DESCRIPTION

The Spine Journal, the official journal of the North American Spine Society, is an international and multidisciplinary journal that publishes original, peer-reviewed articles on research and treatment related to the spine and spine care, including basic science and clinical investigations. It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to The Spine Journal have not been published, and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. The Spine Journal also publishes major reviews of specific topics by acknowledged authorities, technical notes, teaching editorials, and other special features, Letters to the Editor-in-Chief are encouraged.

The Spine Journal is ranked 4th of 63 journals in Orthopaedics category on the 2012 Journal Citation Reports®, published by Thomson Reuters, and has an Impact Factor of 3.220.

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Introduction

The Spine Journal, the official journal of the North American Spine Society, is an international and multidisciplinary journal that publishes original, peer-reviewed articles on research and treatment related to the spine and high-quality, ethical, evidence-based spine care, including basic science and clinical investigations. The Spine Journal (TSJ) also publishes major reviews of specific topics, technical notes, editorials and special features.

TSJ publishes full-length articles (in the form of Clinical Studies and Basic Science papers), Technical Reports, Review Articles, Letters to the Editor and a number of other special features.

All submissions are accepted with the understanding that they have not been, and will not be, published elsewhere substantially in any format. Also, there should be no ethical concerns with the content or data collection. TSJ reserves the right to request any research materials on which the paper is based.

Submission Fees

Beginning in January 2017 the journal will charge a submission fee for all unsolicited manuscripts.

Submission Fees:
- $50 for members of the North American Spine Society
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After online submission and check-in of your submission by the Journal staff, authors will be sent an email referring them to a payment page at the Elsevier Webshop. Manuscripts will be reviewed only after we have received confirmation of your payment.

Article Types

Clinical Studies (See sub-categories below)

Clinical studies are previously unpublished manuscripts that include clinical investigations, clinical observations and clinically relevant trials. Abstracts for Clinical Studies are required to have all eight (8) structured subheadings: background context, purpose, design, patient sample, outcome measures, methods, results and conclusions.

TSJ has adopted guidelines designed to improve the reporting of clinical studies. By following these guidelines, many of which include checklists and flow charts, authors ensure that readers can assess the validity of their findings. Submissions to TSJ must adhere to the guideline that applies to their study, as specified below.

Clinical studies should be between 1500 and 4500 words (approx. 6 to 12 double-spaced pages).

1. Controlled Trials
   a) Randomized controlled trials (RCTs): Complete CONSORT checklist and include flow diagram in article.


Website: http://www.consort-statement.org/

CONSORT extensions may apply to specific study types:

i. Non-inferiority and Equivalence RCTs:

ii. Cluster RCTs:

iii. Non-pharmacological treatment interventions:

iv. Health-Related Quality of Life Studies:

v. RCTs with Patient-Reported Outcomes:

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A controlled trial is defined by the ICMJE as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A controlled trial, whether randomized or not, must be registered in a public registry meeting ICMJE requirements prior to submission to TSJ.

2. Observational Studies

Cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies: Complete the STROBE checklist and include flow diagram (if applicable) in article.


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3. Diagnostic Test Studies

Complete STARD checklist and include flow diagram in article.


4. Reliability and agreement Studies

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5. Cost-Effectiveness Studies

Authors should read the following report and include the recommended elements in the article.


6. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses

a) Reviews of RCTs: Complete PRISMA checklist and include flow diagram in article.


Website: http://prisma-statement.org/

b) Reviews of observational studies:


7. Uncontrolled Case Series

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All clinical studies published in The Spine Journal will include a text box, compiled by the Journal editors, that provides an evidence-based critique of the study. The one-column breakout box is meant to facilitate inquiry and spark discussion on the most important topics of a given paper.

Basic Science Papers

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The manuscript should deal with newer material of interest. The text length may vary from 10-25 double-spaced pages and should include a minimum of 15 references. Ample illustrations (radiographs, photographs and original art) should be used to clearly show the devices/equipment, technique and pictorial evidence. Structured Abstract is required.

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The manuscript should cover an established but controversial area of multidisciplinary spine care with the goal of updating and consolidating knowledge and the conceptual framework. It should include a minimum of 50 references with 20-30 pages of doublespaced text, 3-5 explanatory tables, and appropriate artwork. A structured abstract is required.

**Case Reports**

Case reports submissions are no longer accepted.

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Authors are encouraged to submit material for publication in any of the following special features sections of The Spine Journal. All should follow the general format of instructions to authors provided above.

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1. Abstract (structured as outlined below. Methods section must include detailed relevant disclosure)
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3. Classifications
4. Title Page (separate from manuscript) with all authors, affiliations and corresponding author’s full contact information
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