MEDICAL REVIEW

Information for Authors

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1. Scope and general policies

Medical Review, a publication of Peking University Health Science Center, is a peer-reviewed online journal with bimonthly compilation of issues published. The journal allows free access (Open Access) to its contents and permits authors to self-archive final accepted version of the articles on any OAI-compliant institutional / subject-based repository. The official website is at: https://www.degruyter.com/mr

The journal aims to report very important medical research results including clinical medicine, basic medicine, preventive medicine, life sciences and all Multidisciplinary Research, which reflect the medical research progress from all aspects. The journal is dedicated to publishing the representative research results of all medical fields, track the significant medical events, and interpret the highlighted medical achievement and important medical policy comprehensively at national levels all over the world. Comprehensive review article is a typical feature of the journal. Besides, various special types will be published, including Editorial, Review, Research Articles, Scientist Forum, News and Comments, Highlights, etc.

MR publishes only English-language articles in the following categories:

Editorials: Written by the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, Editorial board members, or prestigious invited scientists and policy makers on a broad range of topics from science to science policy and issues related to society at large. Articles of this type are invited only.

Reviews: Extensive reviews of the recent progress in specific areas of medicine, including historical reviews, comprehensive reviews, recent advances made by doctors and physicians internationally as well as within China, and perspective for future development. The main text (excluding references, footnotes, figure legends and tables) is expected to exceed 10000 words, 10 figures and 100 references, but with 70 references at least.

Research Articles: These articles are expected to be original, innovative, and significant. Less than 5000 words, with a maximum of 50 references and 6 figures/tables. Methods section should appear between Conclusion and Acknowledgement sections.

Research Highlights: A short and focused topic showing as succinct summaries and comments on a recent research achievement in the natural sciences, with emphasis on the...
contributions of Chinese scientists. The main text should not exceed 600 words, have less than 10 references, and only 2 figures or tables at most.

**Perspectives:** MR publishes articles on the latest developments in a specific area of research, viewpoints on recent progress in science and technology, scientific research funding and administration, as well as science-related social issues. The main text (excluding references, footnotes, figure legends and tables) should not exceed 1200 words, have less than 15 references, and only 1–2 or tables or figures.

**News and Comments:** The latest general interest letters and commentaries submitted to the journal. The main text should not exceed 300 words.

**Scientists Forum:** MR opens a platform for discussions on timely or controversial issues in medicine and technology development, medical policies and funding mechanisms, and other societal issues in a variety of formats that include essays and transcripts of round-table discussions and point-counterpoint dialogues. Articles of this type are invited from well-known professional all over the world. The column may often be published as a group of articles and each article is limited to less than 2000 words with at least 15 references.

**Letter:** Letters from authors, readers and related professionals are also welcome. The main text should within the range of 300-800 words.

**Peer review:** Submitted manuscripts will be reviewed in a two-step procedure. Firstly, the Editor-in-Chief or Managing Editor decides whether the manuscript fulfils the substantive and formal criteria for the further peer review process. The decision is based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** the content conforms to the scope and goals of MR.
- **Originality/topicality:** the content is sufficiently important and topical to worthy to be published in MR.
- **Formal correctness:** the formal criteria have been met.
- **Ethical Guidelines:** national and international ethical standards for studies with human and/or animal subjects are fulfilled (where applicable).

The editors conduct preliminary reviews of submitted manuscripts for compliance with the aim and instructions of the journal. Manuscripts must conform to the aims and scope, the appropriateness and validity of the statistical methods used, and adhere to ethical principles. Upon preliminary evaluation, if required, manuscripts may be unsubmitted and sent back to the authors for revision. In case the criteria have not been met, the manuscript is being rejected without peer review. If no revision is required or upon completion of the required editorial revisions, manuscripts are sent to at least 3 expert reviewers. The editors ensure that there is no conflict of interest while assigning reviewers. The review process is single-blinded.

Members of the editorial board and other scientists who are experts in the manuscript subject area and/or methodology are assigned as reviewers. Once reviews have been received, all reviewers’ reports are sent to authors along with an editorial decision. Manuscript revisions may be sent to reviewers for a second review if deemed necessary by editors. Final decisions about publication are based upon the reviewers’ and editor opinions.

**Turnaround times:** MR aspires to notify authors about the review decision within 9-12 weeks of the submission date. Revisions to manuscripts should be returned within 6 weeks. The length of time provided may be longer depending on whether the manuscript requires major or minor modifications. Accepted articles are normally published online within 4 weeks after acceptance.

**Rejection of manuscripts:** Manuscripts dealing with subjects that have been well studied in the literature, that do not resolve questions raised by previous studies, do not contribute novel understandings to knowledge development, or are methodologically flawed are likely
to be rejected without peer review. Manucripts are also returned to authors or rejected if
they do not comply with the Information for Authors.

Unpublished material: Submission of a manuscript to MR implies that the work described
has not been previously published, except in the form of an abstract, academic thesis or
lecture; that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; that publication of the
work is approved by all authors, and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where
the work was carried out; and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere, in English
or in any other language, without the written consent of the Publisher.

Further, all co-authors must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding
author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The
 correspond ing author is responsible for informing the co-authors of the manuscript status
 throughout the submission, review and production process.

Open Access policy and copyright: All articles undergo peer review and will be accepted
for publication based on the quality of their scientific contribution. “All authors retain
copyright, unless – due to their local circumstances – their work is not copyrighted. The use
of each article will be governed by the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY-NC-ND
4.0). More information on De Gruyter’s open access policies can be found here. MR does not
charge fees for submission or publication of articles.

Note for authors of NIH-funded research: De Gruyter acknowledges that the author of a
US-agency-funded article retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to the
agency upon acceptance for publication as well as for public archiving in PubMed Central.
Note that only the accepted author’s version of the manuscript, not the PDF file of the
published article, may be used for NIH archiving.

2. Ethical conduct of research

For information on plagiarism, please refer to COPE Committee on Publication Ethics.
Please note that MR may use the check program “iThenticate” to assess for potential overlap
in prior publication(s). Any previously published material must be referenced appropriately
in the manuscript. For every submission to MR, authors have to fill out and upload the
Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations at the time of the original submission.
Information on ethical conduct of research and how to make declarations can be found here.
Manuscripts and any other printed material published in the MR represent the opinions of
authors and should not be construed to reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board.

Scientific misconduct and other fraud: Scientific misconduct is defined as the fabrication
or falsification of research results, intellectual property theft (plagiarism), or other practices
that deviate from commonly accepted standards within the academic community for
scientific work on the proposal, conducting or reporting of research. In cases where there is
a suspicion or allegation of scientific misconduct or fraudulent research in submitted or
published manuscripts, the editors of MR reserve the right to impose sanctions on the
authors. This may include the following measures:

• Immediate rejection of the manuscript
• Exclusion of author(s) from submitting manuscripts to the journal for a certain period
  of time
• Retraction of published manuscripts
• Informing editors of other journals and publishers.
• Bringing the concerns to the authors’ sponsoring or funding institution or other
  appropriate authority for investigation.

Multiple submission or publication of manuscripts, or redundant publications (repackaging of
data by the same authors with different formulation) will be rejected. Where this is detected
only after publication, the journal reserves the right to retract the article and to publish an appropriate retraction note.

3. Submission of manuscripts

Please submit manuscripts exclusively online at:

https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mr

First-time submission of manuscripts: It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. Please explain why you consider your manuscript to be suitable for publication in MR, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how will it drive academic discussion forward.

Submission of revised articles: Resubmitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a letter outlining a point-by-point response to Editor's and reviewers' comments and detailing the changes made to the manuscript. A copy of the original manuscript should be included for comparison if the Editor requests one. If it is the first revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 28 days; if it is the second revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 14 days. Additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. If the above mentioned deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission. For resubmitted manuscripts, please provide us with an editable text and publication-quality figures. Supply any figures as separate high-resolution, print-ready digital versions. In addition to the editorial remarks, authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the Journal's style.

4. General information on preparation of manuscripts

General format and length of accepted article types

<table>
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<th>Article Type</th>
<th>Word limit in abstract</th>
<th>Number of keywords</th>
<th>Number of tables &amp; figures</th>
<th>Number of references</th>
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* Objectives, Content, Summary and Outlook, **Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions.
Organization of the manuscript: We draw particular attention to the importance of carefully preparing the title, keywords and abstract, as these elements are indicators of the manuscript content in bibliographic databases and search engines.

Title: We suggest the title should be informative, specific to the project, yet concise (75 characters or fewer). Please bear in mind that a title that is comprehensible to a broad academic audience and readers outside your field will attract a wider readership. Avoid specialist abbreviations and non-standard acronyms. Titles should not be presented in title case (words should not be capitalized). Please also provide a brief "running title" of not more than 50 characters.

Authors, affiliations, addresses: In the cover letter, provide the first names (or initials – if used), middle names (or initials – if used), and surnames for all authors. Affiliations should include:

- Department
- University or organization
- City
- Postal code
- State/province (if applicable)
- Country

One of the authors should be designated as the corresponding author to whom inquiries regarding the paper should be directed. It is the corresponding author’s responsibility to ensure that the author list and the summary of the author contributions to the study are accurate and complete.

Abstract: The abstract should not exceed 350 words. The abstract should give a summary of the content of the paper. Mention the main findings without going into methodological detail and briefly summarize the most important items of the paper. Because the abstract will be published separately by abstracting services, it must be complete and understandable without reference to the text.

Keywords: List keywords for the work presented (maximum of 8), separated by commas. We suggest that keywords do not replicate those used in the title.

Introduction: The introduction should put the focus of the manuscript into a broader context and should supply sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand and evaluate the results without referring to previous publications on the topic. As you compose the introduction, think of readers who are not experts in this field. Include a brief review of the key literature - use only those references required to provide the most salient background rather than an exhaustive review of the topic. Relevant controversies or disagreements in the field should be mentioned so that a non-expert reader can delve into these issues further. The introduction should conclude with a brief statement of the rationale for the study, the hypothesis that was addressed or the overall purpose of the experiments reported, and should provide a comment about whether that aim was achieved.

Methods: This section should include sufficient technical information to enable the experiments to be reproduced. Protocols for new methods or significant modifications to existing methods should be included, while previously published or well-established protocols should only be referenced. Describe new methods completely and give sources of unusual chemicals, equipment, strains etc. Studies presented should comply with our recommendations for distribution of materials and data (see below). In theoretical papers comprising the computational analyses, technical details (methods, models applied or newly developed) should be provided to enable the readers to reproduce the calculations. Following the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) editors are advised to require that the corresponding author obtain written
permission to be acknowledged from all acknowledged individuals. In this section authors should explicitly reveal all potential financial, personal or professional conflicts of interest. Authors should also explicitly state if there is no such conflict regarding the publication of the article. Authors are suggested to fill in the ICMJE Conflicts of Interest Form and send the electronic version to the Journal Editor. For details and examples of statements please see “Author’s Statements” and “Author and ethical statements instructions”.

**Results:** This section should provide statistical analyses of all of the experiments that are required to support the conclusions of the paper. Reserve extensive interpretation of the results for the Discussion section. Details of experiments that are peripheral to the main thrust of the article and that detract from the focus of the article should not be included. Present the results as concisely as possible in text, table(s), or figure(s) (see below). Avoid extensive use of graphs to present data that might be more concisely presented in the text or tables. Graphs illustrating methods commonly used need not be shown except in unusual circumstances. Limit photographs to those that are absolutely necessary to show the experimental findings. Number figures and tables in the order in which they are cited in the text and be sure to cite all figures and tables. Styles and fonts should match those in the main body of the article. Large datasets, including raw data, should be submitted as supporting files. The section may be divided into subsections, each with a concise subheading.

**Discussion:** The Discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work and to the experimental system used. It should not contain extensive repetition of the Results or reiteration of the Introduction. This section should spell out the major conclusions of the work along with some explanation or speculation on the significance of these conclusions. The discussion should be concise and tightly argued.

**Acknowledgments:** This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. Please also describe the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the paper; and decision to submit it for publication. Recognition of personal assistance should be given as a separate paragraph: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to being so named.

**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](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11630/)). 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](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11630/)), 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.
## In-text citation

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### 14. Electronic publications (Accessed)


### 15. Thesis/Dissertation


### 16. Report


### 17. Patent

17. Pagedas AC. Flexible endoscopic grasping and cutting device and positioning tool assembly. United States patent 20020103498, 2002.

### 18. Standards


**Supplementary Material:** We encourage authors to submit essential supplementary files that additionally support the authors' conclusions along with their manuscripts (the principal conclusions should be fully supported without referral to the supplementary material). Supplemental material will always remain associated with its article and is not subject to any modifications after publication. The decision to publish the material with the article if it is accepted will be made by the Editor. Supporting files of no more than 10 MB in may be submitted in a variety of formats, but should be publication-ready, as these files will be published exactly as supplied. Material must be restricted to large or complex data sets or results that cannot be readily displayed because of space or technical limitations. Material that has been published previously is not acceptable for posting as supplemental material. Supporting files should fall into one of the following categories:

- Dataset
- Additional Figure or Table
- Text
- Protocol

If the software required for users to view/use the supplemental material is not embedded in the file, you are urged to use shareware or generally available/easily accessible programs. To prevent any misunderstandings, we request that authors submit a text file (instruction.txt) containing a brief instruction on how to use the files supplied. All supporting information should be referred to in the manuscript, with titles (and, if desired, legends) for all files listed under the heading ‘Supporting Information’.

**Further detailed information of preparation of manuscripts for MR can be found in the Quick Checklist for Main Document.** Strict adherence to the instructions is required.

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of randomized controlled trials:** Please refer to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses statement (PRISMA). Authors must include a suitable PRISMA flow chart in their submission. The flow diagram depicts the flow of information through the different phases of a systematic review. A template of the PRISMA flow diagram is available [here](#) as a PDF and Word document.

**Clinical trial registry:** Medical Review favours registration of clinical trials and is a signatory to the statement on publishing clinical trials in international biomedical journals. The Journal would publish clinical trials that have been registered with a clinical trial registry that allows free online access to the public.

### 5. Information for reviewers

MR is a peer-reviewed journal. Since peer review helps authors and editors improve the quality of scientific manuscripts, it is crucial for scientific manuscript processing. Reviewers [deguyter.com/mr](#).
perform an invaluable task for the entire scientific community. Therefore, MR editors thank everyone for giving their expertise and time to the journal by serving as reviewers.

It is the editors’ responsibility to select appropriate reviewers for the relevant manuscript. Manuscripts are sent to at least 3 expert reviewers who specialize in the manuscript subject area and/or methodology. Reviewers should review manuscripts for their novelty and originality, methodology and scientific accuracy, importance, quality, clarity, ethical issues, and suitability for the journal. Reviewers should make an objective, impartial evaluation of the scientific merits of the manuscript.

Reviewer’s evaluation and commentary will be made according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the scope of MR
- Originality and novelty
- Appropriateness of choice, presentation, and discussion of methods
- Presentation and discussion of results
- Relevance to the scientific and/or professional community
- Legibility, style and structure of the text

The reviewers should consider the following main points before agreeing to evaluate a manuscript:

- As a reviewer, if you believe that you are not competent to evaluate a manuscript, please inform the editor when you receive the invitation
- Reviewers are anonymous to the authors
- Manuscripts under peer review should be strictly confidential. Reviewers must not share manuscripts or discuss their content with anyone outside the peer-review process
- The reviewer should aim to help the author improve the manuscript. The comments about the manuscript should be objective, constructive, honest, and courteous
- As the editors of MR, we encourage reviewers to report any scientific or publication misconduct
- Reviewers should declare if they have a conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the peer-review process
- Please complete your review within the time period specified when you accept to review the manuscript

As editors of MR, we appreciate your commitment to the peer-review process and thank you in advance.

6. Post-acceptance

Proofs and publication: The editors will inform the corresponding author of the manuscript decision. Accepted manuscripts must be provided in a Word document containing the final text for typesetting. The corresponding author of an article will receive the proofs in electronic form to check for editing and type-setting accuracy. The corresponding author should return the list of corrections within 2-3 days to the production office. The final, accepted version of the manuscript must adhere to the above-mentioned guidelines. Manuscripts ready for publication are promptly posted online. The manuscripts are considered to be ready for publication when the final proofreading has been performed by authors, and all concerns have been resolved. Please check the final file of the article carefully because spelling mistakes, inconsistencies, and errors will be faithfully translated into the typeset version. Major changes to the article after acceptance will not be considered, Only minor linguistic and typing corrections are possible.
Author’s copy: The electronic files of typeset articles in Adobe Acrobat PDF format are provided free of charge; corresponding authors will receive an e-mail notification that their article has been published online.

Correction Notes and Errata: Errors detected in published articles should be reported to the Editorial Office. The corresponding author should send the appropriate corrected material to the Editorial Office. The corrections will, in accordance with the decision of the Editor-in-Chief, be published as soon as possible.

Please contact the Journal Manager with any further questions:
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E-mail: katharina.appelt@deGruyter.com