bench to Bedside**

Articles in this section will highlight and review relevant clinical applications of basic research. Articles are expected to be clear, concise, and updated. The article must be accompanied by a short summary and title page and must not exceed **5,000 words**, excluding the summary, references, tables, and figures. Articles in this section are reviewed by the editors and may be sent to outside expert reviewers before a final decision for publication is made. Revisions may be required.

**Clinical Practice Guidelines/Meeting Report**

Clinical practice guidelines of various scientific societies or associations and meeting reports on a variety of topics are welcome. The length of each article will be decided by the editor on a case-by-case basis.

**Case Reports**

Case reports are not encouraged and will only be accepted if they represent an outstanding contribution to the etiology, pathogenesis, or treatment of a specific liver disorder. The word limit for a case report is **2,500 words including** the summary and references (a maximum of 15 references is allowed). A title page must be provided. Tables and figures can be included.

**Letters to the Editor**

Letters to the editor will be considered for publication only if they are related to articles published in recent issues of the JCEH or are relevant brief reports of preliminary data that can be published if they provide new insights. Letters must not be longer than 500 words, and may contain only one table or figure and a total of 10 references. Letters must have a title. Please provide a title page for letters.
Contact details for submission
If assistance is required by the authors, you may contact the Editorial Office. Please do not post, fax or e-mail your manuscripts to the Editorial Office.

Contact Information:

Radha K Dhiman, MD, DM, FAMS, FACP, FRCP Edin., FRCP London, FASSLD
Editor-in-Chief
Professor and Head, Department of Hepatology,
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh-160012, India
Editor E-mail: rkpsdhiman@hotmail.com

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
Manuscripts submitted to Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology should not have been published previously or be under simultaneous consideration for publication by any other journal. Violation may lead to a retraction of the published article by the Journal and other actions as deemed necessary by the editor. All articles (including those invited) will be peer-reviewed, and accepted articles will be edited to the Journal's style. Accepted manuscripts become the permanent property of the Journal and may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the written permission of the editor.

Studies involving human subjects or animals should have received the approval of the institutional ethics committee. A statement to this effect and that informed consent was obtained from participating human subjects must be included in the manuscript text.

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.
Ethical approval of studies and Informed consent

Please 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 http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals http://www.icmje.org. 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.

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

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.

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').

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. Please give contribution of each author on the cover page of the manuscript.

Changes to Authorship

Ideally there should not be any change in authorship after the manuscript is submitted. In situations where there has been an omission or substantial work is done when the article is revised, an author’s name may be added. This policy concerns the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship of accepted manuscripts: Before the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: 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: (a) the reason the name should be added or removed, or the author names rearranged and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, fax, 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. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will be forwarded by the Journal Manager to the corresponding author, who must follow the procedure as described above. Note that: (1) Journal Managers will inform the Journal Editors of any such requests and (2) publication of the accepted manuscript in an online issue is suspended until authorship has been agreed upon by the editor.
After the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Any requests to add, delete, or rearrange author names in an article published in an online issue will follow the same policies as noted above and result in a corrigendum.

**Reporting clinical trials**

All randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart (please go to [http://www.consort-statement.org](http://www.consort-statement.org) for more information). The JCEH has adopted the ICMJE proposal that requires, as a condition of consideration for publication of clinical trials, registration in a public trials registry. 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.

For this purpose, 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, behavioral 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. Further information can be found at [http://www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org).

**Copyright**

*Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology (JCEH)* is an international peer-reviewed journal of hepatology and is published by the [Indian National Association for Study of the Liver (INASL)](http://www.inasl.org). Manuscripts published in the JCEH become the permanent property of INASL. 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 JCEH article, in part or whole, 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 INASL.

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (for more information on this and copyright see [https://www.elsevier.com/copyright](https://www.elsevier.com/copyright)). Acceptance of the agreement will ensure the widest possible dissemination of information. 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](https://www.elsevier.com/copyright).

Elsevier supports responsible sharing

Find out how you can [share your research](https://www.elsevier.com/copyright) published in Elsevier journals.

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. For more information see [https://www.elsevier.com/copyright](https://www.elsevier.com/copyright).
Funding/support statement
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 in a Funding/Support Statement. 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. Please see https://www.elsevier.com/funding.

The open access fee for this journal is $3000, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy.

Green open access
Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our open access page for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution’s repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. Find out more.

This journal has an embargo period of 12 months.

Language (usage and editing services)
Articles should be written in English, using American English spelling. 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 WebShop http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/ or visit our customer support site https://service.elsevier.com for more information.

Identification of patients in descriptions, photographs and pedigrees
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).

The Journal only accepts online submissions in electronic format. All new manuscripts must be submitted through JCEH online submission and review website (https://ees.elsevier.com/JCEH). Please follow the following steps to submit your manuscript:

1. Open the homepage of the Journal's website https://ees.elsevier.com/JCEH.
2. Register yourself for free by clicking on register on the top and create a user profile with a desired username and mandatory details. On submission of the information, you will receive an email confirming your registration along with the 'Password'
3. Click "Log In" on the main navigation menu at the top of the journal screen to open the login page.
4. Enter your username and password in the appropriate fields (e-mailed to you at the time of registration).
5. Click "Author Log in", this takes you to the "Author Main Menu".
6. After that you can submit the manuscript by following the instructions provided on the screen.
7. Revised manuscripts can be uploaded online using the same log in.

If you have any problems in submission of your manuscript, please send us an email at rkpsdhiman@hotmail.com.

Note: Please note that the username and password combination required for Elsevier Editorial System is different from your username and password combination used to "Track your paper" on the Elsevier "Authors' Home" website.
By submitting a manuscript online, the author agrees to the following:
1. The work is original and free from plagiarism.
2. It has neither been published, nor is it not under consideration for publication at another journal.
3. All authors are aware of the authorship order. The corresponding author shall be responsible in case of dispute.
4. Once published, copyright of manuscript shall stand transferred to the Journal.
5. 'Conflict of interest' if any, must be explicitly stated at the end of the manuscript.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. Editable article files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are mandatory to use in the peer-review process and 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://ees.elsevier.com/JCEH.

PREPARATION
Manuscripts must conform to the instructions given below:

General
Manuscript must be in Times New Roman font, size 10, with double spacing throughout. Please arrange the manuscript as follows: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References. Number all pages consecutively at the bottom, beginning with the title page. Figures and tables must be cited in the manuscript (consult a recent issue of the journal for details). Only the title page should bear the names and addresses of the author(s).

Peer review
This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then 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.

Length of articles
Text of original articles should be between 4000 and 5000 words. Structure abstract is mandatory for Original and Review articles

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.

Title Page
In animal studies, the title should state the species; all other titles will refer to human studies. State names of authors (including first names), the departments, and the institution where the work was done. The journal reserves the right to ask for the contribution of each author to an article. A short,
running title, not exceeding **40** characters, must be provided. Please provide the name, postal address with PIN code, facsimile number and E-mail address of the author to whom communications and proofs are to be sent. Acknowledgements, if any, may be mentioned on this page.

**Abstract**
The abstract should summarize the most important points in the study. Original articles should include a structured abstract of up to 300 words under the following headings: Background/Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. [See *Ann Intern Med* 1990; 113: 69–76]. References should not be included. Less than 10 key words, not present in the title, should be typed in alphabetical order below the abstract; these may be obtained from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) database of Pubmed.

**Acknowledgements**
These should appear at the end of the manuscript. The *source of funding* as well as a *disclosure statement* mentioning *conflict of interest*, if any, should appear under this heading.

**Keywords**
Immediately after the abstract, provide a minimum of 3 keywords to a maximum of 12 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.

**Units**
All measurements must be in metric units, preferably with corresponding SI units in parentheses.

**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.

**Figures/Illustrations/Photographs**
Photographs of 300 dpi or higher resolution may be submitted as 'jpeg', or 'tiff' files in a zipped folder. In clinical photographs, identity of the subjects should be suitably masked; in case this is not possible, a written permission from the concerned person should accompany the manuscript.
Legends to Figures
The figure number (numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals), title and explanations of the figures should appear in the legend (not on the figure). Type the legends on a separate page. Enough information should be included to interpret the figure without reference to the text.

Tables
Each table should be typed on a separate page and numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Each table should have a title and all abbreviations should be explained in the footnote. Necessary explanatory notes, if any, may be given below the table.

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.

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
Number the references in the order in which they first appear in the text and identify the reference numbers in the text in superscript. References must be placed at the end of the manuscript. Please use recent references as much as possible. The responsibility for accuracy of references lies with the respective authors. The Journal is in agreement with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org). The general arrangement, abbreviations of Journal names and punctuations followed are as per the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals (http://www.icmje.org). Please pay attention to the style of references and punctuations as follows:

Journal article
List all authors when six or less as shown in the example below:


When there are seven or more authors, list only the first six and add et al.

Book or monograph

Editorial Process
All articles submitted to the Journal undergo initial review by the Editor/associate editor and articles that are outside the scope of Journal or are not in the journal format are excluded. Later each article is reviewed by at least two reviewers. The time to first decision is usually less than 6 weeks.

As per the policy of the Journal, an Editor, who is either author of a manuscript or belongs to the same institution as any of the authors, is not assigned that manuscript and is not involved in decision-making regarding its publication. Reviewers/Editorial Board members should decline the invitation to review a manuscript which is submitted by authors from their institution.
Preparation for Publication and Proofs
Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, authors should submit the final version of their manuscript in MS Word format, with all tables/figures as applicable, via the EES. Accepted manuscripts are then copyedited according to the Journal’s style and the galley proofs in the form of a PDF file are sent by the Publisher to the corresponding author for final approval. Authors are responsible for all statements made in their work, including changes made by the copy editor.

Proofreading is solely the authors’ responsibility. Note that the Editorial Board reserves the right to make revisions to the manuscript and the Publisher may proceed with the publication of your article if no response from the author(s) is received.

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
**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, at no cost, will be provided with a personalized link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. This link can also be used for sharing via email and social networks. 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 WebShop (http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints).

Authors requiring printed copies of multiple articles may use Elsevier WebShop’s ‘Create Your Own Book’ service to collate multiple articles within a single cover (http://webshop.elsevier.com/myarticleservices/offprints/myarticleservices/booklets).

**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