DESCRIPTION

The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, “The Gray Journal”, covers the full spectrum of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The aim of the Journal is to publish original research (clinical and translational), reviews, opinions, video clips, podcasts and interviews that will have an impact on the understanding of health and disease and that has the potential to change the practice of women’s health care. An important focus is the diagnosis, treatment, prediction and prevention of obstetrical and gynecological disorders. The Journal also publishes work on the biology of reproduction, and content which provides insight into the physiology and mechanisms of obstetrical and gynecological diseases.

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The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology has two companion titles: Manuscripts with a focus on maternal-fetal medicine or high-risk pregnancy can be submitted to AJOG MFM. Manuscripts with a focus on regional reports and cross-border healthcare delivery can be submitted to the open access AJOG Global Reports.

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Original Research
Systematic review and meta-analysis studies: please refer to Systematic Reviews
Translational Research: please refer to Translational Research

Original research manuscripts are limited to 3000 words of main text, must include all items listed under 'Article structure,' including a Title Page, Condensation, Short Title, AJOG at a Glance, and Keywords, and organized as follows:

Title page - (starting on page 1) - Title (as concise as possible, approximately 12 words, without abbreviations or parenthetical abbreviations for terms used in the title, and suitable for indexing purposes) Proprietary (brand names) and conclusion statements are NOT permitted in the manuscript title. A title page is required for ALL article types, see 'Essential title page information' of this document for details.

Include the following in sequence:

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On the next page supply: Condensation - a 1-sentence condensation of the paper, consisting of no more than 25 words, stating its essential point(s); this sentence, which is subject to copy editing in conformance with Journal style, will appear in the Table of Contents. Short Title: a short version of the article title, for the identification line inserted at the bottom of each published table and figure. AJOG at a Glance: This section is limited to no more than 130 words, 1-3 short sentences or phrases in bullet form, briefly describing your study, its significance, and its contribution to the literature. Include the questions followed by your responses, and listed in bullet form with A., B., and C., headings (not in paragraph form). All responses are subject to minor editorial alterations and/or shortened without the authors' approval, and published on the Journal website.

A. Why was the study conducted?

B. What are the key findings?

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Keywords - Keywords are a pertinent component in making articles more visible and accessible to potential readers and assist in the dissemination of your research. Provide as many alphabetized key words or short phrases as needing for indexing purposes. Approximately 10 terms are recommended, but do not duplicate terms or phrases utilized in the manuscript title as they are automatically included.

On the next page supply:

Structured Abstract - up to 500 words (250-word minimum) with the following required headings:
1. **Background:** an explanation of the basis for the study.

2. **Objective(s):** the purpose of the study (hypothesis being tested)

3. **Study Design:** the setting for the study, subjects (number and type), treatment or intervention, and type(s) of statistical analysis used

4. **Results:** the outcome(s) of the study and, if appropriate, their statistical significance

5. **Conclusion(s):** overall significance of the results

The abstract should provide sufficient detail for the editors, reviewers, and readers to clearly understand the main message of your paper. Abstracts are freely available on search engines such as Scopus, PubMed, etc., and is a key component in assessing the quality of an article.

The type(s) of non-human animals or other species used in an investigation must be named in the abstract. If percentages are used, include the numerator/denominator in parenthesis. P-values should be included for claims of statistical significance. Abbreviations and references are NOT permitted in the abstract (structured nor unstructured).

**Main Text** - must be organized into sections and with the following headings included. The use of abbreviations should be avoided whenever possible throughout the paper for the ease of reading. The type(s) of non-human animals or other species used in an investigation must be named in the Title, Abstract, and Materials and Methods sections of the manuscript. The editors require that manuscripts be organized into sections with headings as described under the Article types section of this document. Continuous line numbers (1st through last page) must appear on manuscripts upon submission. **Introduction:** State concisely the study's purpose and rationale. Present only the background, supported by a limited number of pertinent references necessary for the reader to understand why the study was conducted. Do not include study data or conclusions.

**Materials and Methods:** Describe briefly, but in sufficient detail to permit others to replicate the study, its plan, patients, experimental animals or other species, materials, and controls; methods and procedures; and statistical method(s) employed. Institutional Review Board (IRB) issues are to be addressed here as stated under "Human and nonhuman experimentation" in the Editorial Policies section above. If the study was exempt from IRB approval, provide an explanation in this section.

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Reviews

Expert Reviews
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The full-length article appears both in print and on the Journal website.

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Each article in this category provides a comprehensive and exhaustive systematic review of the literature related to the topic, collating all relevant evidence meeting pre-specified eligibility criteria. Systematic reviews may not be combined with other manuscript types.

Systematic reviews must include a clearly stated set of objectives with reproducible methodology, a systematic search, eligibility criteria for selecting studies, assessment of study quality (risk of bias), an assessment of the validity of the findings and systematic synthesis of these findings. Metaanalysis, the use of statistical techniques to combine and summarize results across studies, may or may not be contained within a systematic review.

Authors must adhere to the PRISMA and MOOSE guidelines (for guidance see Editorial Policies).

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Title: The title should identify the report as systematic review or metaanalysis.
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Introduction (rationale, explain impetus for Review) Objective(s) Methods Eligibility criteria, information sources, search strategy Study selection Data extraction Assessment of risk of bias Data synthesis Results Study selection Study characteristics Risk of bias of included studies Synthesis of results Comment Main findings Strengths and limitations Comparison with existing literature Conclusions and Implications

**Clinical Opinion**

A Clinical Opinion paper presents a balanced, evidence-based discussion of a clinical issue pertinent to obstetricians and gynecologists. The paper may address an emerging or controversial topic or bring attention to a topic of increasing clinical significance. Opinions rendered must be based on an interpretation of available evidence.

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Subheadings to separate and identify sections of the text should be unique to the topic; the 4 prescribed categories required for research articles do not apply. To prevent such subheadings from occupying many lines on a page, they should be as short as possible, not exceeding approximately 6 words and preferably 1 to 4 words.

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Special Report
A Special Report is released by a consensus committee, working group, task force, or similar group, or summarizes the findings of an important meeting. (Please note this is not a venue for case reports; the Journal does not publish case reports.)

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Case Report
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Editorials are written or solicited by the editors. Spontaneous submissions are not considered for publication.

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IMAGES presents the opportunity to share an interesting, high-quality image related to obstetrics and gynecology and women’s health. Priority will be given to those images of particular interest and quality, and those that provide the reader with key learning points to aid their practices. Up to 5 images may be included that exemplify the condition or case. One will be chosen for the print publication, and all will be published in full in the official on-line publication. Both Journal versions will include a legend, not to exceed 150 words. No condensation or abstract will be published. Supplementary material may include video. IMAGES should include: 1) A title 2) No more than 3 authors 3) Refer to AJOG website for guidelines on submission of figures, to ensure high resolution and quality. 4) Figures should be appropriately labeled with arrows identifying structures 5) Any information that might identify the patient in the figure must be removed (including acquisition date). 6) If the patient is potentially identifiable from the image, authors must have obtained written permission from the patient. The author is responsible for filing this in a secure location. The scope of the consent should allow the author to explicitly disclose the information to Elsevier and for Elsevier to republish the information in print and electronic format including journal web and social media sites. Authors must attest to having obtained written consent upon submission of the Images piece and must be prepared to provide this documentation upon the editors' request. 7) A legend up to 150 words that summarizes succinctly, as appropriate, the clinical information including presentation, evaluation (including surgical findings), treatment, and follow-up status . The legend should explain all labeled structures. 8) No references are permitted. 9) If a video is included, please submit a high-resolution still image. Submissions will be reviewed by a team of Editors and their decision to accept or reject will be final.

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4), and refers to the video. A description of the clinical situation or problem (under the heading: "Problem") followed by your surgical solution (under the heading: "Our solution"), in 600 words or less (not counting the title page, acknowledgement, references, tables, legends, and figures). Lists and bullet points may be used as appropriate. The text should refer to the figures/photos and video (see items 4 and 5). At least one high-quality photograph (300+ dpi; not taken from a website or cell phone), graphic, or figure, to be published in the print edition; this, plus up to 5 additional photos/figures may be included for the online version. A video clip or computer graphic not longer than 5 minutes, or a maximum of 50MBs or less per clip, to be published in the online version. Figure and video legends. 7 or fewer references.

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Please see Clinical Opinion as a venue for presenting a scholarly, evidence-based point of view about controversial issues in OB/GYN.

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Selected Letters to the Editors that cite at least 1 article published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology within the previous 12 issues are considered for publication.

Letters to the Editors are limited to 3 authors, 400 words (not counting the title page or references), and 1 to 4 references. At least one of the references must cite the related Journal article(s). All data presented must be fully citable and cited in the supporting reference list.

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Authors must follow the ethical standards for human experimentation established in the Declaration of Helsinki (World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: recommendations guiding physicians in biomedical research involving human subjects. JAMA 1997;277:925-6). The editors assume that a manuscript emanating from an institution is submitted with the approval of the requisite authority. The authors of reports of human experimentation that require local institutional approval must have obtained this approval before the experiment was started; upon request of the Journal editors, the author(s) must provide copies of the appropriate documentation. Institutional approval must be indicated in the Materials and Methods section of the submitted manuscript. If the study is exempt from Institutional Review Board approval, an explanation must be provided under Materials and Methods.

For reports of experiments on nonhuman animals or other species, authors must state under materials and methods that the guidelines for the care and use of the animals approved by the local institution were followed. The type(s) of nonhuman animals or other species used in an investigation must be named in the title, abstract, key words, and materials and methods sections of the manuscript.

For Images in Ob/Gyn, Surgeon’s Corner, Viewpoint, or similar reports in which the identity of the patient is potentially identifiable, authors must have obtained written permission from the patient(s) on whom the report is based. The author is responsible for filing this in a secure location. The scope of the consent should allow the author to explicitly disclose the information to Elsevier and for Elsevier to republish the information in print and electronic format including journal web and social media sites. Authors must attest to having obtained written consent in the manuscript and must be prepared to provide this documentation upon the editors’ request.

All research studies, including those involving patients, patient records, research participants or databases, require ethics committee approval (or documented exemption from the Human Subjects Committee) and informed consent (or documented waiver of consent), both of which must be documented in the paper. Studies on patients, patient records, or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, both of which must be documented in the paper.
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Authors must adhere to the following guidelines when formulating the study.

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- **Health economics.** In addition to the general instructions for authors and other guidelines applicable to the study reported in a submitted manuscript (eg, CONSORT guidelines for a randomized controlled trial; see above), authors of health economics manuscripts should consider certain issues specific to such studies and address them in the manuscript and/or submission letter. The checklist specific to this topic must be completed and included with the general submission checklist. https://www.elsevier.com/__data/promis_misc/ajoghealth.pdf

**Translational Science**
The only type of non-clinical research considered must be translational in nature and contain biological implications for obstetrics and gynecology. Additionally, the direct clinical relevance of every submission is considered when an editorial decision is made. Basic science without direct clinical relevance will not be considered.

As many definitions of basic and translational science abound, please see the following translational science examples to assist you in differentiating study types. If uncertain, authors may email an abstract to either editorial office with an inquiry as to whether or not the submission is encouraged; however, this does not guarantee acceptance.

**Translational science examples**
Ectopic Pregnancy Clinical Study: an observational cohort study which shows that patients with a subnormal increase in hCG maternal serum concentration are at increased risk for ectopic pregnancy. [Encouraged submission] Translational Science (bench to bedside): proteomic analysis of maternal
plasma shows differentially-expressed proteins in patients with ectopic vs. normal pregnancy. Or, an experiment in which the fallopian tubes are ligated in pregnant animals and hCG determinations are measured in maternal serum. [Encouraged submission] Translational Science (bedside to community): analysis of techniques to enhance the adoption of best practices in caring for women with ectopic pregnancy [Encouraged submission] Basic Science: a description of the glycosylation of protein structure of hCG (even if it is based on the purification of hCG from patients with ectopic pregnancies). [DISCOURAGED submission] Preterm birth Clinical Study: an observational study in which a particular biomarker measured in the mid-trimester increases or decreases the risk for spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Translational Science: the transcriptome, proteome, genome, or metabolome of patients who subsequently have spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Basic Science: protein sequence of a particular biomarker. [DISCOURAGED submission] Preterm birth Clinical Study: an observational study in which a particular biomarker measured in the mid-trimester increases or decreases the risk for spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Translational Science: the transcriptome, proteome, genome, or metabolome of patients who subsequently have spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Basic Science: protein sequence of a particular biomarker. [DISCOURAGED submission] Preterm birth Clinical Study: an observational study in which a particular biomarker measured in the mid-trimester increases or decreases the risk for spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Translational Science: the transcriptome, proteome, genome, or metabolome of patients who subsequently have spontaneous preterm labor and delivery. [Encouraged submission] Basic Science: protein sequence of a particular biomarker. [DISCOURAGED submission]

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Authors of all submissions must include a conflict of interest statement.

Disclosures must include any financial interest present **within the past three years** with commercial entities that are marketing or developing products (drugs, devices, diagnostic tools, etc.) **related to the subject matter of the manuscript**. Disclosures include, but are not limited to: stocks or shares, equity, employment, advisory or scientific board, grant funding, speaker's bureau, paid travel, consulting status, and honoraria. The monetary value of any such stock holdings should be named. No policy could cover every contingency that might be construed as a conflict of interest. Therefore, it is expected that should any potential conflict of interest exist, the authors have revealed this to the editors. All relevant conflicts of interest and sources of funding should be included on the title page of the manuscript at the time of submission under the headings "Conflicts of Interest" and "Source of Funding" which will be published with the article. If the authors report no conflict, a statement of this will be published with the article. Failure to report disclosures may result in sanctions. Use as much or as little detail as appropriate.

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- The authors report no conflict of interest.
- R.J.X, M.F., and L.Y.V.R. are employed by the Curette Company, Worthingham, MI. The remaining authors report no conflict of interest.
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