DESCRIPTION

Journal of the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons:

- Leading articles on all aspects of surgery in the oro-facial and head and neck region
- One of the largest circulations of any international journal in this field
- Dedicated to enhancing surgical expertise.

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

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 1.164 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
BIOSIS Citation Index
Cochrane Center
Current Contents
Embase
PubMed/Medline
Medical Documentation Service
Reference Update
Research Alert
ISI Science Citation Index
Web of Science
UMI Microfilms
EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor
K. Shakib, Royal Free Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Deputy Editor
N. Kanatas, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom
P. Kyzas, Northern Care Alliance NHS Group, Manchester, England, UK

Associate Editors
N. Ahmed, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, United Kingdom
M.A. Al-Muharraki, Bahrain Defence Force Royal Medical Services, Riffa, Bahrain
A. Bobinskas, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Murdoch, Australia
M. Ethunandan, Western Sussex Hospitals Maxillofacial Unit, Chichester, United Kingdom
D.J.W Keith, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Sunderland, United Kingdom
S. D. MacLeod, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois, United States
P. M. McLoughlin, University of Dundee School of Medicine, Dundee, United Kingdom
K. Mitsimponas, Royal Free Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Technical Editor
M. Evans
C. Lester
A. Smith

Statistical Adviser
A. Smith

Expert Advisers
V. Ilankovan, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
R. Oeppen, Southampton General Hospital
C. Penfold, Alder Hey Children’s Hospital
D. Richardson, Spire Murrayfield Hospital Wirral
S.N. Rogers, University of Liverpool

Editorial Advisory Board
R. Anand
G. Arakeri
C. Avery
A. W. Barrett
B. Bisase
I. Brook
C.-H. Chan
J. E. De Burgh Norman
M. Fardy
A. Gibbons
W. Halfpenny
P. Hardee
A.S High
M. Ho
S. Hodder
D.C Howlett
V. Ilankovan
R. Kennedy
S. Langton
S. Laverick
D. Lovelock
A. Lyons
D. Macpherson
A. Markus
J.A. McCaul
M. McGurk
A. McKechnie
I. McVicar
K. Moos
P. Morgan
M. Morton
R.S Oeppen
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Official Journal of the British Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

Types of paper
* The following types of paper are published in the journal (please note that the abstract is included in the word count):

Full Length Articles: maximum length 2500 words; abstract maximum 250 words, 30 references, normally no more than 6 figures or tables (note that composite or multi-part figures are not accepted).

Basic Science: maximum length 2500 words; abstract maximum 250 words, 30 references, normally no more than 6 figures or tables (note that composite or multi-part figures are not accepted).

Short Communication/Case Report: maximum length 750 words; abstract maximum of 150 words, 10 references, 3 figures or tables (note that composite or multi-part figures are not accepted). Normally no more than 5 authors.

Technical Notes: maximum length 500 words, 5 references, 4 figures or tables (note that composite or multi-part figures are not accepted), no abstract, no introduction or discussion. Normally no more than 5 authors.

Letters: Maximum length 500 words, 5 references, 2 figures or tables. Letters about a published paper should be headed with the full reference to that paper. Original letters should have their own heading. Normally no more than 5 authors.

Review articles: Review articles have unlimited text, references and figures/tables, however should be kept as concise as possible. If you would like advice regarding suitability of your review article, please email a copy of your abstract to the Editorial Office in order that the Editor can advise on this.

Leading Articles - by invitation only: these are planned for each edition and will cover the whole remit of the specialty. They will provide up-to-date knowledge by a recognised expert in the field and are by invitation only from the editor. Length 2500 words, up to 40 references, maximum 6 figures or tables (note that composite or multi-part figures are not accepted). Please contact the Editor if you are interested in writing a leading article.

Book reviews - by invitation only.

Announcements by fellows & members of BAOMS: Announcements should be a 2-3 line message informing the readers of announcements or forthcoming events or news. Please email directly to BJOMS@elsevier.com for consideration.

Obituaries: Obituaries should be as concise as possible. Please email directly to BJOMS@elsevier.com for consideration.

PLEASE STATE WHICH TYPE OF PAPER YOU ARE SUBMITTING IN YOUR COVER LETTER.

Contact
The contact details for the journal's editorial office are as follows:

Mrs Jacqui Merrison
Administrative Editor
BJOMS Editorial Office
Health Sciences, Elsevier Ltd
The Boulevard
Langford Lane
Kidlington
Oxford OX5 1GB
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 843270
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 843992
Email: bjoms@elsevier.com

Submission checklist
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

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

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print
Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• 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 Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Editorial policy
The editorial office will acknowledge receipt of all material. All submissions are subject to editorial review, and all research papers will be forwarded to at least two referees for peer review. An immediate reject decision may be given for papers that are not suitable for publication in the journal. These papers are not usually sent for further peer review, though comments may be provided for the reject decision by the Editor. The Editor will not enter into any correspondence about papers not accepted.

The editors reserve the right to make editorial and literary corrections. Any opinions expressed or policies advocated do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the editors, the publisher or BAOMS.

Online-only publication
Owing to the high volume of submissions to the journal, the Editor reserves the right to select papers for online-only publication in the electronic version of the journal at http://www.sciencedirect.com and http://bjoms.com. Online-only papers will be listed in the contents page of the print journal; they are fully citable and are indexed in PubMed/Medline. Authors will be informed if their paper is accepted to appear on-line only. The Editors decision in this regard is final.

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

Studies in humans and animals
If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the
Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

Conflicts 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'. See also https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest. British Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery requires full disclosure of all potential conflicts of interest. All authors must complete the questions in "Additional Information" when submitting your manuscript that cover Conflict of Interest, Ethics Approval and Patient Permission/Consent. Please note that the Conflict of Interest, Ethics Approval and Patient Permission/Consent statements must also be included in your manuscript text prior to the reference list.

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.

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’).

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.

Minor contributors and non-contributory clinicians who have allowed their patients to be used in the paper should be acknowledged at the end of the text and before the references. Normally no more than four authors should appear on a Short Communication/Case Report or Technical Note. Full length articles may contain as many authors as appropriate.

Confirmation of Authorship
Before a paper is accepted all authors must sign the Confirmation of Authorship form (available HERE) Signing this form confirms that all the named authors agree to publication if the paper is accepted and that each has had significant input into the paper. The form can be downloaded and returned electronically if scanned, or the original may be posted to the Editorial Office (contact details above). It is advisable that to prevent delay this form is submitted early in the editorial process.
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.

Reporting clinical trials
Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

Registration of clinical trials
Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events.

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.

**Open access**
Please visit our Open Access page from the Journal Homepage for more information.

**Language (usage and editing services)**
Please write your text in British English. 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 (http://webshop.elsevier.com/languagediting/) or visit our customer support site (http://service.elsevier.com) for more information.

**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.

**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 our editorial site.

**Style of text**
Papers should be presented in British English in the style of the journal; failure to do so may delay assessment and publication.

The **title page** should contain the title of the paper, the initials, name and address of each author with higher academic degrees and current positions held, followed by the name, address, fax number, and email address of the author responsible for correspondence.

**PREPARATION**

**Peer review**
This journal operates a double 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](#).

**Double-blind review**
This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

**Title page (with author details):** This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.
blind manuscript (no author details): The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

use of word processing software
it is important that the file be saved in the native format of the wordprocessor used. the text should be in single-column, double-spaced 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 wordprocessor'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: https://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication). 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 wordprocessor.

article structure

subsection - 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.

appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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.

**Abstract**
A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. 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). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

**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 British 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.

**Abbreviations**
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**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.
Math formulae
Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

Numerical data
Statistical analyses accepted by the journal follow the principles laid down in: Lang TA, Secic M. How to report statistics in medicine. Philadelphia: American College of Physicians, 1997 (available from the BMA Bookshop).

Statistical analysis
Statistical analyses accepted by the journal follow the principles laid down in: Lang TA, Secic M. How to report statistics in medicine. Philadelphia: American College of Physicians, 1997 (available from the BMA Bookshop).

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.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

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.

Figures of good quality should be submitted online as separate files. Composite illustrations (several pictures presented as one) are not accepted.

Photomicrographs
Please make sure that photomicrographs and pictures of specimens contain a scale bar. The legends to photomicrographs should state the stain used and the original magnification.
Clinical photographs
Written consent should be obtained from the patient (or parent or guardian) for publication of any picture in which the patient is identifiable. The legend should include the words 'published with the patient's (or parent's or guardian's) consent'.

Graphs and histograms
These should be used only when it is not possible to display the data in any other way (for instance in tables), or when they are being used only for comparison with other series. In all cases it should be clear how many cases or patients are being studied in each group. Three-dimensional graphs and pie-charts are not acceptable.


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.

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
Citations in text
Every reference in the list should be cited in the text in numerical order. References should not be given in the abstract. Abstracts presented at meetings, unpublished results, and personal communications should not be listed as references, but given in brackets in the text where they are cited (see examples below). References that were originally published in a language other than English should be cited in English with the words (in French, German, Chinese, and so on, as appropriate) following the title. All references must be easily retrievable from one of the standard databases (for example, PubMed, Google Scholar, or Science Direct). Any reference that is not retrievable will be omitted. All references should be set out in the house style (see Reference Style below) of the journal. Only a reference that has been accepted for publication should be given as 'in press', together with the name of the journal in which it is to be published.

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., Ambhe 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 style**
These should be set out in the Vancouver style, superscripted in the text after punctuation marks, and numbered in the order in which they appear in the text. References that include more than three authors should list the first three authors, et al.

Examples:


**Papers in electronic format:** Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. Emerg Infect Dis (serial online) 1995 Jan-March (cited 1996 Jan 5); 1(1):[24 screens]. Available from here.

**Thesis:** Author, title, degree, name of university, year of publication.

**Abstract:** First authors name et al. Title in full. Paper presented at (name of scientific meeting) year, place.

**Personal communication:** Name, date, personal communication.

**Unpublished observation:** Name, date, unpublished observation.

Abstracts, Personal Communications, and Unpublished observations should not be quoted in the list of references, but in brackets in the text, as these are not peer-reviewed.

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.

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.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction
To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. 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.

Offprints
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's Author Services. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

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