

SARAJEVO MEDICAL JOURNAL (SaMJ) – AUTHOR INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the author instructions for Sarajevo Medical Journal. Our journal is dedicated to publishing high-quality research in the field of general medicine, and we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and scientific rigor. We invite researchers and clinicians to submit their original work, which contributes to the advancement of medical science and clinical practice.

Before preparing your manuscript for submission, please carefully review and adhere to the following guidelines. These instructions are designed to ensure that your submission meets our editorial standards and facilitates a smooth peer review and publication process.

Authors are accountable for all assertions and viewpoints expressed in their respective works. In cases where an article involves multiple authors, it is imperative to furnish complete contact details (telephone number and email address) of the corresponding author, who will collaborate with the Editorial Board during the publication process.

Authors must specify whether human procedures adhered to ethical standards in medical deontology and the Declaration of Helsinki (last revised in 2013). Original articles are expected to exhibit new perspectives. Observational original research studies should adhere to the STROBE (STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology) guidelines. Studies focusing on diagnostic accuracy must conform to the STARD statement (Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies), while non-randomized evaluations of public behavior should follow TREND (Transparent Reporting of Evaluations with Nonrandomized Designs) guidelines. For articles presenting animal study results, acceptance for publication is contingent upon explicit indication of adherence to ethical standards, in accordance with ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines. In the context of clinical trials, authors are required to comply with CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) guidelines, and the clinical trial number should be clearly stated. Clinical trials, as per the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition, involve the prospective assignment of human participants or groups to health-related interventions to assess effects on health outcomes (<http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/>). Systematic reviews and meta-analyses should adhere to PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, while case reports should follow CARE (Case Reports) guidelines. Authors must provide a statement confirming that their study has received approval from the appropriate ethical committee or institutional review board (IRB). Additionally, informed consent must be obtained from all participants (or their legal guardians) prior to their involvement in the study.

We look forward to your contributions and appreciate your commitment to ethical research and publication practices.

1. General information

1.1 Scope and Aim

Our journal aims to publish high-quality research articles, reviews, case reports, and editorials in the field of general medicine. We welcome submissions that contribute to the advancement of medical science and clinical practice.

1.2 Manuscript Categories

We accept the following types of manuscripts:

Original Research Articles

Review Articles

Case Reports

Editorials

Letters to the Editor

Phd Student Corner - Short communications

Images in medicine

Article Drafting

Submit the article in Word format (doc or docx) via email to the Editorial Board. Original articles should not exceed 3,500 words, Review articles should not surpass 4,500 words, and Case reports should be limited to 1,500 words, including References. Letters to the Editor should have a main text of no more than 400 words, with up to 5 references and an optional small table or figure. Editorials, which are opinion-based essays, should address a scientific dilemma of interest to readers. They should be authored by a single individual, devoid of an abstract, and should not exceed 1,500 words with up to 30 references.

Type of the article	Maximum number of words	Maximum number of references	Tables	Figures
Original research	3,500	40	≤3	≤5
Review article	4,500	60	≤3	≤3
Case report	1,500	10	≤2	≤4
Letter to Editor	400	5	≤2	≤2
Editorials	1,500	30	≤2	≤2
Phd Student Corner - Short communications	1000	10	≤2	≤2
Images in medicine	200	5	0	5

PhD candidates have the option to showcase their thesis in brief communications. These can describe new and preliminary findings that need confirmation through additional research.

Authors should draw their conclusions cautiously.

The “Images in Medicine” section will contain what is most intriguing in clinical practice for readers, which, directly through graphical representations, can lead to a diagnosis.

Articles should be written entirely in English. The use of United States English is strongly recommended. Latin terms should be avoided; if necessary, they should be added in brackets after the English terms (and written in italic). Drug names should be presented only by their generic names. All abbreviations and acronyms must be spelled out when first mentioned in

the text, followed by the abbreviated form in brackets for subsequent use. Measurements should adhere to the International System of Units.

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Permission from the publisher of Sarajevo Medical Journal is not required to use tables or figures from the journal in other periodicals, books, or media for scholarly, educational, or commercial purposes.

The Journal also follows the open access policy of PubMed Central (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>) and ScienceCentral (<http://www.e-sciencecentral.org/>), while deposit policy (self-archiving policy) is in compliance with Sherpa/ Romeo (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>).

The author is not permitted to archive the pre-print (i.e., the version before peer review). However, they are allowed to archive the post-print (i.e., the final draft after peer review), as well as the publisher's version/PDF.

2. Manuscript Preparation

2.1 General Formatting

Manuscripts should be written in English. Use a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman) at 12-point size. Double-space the text and use 2.5 cm margins on all sides. Number all pages consecutively, starting with the title page.

Tables and figures should be appropriately integrated into the text, regardless of the program used for their creation. Preferably, use XLS or XLSX format for graphs or charts. Each figure should be saved as a separate file in TIF, EPS, JPG, or PDF format. Submitted figures should have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI, with a minimum image width of 6 cm.

2.2. Cover Letter

A cover letter must be submitted along with the article and it should encompass the following components:

- A declaration affirming that the research has not been published or accepted for publication in any other journal.
- Confirmation that the research has received approval from the Ethical Committee of the Institution.
- An elucidation of the scientific contribution of the article.
- A disclosure of any potential competing interests.
- A compilation of suggested or excluded potential peer reviewers for the article.

Additionally, the cover letter should feature the date of submission, the article title, and information about any prior rejection by another journal. Cover Letter must be signed by the corresponding author.

2.3. Article Structure

2.3.1. Title Page

The title page should include:

- Title of the manuscript written in English.
- Full names (surname, family name), affiliations (details including department, university, or organizational affiliation, and location, specifying city, state, and country), and ORCID iDs of all authors.
- Corresponding author's name, address, telephone number, and email address, ORCID ID.
- Acknowledgements and funding sources.
- Conflict of interest statement.

2.3.2. Abstract

For original research and review articles, provide a structured abstract (up to 300 words) with the following headings: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion and Key words.

For case reports, provide the following headings: Introduction, Aim, Case Report, Conclusion, and Key words (up to 150 words).

Review articles, Letters to the Editor, and Editorials are not obliged to adhere to this structure. The abstract should not include any references.

Key words should comprise 3 to 6 words aligned with the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.htm>. Abbreviations in the title and abstract are not permissible.

2.3.3. Article Body

In case of original articles, the content must be systematic and structural, divided into following chapters:

- **Introduction:** Briefly state the background and objectives.
- **Materials And Methods:** Describe the study design, setting, participants, interventions, and statistical methods.
- **Results:** Present the main findings with appropriate statistical analyses.
- **Discussion:** **Interpret the results in the context of existing research, discuss limitations, and** suggest future research directions.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the main findings and their implications.
- **References**
- **Acknowledgment**
- **Declaration of patient consent**
- **Authors' Contributions**
- **Financial support and sponsorship**
- **Conflict of interest**

For case reports the content must be divided into following chapters:

- **Introduction:** Provide background information and the purpose of the report.
- **Case Presentation:** Describe the patient's history, clinical findings, diagnostic testing, interventions, and outcomes.
- **Discussion:** Discuss the case in the context of the literature.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the lessons learned from the case.
- **References**
- **Acknowledgment**
- **Declaration of patient consent**
- **Authors' Contributions**
- **Financial support and sponsorship**
- **Conflict of interest**

Review articles, Letter to Editor, Editorials, PhD Student Corner - Short communications and Images in medicine do not have to follow the aforementioned structure.

Introduction

The introduction is a brief and focused section of the article that outlines the purpose of the research in relation to other works on the same topic. It is essential to articulate the primary problem, the research's objective, and/or the primary hypothesis under investigation.

Materials And Methods

This section should provide a description of either original methods or modifications to existing ones. If a method has been previously documented, it suffices to include it in the reference list. In clinical-epidemiological studies, details should cover the sample, protocol, type of clinical investigation, and the location and timeframe of the study. Essential characteristics of the investigation, such as randomization, double-blind study, cross-reference study, placebo-controlled study, etc., should be specified. Standard values, prospective or retrospective study design, and the selection and number of subjects, including inclusion and exclusion criteria, need to be addressed.

Results

This section should present a comprehensive list of results along with their level of statistical significance. Results should be visually represented using tables, graphs, and figures, directly integrated into the text with appropriate numbering and concise headings. Table headings should be positioned above the table, while figures and graphs should have their respective headings underneath.

Discussion

The discussion should involve the interpretation of study findings, placing results within the context of other relevant trial outcomes reported in the literature. It should conclude by either confirming or refuting the stated aim or hypothesis.

Conclusion

The conclusion should be succinct, encapsulating the most crucial findings from the investigation and exploring their potential clinical applications. Both affirmative and negative conclusions should be included.

2.3.4. References

Authors are responsible for accuracy of their references. References should be written in Vancouver Style, according to ICMJE sample references. Vancouver is a numbered referencing style commonly used in medicine and science and it consists of: citations to someone else's work in the text, indicated by the use of a number and a sequentially numbered reference list at the end of the document providing full details of the corresponding in-text reference. Enter author's surname followed by no more than 2 initials (full stop). If there is more than 1 author: give all authors' names and separate each by a comma and a space. For articles with 1 to 6 authors, list all authors. For articles with more than 6 authors, list the first 6 authors then add 'et al.' Only the first word of the article title and words that normally begin with a capital letter are capitalized. Journal titles should be abbreviated (to decipher/find correct abbreviations, see: PubMed Journals Database. Follow the date with a semi-colon; give the volume number (no space) followed by issue number in brackets. Abbreviate page numbers where possible, e.g.: 133-39.

(e.g. Mensah GA, Fuster V, Roth GA. A Heart-Healthy and Stroke-Free World: Using Data to Inform Global Action. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2023;82(25):2343-9) (less than 6 authors).

(e.g. Devesa A, Ibanez B, Malick WA, Tinuoye EO, Bustamante J, Peyra C, et al. Primary Prevention of Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Young Adults: JACC Review Topic of the Week. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2023;82(22):2152-62) (more than 6 authors).

2.3.5. Tables And Figures

- Tables: Number tables consecutively and provide a brief title for each. Include footnotes as needed. Title should be written on the top of each table.
- Figures: Number figures consecutively and include a legend explaining symbols, abbreviations, and measurement units. Note that a title should be written at the bottom of each figure.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary materials such as datasets, multimedia files, or additional figures can be submitted. They should be clearly marked and referenced in the main text.

3. Ethical Considerations

3.1 Human and Animal Rights

Manuscripts reporting studies involving human participants must include a statement of ethical approval from the appropriate institutional review board (IRB).

Studies involving animals must include a statement of compliance with ethical standards for the care and use of animals.

3.2 Declaration of Helsinki

All research involving human participants must adhere to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Authors should include a statement confirming compliance with these principles.

3.3 Informed Consent

Authors must confirm that informed consent was obtained from all participants (or their legal guardians) for studies involving human participants.

3.4 Conflict of Interest

Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that could influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript.

3.5 Funding

All sources of funding for the research must be disclosed.

3.6. Acknowledgment

In this section, individuals who contributed to the work but do not meet the authorship criteria can be duly acknowledged, with their specific contributions described.

3.7. Authors' Contributions

Authors' Contributions should adhere to the criteria set by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE):

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
- Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published; and
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

3.8. Financial Support and Sponsorship

All sources of funding should be disclosed in this section.

3.9. Conflict of Interest

This section should list all conflicts of interest. Conflict of interest arises when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that could inappropriately influence their actions. Financial relationships, such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, and paid expert testimony, are identifiable conflicts of interest, but conflicts can also arise from personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

4. Submission Process

4.1 Online Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted via e-mail: sarajevomedicaljournal@gmail.com.

4.2. Peer review

Each paper will undergo an initial review by the Editor and one member of the Editorial Board in the relevant scientific field. Subsequently, the article will undergo double-blind peer review, involving at least two reviewers in the scientific field and statisticians for statistical methods. A Language Editor will conduct a revision for adherence to high English language standards. After a minimum of two reviews, the corresponding author will be informed of the review outcome and next steps, which may include refusal, minimal revision, major revision, or acceptance. All submissions will be checked using similarity detection software at least twice: upon submission and final revision.

In cases of ethical misconduct, the Editorial Board will take action following The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines and practices outlined by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). Upon acceptance, authors must fulfill, sign, and submit the Author(s) Agreement and Copyright Transfer Form to SaMJ.

4.3 Publication Fees

Publication in the Sarajevo Medical Journal does not necessitate payment of article processing charges.

4.4 Open Access Policy

Our journal follows an open access policy, ensuring that all published articles are freely available to the public.

Contact Information

For any queries, please contact the editorial office at sarajevomedicaljournal@gmail.com.