

## General format and length of article types accepted for submission

Word count: title page, abstract, tables, figures, references, abbreviations, appendices & supplementary material are excluded.

(Adapt article categories and requirements according to your journal)

	Word count	Word count in abstract	Number of keywords	Number of Tables & Figures	Number of references	Article
Original Article	3500	250, structured <i>Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusions</i>	3–6	8	50	Structured into Introduction, Materials (Subjects) and methods, Results, Discussion
Review	6000	200, unstructured/ structured <i>Background, Content, Summary and Outlook</i>	3–6	8	150	Structured
Mini Review	3500	200, unstructured/ Structured <i>Background, Content, Summary and Outlook</i>	3–6	4	40	Structured
Opinion Paper	3500	250, unstructured/ Structured <i>Background, Content, Summary and Outlook</i>	3–6	2	40	Structured
Point & Counterpoint	1500	200, unstructured	3–6	2	15	Structured or unstructured
Letter to the Editor & Reply	1200	n/a	3–6	2	10	Unstructured
Guidelines and Recommendations	3500	250, unstructured	3–6	6	40	Structured
Editorial	1500	n/a	n/a	1	10	Structured or unstructured
Short Communication	1500	200, structured <i>Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusions</i>	3–6	2	15	Abstract & unstructured text; Materials & methods are described in the legends to Figures and Tables
Case Report	2500	200, structured <i>Objectives, Case presentation and Conclusions; Learning points, What is new?</i>	3–6	6	15	Structured – See instructions below

**When you submit your work, please ensure the following**

- You have read the [Instructions for Authors](#)
- The manuscript is complete and uploaded correctly as Word file (or LaTeX). The HTML version and/or the PDF file generated from the submitted files must be complete and approved.
- The language in which the manuscript was written is correct and has been checked by a native speaker or a professional language service, if applicable.
- The title page information includes the full title, short title (both down style (non-capitalized, except for the first word and any proper name), the full names of all authors (given name, middle initials, family name), and the full address, affiliation and the academic title of the corresponding author. The title page should also indicate the word count, the number of tables and figures, and whether the submission includes any supplementary material.
- All figures and tables have been uploaded and appear correctly at the end of the generated PDF.
- Abstract, keywords, list of abbreviations, tables and figures, and captions and legends are included, depending on the manuscript type.
- Manuscript is spell-checked and within the word limit for the type of article.
- References are in the correct format according to the Instructions for Authors.
- References mentioned in the reference list are cited in the text and vice versa.

**Additional general layout guidelines**

- **Fonts:** Italic font style is restricted to genes and Latin terms (except for abbreviations such as e.g., et al.).
- **Numbers:** Written out in words up to ten and unless they are used as a unit of measurement or when used at the beginning of a sentence. This does not apply for figures and tables. Use decimal points, not commas. Write symbols, mathematical signs and their respective value without spaces (e.g.  $n=1$ ).
- **Manufacturer details:** Are to be provided incl. city and country for reagents and apparatus reported in the manuscript (use only USA and UK for United States and United Kingdom. For USA, sole use of the abbreviated state name is allowed). Use the correct symbol (e.g. ©, ®) and not the letters "TM" in superscript.
- **Abbreviations:** Both in the abstract and in the main text, abbreviations are to be spelled out at first mention. Thereafter, only these abbreviations are to be used. It is not necessary to include a list of abbreviations.
- **Learning points:** Are allowed (with En-dash) only for Case Reports, should be set before **What is new?**.
- **What is new?:** Are allowed (with En-dash) only for Case Reports, should be set before References.
- **References:** References should be listed at the end of the manuscript. **Adhere strictly** to the reference style of the Journal (Vancouver; recommendations of the "International Committee of Medical Journals Editors"; found [here](#)).

All references mentioned in the reference list have to be cited in the text and vice versa. List and number the references consecutively in the order they appear in the text, including Tables and Figures. In the text, identify references by Arabic numerals in [parentheses]. Italic and boldface font type is not allowed in the reference section. List all authors; if the number is 7 or more, list the first 6 names followed by et al. Identify authors by last name first, followed by up to 2 initials,

without periods, indicating the authors' first name. Only the first name of the title is capitalized, as well as proper names within the title. Journal names are abbreviated as indicated in PubMed and in the Web of Knowledge ([NIH.Linkout.Journals](#); [Web of Knowledge](#)), without periods. After the abbreviated journal name, give the year of publication, followed by a semicolon, volume number (but no issue number), followed by a double colon, and the page numbers, with the last page number in shortened format. Meeting abstracts may be cited only if published in journals. Unpublished observations and personal communications are cited only in the text. Correct linking of the references depends on strict adherence to journal style.

- **Equations:** Are to be numbered (Arabic numerals within parentheses in sequential order). In-text citation format: Eq. (1); Ranges: Eqs. (1)–(5); Eqs. (1) and (4). Simple maths should be converted into text.
- **Variables:** Greek lowercase: Roman; Greek uppercase: Roman; Single letter variables: Italics; Multi-letter variables: Roman preferred.
- **Units:** All units should be in Roman. Unit separation should be comma in table entries. Spaces should be presented between numbers and units (except for %). Units are to be expanded with numbers and units if beginning a sentence.
  - Degree Celsius; °C; should be spaced with non-breakable space.
  - Liter should be capitalized in all combinations of liter units (L/mL/dL.....).
  - Molar 'M' should be caps. Units need not be repeated in value ranges.
  - P (referring to a population proportion) and p (to a sample proportion) are to be written in Roman. In table headers, 'p' should be written 'p-Value'.
  - Number is a lowercase n. n (to population and sample size) is to be written in Roman.
  - Volume and weight units should be abbreviated as 'vol' and 'wt' in unit–value combinations.
  - The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is written in Roman with superscript 2.
  - Use periods for the non-SI units:
    - inches → in.
    - atomic → at.
    - number → no.
 as these abbreviations could be confused with the words in, at, and no.
  - Centrifugation 'g' should be italics (either written with non-breakable space 1000 g or closed up with multiplication sign 1000×g) .
  - Closed-up number and multiplication sign '×' for magnifications.
  - Time unit abbreviations to be used: second – s; minute – min; hour – h; day – day/days; week – week/weeks; month – month/months; year – year/years.
- **Binominals:** Are written in italics.
- **Latin terms:** Should be italics but not in the Reference list (in vitro, in vivo, de novo, in situ, ad libitum...). Abbreviations of Latin terms should be Roman. (i.e., e.g., vs., et al...). 'Versus' should be written 'vs.' and in Roman font.
- **Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations**
  - Strictly adhere to the instructions and wording of the template.
  - The information in the Template must be identical with the information in the manuscript.
  - The information in the Template will be used to prepare the proofs of your article.