Fujita Medical Journal Instructions to Authors

Aims and Scope

Fujita Medical Journal (*FMJ*) is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal committed to the rapid dissemination of innovative research in medicine, health sciences, and related fields. Our mission is to contribute to society by advancing medical knowledge and improving healthcare practices.

FMJ aims to promote both basic and clinical medicine, welcoming a wide range of content, including original research articles, reviews, short reports, case reports, study protocols, cohort profiles, and letters to the editor.

FMJ provides a platform for researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals to share groundbreaking findings, encourage collaboration, and support the ongoing advancement of medicine and health sciences.

Published quarterly, *FMJ* ensures broad accessibility by making all articles freely available online, allowing for timely publication and facilitating the rapid exchange of knowledge and advancements across disciplines.

Manuscript Types

The journal welcomes seven manuscript types, each of which has specific word limits and reference count restrictions. The following approximate word limits apply (excluding title page and references, but including abstract and figure captions). The number of references may vary depending on the manuscript type:

- Original article – 4,000 words, up to 50 references
- Review – 6,000 words, up to 100 references
- Short report – 2,000 words, up to 30 references
- Case report – 3,000 words, up to 30 references
- Study protocol / Cohort profile – 4,000 words, up to 30 references
- Letter to the editor – 1,000 words, up to 10 references

The maximum length for each article is 10 printed journal pages, including figures and tables, except for Letters to the editor, which are limited to 2 printed pages.

Original article

Original articles are full and comprehensive reports describing original research.

Review

Reviews present novel or unique overviews of recent or important developments in the field. They must be insightful and must address the question(s) of interest using appropriate and fully presented evidence; exhaustive general summaries will not be published. Reviews are occasionally commissioned by the Editor-in-Chief, and the journal welcomes proposals from interested authors.

Short report

Short reports document original research that has limited or preliminary outcomes.

Case report

Case reports document new findings regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of an individual patient.

Study protocol/Cohort profile

Study protocols detail a clinical study, including its objectives/hypotheses, design, data, schedules, and analytical methods. Cohort profiles usually describe the protocols of epidemiological longitudinal cohort studies.

Letter to the editor

The journal welcomes submissions of two types of letters to the editor: opinions on previously published *FMJ* articles, which must be submitted within 3 months of the original article's publication date; and reports of preliminary scientific findings.

Journal and Ethics Policies

The journal adheres to the recommendations outlined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) to maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity and transparency in scholarly publishing. The journal also follows international ethical standards, including the principles outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for handling research misconduct and ensuring ethical editorial practices.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review or retract any manuscript that the Editor-in-Chief believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers, and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described in full below.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press, or published elsewhere, or if the information within the manuscript has been summarized and published in an Abstract (e.g., conference abstract book). The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints').

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they should first withdraw it from *FMJ*.

Authors are responsible for complying with best practices in publication ethics, specifically regarding authorship, dual publication, plagiarism, figure manipulation, and competing interests. Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

The journal follows the policy of the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity (ORI), which defines plagiarism as: "the theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work". The journal also adopts the ORI definition that "the theft or misappropriation of intellectual property includes the unauthorized use of ideas or unique methods obtained by a privileged communication, such as a grant or manuscript review. Substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work means the unattributed verbatim or nearly verbatim copying of sentences and paragraphs which materially mislead the ordinary reader regarding the contributions of the author."

The journal uses the Crossref Similarity Check by iThenticate to screen all submissions. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the

Editors' discretion.

Duplicate submission is submitting essentially the same research paper as one that has already been published or submitted to another journal. The editors reserve the right to reject or retract any manuscript that is believed to be a duplicate submission.

Preprints

To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal encourages authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers, either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication, or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript may be posted on the preprint server.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

Scooping

When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers after the date of submission to *FMJ* (or after the date of posting on a preprint server, if the manuscript is submitted to the journal within 3 months).

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor. No changes to the authorship list or order are allowed after a manuscript is accepted for publication.

Authors are those who contributed substantially to conceiving and designing the study; acquiring the data; analyzing and interpreting the data; performing statistical analysis; handling funding and supervision; providing materials, patients, or resources; drafting the manuscript; making critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content; searching relevant literature; or other relevant areas for the manuscript completion. The nature of each author's contribution should be specified when prompted by the manuscript tracking system during the submission process. The journal does not allow artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted tools/technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs), chatbots, or image creators to be listed as author or co-author.

Image integrity

Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet the relevant community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add, or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

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If a manuscript includes previously published material, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright owners and the publisher of the original work to reproduce it as relevant to the copyright or licensing status of the work. The authors must cite the original work in their manuscript.

Copies of all reproduction permissions must be included with the manuscript when it is first submitted.

Availability of data and materials

Authors must disclose the source of publicly available data and materials, such as public repositories or commercial manufacturers, by including accession numbers or company details in their manuscript, as appropriate.

Authors may make their own data and materials available by including in their manuscript link(s) to relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process and must be made publicly available by the date of publication. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least 3 years from the date of publication in the journal.

The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials, and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

Animal/human experimentation

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions. Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving animals or materials derived from animals must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the guidelines approved by the authors' institution(s).

Publication of patient information

Written informed consent for publication of personal information of an identifiable living patient (e.g., in case reports) must be obtained from the patient or their parent or guardian as appropriate. If the patient is deceased, consent from the family or guardian is required. Please use the journal's consent form. The authors must store the signed consent form securely. The Editorial Board has the right to request supporting documentation if necessary, which will be treated confidentially.

Authors are responsible for anonymizing patient data as much as possible. In cases where information is completely anonymized, patient consent may not be required, but the final decision on the need for consent to publish remains with the Editorial Board. Except in cases where it is not necessary to obtain consent from patients or their family, authors must state at an appropriate place within the manuscript text that patient consent has been obtained.

Specimen collection

Manuscripts describing the collection of archaeological, geological, paleontological, or wildlife specimens or samples

should include detailed information on their provenance and collection methods. Authors must include a statement in their manuscript describing the relevant ethics guidelines, local laws, and collection permits under which the research was conducted.

Clinical trial registration

The journal recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. Manuscripts describing clinical trials must include the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry.

Reporting guidelines

The journal requires authors to follow the relevant guidelines for health research, such as the STROBE (for observational studies), CONSORT (for randomized controlled trials), and PRISMA statements (for systematic reviews and meta-analyses), CARE (for case reports), SAGER (for reporting of sex and gender information), STARD (for studies of diagnostic accuracy).

Author competing interests and conflicts of interest

In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived, or potential circumstances that could influence an author's ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Authors must include a COI statement at the end of the main text, before the References section, without listing the full name of the author(s), in accordance with the double-anonymized review policy. Author name(s) should be represented using initials only. Additionally, all funding sources supporting the research should be listed on the Title page.

For detailed instructions, please refer to the "Manuscript Preparation" section below.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors, and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Research misconduct

By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors warrant that the manuscript and underlying research have not been fabricated, falsified, or plagiarized.

According to the Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research released by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2014), fabrication is making up data or research results; falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes to change data or results obtained from research activities; and plagiarism is appropriating the ideas, analysis, analytical methods, data, research results, research paper(s), or words of other researchers without obtaining the permission of the researchers or giving appropriate credit (see also the 'Originality' section).

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. The journal encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal within the conditions of the article's CC BY 4.0 license.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including *FMJ*, with Portico in a dark archive. In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

Advertising policy

The journal's main sources of income are its owner and publication charges. Any commercial considerations have no influence on editorial decision-making. In addition, operations in relation to advertising are handled independently of the Editorial Board.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Assisted Tools/ Technologies

The journal does not allow artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted tools/technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs), chatbots (such as ChatGPT), or image creators to be listed as author or co-author. As described in the ICMJE, those tools cannot be responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work, thus they do not meet the ICMJE's criteria for authorship listed above.

The authors (humans) are fully responsible for any materials of the submitted work, including the use of AI-assisted tools or technologies. Authors should carefully review and edit the result because AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased. Authors should not list AI and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author. Authors (humans) are also responsible for plagiarism including in text and AI-produced images.

For example, if AI was used for writing assistance, describe this in the acknowledgment section. If AI was used for data collection, analysis, or figure generation, authors should describe this use in the methods. Authors who used AI technology to conduct the study should describe its use in the methods section in sufficient detail to enable replication of the approach. Including the tool used, version, and prompts where applicable.

Peer Review Process

Double-anonymized peer review

The journal uses a double-anonymized peer review system, where the identities of both authors and reviewers are concealed throughout the review process.

A separate title page must be submitted, including any anonymized information or removed details, such as author affiliations or identifying information. This title page will not be shared with peer reviewers.

Flow of the peer review process

1. Manuscript Submission

Authors submit a manuscript via the online submission system, and this will receive a unique identification number.

2. Technical Checks

The Editorial Office checks if the manuscript's formatting and style is in accordance with the Instructions to Authors.

3. Form Submission

All authors receive e-mail notification to confirm and complete their authorship and Conflict of Interest Declaration forms. Authors must return the completed forms to the journal via the online submission system.

4. Initial Editorial Screening

The Editor-in-Chief screens the manuscript and decides whether or not to send it for full peer review. If the decision is not to send the manuscript for review, the Editor-in-Chief will send an e-mail to notify the author of rejection.

5. Editor Assignment

If the Editor-in-Chief decides to send the manuscript for a full peer review, the Editor-in-Chief assigns an Associate Editor who will be responsible for selecting reviewers and evaluating the manuscript.

6. Reviewer Assignment

The Associate Editor selects, in general, two independent reviewers who are experts in the relevant field to evaluate the manuscript.

7. Peer Review

Reviewers, who agreed to review the manuscript, submit their review comments to the Associate Editor.

8. Recommendation

The Associate Editor reviews the reviewers' reports and makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The recommendation may include suggestions to the Editor-in-Chief, such as asking the author to change the type of the manuscript, if appropriate (e.g., original article, short report, case report, etc.).

9. Decision

The Editor-in-Chief reviews the reviewers' and the Associate Editors' reports and makes a final decision.

10. Notification to Authors

Authors are notified of the decision, along with the reviewer's feedback.

11. Revision and Resubmission

If the authors are given the opportunity to revise the paper, they revise the paper based on the feedback provided by the reviewers. The authors should respond by indicating the places where revisions have been made in accordance with the suggestions or by stating their reasons for disagreeing with the suggestions. The revised manuscript should be marked or highlighted to indicate changes. The paper then goes through the same process above, but the Editor-in-Chief may choose to accept the paper without further review by the reviewers.

Reviewer selection, timing, and suggestions

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise, reputation, recommendations, and/or prior experience as peer reviewers for the journal, regardless of geographic location.

Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within 3 weeks of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Associate Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation, and assignment of peer reviewers are at the Associate Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information, or other inappropriate material.

Acceptance criteria

Manuscripts are evaluated on their correspondence and adherence to the journal's Aims and Scope and the various policies outlined within this document. In detail, these include whether the study aims are clearly stated and logical; the rationale/justification for conducting the study is clear; the methods are described in sufficient detail so that the experiment can be reliably reproduced; the study design is robust and appropriate to the stated aims; the conclusions are supported by the data; the discussion is critical and comprehensive; and the references are appropriate in number and up to date.

Furthermore, *FMJ* prioritizes the following elements in its decision making:

1. Original research is carried out in a scientifically sound way.
2. The authors adhere to bioethics and the responsible conduct of research.
3. The manuscript is prepared in a standard scientific fashion and adheres to the journal's guidelines.

While poor English usage alone will not result in rejection, manuscripts with low or unclear language quality may be returned to authors for revision. Authors are required to improve the language to ensure clarity and readability.

If a manuscript does not meet the journal's requirements for acceptance or revision, the Editor-in-Chief may recommend rejection.

Editorial independence

The Fujita Medical Society has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The Fujita Medical Society will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests.

Appeals

Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made

in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by the Editor-in-Chief, whose decision is final. The guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are followed where and when relevant.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors and reviewers will not:

1. disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure;
2. discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review;
3. use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications; or
4. use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization.

In addition, reviewers will not reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript or involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or Ph.D. student) without first requesting permission from the Editor.

Errata and retractions

An Erratum is published when the Editor-in-Chief considers it appropriate to inform the journal readership about an error and to correct it in the published article. The Erratum appears as a new article in the journal, and it cites the original published article.

Retractions are considered and published when there are severe errors in an article that invalidate the conclusions. Retractions are also made in cases where there is evidence of publication malpractice, such as plagiarism, duplicate publication, or unethical research.

In cases of Errata and Retractions, no changes are made to the original article.

An Expression of Concern is considered and published by the Editor-in-Chief as an attachment to the original article if the article is under investigation for severe errors or publication malpractice, or if conflicting opinions exist between the journal's editors and an institutional investigational board regarding the article's integrity.

Please address any questions relating to research and publication integrity to the journal's Editor-in-Chief: igakukai2@fujita-hu.ac.jp

The journal may assign external professionals to adjudicate in complaints that cannot be resolved internally or that are related to the conduct of the journal's editors.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief, who is an author of a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review and decision process of their own manuscript. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

In cases where the Editor-in-Chief is an author of a manuscript submitted to the journal, an independent Associate Editor is responsible for making the final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal. A manuscript authored by an editor of the journal is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal. The manuscript submitted by editors or Editorial Board members, the journal should include a statement that declares their personal conflict of interest with the journal.

Responding to potential ethical breaches

The journal will respond to allegations of ethical breaches by following its own policies and, where possible, the guidelines, standards, and materials of COPE. The journal also follows the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) on Scientific Misconduct, Expressions of Concern, and Retraction.

The journal takes reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of manuscripts where research misconduct has occurred. The journal will never encourage such misconduct or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place.

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Article Processing Charge

There are many costs associated with publishing Open Access journals, such as those of managing peer review, copy editing, typesetting, and online hosting. The costs are offset by an Article Processing Charge (APC) of 120,000 Japanese yen per manuscript. If both the first and the corresponding authors of a manuscript are members of the Fujita Medical Society, the APC is discounted to 70,000 yen per manuscript. Authors of accepted manuscripts will be invoiced for this fee before publication. There is no submission fee.

Waiver policy

The journal will waive the APC on an article if none of the authors is professionally affiliated with a research organization, or if all authors are from a 'Least Developed Country' or 'Other Low Income Country' on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee List of Official Development Assistance Recipients. Other waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the journal's Editorial Office. Authors must apply for a waiver before or upon the submission of their manuscript; applications will not be considered after the review process has started. Applications may be made by including a request in the cover letter that accompanies the initial submission.

The ability of an author to pay the APC does not influence editorial decisions. To avoid any possibility of undue influence,

editors involved with the decision-making process on submitted manuscripts are not involved in any deliberations on waivers.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted through the journal's manuscript submission and peer review system. After the Editorial Office has screened the manuscript to ensure the basic requirements are met, it sends an e-mail to all the authors. The e-mail contains a link to the authorship and Conflict of Interest Declaration forms, which must be filled out and returned to the journal via Scholar One. The peer review process cannot start until all authors complete both forms.

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office at the details provided at the end of this document.

Manuscript Preparation

Style

Manuscripts should be prepared in Microsoft Word. The document size should be A4 with page margins of no less than 2.5 cm on each side and 3 cm at the top and bottom. Except for the title page, pages should be numbered in the footer. Line numbers should be inserted on the left side of each page.

English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript checked by a native English speaker or by an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be returned to the authors before peer review for revision and resubmission as a new manuscript.

Abbreviations and units

Abbreviations should be defined when first used, in both the abstract and main text, and the abbreviation should be used thereafter. SI or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website.

Cover letter

The cover letter must be included with the first submission of the manuscript. Authors must explicitly state: (a) they are submitting their manuscript to *Fujita Medical Journal*; (b) the type of the manuscript (i.e., original article, review, short report, case report, study protocol, cohort profile, or letter to the editor); (c) the title of the manuscript; (d) the article's principal findings and their significance in medicine, health science, or related fields; and (e) a statement indicating that all authors have approved of the submitted manuscript and that its contents have not been published in or submitted to another journal. In addition, any other relevant information, such as applications for APC waivers, other ethics declarations, and so forth, should be included in the cover letter at the time of submission.

Format

Manuscripts should be organized in the following order, with each item beginning on a new page:

1. Title page: Not subject to review
2. Abstract and keywords
3. Main text, including competing interests statement
4. Conflicts of Interest (COI) Disclosure Statement
5. References
6. Figure captions
7. Tables (one per page)
8. Figures (one per page)

Title page (Not for Peer Review)

For the double-anonymized peer review process, the title page will not be provided to the reviewers. All author information, including names, affiliations, and other identifying details, should only appear on the title page and must not be included in the main text of the manuscript.

The title page must include the following information:

A) Article Title: Provide a concise title that preferably includes terms commonly used in literature search databases. Avoid abbreviations.
B) Manuscript Type: Specify the type of manuscript (e.g., original article, review, case report).
C) Running Title: Limit to 80 characters, including spaces.
D) Author(s): List full names and academic degrees (e.g., M.D., Ph.D.).
E) Author Affiliation(s): Include the institutional names and locations (city and country).
F) Corresponding Author: Provide the name, full postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
G) Acknowledgements: Include any relevant acknowledgements.
H) Funding sources: List all sources of financial support for the work.
I) Ethical Approval: State the name(s) of the institution(s) granting ethics approval, including the name of the institutional review board (IRB).

Title Page Template can be downloaded.

Abstract and keywords

The abstract should be up to 250 words and be followed by up to five keywords. Original articles should use a structured abstract; other article types may do so if appropriate. The structured abstract should comprise the following four sections: Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. Abstracts and keywords are not required for Letters to the editor manuscripts.

Main text

The main text of original articles should be divided into the following sections in the indicated order: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (IMRaD style). Other article types should also use similar headings. Subsection headings should be in italics. All figures and tables should be cited in numerical order in the main text. Reference citations should be numbered in their order of appearance in the text and styled using superscript numerals. If applicable, the Methods section should include information on how informed consent was obtained from study participants. In line with the double-anonymized peer review policy, do not include the institution's name or any identifying information about the authors' affiliations when stating the IRB approval. Letters to the editor manuscripts do not need to follow the IMRaD style.

Conflicts of Interest (COI) Disclosure Statement

A statement of the authors' conflicts of interest (COI) must be included in the main text, prior to the References section. As

this journal follows a double-anonymized peer review process, AUTHORS' FULL NAMES MUST NOT BE INCLUDED; only initials (e.g., K.W., Y.I.) should be used.

Examples of COI statements:

"Authors E.O. and K.H. have received research grants from [name of company or organization]; S.T. has received honoraria from [name of company or organization]; and M.Y. has served as a consultant to [name of company or institution]. The other authors declare no competing interests."

References

General format

- References should be listed after the main text.
- If there are 16 or more authors, list the first three authors followed by "et al."
- Journal names should be abbreviated in accordance with PubMed usage when available.
- Manuscripts under consideration for publication should not be cited.
- If an article has been accepted but not yet published, add "(in press)" or "(epub ahead of print)" at the end of the reference entry, as appropriate.
- When available, authors are strongly encouraged to include the digital object identifier (DOI) at the end of each reference entry.
- For articles published in Japanese, insert "(in Japanese)" at the end of the reference entry. If the journal provides an official English title of the article, use that English title. If no English title is available, give the Japanese title in romaji followed by your English translation of the title in parentheses. Do not abbreviate the names of Japanese journals; indicate the full journal title in romaji or use the official English title if available.

Journal articles

All author names. Title of article. Journal name Year; Volume: Pages. DOI (if available)

- Examples:
  Komoto S, Pongsuwanna Y, Ide T, Wakuda M, Guntapong R, Dennis FE, Haga K, Fujii Y, Katayama K, Taniguchi K. Whole genomic analysis of porcine G10P[5] rotavirus strain P343 provides evidence for bovine-to-porcine interspecies transmission. Vet Microbiol 2014; 174: 577–83. doi:10.1016/j.vetmic.2014.09.033
- Nakasone I. Biseibutsu Streptococcus milleri gurupu no dotei (Identification of Streptococcus milleri group). Kensa to gijutsu 1998; 26: 15–9 (in Japanese).
- Kurihara S, Kadekaru E. Reflection pattern at a technical examination of students in the early stage of nursing skill acquisition. Journal of Japan Academy of Nursing Education 2021; 31: 31–43 (in Japanese). doi:10.51035/jane.31.2_31
- Lee S, Martinez R, Gupta A, et al. Long-term outcomes after transcatheter aortic valve replacement. Eur Heart J 2024; (in press). doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehae999

Books

Author name(s). Book title. Place of publication: Publisher; Year: Pages cited. DOI (if available)

- Examples:
  HuFB. Obesity Epidemiology. New York: Oxford University Press; 2008: 38–52. doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195312911.001.0001

Book chapters

Author name(s). Chapter title. In: Book title. Edition. Place of publication: Publisher; Year: Pages cited. DOI (if available)

- Examples:
  Rothman KJ, Greenland S, Lash TL. Case-control studies. In: Modern Epidemiology. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008: 111–27.

Online database/Websites

Authors/Organization (if no author name is available, please use the name of the organization providing the database). Title [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; Year. [cited YYYY Mon DD] Available from: URL

- Examples:
  Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. Kokumin seikatsu ni kansuru yoron chosa (Public opinion survey on the daily lives of people) [Internet]. Tokyo: Cabinet Office; 2018 (in Japanese). [cited 2018 Jun 22] Available from: https://survey.gov-online.go.jp/h28/h28-kotsu/zh/z09.html
  World Health Organization. Global tuberculosis report 2023 [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. [cited 2024 Feb 5] Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-programme-on-tuberculosis-and-lung-health/tb-reports/global-tuberculosis-report-2023

Tables and figures

Tables

Each table should be placed on a separate page. Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Table 1, Table 2, etc.). Within tables, column headings should be brief. The title for a table should contain sufficient information for its content to be understood. Any footnotes should be indicated using superscript letters, e.g., [a], [b].

Figures

The number of figures should be kept to a minimum. Figures should be used only to document experimental results or methods that cannot be properly described in the text. Each figure should appear on a separate page. Figures should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.). Figures using color are acceptable.

After a manuscript has been accepted for publication, figure files must be submitted following the requirements indicated below. However, with the initial submission of a paper, figures can either be included within the Word file or submitted as separate files, provided the editors and reviewers can evaluate them appropriately.

Figure files should be prepared at the desired printed size. Graphs and line figures should be prepared in black and white or RGB mode at a resolution of 900–1200 dpi. For legibility, font sizes smaller than 8-point should not be used. Color photographs should be prepared in RGB mode at a resolution of 300 dpi or higher. Files containing both photographs and lettering should have a resolution of 500 dpi or higher. Hand-drawn figures are not accepted. The above requirements are intended to guarantee print quality and must be followed. The following guideline is a useful reference: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/filespec-images/.

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Figure captions should appear together on a separate page (or pages, in the case of long captions) immediately after the References.

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