



TABLE OF CONTENTS

●	Description	p.1
●	Audience	p.1
●	Impact Factor	p.1
●	Abstracting and Indexing	p.2
●	Editorial Board	p.2
●	Guide for Authors	p.5



DESCRIPTION

The American Journal of Surgery® is a peer-reviewed journal designed for the general surgeon who performs abdominal, cancer, vascular, head and neck, breast, colorectal, and other forms of **surgery**. *AJS* is the official journal of 7 major surgical societies* and publishes their official papers as well as independently submitted clinical studies, editorials, reviews, brief reports, correspondence and book reviews.

* *The American Journal of Surgery*® is the Official Publication of:

The Southwestern Surgical Congress The North Pacific Surgical Association The Association for Surgical Education The Association of Women Surgeons Midwest Surgical Association The Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS)

Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our [author services](#).

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our [Support Center](#)

AUDIENCE

General Surgeons, Clinical Researchers.

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 2.201 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Abstracts in Internal Medicine
Current Advances in Ecological Sciences
Current Contents
Dairy Science Abstracts
Dent. Ind.
Embase
Helminthological Abstracts
Kidney
Medical and Surgical Dermatology
Nutrition Abstracts
Review of Plant Pathology
Risk Abstracts
Science Citation Index
Social Sciences Citation Index
PubMed/Medline
AIM
CIS
Current Advances in Cancer Research
INIS Atomindex
Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology
Chemical Abstracts
I.P.A.
Index to Scientific Reviews
Embase
BIOSIS Biological Abstracts
Scopus

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

K.I. Bland, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, United States

Associate Editors

L.D. Britt, Norfolk, Virginia, United States
E.C. Ellison, Columbus, Ohio, United States
J.E. Fischer, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
R.J. Weigel, Iowa City, Iowa, United States
M.E. Zenilman, Brooklyn, New York, United States

Emeritus Editor-in-Chief

H.C. Polk, Jr., University of Louisville School of Medicine

Editorial Advisory Board

S. Bahrami, Vienna, Austria
C.M. Balch, Baltimore, Maryland, United States
P.S. Barie, New York, New York, United States
M. Basson, East Lansing, Michigan, United States
R.D. Beauchamp, Nashville, TN
H.G. Beger, Ulm, Germany
K.E. Behrns, Saint Louis, Missouri, United States
D.H. Berger, Houston, Texas, United States
H. Bismuth, Villejuif, France
J.M. Cavillon, Paris, France
I.H. Chaudry, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
M.A. Choti, Dallas, Texas, United States
W.G. Cioffi, Providence, Rhode Island, United States
O.H. Clark, San Francisco, California, United States
J.R. Clarke, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
A.L. Cochran, Columbus, Ohio, United States
Lord A. Darzi, London, England, United Kingdom
S.A. De Jong, Chicago, Illinois, United States

R.P. DeMatteo, New York, New York, United States
E.A. Deitch, Newark, New Jersey, United States
C.W. Deveney, Portland, Oregon, United States
D.E. Eckhoff, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States
J.S. Economou, Los Angeles, California, United States
J.E. Espat, Providence, Rhode Island, United States
D.B. Evans, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States
D.V. Feliciano, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States
J.W. Fleshman, Dallas, Texas, United States
L.M. Flint, Jr., Evanston, Illinois, United States
E.W. Fonkalsrud, Los Angeles, California, United States
D.E. Fry, Chicago, Illinois, USA
S. Galandiuk, Louisville, Kentucky, United States
O. J. Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom
S. Grobmyer, Cleveland, Ohio, United States
W.S. Helton, Seattle, Washington, United States
J.G. Hunter, Portland, Oregon, United States
K. Itani, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
L.R. Kaiser, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
S. Kaiser, New York, New York, USA
M.M. Kemeny, Jamaica, New York, United States
V.S. Klimberg, Fayetteville, Arkansas, United States
R. Kozar, Houston, Texas, USA
T.M. Krummel, Stanford, California, United States
F. Lacaine, Paris, France
E.H. Livingston, Chicago, Illinois, USA
T.G. Lynch, Washington, District of Columbia, United States
M.A. Malangoni, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
R.C.G. Martin, II, Louisville, Kentucky, United States
D.W. McFadden, Farmington, Connecticut, United States
C.R. McHenry, Cleveland, Ohio, United States
J.W. Meredith, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States
T. Miller, Richmond, Virginia, United States
S. Mizrahi, Be'er Sheva, Israel
F.A. Moore, Gainesville, Florida, United States
D.M. Nagorney, Rochester, Minnesota, United States
M.B. Orringer, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States
H.L. Pachter, New York, New York, United States
N.D. Perrier, Houston, Texas, United States
J.L. Ponsky, Cleveland, United States
M.C. Posner, Chicago, Illinois, United States
A.B. Reed, Hershey, Pennsylvania, United States
P. Reissman, Jerusalem, Israel
J. Richman, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
A.S. Rosemurgy, Tampa, Florida, United States
G.S. Rozycki, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States
L.W. Rue, III, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
G.A. Sarosi, Jr., Gainesville, Florida, United States
M.G. Sarr, Rochester, Minnesota, United States
P.J. Schenarts, Omaha, Nebraska, United States
D.M. Schroder, Grosse Point Shores, Michigan, United States
R.A. Schwarz, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States
C.E.H. Scott-Conner, Iowa City, Iowa, United States
S.F. Sener, Los Angeles, California, United States
K.W. Sharp, Nashville, Tennessee, United States
E.A. Shaughnessy, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States
E. D. Staren, Zion, Illinois, USA
S. Steinemann, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States
R.M. Stewart, San Antonio, Texas, United States
R.W. Strong, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
J. Thompson, Omaha, Nebraska, United States
C.M. Townsend, Galveston, Texas, United States
M.M. Urist, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
J.T. Vetto, Portland, Oregon, United States
S.M. Vickers, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
B.W. Warner, Saint Louis, Missouri, United States
R.M. Zollinger, Jr., Cleveland, Ohio, United States

Society Representatives

M. Crandall, Northwestern University

C.P. Delaney, CLEVELAND CLINIC

C. Hollands, Association of Women Surgeons, Chicago, United States

L. Killewich, Association of Women Surgeons

J.C. Mayberry, Oregon Health & Science University

C.L. Scaife, Southwestern Surgical Congress, Westwood, United States

P.L. Turner, Society of Black Academic Surgeons, Norfolk, United States

Managing Editor

C.A. Moore, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, United States

Emeritus Members of the Editorial Advisory Board

L. C. Carey, Tampa, FL

I. Cohn, Jr., New Orleans, LA

D. E. Detmer, Charlottesville, VA

R. H. Egdahl, Boston, MA

A. Fingerhut, Chambourcy, France

A. S. Ketcham, Miami, FL

F.G. Moody, Houston, Texas

E.E. Moore, Denver, CO

D. L. Nahrwold, Chicago, IL

J.S. Najarian, Minneapolis, Minnesota

J. F. Patino, Bogota, Colombia

E. E. Peacock, Jr., Chapel Hill, NC

L. F. Ridders, Madison, WI

G.F. Sheldon, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

H. H. Stone, Phoenix, AZ

R.K. Tompkins, Santa Monica, CA

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

The American Journal of Surgery[®] is a peer-reviewed journal designed for the general surgeon who performs abdominal, cancer, vascular, head and neck, breast, colorectal, and other forms of **surgery**. *AJS* is the official journal of 7 major surgical societies* and publishes their official papers as well as independently submitted clinical studies, editorials, reviews, brief reports, correspondence and book reviews.

The American Journal of Surgery[®] is the Official Publication of:

The Southwestern Surgical Congress The North Pacific Surgical Association The Association for Surgical Education The Association of Women Surgeons Midwest Surgical Association The Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS)

Types of Paper

The Editors and Publisher of *The American Journal of Surgery*[®] invite concise original articles in the following categories: (1) clinical and experimental surgery, (2), review articles, (3) surgical pharmacology articles, and (4) brief reports.

NO CASE REPORTS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES.

Clinical Images and "How I Do It" will no longer be accepted as article type submissions.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

Conflict 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. See also <https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest>.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT or **potential conflicts of interest** should be acknowledged by all authors and editorial reviewers. If such a conflict is recognized, the reviewer will be excused from the review process and another assigned.

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').

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 gold 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 gold 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 gold 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.

- The Author is entitled to post the [accepted manuscript](#) in their institution's repository and make this public after an embargo period (known as green Open Access). The [published journal article](#) cannot be shared publicly, for example on ResearchGate or Academia.edu, to ensure the sustainability of peer-reviewed research in journal publications. The embargo period for this journal can be found below.

Gold open access

- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- A gold 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 gold 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 gold open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 2400**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <https://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 [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 Researcher Academy

[Researcher Academy](#) is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

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 Author Services.

Informed consent and patient details

Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the [Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals](#). Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

Sex Based Reporting and Analysis

AJS supports uniform, defined reporting of the sex used for human, animal, tissue, and cell research in ALL manuscripts submitted, as per NIH guidelines. If only one sex is reported, authors must include a justification statement as to why only a single-sex study was conducted. Also required is sex-based analysis of data for all human, animal, tissue, and cell research.

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

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the Elsevier Editorial System at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ajs>. Books for possible review should be sent to Kirby I. Bland, MD, Department of Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294.

PREPARATION

MANUSCRIPTS should be typed, doubled-spaced, on 8½ × 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins and should not exceed a total of 15 pages, excluding simple tables and figures. Limit references to no more than 40. Number all pages, beginning with the title page. The style of writing should conform to acceptable English usage. Readability is a factor in the acceptance of all papers. Strive to enlighten, not to impress. Avoid medical jargon, unnecessary wordiness, and overlong sentences. Authors are encouraged to view Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.

All manuscripts should include Research Highlights. Research Highlights are a short list of bullet points that convey the core findings and provide readers with a quick textual overview of the article.

Specifications: Include **3 to 5** bullet points. Each bullet point should be a maximum of **85 characters, including spaces**. Only the core results of the paper should be covered.

Review articles and surgical pharmacology articles must not exceed 25 pages or contain more than 100 references.

Brief reports must be limited to 7 double-spaced typed pages, including the title page, structured abstract, and reference pages. Use no more than 3 tables, illustrations, or combination thereof. Limit references to 10. Do not use subheadings within the text, such as Materials and Methods, Results, and Comments.

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](#).

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

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'.

Introduction

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

Material and methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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.

Highlights

Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: [example Highlights](#).

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

Abstract

For clinical, experimental, and brief reports should consist of four paragraphs labeled: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Review article abstracts should be labeled: Background, Data Sources, Conclusions and surgical pharmacology articles require unstructured abstracts. No abstract should exceed 150 words. A short 2- to 4- sentence summary for the table of contents and list of keywords should be included on separate pages.

Graphical abstract

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

Authors can make use of Elsevier's [Illustration Services](#) to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 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.

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.

Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

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.

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.

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) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. [Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.](#)

Illustration services

[Elsevier's Author Services](#) offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

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.

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.

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 highly encouraged.

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., Ambek 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.

References in a special issue

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support [Citation Style Language styles](#), such as [Mendeley](#). Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. [More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software](#).

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:

<http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/the-american-journal-of-surgery>

When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Reference style

References must follow the general arrangement and punctuation outlined in: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Ann Intern Med*, 1988;108:258-265 or *Br Med J*. 1988;296:401-405. They should be typed, double-spaced, on a separate page. Number the references in the order that they are first mentioned. Only references that are mentioned in the text should be listed. Use the Index Medicus style for abbreviations of journal titles. List all authors if there are four or fewer; for five or more authors, list the first three and add "et al." All authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

Journal article: Cullen JJ, Eagon JC, Dozois EJ, Kelly KA. Treatment of acute postoperative ileus with octreotide. *AM J Surg*, 1993;165:113-120.

Book: Fry DE. *Multiple System Organ Failure*. St. Louis: Mosby-Year Book, Inc., 1992.

Chapter in book: Zucker KA, Bailey RW. Diagnostic and therapeutic laparoscopy for the general surgeon. In: Polk HC Jr, Gardner B, Stone HH, eds. *Basic Surgery*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Quality Medical Publishing, 1993. p 95-121.

For references to articles in press, please supply the name of the journal and, if available, the volume number and year. References to unpublished material, including written (not verbal) personal communications, should be included parenthetically in the text.

Reference style

Text: Indicate references by (consecutive) superscript arabic numerals in the order in which they appear in the text. The numerals are to be used *outside* periods and commas, *inside* colons and semicolons. For further detail and examples you are referred to the [AMA Manual of Style](#), A Guide for Authors and Editors, Tenth Edition, ISBN 0-978-0-19-517633-9.

List: Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

1. Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *J Sci Commun*. 2010;163:51–59. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.Sc.2010.00372>.

Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

2. Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *Heliyon*. 2018;19:e00205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2018.e00205>.

Reference to a book:

3. Strunk W Jr, White EB. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Longman; 2000.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

4. Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, eds. *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. New York, NY: E-Publishing Inc; 2009:281–304.

Reference to a website:

5. Cancer Research UK. Cancer statistics reports for the UK. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/>; 2003 Accessed 13 March 2003.

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] 6. Oguro, M, Imahiro, S, Saito, S, Nakashizuka, T. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, Mendeley Data, v1; 2015. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

Video

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. 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 file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including [ScienceDirect](#). Please supply 'stills' with your files: 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](#). 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.

Data visualization

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions [here](#) to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

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. 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](#).

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
- Fax numbers

All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:

- Highlights
- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)

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 are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)
- 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 <https://service.elsevier.com>.

For Affiliated Societies

Affiliated Societies must limit the text and references for any and all papers according to their contractual page count to avoid page charges. No more than 5 tables, figures, or combination thereof, will be considered. There should be no more than 40 references. Authors of accepted society manuscripts should refer to the SUBMISSION CHECKLIST before submitting a manuscript to their society/association recorder. Recorders of each society are encouraged to delete irrelevant comments, needless repetition, polite fillers, and condense rambling statements when editing the discussion.

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](#) 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>