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DESCRIPTION

The Spanish Journal of Legal Medicine (Revista Española de Medicina Legal), first published in 1974, is the official Journal of the National Association of Forensic Physicians (la Asociación Nacional de Médicos Forenses). The Journal publishes scientific articles of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine which are represented as a learning tool of the specialty that gives the reader an update of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine. It also serves as continuing education in practical aspects of the daily work of the forensic physician in the field of the Administration of Justice. The journal incorporates all groups—forensic physicians, specialists in legal and forensic medicine, university teachers, psychiatrists and psychologists, experts in the assessment of body injury, scientific police and legal experts interested in the subject.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION
The Spanish Journal of Legal Medicine (Revista Española de Medicina Legal), first published in 1974, is the official Journal of the National Association of Forensic Physicians (la Asociación Nacional de Médicos Forenses).
The Journal publishes scientific articles of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine which are represented as a learning tool of the specialty that gives the reader an update of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine. It also serves as continuing education in practical aspects of the daily work of the forensic physician in the field of the Administration of Justice.
The Journal incorporates all groups- forensic physicians, specialists in legal and forensic medicine, university teachers, forensic laboratories specialists, psychiatrists and psychologists, experts in the assessment of body injury, scientific police and legal experts interested in the subject.

Types of article
Editorials
With few exceptions, these will be by invitation of the Editorial Committee and on a current topic, which may or may not refer to an article published in the same issue of Revista Española de Medicina Legal. These will usually be of 800-1,000 words in length and with a maximum of 15 literature references. Only one author is preferable.

Originals
Medico-legal, experimental, or technical descriptions that contribute to increasing the knowledge on a topic in the field of the Journal. Original articles should follow a format of Introduction, Material and methods, Results and Discussion. The maximum length of text will be approximately 3,500 words, and up to 6 Tables or Figures will be accepted. It is essential to include a structured abstract, in Spanish and in English, of no more than 250 words in length. After the Abstract (Resumen), from 3 to 8 keywords will be added. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 30 references.

If the original article is a clinical trial, Revista Española de Medicina Legal recommends that all authors should register it in a public electronic and free access register, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, http://www.icmje.org/faq.pdf). In this sense, every clinical trial is defined as a research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to a particular intervention or group to study the cause-effect relationship between the intervention and a clinical result. The investigators who conduct a randomised prospective trial should consult the latest version of the CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials, http://www.consort-statement.org/) and include a flow-chart of the type recommended by CONSORT, detailing the distribution of the subjects to study during the course of the trial. Prospective and randomised studies should be clearly identified in the title and abstract of the article. Additionally, the register number and the name of the register must be included in the last line of the abstract.

Clinical trials may be registered in any of the following registers (or in others that meet the ICMJE requirements):


Short Originals
These should have a maximum length of 1,300 -1,500 words, a structured Abstract, of 150 words, in Spanish and in English. After the Abstract, between 3 to 6 keywords will be added. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 10 references, and no more than two illustrations. The maximum number of signing authors will be six.

Reviews
Revista Española de Medicina Legal will give special priority to those review works that deal with current topics. The maximum length of the text will be approximately 4,500 words, and up to 6 Figures or Tables will be accepted. It is essential to include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and in English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 key words will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and in English. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 50 references.
If the authors carry out a systematic review of the literature, or a meta-analysis, on a topic, they should follow the recommendations proposed by QUOROM (Quality of Reporting of Meta-analyses) (Moher D, Cook DJ, Eastwood S, Olkin I, Rennie D, Stroup DF, for the QUOROM Group. Improving the quality of reports of meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials: the QUOROM statement. Lancet. 1999; 354:1896-900) (www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf).

**Special Articles**
Articles related to Medicina Legal y Forense will be included in this section, which, due to its characteristics, cannot be considered for the Originals or Reviews section. The maximum length of text will be approximately 3,000 words, and up to 6 Tables or Figures will be accepted. It is essential to include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and in English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 key words will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and in English.

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The Editorial Committee of the Revista Española de Medicina Legal will evaluate those medico-legal reports that, due to their relevance, may have a clear informative value for the readers of the Journal. They could include case studies in which new or exceptional aspects are described, or which add significant appraisals. Additionally, clinical cases associated with Legal Medicine will also be considered for publication. The maximum length will be approximately 900 words and should be structured into the following sections: Introduction, Medical-forensic description, and Discussion. Up to 2 Figures and 2 Tables will be accepted. There should be no more than 15 literature references. The maximum number of authors will be 5. It will include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and in English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 key words will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and in English.

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In this section, descriptions will be presented on the basic concepts as regards procedures, examinations, or interpretation of tests of use in Legal and Forensic Medicine.

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**Other sections**
The Journal also includes literature Comments, which will be written by prior commission of the Editorial Team, who will indicate the desired format.

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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.

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Registration of clinical trials
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Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading (Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Conclusions). 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'.

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It will be brief and must only provide the information necessary for the reader to be able to understand the text that follows later. It must not contain Tables or Figures. The last paragraph should include a clear statement of the objective/s of the work.
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In the first paragraph of the Materials and methods section, it must state; the design type (experimental, clinical, retrospective, prospective, observational, clinical trial, controlled or not, etc.), and field of the study (whether or not it is multicentred, type of centre, etc.). The methods and procedures used will be presented with sufficient detail that will enable other investigators to reproduce the research. In clinical trials, the randomisation method will be given in detail. Additionally, it must specify the method used to calculate the sample size, specifying the main endpoint of the study and the estimations made to calculate it. The methodology used for the statistical analysis must be explained.

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In Reviews, In Special Articles and Medical-Forensic Cases, the abstract does not have to be structured, but its contents must be equally informative. The use of abbreviations in the Abstract must be avoided.

In all cases, the authors must also provide the Spanish version of the Abstract.

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