THE SPINE JOURNAL
A Multidisciplinary Journal of Spinal Disorders

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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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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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.

Submission Fees

Beginning in January 2017, the Journal charges a submission fee for all unsolicited manuscripts. Submission Fees: $50 for members of the North American Spine Society and $125 for non-members.

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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Clinical studies are previously unpublished manuscripts that include clinical investigations, clinical observations and clinically relevant trials.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:

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

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


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

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

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


Many clinical studies published in TSJ 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

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.

Research Letters

This is a new article type. Research Letters are an abbreviated report of original research that should be no more than 700 words. No abstract is necessary, and no abstract will appear with its citation, if published. The references list should have 10 citations or less. Only 1 or 2 figures/tables should be included. A maximum of six authors will be allowed for Research Letters. Because of its brevity, only a short introduction will be necessary. Thus, the background and intent of the research should be relatively self-evident and not require a lengthy introduction.
Narrative Review Articles
Usually invited, 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 double-spaced text, 3-5 explanatory tables, and appropriate artwork. An unstructured abstract is required.

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These are solicited and unsolicited editorial pieces about a topic in spine care, extending beyond a letter to the editor - which usually discuss a previously published TSJ article - but that don't quite meet the criteria for a Review Article. Unlike an Editorial, an article type that is generally reserved for members of the TSJ Editorial Board, Perspectives give a voice to anyone who wishes to express an opinion on a wide range of discussion topics.

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