DESCRIPTION

Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery: A Comparative Atlas provides technique-based articles in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery by renowned surgeons in the field, presented in atlas format. Each issue of the quarterly publication contains articles each in adult, congenital, general thoracic surgery, and transplantation. Each pair of articles explores a single topic in a point/counterpoint approach. Numerous original line drawings, intraoperative photographs, and imaging studies are included in each issue to illustrate the different operative approaches.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
William Gaynor, MD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Associate Editors
Transplant Surgery
R. Duane Davis, MD, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC

Acquired
John A. Kern, MD, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Thoracic
Blair Marshall, MD, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC, District of Columbia

Congenital
Glen Van Arsdell, MD, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada

International Associate Editors
Congenital
Yasuhiro Kotani, MD, Okayama University Hospital, Okayama, Japan

Thoracic
Alper Toker, MD, Istanbul Medical School, Istanbul, Turkey

Transplant and ACD
Jan D. Schmitto, MD, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany
Resident Editors

Damien LaPar, MD, MSc, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Dustin Walters, MD, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery: A Comparative Atlas provides technique-based articles in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery by renowned surgeons in the field, presented in atlas format. This quarterly publication contains sections in adult, congenital, general thoracic surgery, and transplantation. When sections contain multiple articles, the articles explore a single procedure using varying techniques. Original line drawings, intraoperative photographs, and imaging studies are included to illustrate the different operative approaches.

Note: The format of this Journal is distinctly different from that of other publications. Introductory and Summary text are minimized; the focus of the article is the narrative description of the procedure within the figure legends.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

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

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 conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. More information.

Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery requires authors of all articles to disclose any conflict(s) of interest. If an author of an article has a financial relationship with one or more companies whose products are featured in the article, the AATS and its designees will resolve the conflict prior to utilization of the article and the nature of the relationship will be disclosed on the first page of the published article. The absence of any declaration of a conflict of interest indicates that none exists. Authors who violate our disclosure policy will be denied the privilege of publishing their work in any AATS journal for one to two years, depending upon the severity of the offense.

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 or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' section of our ethics policy 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 CrossCheck.

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.

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.
Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). 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.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

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

Role of the funding source
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.

Funding body agreements and policies
Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the Open Access Publication Fee. Details of existing agreements are available online.

After acceptance, open access papers will be published under a noncommercial license. For authors requiring a commercial CC BY license, you can apply after your manuscript is accepted for publication.

Open access
This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Subscription
• Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our universal access programs.
• No open access publication fee payable by authors.

Open access
• Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
• An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following Creative Commons user licenses:

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The open access publication fee for this journal is USD 1700, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing.
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 green 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.

Elsevier Publishing Campus
The Elsevier Publishing Campus (www.publishingcampus.com) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). 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.

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 http://ees.elsevier.com/ottcvs/.

PREPARATION
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
Your manuscript should consist of the following elements, each starting on a separate page:
- Title page
- Body of the manuscript consisting of short introduction, detailed figure legends describing each figure (maximum of 15 with permission for re-use, if required), and short closing section. Please note figures (TIF or EPS files) are submitted individually during the electronic submission process.
- References if applicable

All parts of the manuscript (including references and legends) should be double-spaced—that is, with a full line of space after every line.
Subdivision - unnumbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

Essential Title Page Information
• **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
• **Author names, degrees, and affiliations.** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. 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. Ensure that phone numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be 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.
• **Acknowledgment of grant support.** Supply when appropriate (“Supported in part by...”).

Body of Manuscript
The body of your article should consist of five parts:
1. **Abstract:** A short abstract of no more than 250 words. A concise abstract describing the procedure within. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s).
2. **Keywords:** Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 5 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.
3. **A short introductory section of no more than three double-spaced manuscript pages:** Its purpose is to provide the reader with brief background information about the procedure under discussion from your prospective. This would be an appropriate time to mention any specific anatomic considerations or unique technical problems inherent in the procedure. This section of the manuscript should also provide the reader with an understanding of the steps you take in selecting appropriate candidates for the procedure as well as any particular diagnostic challenges or potential pitfalls. Inclusion of photographic reproductions of pertinent imaging studies is encouraged.
4. **The main section of 10 to 15 drawings or photographs of the surgical procedure in a step-by-step format, accompanied by highly detailed and descriptive legends, through which the reader can follow the exact procedure from incision to closure.** Authors should feel free to use their own artist, although the publisher cannot cover these costs. Authors wishing to use the illustrator provided by the publisher must inform the editorial office of this request as soon as possible after accepting their invitations.
5. **A short closing section of no more than two double-spaced manuscript pages** that includes any special considerations for postoperative care and follow-up, the results you expect to obtain with this procedure, and your conclusions regarding its place vis-à-vis other approaches to the treatment of the same or similar conditions. Opinions regarding the comparison of this procedure to others are encouraged. This section may include a short list of selected references. Illustrations of postoperative imaging studies or tables describing results obtained with this technique may be included in this section.

**Highlights**
Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate file in the online submission system. Please use 'Research highlights' in the file name and include 2 to 3 bullet points (maximum 20 words per bullet point). See [http://www.elsevier.com/highlights](http://www.elsevier.com/highlights) for examples.
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.).

Formatting of funding sources
List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Units
Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Drug Names
All drug names cited in the manuscript should be generic and followed by brand name, manufacturer, and city or state or country 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 12-point Times New Roman font.
• Number the illustrations with Arabic numerals (Fig 1, Fig 2) 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 printed version.
• Submit each illustration as a separate file.
A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website: http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats
Images should be provided in EPS or TIF format. Graphics software such as Photoshop and Illustrator, not presentation software such as PowerPoint, CorelDraw, or Harvard Graphics, should be used to create the art. Color images must be CMYK, at least 300 DPI. Gray scale images should be at least 300 DPI. Combinations of gray scale and line art should be at least 1200 DPI. Line art (black and white or color) should be at least 1200 DPI.
The maximum width of illustrations after reduction is 7 inches.

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.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) in addition to color reproduction in print. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.
If the author wishes to include color figures that have not been approved by the Associate Editor, the cost of color plates must be borne by the author. The publisher can provide estimates for this option.

**Illustrations services**
You may use your own illustrator or ask the editorial office for one provided by the publisher.

**Figure Captions**
Legends should be typed double-spaced, numbered with Arabic numerals (Fig 1, Fig 2), in the manuscript document and should not be attached to the illustrations themselves. Legends should be sufficiently detailed to allow understanding of the entire procedure without reference to the text. A maximum of one manuscript page per figure may be used for these legends, although most legends will probably be only one-third to two-thirds of a page in length. Legends referring to the introductory or concluding elements of the manuscript should be brief and should be provided on a separate page following the references.

**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.

**Permission to Reprint**
For any materials that have been borrowed from another copyright holder, authors are responsible for applying to the original copyright holder for permission to reprint in both print and electronic versions. Authors must submit copies of letters granting permission with the submitted manuscript. All reprinted figures and tables should be accompanied with the line “Reprinted with permission” followed by the appropriate reference number (e.g., “Reprinted with permission23”). Authors are responsible for bearing any costs associated with granting print or electronic rights. Be cautioned not to submit the same figure or table simultaneously to two publishers on the assumption that one article will publish before the other and that the publisher of the first article will grant permission for reuse of the material. Publication of one article may be delayed unexpectedly, necessitating withdrawal of material from the other article.

**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.

**Reference links**
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is encouraged.

A DOI can be used to cite and link to electronic articles where an article is in-press and full citation details are not yet known, but the article is available online. A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.
Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

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
Although not required, references may be included if appropriate. Reference numbers in the text follow numerical order and are enclosed in parentheses. References are listed in the order in which they are referred to in the text, not in alphabetical order; they must follow the style of the samples below. Please note that manuscripts in press may be referenced; however, manuscripts that have been submitted for publication but not yet accepted should not be referenced. All references must be complete when the manuscript is submitted.


Video Data
Surgical Films: Operative Techniques has begun accepting video submissions. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit are strongly encouraged to to adhere to the guidelines detailed below. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 100 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com. Please supply 'stills' with your file: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages at http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

• Video Abstract Publications
The Journal of Operative Techniques now welcomes:
Video articles. The maximum file size is **100 MB** (after conversion to mp4). 2. Videos will be published in **mp4** format only. 3. Formats accepted for conversion include: mpg, avi, mov, wma, wmv, swf, rm, fla. 4. Please provide a video still image file as well. This is the placeholder online and in print. A still photograph (formatted as described for the video) must be included with your submission (it can be any frame from the video or may be a separate image) - this will be used as an "icon" for the video link. 5. A 250 word structured abstract must accompany the video. 6. Highlights (similar to that required for a manuscript) must be included with the video submission. 7. The maximum number of authors is four. 8. The maximum number of references that can accompany the video submission is four.

**Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**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. Before submitting your article, you can deposit the relevant datasets to Mendeley Data. Please include the DOI of the deposited dataset(s) in your main manuscript file. 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.

AudioSlides
The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. More information and examples are available. Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

Submission Checklist
The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

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
• Phone numbers
All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:
• Title page with (1) title of manuscript and (2) complete names, academic degrees, departments, and professional affiliations of all authors
• Body of article
• All figures
• All figure captions
• All tables (including title, description, footnotes)
• All supplementary multimedia material, appropriately marked
Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked'
• References are in the correct format for this journal
• All references mentioned in the Reference list (if applicable) are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)
• Informed consent has been received for patient photographs
• Color figures are clearly marked as being intended for color reproduction on the Web (free of charge) and in print, or to be reproduced in color on the Web (free of charge) and in black-and-white in print
• If only color on the Web is required, black-and-white versions of the figures are also supplied for printing purposes
For any further information please visit our customer support site at http://support.elsevier.com.

NOTE: Authors are requested to keep a copy of their final manuscript!

Deadline
It is of utmost importance to submit (1) the outline of your manuscript and (2) the files for each of your preliminary sketches for the illustrator by the author submission date. The date by which the final submission is due will be in your letter of invitation.

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.

**Copyright**
Authors contributing a manuscript do so with the understanding that, once it is accepted for publication, copyright in the article, including the right to reproduce the article in all forms of media now and hereafter known, shall be assigned exclusively to the publisher. The author will be asked to sign a copyright release form to this effect.

**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.

If you have any questions related to the content or organization of your manuscript, please contact your Associate Editor (see contact information on first page of this document).
If you have any questions regarding deadlines, manuscript preparations, or other production issues, please contact:
Amanda Thomason
Managing Editor
American Association for Thoracic Surgery
800 Cummings Center
Suite 350-V
Beverly, MA 01915, USA
Phone: (978) 252-2200, Ext: 559
athomason@aats.org

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | http://www.elsevier.com