

Journal Guidelines

Ashok Shyam

One of the most common cause of rejection of an article by a journal is non adherence to journal guidelines. If you are planning to submit an article to a journal, the journal guidelines are perhaps one of the most important document you should read thoroughly. Being on the editorial board of Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (formerly Journal of Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association) we have been getting articles that have been poorly formatted. This makes the processing and reviewing of the articles really difficult and increases the time taken from submission to publishing. I shall point out the common areas of mistakes that are found in our submissions and will urge the authors to take care of these points while submitting articles to Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (JTOS).

Abstract: many a times we find abstract completely missing! Submissions to JTOS require structured abstract into sections divided as introduction, materials and methods, results, conclusions and keywords. Four to six keywords are essential and they will add to online visibility of your article

Formatting the article: all original articles should have introduction, materials methods, results and discussion. The introduction should focus on why the authors think it is important to conduct the study. Introduction does not require basics on the subjects but should directly focus on the research question. Material and methods should be detailed enough to allow the reader to duplicate the study. Do not disclose the name of the institute or hospital in the material and methods. Also add a comment on the ethical approval for the study. Clearly define the outcome measures and at what intervals the patient is assessed and by whom. A paragraph on statistical method has to be included in this section. Results should focus on the main outcome measures and unnecessary demographic comparisons like male to female ratio, dexterity and age variations should not be included unless extremely relevant. Avoid using graphs, unless very important to show the results. Use tables but keep the number to 4 or maximum 5. Tables can be combined together for similar outcome results for different groups. The end of discussion should focus on what can be concluded from the data of the study and not on extrapolated inferences that authors try to postulate. Everything in discussion has to be based on the data of the study.

References: every article has to have references in Vancouver style, where they are listed at the end of the manuscript in serial order of their appearance in the manuscript. Authors should use the pubmed style of referencing for JTOS.

Figures: Figures of one case can be all combined and labelled as 1a, 1b etc. Also similarly multiple figures of a surgical technique can be combined. All figure legends should be in details and should provide enough information to make sense of figure without reading the text.

Plagiarism is one very important issue that plagues many submissions and we request authors not to copy paste from any source while preparing their manuscripts.

Following these simple rules will definitely help us improve the submission quality and decrease the article processing time.

We invite all our readers to submit more articles for the coming issues of JTOS

Ashok Shyam
Associate Editor - JTOS

¹Department of Orthopaedics, Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, Pune - 411004, India.
Indian Orthopaedic Research Group, Thane

Address for correspondence:
Dr Ashok Shyam, Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, Pune - 411004, India.
Email: drashokshyam@yahoo.co.uk

How to cite the article:

Shyam A. Journal Guidelines. Journal of Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery. April-June 2015; 10(2):1