

## Therapeutic Advances in Musculoskeletal Disease

Impact Factor: 4.1

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### Submission guidelines



#### Submit manuscript

Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your manuscript. Manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

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

The 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).

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## Key information

**Access:** Open Access

**APC:** [See article processing charge information below](#)

**Accepts preprints?** Yes

**Identity transparency:** Single anonymized

## Publishing fees and open access

Therapeutic Advances in Musculoskeletal Disease is an open access, peer-reviewed journal. All accepted articles are made freely available online immediately upon publication, are published under a Creative Commons license, and hosted online in perpetuity.

If, after peer review, your manuscript is accepted for publication, a one-time article processing charge (APC) is payable to cover the cost of publishing, paid by the funder, institution, or author. There is no charge for submitting a manuscript.

The standard article processing charge (APC) is \$3,000 USD. More details on APCs for specific article types can be found in the Article Type section below.

## Preparing your manuscript for submission

Your article must be within the scope of the journal and be of sufficient quality. If not, it will not be reviewed. Please read the journal's [Aims and Scope](#) to see if your article is appropriate.

The manuscript must be your original work, you must have the rights to the work, and you must have obtained and be able to supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, including figures, illustrations, tables, lengthy quotations, or other material previously published elsewhere.

### Article types

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**Original Articles.** The Editors will consider clinical interventional and observational studies with clearly stated aims, well-reported methodology (including main outcome measures) results, and a discussion of the results in the context of the published literature.

- Abstract: Maximum 300 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives; Design; Methods; Results; Conclusion; Registration (if applicable)
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: up to 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended (this can be flexible)
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
- Reporting guidelines: Please ensure you follow the appropriate reporting guidelines when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. Please state in the methods which guidelines were consulted when preparing the manuscript. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#)
- APC: Standard APC, found in the Publishing Fees and Open Access section of these guidelines

**Review Articles.** These manuscripts are usually commissioned by the Editors but unsolicited reviews will be considered. The following types of high-quality review will be considered:

(a) General reviews that provide a synthesis of an area that fits within the aims and scope of the journal

(b) Perspective reviews – review articles that address important new areas of general interest and afford the author the opportunity to present a forward-looking perspective on the topic

(c) Drug reviews – review articles focusing on the available evidence for the use of a particular drug or combination therapy.

- Abstract: unstructured, maximum 300 words
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: around 4000 – 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
- Reporting guidelines: none
- APC: Standard APC, found in the Publishing Fees and Open Access section of these guidelines

**Scoping Reviews** – These reviews assess the scope of available literature on a topic through comprehensive synthesis. It may help determine whether a systematic review of the literature is needed. These should be submitted under the Original Research article type and made clear from the title that it is a scoping review.

- Abstract: Structured, maximum 300 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives; Eligibility Criteria; Sources of Evidence; Charting Methods; Results; and Conclusions
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: around 4000 – 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
- Reporting guidelines: Please ensure you follow the PRISMA extension for scoping reviews when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#)
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**Systematic Reviews** – these should answer a specific research question and involve a comprehensive search strategy aimed at identifying, assessing and summarising all the current evidence on a specific topic.

- Abstract: Structured, maximum 300 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives; Design; Data Sources and Methods; Results; Conclusion; Registration (if applicable)
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: around 4000 – 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
- Reporting guidelines: Please ensure you follow the PRISMA guidelines when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#)
- APC: Standard APC, found in the Publishing Fees and Open Access section of these guidelines

**Meta-analyses** – these include statistical procedures, mainly conducted in the context of a systematic review, that combine the results of multiple independent primary studies addressing the same research question.

- Abstract: structured, maximum 300 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives; Design; Data Sources and Methods; Results; Conclusion; Registration (if applicable)
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: around 4000 – 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible

- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
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**Case Reports** – these structured reports should describe an unusual case and include a full review of the pertinent literature and a section on implications for clinical care.

- Abstract: unstructured, maximum 300 words
- Plain language summary: optional.
- Word count: up to 2500 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
- Figures/Tables: no limit
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**Case Series** – these descriptive structured reports (which do not involve formal hypotheses or pre-specified methodology or analyses) of a small group of patients should include a full review of the pertinent literature and a section on implications for clinical care.

- Abstract: unstructured, maximum 300 words
- Plain language summary: optional
- Word count: up to 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: no limit
- Reporting guidelines: please ensure you follow the CARE guidelines when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#).
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**Study Protocols** – these can be for forthcoming or ongoing research. Information on trial registration (where applicable) and ethics approval should be included in the manuscript.

- Abstract: structured, maximum 300 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives, Design; Methods and Analysis, Ethics (if applicable), Discussion, Registration (if

- applicable)
- Plain language summary: optional.
  - Word count: up to 6000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references) is recommended. This can be flexible
  - Figures/Tables: no limit
  - References: no limit
  - Reporting guidelines: Reporting guidelines: Please ensure you follow the appropriate reporting guidelines when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. Please state in the methods which guidelines were consulted when preparing the manuscript. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#)
  - APC: Standard APC, found in the Publishing Fees and Open Access section of these guidelines

**Brief reports** – these articles should present original research in a concise format. Brief reports should, in general, describe research that builds on previously published data, such as a subgroup or secondary analysis of a larger study, the interim results from ongoing research, or the results of small-scale studies, including pilot and feasibility studies. The suggested format for these articles is listed below.

- Abstract: Maximum 150 words. Should be structured to include: Background; Objectives; Design; Methods; Results; Conclusion
- Plain language summary: optional.
- Word count: up to 2000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references)
- Figures/Tables: 2 in total
- References: a maximum of 20 references
- Reporting guidelines: please ensure you follow the appropriate reporting guidelines when preparing your manuscript and submit the completed checklist as supplementary material. Please state in the methods which guidelines were consulted when preparing the manuscript. More information on reporting guidelines can be found on the [EQUATOR website](#).
- APC: Standard APC, found in the Publishing Fees and Open Access section of these guidelines.

**Editorials** – these are introductory articles, submitted on invitation, which provide insight into the topic of the thematic issue, or a balanced overview of relevant and up to date subjects concerning the Journal's aim or future direction.

- Abstract: Optional, unstructured
- Plain language summary: optional.
- Word count: up to 2000 words (excluding tables, figure legends and references)
- Figures/Tables: no limit
- References: a maximum of 20 references
- Reporting guidelines: none
- APC: Free of charge

**Letters to the Editor** – Submit letters if you wish to provide alternative viewpoints or offer counter arguments to previously published articles. These must be written in a professional tone and include references to support all claims if appropriate.

- Abstract: None
- Plain language summary: None
- Word count: Up to 500 words (excluding references) is recommended
- Figures/Tables: There is a limit of one figure or one table
- References: these should not exceed 10 references
- Reporting guidelines: none
- APC: Free of charge

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If you are interested in submitting a PLS-P, more information can be found on our [Author Gateway](#).

- APC: \$5000

The journal considers the results of rigorous, well-designed studies that demonstrate “no effect” or that fail to replicate previous work (“negative results”) as important to the advancement of science. We welcome brief reports on null or negative results as long as the papers are based on strong hypothesis testing.

We encourage our authors to use respectful and inclusive language when writing their articles. Any language that is deemed inappropriate or offensive by our Editors and Reviewers will be highlighted during the peer review process and should be modified or removed before publication. You can find more information in our [Inclusive Language Guide](#).

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The journal conforms to the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a [WHO-approved public trials registry](#) at or before the time of first participant enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

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

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The preferred format for your manuscript is Word. You do not need to follow a template, but please ensure your heading levels are clear, and the sections clearly defined.

**Your article title, keywords, and abstract all contribute to its position in search engine results, directly affecting the number of people who see your work. For details of what you can do to influence this, visit [How to help readers find your article online](#).**

### Title

Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript. A descriptive title that includes the topic of the manuscript makes an article more findable in the major indexing services.

### Abstract

Please include a structured or unstructured abstract, as outlined for each article type above, between the title and main body of your manuscript that concisely states the purpose of the research, major findings, and conclusions. If your research includes clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.

For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

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### Plain language summaries

A plain language summary (PLS) is an optional addition that can be submitted for any article type that requires an abstract. The plain language title (approx. 50 words) and plain language summary (approx. 300 words) should describe the article using non-technical language, making it accessible to a wider network of readers. More information and [guidance on how to write a PLS](#) can be found on our Author Gateway.

PLS are published directly below the scientific abstract and are open access making it available online for anyone to read. Peer review of the PLS will be conducted following our [PLS reviewer guidelines](#). When submitting, authors should enter their plain language title and plain language summary into the box provided in the submission system when prompted. The PLS does not need to be provided in the manuscript text or as a separate file. If you are not submitting a PLS with your submission, please enter “N/A” in each box.

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#### Keywords

Please include a minimum of 2 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic.

#### Artwork, figures, and other graphics

For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures, and graphs in electronic format, please read Sage’s [artwork guidelines](#).

Figures supplied in color will appear in color online.

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If you are including an Acknowledgements section, this will be published at the end of your article. The Acknowledgments section should include all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Per [ICMJE recommendations](#), it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.

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writing/editing assistance, you must state this in the Acknowledgements and also in your covering letter. **Please note that the journal editor reserves the right to not consider submissions made by a third party rather than by the author/s themselves.**

#### Author contributions

You will be asked to list the contribution of each author as part of the submission process. Please include the Author Contributions heading within your submission after the Acknowledgements section. The information you give on submission will then show under the Author Contributions heading later at the proofing stage.

#### Statements and declarations

Please include a section with the heading 'Statements and Declarations' at the end of your submitted article, after the Acknowledgements section [and Author Contributions section if applicable] including each of the sub-headings listed below. If a declaration is not applicable to your submission, you must still include the heading and state 'Not applicable' underneath. Please note that you may be asked to justify why a declaration was not applicable to your submission by the Editorial Office.

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Please include your ethics approval statements under this heading, even if you have already included ethics approval information in your methods section. If ethical approval was not required, you need to explicitly state this. You can find information on what to say in your ethical statements as well as example statements on our [Publication ethics and research integrity policies page](#).

All papers reporting studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must state that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approved the study, or waived the requirement for approval, providing the full name and institution of the review committee in addition to the approval number. If applicable, please also include this information in the Methods section of your manuscript.

#### Consent to participate

Please include any participant consent information under this heading and state whether informed consent to participate was written or verbal. If the requirement for informed consent to participate has been waived by the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (i.e. where it has been deemed that consent would be impossible or impracticable to obtain), please state this. If this is not applicable to your

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#### Consent for publication

Submissions containing any data from an individual person (including individual details, images or videos) must include a statement confirming that informed consent for publication was provided by the participant(s) or a legally authorized representative. Non-essential identifying details should be omitted. Please do not submit the participant's actual written informed consent with your article, as this in itself breaches the patient's confidentiality. The Journal requests that you confirm to us, in writing, that you have obtained written informed consent to publish but the written consent itself should be held by the authors/investigators themselves, for example in a patient's hospital record. The confirmatory letter may be uploaded with your submission as a separate file in addition to the statement confirming that consent to publish was obtained within the manuscript text. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please state 'Not applicable' in this section.

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If no conflict exists, your statement should read: 'The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article'.

#### Funding statement

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Subject to appropriate ethical and legal considerations, authors are encouraged to:

- Share your research data in a relevant public data repository

- Include a data availability statement linking to your data. If it is not possible to share your data, use the statement to confirm why it cannot be shared.
- Cite this data in your research

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Every in-text citation must have a corresponding citation in the reference list and vice versa. Corresponding citations must have identical spelling and year.

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Manuscripts should only be submitted with the consent of all contributing authors. The individual responsible for submitting the manuscript should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the manuscript are listed as authors.

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- **Cover letter.** To help the Editor in their preliminary evaluation, please indicate why you think the manuscript suitable for publication.

- Your **manuscript**, properly formatted according to all stipulations above, and within the scope of the journal.
- **Figures and images.**
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  - Figure resolution is 300dpi. [More information on figure/image preparation can be found here.](#)
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Identity transparency: Single-anonymized

Reviewer interacts with: Editor

Review information published: None

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The following manuscript types may not require two independent reviews to be accepted: Editorials, Letters to the Editor.

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