

Instructions for Authors (continued)

Submitting a Revision Online

When preparing an accepted-pending-revision manuscript, use the “Track Changes” option found under the Tools tab in Microsoft Word. Also, on each numbered page, number each line of text.

Preparing the Manuscript for Submission Online

The **title page** of each manuscript should include the title of the article; the authors’ full names and affiliations; the name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the person to whom proofs and reprint requests should be addressed; any necessary footnotes to those items; and a running title (maximum of 45 characters and spaces). Indicate specific affiliations of each author. **Information about sources of financial support or possible conflicts of interest should be placed on the title page. Also, acknowledgments should be included here.**

The **page after the title page** should list only the title because all manuscripts are blinded to reviewers. Please do not include any identifying features in the text—eg, an author’s initials or the names of institutions where the study was done or a phrase such as “our study” that, when followed by a citation, reveals authorship of the present manuscript in the reference list.

1. Abstract

For an **Original Article**, abstracts should be a maximum of 300 words and structured to include the following sections: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Level of Evidence (if the study is of humans) or Clinical Relevance (if in vitro or basic science), and Key Words. List as many as six key words. For further details, see the Editorial about evidence-based medicine in *Arthroscopy* 2004;20:1-3.

For a **Technical Note** or a **Case Report**, the abstract should be an unstructured summary (maximum length, 200 words). List as many as six key words at the end of this unstructured abstract. The body of these manuscripts should consist of: Introduction; Technique (or Case Report); and Discussion plus References and Figures/Figure Legends (if applicable).

The *Journal* will be publishing the great majority of Technical Notes and Case Reports in a “hybrid” format. The print version will consist of the abstract and one figure, which may have two parts. Thus, the unstructured abstract should always give readers the core message of the article. In the electronic version, the entire article and all figures will be published.

It is understood that some technical notes will not fit the hybrid format; such articles are allowed to exceed the recommended maximums and may be printed in their entirety, at the Editor’s discretion.

The body of an Original Article should consist of:

2. Introduction

State the problem that led to your undertaking the study, including a concise review of only the relevant literature. Conclude the introduction by stating your hypothesis and restating the purpose of the study.

3. Methods

Describe the study design (prospective or retrospective, inclusion and exclusion criteria, duration) and the study population (demographics, length of follow-up).

The statistics that you have used to analyze the data should be described in detail. You cannot make the statement, “We found no significant difference between the two groups” unless a power study was done and you include in the text the value of alpha or beta. Use of the word *significant* requires your reporting a P value. Confidence intervals of 95% are required whenever the results of survivorship analysis are given in the text, tables, or figures. Use of the word *correlation* requires you to report the correlation coefficient.

Arthroscopy encourages the use of validated outcome instruments. The use of both a generic (general) health outcome measure and a joint-specific, limb-specific, or condition-specific measure is encouraged. If an outcome instrument leads to a categorical ranking (eg, excellent or good or poor), the aggregate outcome score for each patient should be provided.

4. Results

Describe in detail the data obtained during the study. *Results obtained after less than two years of follow-up are rarely accepted for publication by the Journal.* All data in the text must be consistent with the rest of the manuscript, including data in tables, figures, and legends.

5. Discussion

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

6. Conclusions

Here you must state your new (or verified) view of the problem you outlined in the Introduction. Take special care to draw your conclusions only from your results. Check that your conclusions are firmly supported by your data. And, most important, refrain from making concluding statements that lie beyond the scope of your study.

7. References

The *Journal* follows the reference style given in the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” (see *N Engl J Med.* 1997;336:309-315 or

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