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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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. The Spine Journal (TSJ) seeks to publish high-quality, ethical, evidence-based spine care, including basic science and clinical investigations. TSJ also publishes major reviews of specific topics as well as editorials. TSJ is not currently seeking case reports, technical reports, or small case series, with rare exceptions.

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.

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Article Types

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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:

b) Non-randomized controlled trials: Complete TREND checklist and include flow diagram in article.


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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

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3. Diagnostic Test Studies

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4. Reliability and agreement Studies

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5. Cost-Effectiveness Studies

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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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Basic Science Papers

Basic science papers are previously unpublished manuscripts that include laboratory work in areas ranging from basic lab work, cadaver studies, cellular mechanisms, molecular biology, growth factor work, preclinical animal studies and novel imaging (as related to the basic sciences rather than clinical imaging). A structured abstract is required. Abstracts for Basic Science Studies are required to have the following structured subheadings: background context, purpose, study design, methods, results, conclusions, and clinical significance. Important: Each basic science paper should have a paragraph describing the potential clinical relevance of their research in the "Discussion" section.

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