

Instructions for Authors

Scope

Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic and Related Surgery seeks to provide readers with current information by publishing the best papers on clinical and basic research, review articles, technical notes, case reports, and editorials about the latest developments in arthroscopic surgery, knee surgery, and orthopaedic sports surgery. All articles are subject to peer review. Letters to the Editor and comments on the Journal's content or policies are always welcome.

All submissions to *Arthroscopy* must comply with the Instructions for Authors.

Studies should be in compliance with human studies committees and animal welfare regulations at the authors' institutions and also in compliance with Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

Author warranties regarding any submitted manuscript:

- Any manuscript or any data within a manuscript to be submitted to the *Arthroscopy* Journal for peer review is original work, has been written by the stated authors, and has not been published elsewhere. Likewise, a similar manuscript has not been submitted to or published by any other journal, either by you or any of your coauthors.
- Any manuscript to be submitted to the *Arthroscopy* Journal is not currently being considered for publication by any other journal and will not be submitted for such review while under review by this Journal.
- If there is any possibility, because of its content, that a manuscript to be submitted might be construed as duplicating in whole or in part another actual or pending publication by you or any of your coauthors, it is the corresponding author's responsibility to advise the editors of the *Arthroscopy* Journal of this possibility and fully disclose the particulars of this potential conflict for the purpose of determining the propriety of this Journal's reviewing the proposed submission.

Online Submission and Review at *Arthroscopy* (<http://ees.elsevier.com/arth/>)

All manuscripts are to be submitted electronically through the *Arthroscopy* online submission and review system Web site (<http://ees.elsevier.com/arth/>). There, after registering as an author, you will be guided, step by step, through the uploading of your own files and your approving of the single PDF that will be created from them. Through our Web site, you can track the progress of your manuscript. Communications about a manuscript will be handled through e-mail. Please access the Web site for more specifics about online submission, including a Tutorial for Authors, artwork guidelines, and a link to Author Support by e-mail that is monitored "24/7."

Recommended Maximums for Articles Submitted to *Arthroscopy*

Type of Article	Number of Words*	References	Figures (Figure Parts)	Tables
Original Article	4,000	35	7 (15)	4
Concise Review†	1,700	10	1 (2)	1
Level V Evidence†	1,600	4	0	0
Current Concepts†	4,000	75	10 (24)	4
Systematic Review	4,500	50	7 (15)	4
Meta-analysis	4,000	50	7 (15)	4
Technical Note	1,500‡	8	3 (6)‡	1
Case Report§	1,000	5	2 (4)	0
Letter to Editor & Reply	500	4	2 (2)	0

*Maximum number of words is exclusive of the title page, blind title page, references, and figure legends.

†Please note that *Concise Review*, *Level V Evidence*, and *Current Concepts* articles are submitted at the invitation of the Editor-in-Chief or Assistant Editor-in-Chief. However, authors are encouraged to e-mail the Editorial office (dvannoy@wfubmc.edu) with ideas for these types of articles.

‡Technical Notes exceeding these recommendations are sometimes allowed when the subject is broad enough to require more data to convey the message adequately; however, brevity remains a key goal.

§Only a very limited number of Case Reports are accepted by the Journal.

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Instructions for Authors (continued)

Preparing the Manuscript for Submission Online

Text Style

- Double space your manuscript.
- Use *continuous* line numbering.
- Type text flush left (i.e., do not indent paragraphs), using upper and lowercase letters as appropriate.
- Enter only one space after punctuation.
- Use two hard returns at the end of each paragraph (i.e., one blank line should appear between paragraphs).
- Use two hard returns between headings and text.
- Do not justify the right margin of your manuscript.

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

The page after the title page (first page of Blinded Manuscript) should list only the title because all manuscripts are blinded to reviewers. Please do not include any identifying features in the body of the text, e.g., 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 **Original Articles**, abstracts should be a *maximum of 300 words* and structured to include the following sections: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions, and Level of Evidence (if the study is of humans) or Clinical Relevance (if in vitro or basic science). For further details, see the Editorial about evidence-based medicine in *Arthroscopy* 2004; 20:1-3.

For **Systematic Reviews** and **Meta-analyses**, the abstract and text should be structured using the same headings as an Original Article.

For **Technical Notes** or **Case Reports**, the abstract should be an unstructured summary (maximum length, 200 words). The body of these manuscripts should consist of: Introduction; Technique (or Case Report); and Discussion plus References and Figures/Figure Legends (if applicable).

For **Current Concepts** and **Level V Evidence** articles, the abstract should be an unstructured summary (maximum length, 300 words).

For **Concise Reviews**, the abstract should be an unstructured summary (maximum length, 200 words).

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 restating the *purpose* of the study and stating your *hypothesis*.

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 (e.g., 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? (1) Compare and contrast your study with others in the relevant world literature (note that a complete literature review is unnecessary). (2) Analyze your data and discuss both the strengths and limitations of your study.

6. Conclusions

Here you must briefly 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, or unnecessary statements such as "further studies are warranted." **Your conclusions in the text must essentially match those in the abstract.**

7. References

The Journal follows the reference style given in the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Bio-

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