

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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The manuscript of the original article should be organized in the following sections: title page, abstract, introduction, patients and methods / subjects and methods / material and methods, results, discussion, references, tables, figures, figure legends. If necessary acknowledgement, notes and conflict of interest should be written on a page after discussion. The structure of the body text of other types of manuscripts (reviews, case reports, seminars, etc.) is formed as applicable.

Each *manuscript component* (title page, etc.) begins on a separate page. All pages are numbered consecutively beginning with the title page.

Manuscript volume. The complete manuscript, which includes title page, short abstract, text of the article, literature, all figures and permissions for them and legends (tables, images, graphs, diagrams, drawings), title page and abstract in English, can have the length from 5000 to 7500 words for original paper, report, paper on the history of medicine and literature overview, while for patient presentation, practice paper, educative article it can be from 3000 to 5000 words; other articles could be from 1.000 to 3.000 words; other contributions could be up to 1.500 words.

All measurements, except blood pressure, are reported in the System International (SI) and, if necessary, in conventional units (in parentheses). Generic names are used for drugs. Brand names may be inserted in parentheses.

Title page

The title page contains the title, full names of all the authors, names and full location of the department and institution where work was performed, acknowledgments, abbreviations used, and name of the corresponding author.

The title of the article is concise but informative, and it includes animal species if appropriate.

A brief acknowledgment of grants and other assistance, if any, is included.

A list of abbreviations used in the paper, if any, is included. List abbreviations alphabetically followed by an explanation of what they stand for. In general, the use of abbreviations is discouraged unless they are essential for improving the readability of the text.

The name, telephone number, fax number, and exact postal address of the author to whom communications and reprints should be sent, are typed at the lower right corner of the title page.

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Abstract contains up to 250 words. Manuscripts with original data (original scientific work, professional work, etc..) have the abstract structured with the following paragraphs: objective, methods, results and conclusion. For other types of papers (review article, literature review, etc..), abstract is provided as a single paragraph. At the end of the abstract at least 3 key words, should be provided, according to the terms set out in the MESH classification.

Introduction page

The introduction is concise, and states the reason and specific purpose or the study.

Patients and methods / Material and methods

The selection of patients or experimental animals, including controls is described. Patients' names and hospital numbers are not used.

Methods are described in sufficient detail to permit evaluation and duplication of the work by other investigators.

When reporting experiments on human subjects, it should be indicated whether the procedures followed were in accordance with ethical standards of the Committee on human experimentation of the institution in which they were done and in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Hazardous procedures or chemicals, if used, are described in detail, including the safety precautions observed. When appropriate, a statement is included verifying that the care of laboratory animals followed the accepted standards.

Statistical methods used, are outlined.

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Results are clear and concise, and include a minimum number of tables and figures necessary for proper presentation.

Discussion

An exhaustive review of literature is not necessary. The major findings should be discussed in relation to other published works. Attempts should be made to explain differences between results of the present study and those of the others. The hypothesis and speculative statements should be clearly identified. The discussion section should not be a restatement of results, and new results should not be introduced in the discussion.

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12 - Talley NJ, Zinsmeister AR, Schleck CD, Melton LJ 3rd. Dyspepsia and dyspeptic subgroups: A population-based study. *Gastroenterology* 1992; 102: 1259-68.

Book

17 - Sherlock S. Diseases of the liver and biliary system. 8th ed. Oxford: Blackwell Sc Publ. 1989.

Chapter or article in a book

24 - Trier JJ. Celiac sprue. In: Sleisenger MH, Fordtran J5, eds. *Gastro-intestinal disease*. 4 th ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Co, 1989: 1134-52.

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