THE JOURNAL OF HAND SURGERY
An International Journal Devoted to Surgery of the Upper Extremity

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Hand Surgery publishes original, peer-reviewed articles related to the diagnosis, treatment, and pathophysiology of diseases and conditions of the upper extremity; these include both clinical and basic science studies, along with case reports. Special features include Clinical Perspective articles, Comprehensive Review manuscripts, and Surgical Technique articles that provide an overview of hand surgery, technical aspects of surgery, and current controversial topics.


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INTRODUCTION
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Aims and scope

The Journal of Hand Surgery publishes original, peer-reviewed articles related to the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and conditions of the upper extremity; these include both clinical and basic science studies along with case reports. Special features include Review Articles (including Current Concepts and The Hand Surgery Landscape), reviews of books and media, and Letters to the Editor. Before beginning to write for The Journal of Hand Surgery, prospective authors should read these instructions completely. Authors will also benefit from reading:


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Case Reports: The Journal receives far more case reports than space allows for publication. To be worthy of publication, a case report must have extraordinary teaching value to the readers. Typically we do not accept cases where 2 findings are associated since the findings are often coincidentally rather than causally related. Restrict the abstract to 150 words and highlight the unique features of the case. In sections identified as Introduction, Case Report, and Discussion and in fewer than 1,500 words, introduce the topic, present the case, and discuss its novelty and educational value. Limit references to 10 citations.

Review Articles

**If you wish to submit a review article to The Journal of Hand Surgery but have not explicitly received an invitation to do so, please complete the Review Article Proposal and email it to the Review Deputy Editor, Dawn M. LaPorte, MD, at jhs@assh.org for consideration. We ask that you do not submit your unsolicited review article to the journal unless the review editor accepts your review topic in writing.**

The review section of the Journal will feature Current Concepts articles on a monthly basis, as well as review articles in a monthly Hand Surgery Landscape section.
Current Concepts is designed to provide review articles that focus on up-to-date information covering essential topics on a three-year rotation. Authors are invited based on their expertise. Unsolicited material is considered after contacting the Review Deputy Editor, Dawn M. LaPorte, MD, at jhs@assh.org with a completed Proposal.

Current Concepts articles are no more than 3,000 words and include a one-paragraph abstract. They must review recent developments and must emphasize the best evidence for management and treatment strategies. In addition to the article, the authors must provide four choice continuing medical education (CME) questions together with a rationale and references for the best answer. Include at least one reference to a "classical article" that has stood the test of time.

While the Current Concepts manuscript should be able to "stand alone" in the print version of the Journal, the digital version will be able to provide hyperlinks to videos and other articles. The authors are encouraged to submit a technical video with their article. Links may also be provided to other articles already published in JHS that may have described techniques or give reference to evidence-based medicine.

Finally, Current Concepts articles should have no more than four authors and generally have no more than 20 references.

The Hand Surgery Landscape articles are designed to generate interest and comment among readers. These articles present content that otherwise might be outside the traditional scope of a typical review topic for The Journal of Hand Surgery. Invitations to contribute articles for this series are made either by the Review Deputy Editor or the Editor-in-Chief. Unsolicited submissions must first be made as a proposal to the Review Editor using the template and sent to Dawn M. LaPorte, MD, at jhs@assh.org. Some, but not all, unsolicited manuscripts may be sent out for peer review. The focus will be on encouraging thought leaders in the areas described below.

This monthly feature has a word count of no more than 2,000 words and includes a one-paragraph abstract. There is no prescribed format other than the maximum word count. References are required for any statements that should be supported by outside sources.

The spectrum of content considered for this series will include:

- Innovative clinical topics
- Education
- Advocacy
- Practice management
- Certification matters

The Surgical Techniques section is an online-only section that provides step-by-step details of various surgical procedures relevant to clinical practice. Articles discuss indications and contraindications, surgical anatomy, surgical technique, postoperative management, pearls and pitfalls, and complications; many articles also provide a case illustration. Surgical Technique articles will be solicited from experts and are open for submission upon receipt of a Proposal. Articles should be no more than 2,500 words, and they should include a one-paragraph abstract. Videos and/or high-resolution photographs are strongly encouraged.

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**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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A worthy meta-analysis will follow the PRISMA guidelines, be hypothesis driven to address a specific aspect of a topic, include sufficient (ideally at least 10) Level I and II evidence studies that can be supplemented with comparative Level III studies, and not include Level IV studies. The result should clarify the issue addressed. A repeat meta-analysis should follow the original study by at least 5 years, analyze at least 50% more data, and follow the above guidelines. A worthy systematic review will follow the PRISMA guidelines, be hypothesis driven, focus on a specific aspect of a topic, and may include low level evidence. The results should clarify the issue addressed.

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In the analysis of categorical data, utilize exact methods wherever possible. Where the variable of interest cannot be assumed to have a normal distribution, use non-parametric methods of analysis. Report results with only as much precision as is of value. In general, the approach suggested in Bailar JC 3rd, Mosteller F. Guidelines for statistical reporting in articles for medical journals. Amplifications and explanations. *Ann Intern Med.* 1988;108:266-273 should be used.

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