

SINGAPORE JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology is the official Journal of the Singapore Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society. It provides a medium for the publication of original articles related to Obstetrics & Gynaecology in all its aspects. It also provides a source for continuing medical education for both the members of the Society and those members of the medical profession of Singapore who have an interest in any part of the discipline.

The Journal will consider for publication original articles relating to clinical practice in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and to research, whether basic or applied, in fields relating to the subject. Besides original articles, the Journal will publish case reports, review articles, book reviews and letters to the editor.

Articles are accepted on the understanding that they have not been accepted or submitted simultaneously elsewhere in this or a similar form, and that a substantial part of the material contained in the article has not been published elsewhere. In the matter of multiple publications please see the British Medical Journal 1984; 288:52. For guidelines, on authorship please see the British Medical Journal 1985; 291:722. It is assumed by the Editor and his committee that articles are submitted with the approval of all co-authors involved. The opinions expressed in any paper are those of the authors and the Editorial Committee does not necessarily agree with them, nor are they unless explicitly stated the official views of the Singapore Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society.

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The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from March 1993 onwards will follow the Vancouver style of Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. These guidelines were laid down by an International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Authors are advised to follow closely these guidelines for preparing manuscripts.

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International Committee of Medical Journal Editors*

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Type the manuscript double-spaced, including title page, abstract, text, acknowledgements, references, tables, and legends

Each manuscript component should begin on a new page, in the following sequence: title page; abstract and key words; text; acknowledgements; references; tables (each table complete with title and footnotes on a separate page); and legends for illustrations.

Illustrations must be good-quality, unmounted glossy prints, usually 127 x 173 mm (5 x 7 in.), but no larger than 203 x 254 mm (8 x 10 in.).

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Multiple publication - that is, the publication more than once of the same study, irrespective of whether the wording is the same - is rarely justified. Secondary publication in another language is one possible justification, provided the following conditions are met

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- (4) The secondary version reflects faithfully the data and interpretations of the primary version.
- (5) A footnote on the title page of the secondary version informs readers, peers, and documenting agencies that the paper was edited, and is being published, for a national audience in parallel with a primary version based on the same data and interpretations. A suitable footnote might read as follows: "This article is based on a study first reported in the [title of journal, with full reference]".

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Type the manuscript on white bond paper, 216 x 279 mm (8 1/2 x 11 in.) or ISO A4 (212 x 297 mm), with margins of at least 25 mm (1 in.). Type only on one side of the paper. Use double-spacing throughout, including title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments,

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TITLE PAGE

The title page should carry (a) the title of the article, which should be concise but informative; (b) first name, middle initial, and last name of each author, with highest academic degree(s) and institutional affiliation; (c) name and address of author responsible for correspondence about the manuscript; (f) name and address of author to whom requests for reprints should be addressed or statement that reprints will not be available from the author; (g) source(s) of support in the form of grants, equipment, drugs, or all of these; and (h) a short running head or foot line of no more than 40 characters (count letters and spaces) placed at the foot of the title page and identified.

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Authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to (a) conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data; and to (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and on (c) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions (a), (b), and (c) must all be met. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not justify authorship. General supervision of the research group is also not sufficient for authorship. Any part of an article critical to its main conclusions must be the responsibility of at least one author.

A paper with corporate (collective) authorship must specify the key persons responsible for the article; others contributing to the work should be recognized separately (see Acknowledgments).

Editors may require authors to justify the assignment of authorship.

ABSTRACT AND KEY WORDS

The second page should carry a structured abstract of no more than 250 words. The abstract should state

the purposes of the study or investigation, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals; observational and analytical methods), main findings (give specific data and their statistical significance, if possible), and the principal conclusions. Emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

SAMPLE OF STRUCTURAL ABSTRACT

Objective : To compare the pregnancy rates between tubal and uterine embryo transfers.

Design : Prospective randomized controlled study
Setting : Patients enrolled in a university based assisted reproduction program.

Patient : Subfertile couples where the females have/do not have tubal blockage and the males have normal or subnormal semen profiles.

Interventions :The females were stimulated with hormones and monitored for follicular growth by ultrasound and rising estradiol levels.

Main Outcome Measure: Pregnancy rates

Results :

Conclusions :

Keywords :

Below the abstract provide, and identify as such, 3 to 10 key words or short phrases that will assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and may be published with the abstract. Use terms from the medical subject headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus; if suitable MeSH terms are not yet available for recently introduced terms, present terms may be used.

TEXT

The text of observational and experimental articles is usually - but not necessarily - divided into sections with the headings: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Long articles may need subheadings within some sections to clarify their content, especially the Results and Discussion sections. Other types of articles such as case reports, reviews, and editorials are likely to need other formats. Authors should consult individual journals for further guidance.

INTRODUCTION

State the purpose of the article. Summarize the rationale for the study or observation. Give only strictly pertinent references, and do not review the subject extensively. Do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

METHODS

Describe your selection of the observational or experimental subjects (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly. Identify the methods, apparatus (manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Give references to established methods, including statistical methods (see below); provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration.

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When reporting experiments on human subjects indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983. Do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in any illustrative material. When reporting experiments on animals indicate whether the institution's or the National Research Council's guide for, or any national law on, the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

STATISTICS

Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals). Avoid sole reliance on statistical hypothesis testing, such as the use of P values, which fails to convey important quantitative information. Discuss eligibility of experimental subjects. Give details about randomization. Describe the methods for and success of any blinding of observations. Report treatment complications. Give numbers of observations. Report losses to observation (such as dropouts from a clinical trial). References for study design and statistical methods should be to standard works (with pages stated) when possible rather than to papers in which the designs or methods were originally reported. Specify any general-use computer programs used.

Put general descriptions of methods in the Methods section. When data are summarized in the Results section specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Restrict tables and figures to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess its support. Use graphs as an alternative to

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Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasize or summarize only important observations.

DISCUSSION

Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. Include in the Discussion section the implications of the findings and their limitations, including implications for future research. Relate the observations to other relevant studies. Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by your data. Avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not been completed. State new hypotheses when warranted, but clearly label them as such. Recommendations, when appropriate, may be included.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At an appropriate place in the article (title-page footnote or appendix to the text; see the journal's requirement) one or more statements should specify (a) contributions that need acknowledging but do not justify as authorship, such as general support by a departmental chairman; (b) acknowledgments of technical help; (c) acknowledgments of financial and material support, specifying the nature of the support; (d) financial relationships that may pose a conflict of interest.

Persons who have contributed intellectually to the paper but whose contributions do not justify authorship may be named and their functions or contribution described - for example, "scientific adviser", "critical review of study proposal", "data collection" or "participation in clinical trial". Such persons must have given their permission to be named. Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission from persons acknowledged by name, because readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions.

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Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses. References cited only in tables or in legends to figures should be numbered in accordance with a sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or illustration.

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Examples of correct forms of references are given below.

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(1) Standard journal article (List all authors, but if the number exceeds six followed by et al.)

You CH, Lee KY, Chey RY, Menguy R. Electrogastrographic study of patients with unexplained nausea, bloating and vomiting. *Gastroenterology* 1980 Aug; 79(2):311-4

As an option, if a journal carries continuous pagination throughout a volume, the month and issue number critical may be omitted.

You CH, Lee KY, Chey RY, Menguy R. Electrogastrographic study of patients with unexplained nausea, bloating and vomiting. *Gastroenterology* 1980;79(2):311-4.

Goate AM, Haynes AR, Owen MJ, Farrall M, James LA, Lai LY, et al. Predisposing locus for Alzheimer's disease on chromosome 21. *Lancet* 1989; 1:352-5(2)

(2) *Organization as author*

The Royal Marsden Hospital Bone-Marrow Transplantation Team Failure of syngeneic bone marrow graft without preconditioning in post-hepatitis marrow aplasia. *Lancet* 1977;2:742-4.

(3) *No author given*

Coffee drinking and cancer of the pancreas [editorial] *BMJ* 1 1981 ;283:628

(4) *Articles in a foreign language*

Massone L, Borghi S, Pesarino A, Piccini R, Gambini C. Localisations palmaires purpuriques de la dermatite herpétiforme. *Ann Dermatol Vénéréol* 1987;114:1545-7.

(5) *Volume with supplement*

Magni F, Rossoni G, Berti F BN-52021 protects guinea-pig from heart anaphylaxis. *Pharmacol Res Commun* 1988;20 Suppl 5:75-8.

(6) *Issue with supplement*

Gardos G, Cole JO, Haskeli D, Marby D, Paine SS, Moore P. The natural history of tardive dyskinesia *J Clin Psychopharmacol* 1988;8(4 Suppl):31S-37S.

(7) *Volume with part*

Hanly C. Metaphysics and innateness: a psychoanalytic perspective. *Int J Psychoanal* 1988;69(Pt 3):389-99

(8) *Issue with part*

Edwards L, Meyskens F, Levine N Effect of oral isotretinoin on dysplastic nevi. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1989;20(2 Pt 1):257-60.

(9) *Issue with no volume*

Baumeister M. Origins and control of stereotyped movements. *Monogr Am Assoc Ment Defic* 1978;(3): 353-84.

(10) *No issue or volume*

Danoek K. Skiing in and through the history of medicine. *Nord medicinhist Arsb* 1982;86-100.

(11) *Pagination in Roman numerals*

Ronne Y. Ansvarsfall. Blodtransfusion till fel patient *Vardfacket* 1989;13:XXVI-XCVII.

(12) *Type of article indicated as needed*

Dickey RP, Curole DN, Taylor SN. Estradiol target level in treating endometriosis [letter]. Editor's comment. *Fertil Steril* 1992;57: 1362.

(13) *Article containing retraction*

Shishido A. Retraction notice: Effect of platinum compounds on murine lymphocyte mitogenesis (Retraction of Alsabti EA, Ghalib ON, Salem MH. In: *Jpn J Med Sci Biol* 1979;32:53-65). *Jpn J Med Sci Biol* 1980;33:235-7

(14) *Article retracted*

Aisabti EA, Ghalib ON, Salem MH. Effect of platinum compounds on murine lymphocyte mitogenesis [Retracted by Shishido A. In: *Jpn J Med Sci Biol* 1980;33:235-7]. *Jpn J Med Sci Biol* 1979;32:53-65.

(15) *Article containing comment*

Piccoli A, Bossatti A. Early steroid therapy in IgA neuropathy: *Nephron* 1989;51:289-91. Comment on: *Nephron* 1989;51:289-91. Comment on: *Nephron* 1988;48 :12-7.

(16) *Article commented on*

Kobayashi Y, Fujii K, Hiki Y, Tateno S, Kurokawa A, Kamiyama M. Steroid therapy in IgA nephropathy: a retrospective study in heavy proteinuric cases [see comments]. *Nephron* 1988;48:12-7. Comment in: *Nephron* 1989;51 :289-91

(17) *Article with published erratum*

Schofield A. The CAGE questionnaire and psychological health [published erratum appears in *Br J Addict* 1989;84:701]. *Br J Addict* 1988;83:761-4.

BOOKS AND OTHER MONOGRAPHS(18) *Personal author(s)*

Colson JH, Armour WJ. Sports injuries and their treatment 2nd rev. ed London: S. Paul, 1986.

(19) *Editor (s), compiler as tuthor*

Diener HC, Wilkinson M, editors Drug-induced headache. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1988.

(20) *Organisation as author and publisher*

Virginia Law Foundation. The medical and legal implications of AIDS. Charlottesville: The Foundation, 1987.

(21) *Chapters in a book*

Weinstein L, Swartz MN. Pathologic properties of invading microorganisms In: Sodeman WA Jr, Sodeman WA, editors. *Pathologic physiology: mechanisms of disease*. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1974:457-72.

(22) *Conference proceedings*

Vivian VL, editor. Child abuse and neglect: a medical community response. Proceedings of the First AMA National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect; 1984 Mar 30-31; Chicago. Chicago: American Medical Association, 1985

(23) *Conference paper*

Harley NH Comparing radon daughter dosimetric and risk models. In: Gammage RB, Kaye SV, editors. *Indoor air and human health Proceedings of the Seventh Life Sciences Symposium*; 1984 Oct 29-31; Knoxville (TN). Chelsea (MI): Lewis, 1985:69-78.

(24) *Scientific and technical report*

Akutsu T. Total heart replacement device. Bethesda (MD): National Institutes of Health, National Heart and Lung Institute; 1974 Apr. Report No.: NIH-NHLI-69 2185-4.

(25) *Dissertation*

Youssef NM. School adjustment of children with congenital heart disease [dissertation]. Pittsburgh (PA):Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1988.

(26) *Patent*

Harred JF, Knight AR, McIntyre JS, inventors. Dow Chemical Company, assignee. Epoxidation process US patent 3,654,317. 1972 Apr 4.

OTHER PUBLISHED MATERIAL(27) *Newspaper article*

Rensberger B, Specter B. CFCs may be destroyed by natural process. *The Washington Post* 1989 Aug 7; Sect. A: 2 (col 5).

(28) *Audiovisual*

AIDS epidemic: the physician's role [videorecording]. Cleveland (OH); Academy of Medicine of Cleveland, 1987.

(29) *Computer file*

Renal system [computer program] MS-DOS version. Edwardsville (KS): MediSim, 1988

(30) *Legal material*

Toxic Substances Control Act: Hearing on S. 776 Before the Subcomm. on the Environment of the Senate Comm. on Commerce. 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 343 (1975).

(31) *Map*

Scotland [topographic map]. Washington: National Geographic Society (US), 1981

(32) *Book of the Bible*

Ruth 3:1-18. The Holy Bible. Authorized King James version. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1972.

(33) *Dictionary and similar references*

Ectasia. Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary 27th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1988:527.

(34) *Classical material*

The Winter's Tale: act 5, scene 1, lines 13-16. The complete works of William Shakespeare. London: Rex 1973.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

(35) *In press*

Lillywhite HB, Donald JA. Pulmonary blood flow regulation in an aquatic snake. *Science*. In press.

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Identify statistical measures of variations such as standard deviation and standard error of the mean.

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Measurements of length, height, weight, and volume should be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram, or liter) or their decimal multiples.

Temperatures should be given in degrees Celsius. Blood pressures should be given in millimeters of mercury.

All hematologic and clinical-chemistry measurements should be reported in the metric system in terms of the International System of Units (SI). Editors may request that alternative or non-SI units be added by the authors before publication.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Use only standard abbreviations. Avoid abbreviations in the title and abstract. The full term for which an abbreviation stand should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

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International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *N Engl J Med* 1991; of measurement. 324:424-8.

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors; Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *BMJ* 1991 Feb 9; 302 (6772).