

Author Guidelines

Gulf Medical Journal accepts original communications/articles/write-ups submitted exclusively to the journal. Prior and duplicate publications are not allowed. Publication of an abstract as conference proceedings will not be considered as prior publication.

Manuscripts for publication will be considered on their individual merits. All manuscripts will be subjected to peer review. Normally manuscripts will be sent to at least two reviewers after the editorial board review and the comments of the reviewers along with the editorial board's decision will be forwarded to the contributor for proceeding further. The authors may suggest workers in the same area as referees for evaluating the manuscript.

Ethics

Gulf Medical Journal insists on ethical practices in both human and animal experiments and will not consider any paper which is ethically unacceptable. A statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under the 'Materials and Methods' section. Evidence of approval by a local Ethics Committee must be supplied by the authors on demand.

When reporting studies involving human participants, authors are expected to mention approval of (regional/national/institutional or independent) Ethics Committee or Review Board, and obtaining informed consent from adult research participants. The confidentiality of subjects must be ensured by desisting from mentioning participant's names, initials or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative materials. Reports of randomized clinical trials should present information on all major study elements, including the protocol, assignment of interventions (methods of randomization, concealment of allocation to treatment groups), and the method of masking (blinding), based on the CONSORT Statement (<http://www.consort-statement.org>).

When reporting experiments on animals authors should indicate whether the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or any national law on the care and use of laboratory animals was followed. Animal experimental procedures should be as humane as possible and the details of anesthetics and analgesics used should be clearly stated.

Authorship Criteria

Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work reported. The order of naming the contributors should be based on the relative contribution of each author towards the study and writing the manuscript. Contributors should pro-

vide a description of contributions made by each of them towards the manuscript.

Participation solely in data collection or acquiring funds is not sufficient for authorship. The journal prescribes a maximum number of six authors for manuscripts depending upon the type of manuscript, its scope and number of institutions involved (vide infra). The authors should provide a justification if the number of authors exceeds these limits.

All authors should declare that they have read the final manuscript and are in agreement with the content.

Copyright

Any article accepted for publication/published in the Gulf Medical Journal will be the copyright of the journal. The journal has the right to publish the accepted articles in any media (print, electronic or any other) any number of times. The authors should agree to transfer copyright and sign a declaration to this effect. Copyright Form ([click here](#))

Plagiarism

Authors must follow the accepted procedures and guidelines when reproducing text, tables or illustrations from other sources. The journal views plagiarism as a matter of serious concern and does not wish to leave room for it or condone it.

Conflicts of Interest

All authors of must disclose any and all conflicts of interest they may have with publication of the manuscript or an institution or product that is mentioned in the manuscript and/or is important to the outcome of the study presented. Authors should also disclose conflicts of interest with products that compete with those mentioned in their manuscript.

Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with "Uniform requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (October 2006). Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word format, typed double spaced in a single column in A4 size page format only. The document should be paginated on the upper right hand corner of each page, beginning with the title page. The language of manuscript must be simple and explicit written in American English. Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter.

Generally, the manuscript should follow the order listed: Title Page, Manuscript, Tables, Figures and Images, Copyright Form.

Title page should include:

1. Type of manuscript: original article, case report, review article, letter to editor
2. Title of the manuscript (concise and informative), running title.
3. Names of all authors (with their highest academic degrees, designations and affiliations) and name(s) of department(s) and/or institution(s) to which the work should be credited.
4. The total number of pages, total number of photographs and word counts separately for abstract and for the text (excluding the references, tables and abstract)
5. Source(s) of support in the form of grants, equipment, drugs, etc.;
6. Presentation of the manuscript: Meeting, the organization, place, and exact date
7. Registration number in case of a clinical trial and where it is registered (name of the registry and its URL)
8. Corresponding Author: Name, address, e-mail, and telephone number.

Types of manuscripts

Manuscripts accepted for publication include Original articles, Reviews, Letters to Editor, Case reports and Book Reviews.

Original articles

These include randomized controlled trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, outcome studies, cost effectiveness analyses, case-control series, and surveys with high response rate.

The text of original articles amounting to up to 3000 words (excluding Abstract, references and Tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract, Key words, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Tables and Figure legends.

Review Articles

Reviews are written by researchers of considerable experience in the field concerned. The authors should review the recent trends or advances in that field with the up-to-date developments in the field during the past 3-5 years. These articles should contain a covering letter, title page, summary (need not be structured) and key words. They should be written under appropriate sub-headings. The authors are encouraged to use flowcharts, boxes, tables and figures for better presentation.

Case reports

New, interesting and rare cases can be reported under this section. They should be unique, describing a great diagnostic or therapeutic challenge and providing a learn-

ing point for the readers. Cases with clinical significance or implications will be given priority. These communications should have the following headings: Abstract (unstructured), Key words, Introduction, Case report, Discussion, Reference, Tables and Legends in that order. The manuscript could be of up to 1000 words (excluding references and abstract) and could be supported with up to 10 references. Case Reports could be authored by up to four authors.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should preferably be related to articles previously published in the Journal or views expressed in the journal. These should be short and decisive observations. The letter could have up to 500 words and 5 references. It could be generally authored by not more than four authors.

Manuscript Format

The manuscript should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract, Key words, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgement, References, Tables and Figures.

Abstract

Provide a structured abstract of less than 250 words divided into the following sections: Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions.

Key words

Provide 3 to 5 key words.

Introduction

The introduction must clearly justify and state the purpose and summarize the rationale for the study. State the precise objective/s of the study.

Materials and Methods

It should include and describe the following aspects :

Study settings and design: Describe the study setting, for example, general community, a primary care or referral center, private or institutional practice, or ambulatory or hospitalized care. State the duration and follow-up of the study. Describe the basic design of the study (e.g. randomized controlled trial, case-control study, prospective, cross sectional, etc.).

Selection and Description of Participants: Describe your selection of the observational or experimental participants (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly, including eligibility and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population.

Intervention: The essential features of any interventions should be described, including their method and duration of administration.

Ethical issues: All studies involving human subjects must address relevant ethical issues. A statement on ethics commit-

tee approval and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under the Materials and Methods section.

Statistics: Specify the statistical methods and the computer software used. For all P values include the exact value and not "less than 0.05 or 0.001".

Results

When data are summarized, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasize or summarize only important observations. Extra or supplementary materials and technical details can be placed in an appendix where it will be accessible but will not interrupt the flow of the text.

Discussion

Include a summary of the key findings, strengths and limitations of the study, implications and controversies raised by the study and future research directions. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. A maximum of 30 references can be included.

Conclusion

Provide only conclusions of the study directly supported by the results, along with any implications for clinical practice. Avoid speculation and overgeneralization of the results. Emphasize equally the important positive and negative findings.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments of people, grants, funds, etc. should be placed in a separate section before the reference list.

References

Please refer to ICMJE Guidelines for referencing style. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript. References cited only in tables or figure legends should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus. Use complete name of the journal for non-indexed journals. Avoid using abstracts as references. Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as "unpublished observations" with written permission from the source. Avoid citing a "personal communication" unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in parentheses in the text.

Tables

Each table should have a title and be numbered in Arabic numerals in the order of appearance in the text. Use superscript letters to indicate footnotes typed at the bottom of the table. Tables should be self-explanatory and should not duplicate textual material.

Explain in footnotes all non-standard abbreviations that are used in each table.

Obtain permission for all fully borrowed, adapted, and modified tables and provide a credit line in the footnote. Tables with their legends should be provided at the end of the text after the references. The tables along with their number should be cited at the relevant place in the text.

Figures/Illustrations

Figures should be prepared using appropriate software with graphics capability and saved in JPEG or TIFF format. They should be submitted separately with their positions indicated in the text. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text. Labels, numbers, and symbols should be clear and of uniform size. The lettering for figures should be large enough to be legible after reduction to fit the width of a printed column. When photographs of individuals are used, their pictures must be accompanied by written permission to use the photograph. If a figure has been published elsewhere, acknowledge the original source and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material. A credit line should appear in the legend for such figures. Legends for illustrations should be double spaced, with Arabic numerals corresponding to the illustrations. The Journal reserves the right to crop, rotate, reduce, or enlarge the photographs to an acceptable size.

Protection of Patients' Rights to Privacy

Identifying information should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, sonographic reports, laboratory reports etc. Authors should remove patients' names from figures unless they have obtained written informed consent from the patients. When informed consent has been obtained, it should be indicated in the article and copy of the consent should be attached with the covering letter.

Page Proofs

All accepted papers are subject to editorial changes for grammar, print style, and format. Page proofs will be sent to the corresponding author via email. The corresponding author is expected to return the corrected proofs within two weeks. It may not be possible to incorporate corrections received after that period.

Privacy Statement

The names and email addresses entered in this journal site will be used exclusively for the stated purposes of this journal and will not be made available for any other purpose or to any other party.
