

Instructions for Authors

Revised June 29, 2016

All manuscripts must be submitted online via Editorial Manager at:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/jbjsoa/>

Questions may be directed to the Editorial Office at oaeditorial@jbjs.org.

Introduction

JBJS Open Access (JBJS OA) is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that welcomes original articles that contribute to orthopaedic knowledge from all sources in all countries, with the goal of improving the quality of care of orthopaedic patients. By publishing in *JBJS OA*, authors enable readers around the globe to have free, perpetual, unrestricted online access to their article on the *JBJS OA* website immediately upon publication.

To cover the cost of copy-editing, production/layout, and hosting of the article, *JBJS OA* charges authors an article processing charge (APC) of \$2,250 USD upon acceptance. **All articles submitted to *JBJS OA* undergo our standard peer-review process and are accepted or rejected on the basis of their merit only.**

Manuscripts may be submitted to *JBJS OA* directly. Manuscripts that were originally submitted to *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* may also be redirected to *JBJS OA* at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Articles submitted or transferred to *JBJS OA* undergo double-blinded peer review, with the Editorial Office removing all author and institution identifiers before sending papers to reviewers.

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For more information, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) (FAQ).

Conditions for Submission

- Previous presentation at a scientific meeting, and/or publication of the abstract in conjunction with the meeting, does not preclude publication of the article; however, this information must be disclosed in a cover letter at the time of submission. Previously published articles, including those published in non-English-language journals, are not accepted.
- All clinical trials (i.e., any clinical study in which patients are randomized into 2 treatment groups OR are followed prospectively to compare 2 different treatments) must have been registered in a public trials registry such as www.clinicaltrials.gov in accordance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines for trial registration.
- All manuscripts dealing with the study of human subjects must include a statement that the subjects gave informed consent to participate and that the study was approved by an institutional review board or a similar committee. All studies should be carried out in accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki (JBJS 79-A:1089-98,1997). Patient confidentiality must be protected according to the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). See our complete [Ethics Policy](#) for additional information.
- All manuscripts reporting on experiments on animals must include a statement that the study has been approved by an animal utilization study committee. Information about the management of postoperative pain should be included.
- If requested by the Editor-in-Chief or either of the Co-Editors of *JBJS OA*, authors must make the tabulated raw data that form the basis of their work available for examination in a timely fashion.

Submission Overview

Authors should, in general, follow the ICMJE's "[Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#)."

All manuscripts must be submitted, as a Microsoft Word file, through Editorial Manager (a web-based service). Corresponding authors with an existing *JBJS* Editorial Manager username and password can use these same credentials to log into the *JBJS OA* Editorial Manager site; otherwise, they may register via <http://www.editorialmanager.com/jbjsOA/> and will then receive an e-mail containing a username and password that will allow access for manuscript submission.

Authors should register with [ORCID](#) and include their ORCID identifier in their Editorial Manager profile. Authors can retrieve or obtain this identifier through Editorial Manager when they submit their article; beginning on January 1, 2017, it will not be possible to submit an article without an ORCID identifier.

JBJS OA accepts original scientific studies only. Authors may choose from one of the following Article Types when classifying a paper upon submission:

- **Clinical** manuscripts report on studies involving patient care and outcomes.*
- **Research** manuscripts generally focus on basic-science studies (e.g., biomechanics studies, animal and in vitro studies, growth factor research, and stem cell studies).

*Note: Clinical studies reporting on three or fewer patients are classified as case reports and are not considered for publication in *JBJS OA*. These should be submitted to [JBJS Case Connector](#) instead.

The following items must be submitted:

1. **Title Page:** The title page must include (1) article title, (2) authors' names, in the order in which they should appear, and academic degrees, (3) institution(s) at which work was performed, (4) institution (and city and state or country) with which each author is affiliated, (5) corresponding author and his/her e-mail address.
2. **Manuscript Text:** See "[Manuscript Structure](#)" below.
3. **License-to-Publish form:** Upon first revision, all authors will be required to complete a [License to Publish \(LTP\) form](#). Authors can also provide these at the original submission stage. Authors retain copyright for all articles. Authors grant the journal a license to publish the article and identify itself as the original publisher. Accepted manuscripts will not pass to production without completed forms.
4. **Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must complete an ICMJE [Conflict of Interest Statement](#) form for each submitted manuscript. *JBJS OA* will post the forms online and summarize them in a statement in the article. The ICMJE forms have no bearing on the decision to accept a manuscript.
5. **IRB Approval:** A copy of the letter granting approval from the institutional review board or the animal utilization study committee is required. A translated version must be provided if the original approval is not written in English.
6. **Permission to Use Figures, Tables, and Videos Owned by Another Party:** *Authors are responsible for obtaining permissions.* Provide (1) a full citation for the previous publication and (2) a letter from the owner of the copyright granting permission for *JBJS OA* to reproduce the copyrighted material OR a completed [permissions form](#) stating the date when permission was requested and the approximate date when the permission is expected to be received.

Manuscript Structure

Manuscripts must be submitted as a Microsoft Word file and cannot exceed 3,200 words, including the Abstract but excluding references and figure legends. Manuscripts not meeting these specifications will be returned for modification. *JBJS OA* does not consider manuscript proposals or abstracts submitted online or via e-mail.

Articles should consist of:

1. A **Structured Abstract** consisting of 5 paragraphs, totaling no more than **325** words, with the headings: *Background* (stating the primary research question), *Methods*, *Results*, *Conclusions*, and *Level of Evidence* (for clinical articles) or *Clinical Relevance* (for basic-science articles). The **Level of Evidence** should be assigned according to the definitions in the [Level of Evidence](#) table. This rating will be reviewed by a JBJS Deputy Editor, who will make the final determination.
2. The **body** should consist of:

Introduction: State the problem that led to the study, including a concise review of only the relevant literature. State your hypothesis and the purpose of the study. It is preferable that this be done in the form of a research question that describes the setting of the study, the population or sample studied, and the primary outcome measure.

Materials and Methods: Describe the study design in detail using standard methodological terms. Reports of **randomized controlled trials** should follow the [25-item checklist](#) developed by the [CONSORT](#) Group. Submissions reporting **cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies** should conform to the format suggested by the [STROBE](#) panel. Reporting of **meta-analyses** should conform to the [PRISMA](#) Statement criteria. Refer to our detailed guidelines for writing a [Materials and Methods](#) section for additional guidelines.

Source of Funding: Include a brief statement explaining the role of the funding source for the study (if none, or if funding source did not play a role in investigation, that should be stated).

Results: Provide a detailed report on the data obtained during the study. All measurements should be presented in metric values. Results of many reconstructive procedures, such as total joint arthroplasty, should be based on at least a 2-year follow-up of *each* patient. An *average* of 2 years of follow-up is generally not sufficient. If the follow-up is shorter, provide a strong scientific justification for why the focus on shorter follow-up is clinically relevant.

Discussion: Be succinct. What does your study show? Is your hypothesis affirmed or refuted? Discuss the importance of this article with regard to the relevant world literature; however, a complete literature review is unnecessary. Analyze your data and discuss their strengths, their weaknesses, and the limitations of the study.

3. A **reference section**, in PubMed/Index Medicus format, must be included after the manuscript text. Number the references according to the order of citation in the text (not alphabetically), and cite all references in the text.
4. **Figure legends** must be included at the end of the manuscript text file, after the References section, for all images. Explain what each figure shows. Identify machine settings for magnetic resonance images, and give the magnification of all photomicrographs. Define all arrows and other such indicators appearing on the figure.
5. **Figures** must be submitted in TIFF or EPS format. No more than **10** separate image files may be submitted. Cite all figures, in order, in the text. See [Guidelines for Figures](#) for detailed instructions.

6. Submission of **Video** is encouraged. Please follow our complete [Author Video Guidelines](#). Upload your videos to the [Video Submissions Site](#), according to our [Video Upload Instructions](#).

Authorship

- There is a general limit of 6 authors. If more than 6 are listed, include a table detailing each author's contribution in the cover letter.
- Each author must have contributed significantly to, and be willing to take public responsibility for, one or more aspects of the study: study design, data acquisition, and/or data analysis and interpretation. All authors must have been actively involved in the drafting and critical revision of the manuscript, and all must provide final approval of the version to be published. If a research group is designated as the author of an article, see our [Group Authorship](#) instructions for guidance.
- Individuals who have contributed to only 1 section of the manuscript or have contributed only cases should be credited in an acknowledgment footnote. See the ICMJE [author definitions](#) page for additional guidance regarding authors and non-author contributors.
- A non-author writer who is employed by a commercial organization must be mentioned, along with the name of his or her employer, in an acknowledgment footnote. The non-author writer must also submit an ICMJE [Conflict of Interest Statement](#) form.
- The order of names reflects only the preference of the authors. Any change in authorship (including the order of names and the designation of the corresponding author) after the initial review process necessitates a signed letter, from all authors, agreeing to the change.
- If an author of the paper is deceased, the corresponding author is responsible for submitting written permission from the next of kin in order for the author to remain on the byline.

What to Expect After Submission

- Manuscripts are generally evaluated by the JBJS editorial staff and assigned to one of the Co-Editors of *JBJS OA*. In most cases, the Co-Editor then sends the paper to consultant reviewers.
- If a reviewer has a conflict of interest regarding the subject matter of a manuscript, he/she discloses this to the Co-Editors of *JBJS OA*, who make the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of the manuscript. The Co-Editors have no known conflicts or competing interests.
- If reviewers disagree regarding acceptance of a manuscript, the decision may be arbitrated at a workshop, which JBJS holds several times a year.
- The corresponding author is informed of the publication date of an accepted manuscript approximately 6 weeks before publication.

Article Processing Charge (APC)

The APC is \$2,250 USD. The APC is charged on acceptance of the article and must be paid in full within 30 days by credit card by the author, funding agency, or institution. If the author originally submitted the paper to *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* and has paid a submission fee, the author will receive a \$250 USD coupon code to use upon acceptance for publication in *JBJS OA*, making the total APC \$2,000 USD. Additional payment instructions will be provided at the time of acceptance.

Public Access Policy

Publishing in *JBJS OA* fulfills the requirements of all outside funding bodies mandating either open access publication or deposit in a public repository. Articles will be free immediately upon publication. As a brand-new journal, *JBJS OA* is not yet included in PubMed Central or PubMed. As soon as the required application criteria are met, the journal will apply for indexing in these databases. When accepted, indexing and article deposits will occur retroactively, and content will be deposited to PubMed Central immediately on publication.

Embargo Policy for Accepted Manuscripts

Information concerning or contained in your article (including its status—i.e., accepted, under review, etc.) cannot be discussed with the media, published, broadcast, posted online, or otherwise placed in the public domain until after the publication date of the issue. *It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all coauthors are aware of this policy.* See our [Ethics Policy](#) for additional information regarding this policy, including guidelines for presenting the results of your work.

Appeals Process

JBJS conducts workshops several times per year where contested decisions may be arbitrated.

An author who wishes to appeal a decision should contact oaeditorial@jbjs.org with a detailed letter that explains the reason for the appeal. This letter will be considered by the handling editor, and the author will be notified of the final decision. Decisions on appeals are final without exception. Priority is given to new submissions, so the appeal process may take longer than the original submission process.

Supplementary Links

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