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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Registered Reports – Pre-Data, i.e., before any data have been gathered

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These submissions are reviewed in two stages. In Stage 1, a study proposal is considered for publication prior to data collection and/or analysis. Stage 1 submissions should include a complete Introduction, Methods, and Proposed Analyses. High-quality proposals will be accepted in principle before data collection and/or data analysis commences. Once the study is completed, the author will finish the article including Results and Discussion sections (Stage 2). Publication of the Stage 2 submission is guaranteed as long as the approved Stage 1 protocol is followed and the conclusions are appropriate. Full details can be found [here](#). The Journal's manuscript requirements should be adhered to for the stage 2 submission.

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

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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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Identity transparency: Single-anonymized

Reviewer interacts with: Editor

Review information published: None

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