TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.4

DESCRIPTION

*European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X* is the open access mirror journal of *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology.*

*European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X* offers authors with high-quality research who want to publish in a gold open access journal the opportunity to make their work immediately, permanently, and freely accessible.

*European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X* authors will pay an article publishing charge (APC), have a choice of license options, and retain copyright. Please check the APC on the journal homepage. By selecting this Gold OA journal, you acknowledge to pay a fee upon acceptance. As this title is newly launched, it does not have a CiteScore or Journal Impact Factor yet, however we will apply for inclusion in all the relevant indexing databases as soon as possible. The journal is indexed in Scopus and DOAJ.

*European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology* and *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X* have the same aims and scope. A unified editorial team manages rigorous peer-review for both titles using the same submission system. The author’s choice of journal is blinded to referees, ensuring the editorial process is identical.

For more information please refer to our FAQs for authors

The *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology* is the leading general clinical journal covering the continent. It publishes peer reviewed original research articles, as well as a wide range of news, book reviews, biographical, historical and educational articles and a lively correspondence section. Fields covered include obstetrics, prenatal diagnosis, maternal-fetal medicine, perinatology, general gynecology, gynecologic oncology, uro-gynecology, reproductive medicine, infertility, reproductive endocrinology, sexual medicine and reproductive ethics. The *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology* provides a forum for scientific and clinical professional communication in obstetrics and gynecology throughout Europe and the world.

Web submission, including a new Fast track review and publication route is now available.
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
PubMed Central
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Janesh K. Gupta, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Specialty Editors

EBCOG
T. Mahmood, Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, United Kingdom

Obstetrics
Jane Daniels, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom
Jack Moodley, University of KwaZulu–Natal College of Health Sciences, Durban, South Africa
Helena Strevens, Skåne University Hospital Lund, Lund, Sweden

Gynecology
Marlies Bongers
Antonio Cano, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain
Justin Konje, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, United Kingdom

Gynecological Oncology
Henri Marret, Bretonneau Hospital, Tours, France
Wiebren Tjalma, University Hospital Antwerp, Edegem, Belgium

Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Tullio Ghi, University of Parma, Parma, Italy
Ben Mol, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
Jim Thornton, Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham, United Kingdom

Urogynecology
Michele Meschia, University of Milan, Milano, Italy
Dudley Robinson, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom

Reproductive Biology
Ole Christiansen, Copenhagen University Hospital, København, Denmark
Ernest Ng, University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Statistical Advisor
A. Khashan, University College Cork National University of Ireland, Cork, Ireland

Founding Editor
L.A.M. Stolte

Editor Emeritus
W. Künzel

Editorial Board
S. Arulkumaran, University of London St George’s, London, United Kingdom
P. Bennett, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
Z. Blumenfeld, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel
S. Boie, Regional Hospital Randers, Randers, Denmark
P. Bösze, Saint Stephen Hospital, Budapest, Hungary
L. Cabero-Roura, Vall d’Hebron Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain
V. Cararach, Clinic Barcelona Hospital University, Barcelona, Spain
D. Caserta, University of Rome La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
W.Y. Chan, Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Medicine, Shatin, Hong Kong
P. Ciarmela, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy
M. Cosson, Regional and University Hospital Centre Lille, Lille, France
G. Creatsas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
G. D’Amato, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

The European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X is the open access mirror journal of The European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology. The European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology is the leading general clinical journal covering all European countries. It publishes peer reviewed original research articles, expert opinions and reviews, and also news, book reviews and biographical, historical and educational articles. Fields covered include obstetrics, prenatal diagnosis, materno-fetal medicine, perinatology, general gynecology, gynecologic oncology, uro-gynecology, reproductive medicine, infertility, reproductive endocrinology, sexual medicine and reproductive ethics. It provides a forum for scientific and clinical professional communication in obstetrics and gynecology throughout Europe and the world.

Editorial policies
The following articles will be considered for publication: original research articles, review articles, expert opinions and letters to the Editor - brief communications (formerly case reports).

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), 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, without written consent of the Publisher.

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (see more information on this). Permitted third party reuse of 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.

Articles must be written in English. Authors whose native language is not English are requested to have their manuscripts checked for linguistic correctness before submission.

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

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.

Declaration 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 competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

Author agreement
An agreement by all authors (maximum 6 to 7) is required for submission. A statement to this effect is requested at submission stage.

Submission declaration
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.

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

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.

**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.

**Manuscript categories**

During submission the author must select a category from the following list: Review Article, Research Article, Book Review, Letter to the Editor. In preparing submissions, authors should check the general requirements for the preparation of manuscripts (see below)

**Review articles**

As well as invited articles we welcome submitted reviews on topics of current interest in obstetrics and gynecology. Reviews are allowed a maximum of 3500 words (excluding title page, abstract and references), 10 figures and 10 tables. The reference list should not exceed 3 pages.

**Expert Opinions**

These are generally “invited” by the Editor-in-Chief but submission may be considered, with a maximum of 2000 words, 20 citations and 2 figures or 2 tables.

**Research articles**

For details, see below: “General Requirements for the preparation of manuscripts”. There is a limit of 2500 words (excluding title page, abstract and references), 10 figures and 10 tables. The reference list should not exceed 3 pages.

**Letters to the Editor** are limited to a maximum of 600 words (excluding references, names and addresses of the signers, and the phrase "to the Editor"). Only one type of letter will be considered for publication:

*Letter to the Editor - Brief Communication* giving a brief case presentation or short report of a pertinent clinical observation. Please use the correct format following the criteria: max 600 words, max 5 references, max 1 table or 1 figure, no abstract, no keywords, no headings. The information must be presented as a true Letter, e.g. starting with “Dear Editor, we found that... etc.” Brief communications that do not meet this criteria will be returned to the author.

**Announcements** of major meetings and other significant activities should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

**Editorial review process**

Authors are responsible for following the criteria for the manuscript categories listed above before submitting the article to the Editorial Office. Articles not meeting these criteria will be rejected immediately without going through to peer review.
At submission authors will be asked to assign their article to a specialty subject area covered by the journal: obstetrics, maternal-fetal medicine, reproductive medicine and endocrinology, gynecology, gynecology oncology and urogynecology. All articles will undergo an initial review by an Advisory Board Editor expert in a particular specialty area. Articles will be assessed for:
- having sound methodological structure
- reporting novel results
- driving the field forward
- being within the scope of the journal
- being written clearly and understandably for a reviewer to do his/her job properly, and
- a potential for FastTrack review and publication
Articles not meeting these criteria will be rejected immediately without going through to full peer review.

Articles that have passed the initial review process are assigned by the Editorial Office to a Specialty Editor on the basis of the corresponding author's address. At least 2 independent reviewers are assigned per article for a systematic review of the article's aims, methodology, results and conclusions.

Following peer review, articles may be accepted without revision, accepted pending minor revision, not accepted but eligible for re-submission following major revision, or rejected. No more than two revision cycles are permitted per article - articles that after two revisions have still not adequately addressed the reviewers and Specialty Editors concerns will be rejected.

Authors are advised that during the review process the reviewers and/or the Specialty Editor may request additional statistical and language review. These articles will be reviewed by respectively an independent Statistical Advisor and Language Editor to the journal, either of whom may subsequently request additional changes prior to final acceptance of the manuscript.

**Author's suggested reviewers**
With their submitted manuscript, authors must provide the names and addresses of at least two reviewers for the consideration of the Editors in the Comments field during the online submission.

**Copyright**
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (see more information on this). Permitted third party reuse of 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.

**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.

**English language help service**
Upon request, Elsevier will direct authors to an agent who can check and improve the English of their paper (before submission). Please visit our Support Center for further information.

**Online submission**
Submission to the European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X proceeds totally online. Paper copies of submissions are no longer acceptable. Via the web submission system for this journal, http://ees.elsevier.com/euro you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. You will need to provide an electronic version of your manuscript and a separate electronic version of the abstract. You must select a category for your manuscript (see
below). Once the uploading is done, the system automatically generates an electronic (PDF) proof, which is then used for reviewing. All correspondence, including the Editor's decision and request for revisions, will be by e-mail.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via https://ees.elsevier.com/euro/default.asp. Please note that one, unified editorial team manages the peer-review for both The European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology and The European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X using the same submission system.

Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy, http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing

Referees
Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees. For more details, visit our Support site. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

PREPARATION

Peer review
This journal operates a single 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.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column 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 word processor'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). 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 word processor.

Article structure
Subdivision - numbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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.

Theory/calculation
A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

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.

Vitae
Submit a short (maximum 100 words) biography of each author, along with a passport-type photograph accompanying the other figures. Please provide the biography in an editable format (e.g. Word), not in PDF format.

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 lowercase 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.

Highlights
Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

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.

Keywords
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American 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.).

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).

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): Bitmaped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmaped line/halftone (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.

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) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive
information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

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
Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

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 management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link: http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/european-journal-of-obstetrics-and-gynecology
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.
Reference style

Adhere to the maximum number of references for each category of article (see above). Number references consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. Use the format of the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" (Vancouver style) (N Engl J Med 1991: 324: 424-8). Journal titles should conform to the abbreviations used in Cumulated Index Medicus. If six or fewer authors, list all; if seven or more authors, list three then "et al".

Examples:

Journals


Books


Personal communications and unpublished data, if essential, may be used but not as numbered references. If they are used, they are to be referred to, within parentheses, at the appropriate location in the text. If used, the author(s) must obtain written and signed permission for their use from the individual being quoted. This signed permission must accompany the manuscript when it is submitted to the Editor. Published abstracts can be used as numbered references, however, reference to the complete published article is preferred.

Journal abbreviations source

Only standard abbreviations may be used. Consult the Council of Biology Editors Style Manual or the AMA's Manual of Style: http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/styleguides/ama.html.

Abbreviations in the title are not acceptable. They should be avoided, if possible, in the abstract and keywords. In the text they should be kept to practical minimum. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should not precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

The generic, chemical or proprietary names of pharmaceuticals may be used. If the generic or chemical names are used, authors may, if they desire, insert the proprietary name in parentheses after the first mention in the text, with the name of the manufacturer and city and state.

Research articles are customarily organised into the following sections: In the Introduction, state concisely the purpose and rationale for the study and cite only the most pertinent references as background. In the Materials and Methods section describe briefly the plan, the subjects, experimental animals or other species, material, and controls, the methods and procedures utilised, and the statistical method(s) employed. In the Results section present detailed findings. Include mentions of all tables, and/or figures. Figures and tables should supplement, not duplicate, the text; presentation of data in either one or the other will suffice. In the Comment section state the importance and significance of your findings. Limit your opinions to those strictly indicated by the facts in your report. Compare your findings with those of others. No new data should be presented in this section.

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.

**Data visualization**
Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

**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 in Brief**
You have the option of converting any or all parts of your supplementary or additional raw data into one or multiple data articles, a new kind of article that houses and describes your data. Data articles ensure that your data is actively reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. You are encouraged to submit your article for Data in Brief as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of your manuscript. If your research article is
accepted, your data article will automatically be transferred over to *Data in Brief* where it will be editorially reviewed and published in the open access data journal, *Data in Brief*. Please note an open access fee of 600 USD is payable for publication in *Data in Brief*. Full details can be found on the *Data in Brief* website. Please use this template to write your Data in Brief.

**Data statement**

To foster transparency, we require you to state the availability of your data in your submission if your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post. This may also be a requirement of your funding body or institution. You will have the opportunity to provide a data statement during the submission process. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

**Permissions**

Photographs of identifiable persons must be accompanied by signed releases. If not, all recognisable features must be masked.

If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included (direct quotations, tables or figures) the Author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit source(s) in the article along with complete reference information. Elsevier has pre-printed forms for use by Authors in these cases: contact Elsevier's Rights Department, Philadelphia, PA, USA: phone (+1) 215 239 3804, fax (+1) 215 239 3805, e-mail healthpermissions@elsevier.com. Requests may also be completed online via the Elsevier homepage http://www.elsevier.com/locate/permissions.

**General requirements for preparation of manuscripts**

Manuscripts of research articles must be submitted in English and be structured in the following order on a new page: title page, abstract, body of text, acknowledgments, references, legends for figures and tables.

**Title page**

The title page should contain in sequence the title (concise and suitable for indexing purposes), author line with first name, middle initials, and last name of each author; city(ies), state(s) and countries in which the study was conducted; divisional, or departmental, and institutional affiliations at the time the study was performed; name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of author responsible for correspondence concerning the manuscript if different from author to whom reprint requests are addressed.

**Abstract page including key words/phrases**

On manuscript page 3, type the abstract, double-spaced, with the required margins and headed by the title or the article and name(s) of the author(s). Below the abstract list 3 to 5 key words or short phrases for indexing purposes. A *structured abstract* (see description) is required for original research articles. A *standard abstract* is required for review articles and expert opinions (see description). *Structured abstract*: A structured abstract, limited to 350 words, should be used for research articles and should contain the following major headings: Objective(s), Study Design, Results and Conclusion(s). The Objective(s) reflects the purpose of the study, that is, the hypothesis that is being tested. The Study Design should include the setting for the study, the subjects (number and type), the treatment or intervention, and the type of statistical analysis. The Results include the outcome of the study and statistical significance if appropriate. The Conclusion(s) state(s) the significance of the results.

*Standard abstract*  
A standard abstract is required for review articles and expert opinions and has no sub headings. It is limited to 500 words for reviews and 300 words for expert opinions.

**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