

AJNR Instructions for Authors

The *American Journal of Neuroradiology* publishes original articles pertaining to the clinical imaging, therapy, and basic science of the central and peripheral nervous system, including but not limited to the brain, spine, head and neck, interventional procedures, techniques in imaging and intervention, and related educational, socioeconomic, and medicolegal issues. The content of the *Journal* is determined by the Editors.

Categories the *AJNR* will consider for publication include major papers, case reports, technical reports, letters to the Editor, and special papers including review articles, anatomic highlights, and radiologic-pathologic correlations. Other items such as meeting information, book reviews, and news of interest to readers are solicited and approved by the Editors.

Submitted manuscripts must not contain previously published material or material under consideration for publication elsewhere unless specific permission to the contrary is obtained from an Editor. Accepted manuscripts become the property of the *AJNR* and may not be republished without its consent.

All manuscripts will undergo peer review in which an evaluation by a minimum of two referees is undertaken without their knowledge of the manuscript's authors or affiliations. An expeditious review and a subsequent decision relative to publication will then be made by an *AJNR* Editor.

The *AJNR* encourages and will give particular attention to investigations that are prospective in nature and in which specific hypotheses are proposed.

Manuscripts and all correspondence should be mailed to:

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Author Responsibilities

By submitting a manuscript for publication, each author acknowledges having made a substantial contribution in the conception and design of the study, the analysis and interpretation of the results, and the writing of the paper, and has approved the final submitted version of the paper. Each author thus also acknowledges responsibility for the integrity of the manuscript, assures the originality of the manuscript, and guarantees that duplicate or redundant publications or submissions have not occurred. If the submitted manuscript builds on previously published articles, authors are encouraged to enclose copies of those articles with the new submission. The Editors reserve the right to request the original data obtained in the investigation. Conflicts of interests and/or disclosure statements, if applicable, must be included with the submission; authors are responsible for notifying the *Journal* if such a conflict exists.

All authors should read the following instructions before submitting a manuscript to assure timely handling and review of their material. Authors should strive to present their manuscripts in a clear and logical manner. Authors are responsible for all statements made in the text.

Manuscript Submission

These instructions are based in part on recommendations as set forth in the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journal (*Ann Intern Med* 1997;126:36-47) and the *AMA Manual of Style* (8th edition, Baltimore, Md: Williams & Wilkins, 1989). Authors are encouraged to consult both of these publications, which contain helpful details on the construction and writing of scientific manuscripts. Variations from guidelines in those publications reflect the individual style of the *AJNR*.

When sending material for publication the authors must:

- Submit 3 copies of the manuscript and 3 sets of illustrations. All text is to be **double spaced** with sufficient mar-

gins and all pages are to be numbered. Type size should be at least 12 points, and margins should not be justified.

- Include a copyright release form signed by all authors (see page 940).
- Preserve anonymity by ensuring that the authors' names appear only on the title page and by eliminating references to institutions, affiliations, and to previous work by the authors (stated as such in the manuscript).
- Organize the manuscript as follows: title page, blind title page (title only), abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusion, acknowledgments (on a separate page), references, figure legends, and tables.
- Keep acronyms and abbreviations to a minimum. When an abbreviation is used, define it at first mention and follow with the abbreviation in parentheses.

Categories of Submission

Major Papers

Title Page

The following information should appear: title of article; authors' first name, middle initial, and last name; affiliations, grant support, and presentation in part or whole at any meeting. Identify the corresponding author and provide full mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

Abstract

The abstract is limited to 250 words, and should describe the essential aspects of the investigation in four subheadings: Background and Purpose (in the first sentence state the background information/rationale for the investigation; in the second sentence state your specific purpose or hypothesis), Methods, Results (summarize actual data), and Conclusion (brief statement directed to the stated purpose or hypothesis). No references should be cited.

Introduction

Include brief background information on what has been done in the past in this area and the importance of your investigation. End with a statement of the purpose or hypothesis of the study.

Methods

This section may be divided into subsections if it facilitates reading the paper. The research design, patients/subjects, material used, means of confirming diagnoses, and statistical methods should be included. Papers with statistical analysis should be prepared in consultation or coauthorship with someone who has statistical expertise. Do not mix results and discussion into this section. Do not include manufacturer's names unless the specific product is important to the procedures performed, in which case the city and state or country of the manufacturer should also be given. Indicate that informed consent has been obtained from patients who participated in clinical investigations. In animal experimentation, acknowledge that National Institutes of Health or equivalent guidelines were followed. When appropriate, indicate that approval was obtained from the institution's review board. If there is a sponsoring company, include at the end of this section what input that company had in the formulation of the paper.

Results

This section may be divided into subsections if it facilitates reading the paper. Present results in a clear, orderly fashion and include statistical results to substantiate the re-

sults. All results based on methods must be included. If tables and graphic material will ease the understanding of the results, include them; however, when the results can be summarized easily in a narrative form, do not use tables. Cite figures to illustrate findings.

Discussion

Start with limited, pertinent background information and then discuss the results of the investigation in light of what has been published in the past, the limitations of your study, the implications for patient care, and potential directions for future research. Where appropriate, cite figures and graphs.

Conclusion

In a separate section, summarize the major findings of the study and their clinical usefulness (if applicable). This paragraph should address the hypothesis or purpose stated earlier in the paper.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments should appear on a separate page. Obtaining permission to include a name in this section from the individual being acknowledged is advised.

References

- Section must be **double spaced** and begin on a separate page.
- References are numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text. All references must be cited in the text, where numbers are enclosed in parentheses on line with the text (not superscript).
- Data such as abstracts from meetings should be cited in the reference list. For meeting abstracts, cite the authors, title, society meeting, date, and location. Citations of personal communications should appear in the "Discussion" section only, and should not be used to support the authors' conclusions. Papers submitted but not yet accepted for publication should also be cited in the text (D. J. Smith, unpublished data, 1988).
- Inclusive page numbers (eg, 333–337) must be provided for all references.
- Journal names are abbreviated per *Index Medicus*.
- All authors are listed when there are six or fewer; when seven or more, the first three are listed with "et al."
- Style and punctuation of references follow the format illustrated in the following examples:

Journal article:

Meyer JR, Androux RW, Salamon N, et al. Contrast-enhanced magnetization transfer MR of the brain: importance of precontrast images. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 1997;18:1515–1521

Book:

Grossman RI, Yousem DM. *Neuroradiology: The Requisites*. St Louis, Mo: Mosby; 1994;114–116

Chapter in an edited book:

Hudgins PA, Jacobs IN, Castillo M. MR of the neck. In: Som PM, Curtin HD, eds. *Head and Neck Imaging* 3rd ed. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby; 1996;545–611

Tables

- Each table is *double spaced* and begins on a separate page without vertical or horizontal rules.
- Type size is not reduced (tables may span more than one page).
- Each table has a short, descriptive title.
- Tables are numbered in the order cited in the text.
- Abbreviations are defined as footnotes at the bottom of each table.
- Tables should not duplicate data given in the text or figures.

- The "Results" section should refer the reader to the appropriate table.

Figures and Legends

- Three complete sets of original figures are submitted unmounted in three separate envelopes.
- Figures should not be larger than 5 × 7 in (13 × 18 cm) and must have white borders.
- Legends should be in the present tense (eg, "T1-weighted MR image shows . . .").
- Images should not be redundant with others. Excessive illustrative material is to be avoided.
- Multiple images should not be combined into a single print; rather each figure **part** should be a **separate print**.
- Each figure should be labeled on the back with the figure number and the top of the print indicated. Authors' names must **not** appear on the back of the prints.
- Removable (rub-on) arrows and letters of professional quality are to be used and should be placed directly on figures, not on tissue overlays. Labels should contrast well with the background.
- Images should be uniform in size and magnification.
- Sagittal projections or lateral images are submitted with the patient facing the reader's left.
- Figure parts of the same patient should have the same figure number.
- Illustrations should not have marks, circles, or numbers in the area around the image and should be free of all identifying information relative to the patient and institution.
- Line drawings should be professional in quality, done in black ink on a white background.
- Written permission for use of all previously published illustrations must be included with submission, and the source should be referenced in the legends.
- Written permission from any person recognizable in a photo is required.
- Legends must be **double spaced**, and figures are numbered in the order cited in the text.
- Submit color prints only if color is essential in understanding the material presented. If color prints are used, a letter indicating the author's willingness to cover the cost (\$300/part) should be included with the submission.
- Label all pertinent findings.

Case Reports and Technical Reports

While the journal encourages the submission of full-length major papers, it will consider the publication of concise case reports and technical reports. These should be unusually educational and medically important. In addition to a title page (formatted as described above), include a *summary* (75-word limit) describing the essence of the report, an *introduction* (two or three sentences of background information); a *case report* (written in the past tense) or a *description of the technique*, and a *discussion* highlighting the educational value of the case or the technique. *References* should be limited (no more than 12 preferred) to only those that give essential background material. *References*, *figures*, and *legends* follow the guidelines described above under "Major Papers."

What constitutes a case report and what represents a small series of patients for inclusion in a major paper is left initially to the judgment of the author, but a final decision on the category for publication rests with the Editors.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be used to describe in an extremely brief manner either an observation of interest to our readers, an opinion relative to the practice of neuroradiology, or constructive observations or criticisms of published material. Letters should be no more than two pages (**double spaced**) and should be submitted on plain paper with a brief title but no salutation. A maximum of four references may be included. Letters are published at the discretion of the *Journal* and are subject to editing.