

Intended for healthcare professionals

Sage Journals

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery

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Submission guidelines



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Manuscript Submission Guidelines: *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery*

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This Journal is a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#).

This Journal recommends that authors follow the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Please read the guidelines below then visit the journal's submission site <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jnlos> to upload your manuscript. Please note that manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned. Remember you can log in to the submission site at any time to check on the progress of your paper through the peer review process.

Only manuscripts of sufficient quality that meet the aims and scope of *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* will be reviewed.

As part of the submission process you will be required to warrant that you are submitting your original work, that you have the rights in the work, that you are submitting the work for first publication in the Journal and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere and has not already been published elsewhere, and that you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you.

The *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* does not accept papers that have been uploaded to pre-print server.

Open Access

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2. Article processing charge (APC)

The Article Processing Charge (APC) for this journal is \$1,600. Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association society maybe eligible for discount of 35%.

The article processing charge (APC) is payable when a manuscript is accepted after peer review, and before it is published. The APC is subject to taxes where applicable. Tax-exempt status can be indicated by providing appropriate registration numbers when payment is requested. Please see further details [here](#).

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3. Article types

The Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery considers the following article types:

- **Original Research:** These should detail original experiments/research conducted by the authors. Any research on any topic is accepted, provided it falls within the aims and scope of the journal. Original research must add to scientific knowledge on the subject and must be completed in accordance with ethical principles. Research on humans or animals must have applicable ethical approvals.
- **Commentary:** Commentaries discuss the findings, implications, and/or outcomes of specific research or wider research on a general topic. They elaborate on or offer original ideas about a specific paper or a widely-researched subject. Commentaries differ from reviews in that they present the author's original ideas and suggestions instead of only collating and reporting the previous research.
- **Editorial:** Written by the Editorial team of the journal, editorials are intended to inform readers of changes concerning the journal, or to introduce supplements, special issues, or new ideas relevant to the journal. In limited circumstances individuals other than the Editorial team listed here may propose an editorial topic if they wish. Please contact us to discuss submitting an Editorial.
- **Review:** A review is a detailed examination including the benefits and drawbacks of a medicine, therapeutic technique, computer program, policy, or anything else

appropriate to the journal. They are substantially composed of a report on previous research. Authors wishing to present original ideas in addition should choose the Commentary type. Review articles should address important new areas of general interest and afford the author the opportunity to present a forward-looking perspective on the topic and/or incorporate their own experience in the field.

- **Letter:** Letters contain correspondence typically pertaining to a recent or concurrently published article within the journal. Comments and critiques may be passed on to the authors of the original article to write a Response. Letters of this nature must contain a maximum of 800 words and 5 references.

The *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* no longer accepts case reports for consideration.

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4. Editorial policies

4.1 Peer review policy

Following a preliminary triage to eliminate submissions unsuitable for *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* all papers are sent out for review. The covering letter is important. To help the Editor in his preliminary evaluation, please indicate why you think the paper suitable for publication. If your paper should be considered for fast-track publication, please explain why. The journal's policy is to have manuscripts reviewed by two expert reviewers. *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* utilizes a double-anonymize peer review process in which the reviewer and author's names and information are withheld from the other. All manuscripts are reviewed as rapidly as possible, while maintaining rigor. Reviewers make comments to the author and recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor and Section Editors who then makes the final decision.

The Editor or members of the Editorial Board may occasionally submit their own manuscripts for possible publication in the journal. In these cases, the peer review process will be managed by alternative members of the Board and the submitting Editor/Board member will have no involvement in the decision-making process.

4.2 Authorship

Papers should only be submitted for consideration once consent is given by all contributing authors. Those submitting papers should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the paper are acknowledged as contributing authors.

The list of authors should include all those who can legitimately claim authorship. This is all those who:

1. Made a substantial contribution to the concept or design of the work; or acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data,
2. Drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content,
3. Approved the version to be published,
4. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

Authors should meet the conditions of all of the points above. When a large, multicentre group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship, although all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the Acknowledgments section. Please refer to the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\) authorship guidelines](#) for more information on authorship.

Please note that AI chatbots, for example ChatGPT, should not be listed as authors. For more [information see the policy on Use of ChatGPT and generative AI tools](#).

4.3 Acknowledgements

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an Acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, or a department chair who provided only general support.

4.3.1 Third party submissions

Where an individual who is not listed as an author submits a manuscript on behalf of the author(s), a statement must be included in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript and in the accompanying cover letter. The statements must:

- Disclose this type of editorial assistance – including the individual's name, company and level of input
- Identify any entities that paid for this assistance
- Confirm that the listed authors have authorized the submission of their manuscript via third party and approved any statements or declarations, e.g. conflicting interests, funding, etc.

Where appropriate, Sage reserves the right to deny consideration to manuscripts submitted by a third party rather than by the authors themselves.

4.3.2 Writing assistance

Individuals who provided writing assistance, e.g. from a specialist communications company, do not qualify as authors and so should be included in the Acknowledgements section. Authors must disclose any writing assistance – including the individual's name, company and level of input – and identify the entity that paid for this assistance”).

It is not necessary to disclose use of language polishing services.

Please supply any personal acknowledgements separately to the main text to facilitate anonymous peer review.

4.4 Funding

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery requires all authors to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion under a separate heading. Please visit the [Funding Acknowledgements](#) page on the Sage Journal Author Gateway to confirm the format of the acknowledgment text in the event of funding, or state that: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

4.5 Declaration of conflicting interests

It is the policy of *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* to require a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors enabling a statement to be carried within the paginated pages of all published articles.

Please ensure that a 'Declaration of Conflicting Interests' statement is included at the end of your manuscript, after any acknowledgements and prior to the references. If no conflict exists, please state that 'The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest'.

For guidance on conflict of interest statements, please see the [ICMJE recommendations](#).

4.6 Research ethics and patient consent

Medical research involving human subjects must be conducted according to the [World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki](#).

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#), and all papers reporting animal and/or human studies must state in the methods section that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board provided (or waived) approval.

Please ensure that you have provided the full name and institution of the review committee, in addition to the approval number.

For research articles, authors are also required to state in the methods section whether participants provided informed consent and whether the consent was written or verbal.

Information on informed consent to report individual cases or case series should be included in the manuscript text. A statement is required regarding whether written informed consent for patient information and images to be published was provided by the patient(s) or a legally authorized representative.

Please also refer to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Protection of Research Participants](#)

All research involving animals submitted for publication must be approved by an ethics committee with oversight of the facility in which the studies were conducted. The Journal has adopted the [ARRIVE](#) guidelines.

4.7 Clinical trials

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery endorses the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a WHO-approved public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrolment. However, consistent with the [AllTrials campaign](#), retrospectively registered trials will be considered if the justification for late registration is acceptable. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

4.8 Reporting guidelines

The relevant [EQUATOR Network](#) reporting guidelines should be followed depending on the type of study. For example, all randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed [CONSORT flow chart](#) as a cited figure and the completed [CONSORT checklist](#) should be uploaded with your submission as a supplementary file. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses should include the completed [PRISMA](#) flow chart as a cited figure and the completed PRISMA checklist should be uploaded with your submission as a supplementary file. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help you identify the appropriate guideline.

Other resources can be found at [NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives](#)

4.9 Data

Sage acknowledges the importance of research data availability as an integral part of the research and verification process for academic journal articles.

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery requests all authors submitting any primary data used in their research articles if the articles are accepted to be published in the online version of the journal, or provide detailed information in their articles on how the data can be obtained. This information should include links to third-party data repositories or detailed contact information for third-party data sources. Data available only on an author-maintained website will need to be loaded onto either the journal's platform or a third-party platform to ensure continuing accessibility. Examples of data types include but are not limited to statistical data files, replication code, text files, audio files, images, videos, appendices, and additional charts and graphs necessary to understand the original research. The editor may consider limited embargoes on proprietary data. The editor can also grant exceptions for data that cannot legally or ethically be released. All data submitted should comply with Institutional or Ethical Review Board requirements and applicable government regulations. For further information, please contact the editorial office at joseditor@sagepub.co.uk

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5. Publishing policies

5.1 Publication ethics

Sage is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. We encourage authors to refer to the Committee on Publication Ethics' [International Standards for Authors](#) and view the Publication Ethics page on the [Sage Author Gateway](#).

5.1.1 Plagiarism

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sage take issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism or other breaches of best practice in publication very seriously. We seek to protect the rights of our authors and we always investigate claims of plagiarism or misuse of published articles. Equally, we seek to protect the reputation of the journal against malpractice. Submitted articles may be checked with duplication-checking software. Where an article, for example, is found to have plagiarized other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where the authorship of the article is contested, we reserve the right to take action including, but not limited to: publishing an erratum or corrigendum (correction); retracting the article; taking up the matter with the head of department or dean of the author's institution and/or relevant academic bodies or societies; or taking appropriate legal action.

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If material has been previously published, it is not generally acceptable for publication in a Sage journal. However, there are certain circumstances where previously published material can be considered for publication. Please refer to the guidance on the [Sage Author Gateway](#) or if in doubt, contact the Editor at the address given below.

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Alternative license arrangements are available, for example, to meet particular funder mandates, made at the author's request.

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6. Preparing your manuscript

6.1 Word processing formats

Preferred formats for the text and tables of your manuscript are Word DOC, RTF, XLS. LaTeX files are also accepted. The text should be double-spaced throughout and with a minimum of 3cm for left and right hand margins and 5cm at head and foot. Text should be standard 10 or 12 point. Word and (La)Tex templates are available on the [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#) page of our Author Gateway.

6.2 Artwork, figures and other graphics

For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures and graphs in electronic format, please visit Sage's [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#).

Figures supplied in color will appear in color online.

6.3 Supplementary material

This journal is able to host additional materials online (e.g. datasets, podcasts, videos, images etc.) alongside the full-text of the article. For more information please refer to our [guidelines on submitting supplementary files](#)

5.4 Reference style

Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery adheres to the Sage Vancouver reference style. Please review the [guidelines on Sage Vancouver](#) to ensure your manuscript conforms to this reference style.

If you use [EndNote](#) to manage references, you can download the [Sage Vancouver output file here](#).

6.5 English language editing services

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6.6 Accessibility Guidelines

Authors should familiarize themselves with [Sage's Accessibility Guidelines](#) to ensure their manuscripts meet recognized accessibility standards.

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7. Submitting your manuscript

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7.1 ORCID

As part of our commitment to ensuring an ethical, transparent and fair peer review process Sage is a supporting member of [ORCID, the Open Researcher and Contributor ID](#). ORCID provides a unique and persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers from every other researcher, even those who share the same name, and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between researchers and their professional activities, ensuring that their work is recognized.

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that to your submission during the online submission process. We also strongly encourage all co-authors to link their ORCID ID to their accounts in our online peer review platforms. It takes seconds to do: click the link when prompted, sign into your ORCID account and our systems are automatically updated. Your ORCID iD will become part of your accepted publication's metadata, making your work attributable to you and only you. Your ORCID iD is published with your article so that fellow researchers reading your work can link to your ORCID profile and from there link to your other publications.

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7.3 Corresponding author contact details

Provide full contact details for the corresponding author including email, mailing address and telephone numbers. Academic affiliations are required for all co-authors. These details should be presented separately to the main text of the article to facilitate anonymous peer review.

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7.5 Manuscript preparation checklist

7.5.1 Title page

- (a) Title of the paper which should be short and succinct
- (b) Full Name(s) of author(s), affiliation (s), and email(s)
- (c) The full name, affiliation, email and mailing address of the corresponding author

(d) A short running head of no more than 40 characters

7.5.2 Anonymous main document

Add line number to the document for the convenience of reviewers' commenting.

(1) Title

(2) Abstract

(a) It should not be more than 150 words for unstructured abstract (in review articles) and no more than 250 words for structured abstract with sections like purpose, methods, results, conclusion (in original articles)

(b) It should be factual and succinct

(c) For basic science papers the last sentence of the abstract should describe the clinical relevance of the study

(3) Key words

At the end of the abstract, authors should provide no more than 10 key words for information retrieval. Key words should be taken from Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) from *Index Medicus*.

(4) Main text

The main text should be written in clear and simple English and divided into sections. In general the sequence should be as follows:

(a) Brief introduction

(b) Materials and methods

(c) Results (In reporting results of surgery follow-up of less than one year is usually unacceptable)

(d) Discussion (it should avoid repeating preceding information)

(e) Conclusion

(5) Acknowledgements (if any)

(6) References

(7) Tables

(8) Legends for figures

(9) Figures

Number of figures should not be more than 16. Each photograph must be numbered and correctly oriented to show the topside. Avoid heavy pencil marks. Histological slides should mention the magnification and the stain. Lettering in diagrams must be legible after reduction. Coloured illustrations may be accepted if essential, but the authors will bear the cost of printing. All reproduced material must have the written permission of the owner (publisher), and such permission must be stated in the legend.

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8. On acceptance and publication

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8.1 Sage Production

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8.2 Online publication

One of the many benefits of publishing your research in an open access journal is the speed to publication. With no page count constraints, your article will be published online in a fully citable form with a DOI number as soon as it has completed the production process. At this time it will be completely free to view and download for all.

8.3 Promoting your article

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9. Further information

Any correspondence, queries or additional requests for information on the manuscript submission process should be sent to the *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery* editorial office as follows:

Editor-in-Chief: joseditor@sagepub.co.uk

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