DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Coloproctology (JCOL) is an official publication of the Brazilian Society of Coloproctology (SBCP) in partnership with Elsevier Editora Ltda. and is dedicated to the medical community in Brazil and Latin America. Journal of Coloproctology is listed in Web of Science and SciELO databases. JCOL is affiliated to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
SciELO - Scientific Electronic Library Online
Web of Science

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Henrique Sarubbi Fillmann, Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Co-editors
Paulo Gustavo Kotze, Hospital Universitario Cajuru, CURITIBA, Brazil

Associate Editors
Jorge Hequera, Dupuytren Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Rodrigo Oliva Perez, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Francisco Sergio Pinheiro Regadas, Federal University of Ceara, Fortaleza, Brazil
Claudio Saddy Rodrigues Coy, State University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
Steven Wexner, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, United States

Editorial Board
João de Aguiar Pupo Neto, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Robert William de Azevedo Bringel, Cancer Institute of Ceara, Fortaleza, CE, Brazil
João Batista de Sousa, Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, DF, Brazil
Fernanda Bellotti Formiga, Santa Casa de Misericordia de Paris, Paris, SP, Brazil
Lucia Camara de Castro Oliveira, Dr Lucia de Oliveira Coloproctology, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Fábio Guilherme Campos, Brazil
Luiz Felipe de Campos Lobato, Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, DF, Brazil
Marvin Corman, University Hospital, Health Sciences Center, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, United States
Joaquim Manual Costa Pereira, Centro Hospitalar Tamega e Sousa EPE, Guilhufe, Portugal
Raul Cutait, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Armando Geraldo Franchini Melani, Americas Medical City, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Chuan-Gang Fu, Tongji University, Shanghai, China
Ezio Ganio, Eporedia Medical Centre Ivrea Srl, Ivrea, Italy
Julio Garcia-Aguilar, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, United States
Paulo Goncalves de Oliveira, Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, DF, Brazil
Jose Guillem, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, United States
Angelita Habr-Gama, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Antonio Lacerda Filho, Hospital Felicio Rocho, BELO HORIZONTE, MG, Brazil
Geraldo Magela Gomes da Cruz, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Carmen Ruth Manzione Nadal, Manzione Nadal Clinic, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil
Peter Marcello, Lahey Hospital and Medical Center Burlington, Burlington, United States
Helio Moreira Junior, Hospital do Coracao Anis Rassi Ltda, GOIANIA, GO, Brazil
Sthela Maria Murad Regadas, Universidade Federal do Ceara, Fortaleza, CE, Brazil
Sidney Nadal, Emilio Ribas Institute for Infectious Diseases, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Sergio Carlos Nahas, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Olival de Oliveira Junior, Santa Casa de Curitiba, CURITIBA, PR, Brazil
Sinara Monica de Oliveira Leite, Faculty of Medical Sciences of Minas Gerais, BELO HORIZONTE, MG, Brazil
Ravi P. Kiran, Columbia University, New York, United States
Eduardo de Paula Vieira, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Doryane Maria dos Reis Lima, Assis Gurgacz College Medical Course, CASCAVEL, PR, Brazil
Jose Alfredo dos Reis Neto, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brazil
Jose Ribamar Baldez, Universidade Federal do Maranhao, Sao Luis, Brazil
Caio Sergio Rizkallah Nahas, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Guillermo Rosato, Austral University Hospital, Pilar, Argentina
Fidel Ruiz Healy, Group Durango Sanatorium, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico
Rogerio Saad Hossne, Universidade Paulista, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Giulio Santoro, Presidio Ospedaliero di Treviso, Treviso, Italy
Maria Cristina Sartor, Universidade Federal do Parana, Curitiba, Brazil
Carlos Walter Sobrado, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Mauro de Souza Leite Pinho, Universidade da Regiao de Joinville, JOINVILLE, SC, Brazil
Luca Stocchi, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Sarhan Sydney Saad, Universidade Federal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Mario Trompetto, Eporedia Medical Centre Ivrea Srl, Ivrea, Italy
Fernando Zaroni Sewaybricker, Hospital dos Servidores do Estado, RIO DE JANEIRO, RJ, Brazil
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

The Journal of Coloproctology (JCOL) publish articles that contribute to the improvement and the development of the practice, research, and training in Coloproctology and related specialities. Also published in English version, starting in vol. 31, issue 3, 2011. The guidelines are based on the format proposed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and published in the article: Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, which was updated in April 2010 and is available on the Website (http://www.icmje.org).

Manuscript categories

Editorial
The text should have up to 900 words and 5 references.

Original article
The text should have up to 3000 words, not including references and tables. It should have up to 5 tables and/or figures. The number of references should not exceed 30. Their structure should contain the following:

Introduction: it should be brief, defining the studied problem and highlighting its importance and gaps in knowledge.

Methods: the methods employed, the population studied, sources of data and selection criteria should be described in an objective and detailed manner. Insert the protocol number of approval of the Research Ethics Committee and inform that the study was conducted according to the ethical standards required.

Results: they should be clearly and objectively presented, describing the obtained data only, without interpretations or comments, and, for a better understanding, they may have tables, charts and figures. The text should complement and not repeat what is described in the illustrations.

Discussion: it should be limited to the obtained data and results, emphasizing the new and important aspects observed in the study and discussing the agreements and disagreements with previously published studies.

Conclusion: it should correspond to the study objectives or assumptions, based on the results and discussion, aligned with the title, proposition and method.

Clinical information
Clinical case reports, presentation of technical notes, methods and devices. They should address questions of interest to Coloproctology and related specialities. Their structure should contain the following:

Introduction: it should be brief and show the theme relevance.

Presentation of clinical case, or technique, or method, or device: it should be described with clarity and objectiveness. It should present significant data for Coloproctology and related specialties, and have up to five figures, including tables.

Discussion: it should be based on the literature. The text not exceed 1500 words, not including references and figures.

Patients’ initials and dates should be avoided, showing only relevant laboratorial exams for diagnosis and discussion. The total number of illustrations and/or tables should not exceed 3 and the limit of references is 20. When the number of presented cases exceed 3, the manuscript will be classified as a Case Series, and the rules for original articles should be applicable.

Review articles
Systematic review: broad research method, conducted through a rigorous synthesis of results from original studies, either quantitative or qualitative, with the purpose of clearly answering a specific question of relevance to Coloproctology and related specialties. It should include the search strategy of original studies, the selection criteria for studies included in the review and the procedures used in the synthesis of results obtained from reviewed studies, which may or may not include meta-analysis.

Integrative review: research method that presents the synthesis of multiple published studies and enables general conclusions regarding a specific area of study, contributing to enhanced knowledge of the investigated theme. It should follow standards of methodological rigor, clarity of result presentation, enabling the reader to identify the real characteristics of studies included in the review.

Integrative review phases: elaboration of a guiding question, search strategy, data collection, critical analysis of included studies, integrative review presentation and result discussion. The text should not exceed 5000 words, not including references and tables. The total number of illustrations and tables should not exceed 8. The number of references should be limited to 60.
Special articles
They should have up to 2000 words and 30 references. In all categories, in-text citation of authors should be numerical and sequential, using superscript Arabic numerals in parentheses, avoiding the indication of authors’ names. In-text citations and references mentioned in legends of tables and figures should be consecutively numbered in the order of their appearance in the text, with Arabic numerals (index numbers). Only the reference number should be included, without further information.

Page charges
This journal has no page charges.

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

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print
Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

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

For further information, visit our Support Center.

Checklist (www.jcol.org.br)
For improved process and enhanced publication quality, we offer a checklist for your self-evaluation.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Authorship criteria
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. Data collection and indexing are not authorship criteria. Likewise, authors are not technical assistants that perform routine tasks, physicians that refer patients or interpret routine exams and heads of services or departments not directly involved in the study. Special acknowledgments can be made to these people.

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

**Records of clinical essays**
The *Journal of Coloproctology* supports the guideline for clinical essay recording issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Articles on clinical essays will be accepted for publication only if an identification (ID) number has been assigned by one of the Clinical Essay Record validated according to the criteria established by the WHO and ICMJE, whose addresses are at (http://www.icmje.org). The ID number should be displayed at the end of the abstract.

**Copyright**
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' to assign to the society the copyright in the manuscript and any tables, illustrations or other material submitted for publication as part of the manuscript (the "Article") in all forms and media (whether now known or later developed), throughout the world, in all languages, for the full term of copyright, effective when the Article is accepted for publication.

**Author rights**
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. For more information on author rights please see https://www.elsevier.com/copyright.

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

**Open access**
Please visit our Open Access page from the Journal Homepage for more information.

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

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

**PREPARATION**

**Peer review**
This journal operates a single 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.

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

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Article structure**

**The identification page**
It should contain:
a) The article title, in Portuguese and English, which should be concise and informative; it should express the manuscript content with precision. In addition, the title is important for physicians and investigators to find an article in the bibliographical databases after it is published. Please, be sure the title:
- Is not a question.
- Does not have colon or any punctuation that separates it in two parts.
- Does not reaffirm the article type. Ex.: Case Report, Review.
- Does not indicate the type of statistical analysis. Ex.: Multivariate Analysis.
- Does not include the institution name.

Full name of each author and institutional affiliation, including ORCID ID. Author affiliations should be presented in decreasing hierarchical order (e.g. Harvard University, Harvard Business School, Boston, USA) and should be written as established in its own language (e.g. Universit Paris-Sorbonne; Harvard University, Universidade de So Paulo). The ORCID ID must be inserted in all authors' profile. To do that go to Update your details, ORCID field; if any of the authors does not have an ORCID ID, it can be registered at https://orcid.org/register

Name of the department and institution to which the paper should be attributed.

Name, address, e-mail of the corresponding author in charge.

Sources of support to study development.

For studies presented in scientific meetings, indicate the meeting name, place, date, type of presentation.

**Abstract**
The second page should have the abstract, in Portuguese and English, with no more than 250 words. For original and review articles, the abstract structure should highlight the study objectives, methods, main results with significant data and conclusions. For clinical information special articles, the abstract does not need to be structured as mentioned above, but it should contain important information for the study value recognition, as described in details in the publications: Haynes RB, Mulrow CD, Huth EJ, Altman DG, Gardiner MJ. More informative abstracts revisited. Ann Intern Med 1990;113:69-76

**Keywords**
After the abstract, specify three to six terms in Portuguese and in English the subject of the study should be included as well as the corresponding. Keywords in must be based on the Health and Science Keywords (DeCS), published by Bireme and available at (http://decs.bvs.br), and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) is the Nation Library Medicine controlled vocabulary thesaurus used for indexing articles for PubMed at (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html).

Abbreviations should be indicated when they first appear in the text. After that, the full name should not be repeated.

**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.).

**Statistical analysis**
The authors should demonstrate that the statistical procedures used in the study were not only appropriate to test the study hypotheses, but also correctly interpreted. The levels of statistical significance (ex. p < 0.05; p < 0.01; p < 0.001) should be mentioned.

**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.

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

Figures
The illustrations (pictures, charts, drawings, etc.) should be submitted individually. They should be consecutively numbered, with Arabic numerals, in the order of their appearance in the text, and they should be clear enough to enable their reproduction. Photocopies will not be accepted.

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

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

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.
Reference style
They should be consecutively numbered in the order of their appearance in the text and identified with Arabic numerals. They should be presented according to the style presented by the List of Journal Indexed Medicus, of the National Library of Medicine, which can be accessed at http://www.nlm.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html. The authors should be sure that in-text citations of references are included in the list of references with exact dates and correctly spelled names of authors. The accuracy of references is the authors’ responsibility. Personal notes, unprecedented studies or studies in progress may be cited when really required, but should not be included in the list of references; only cited in the text or footnotes. Cite up to six authors for each reference. If any reference has more than six authors, cite the six first names, followed by “et al.”. We request texts with lean writing style. Shorter texts involve shorter revision and formatting times, and have higher chances of quick publication.

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.

**AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](https://www.elsevier.com) 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](https://www.elsevier.com)