

# GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

The ***Journal of Hepatology***, the official journal of the **European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)**, publishes articles describing clinical and basic investigations in the field of hepatology.

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## TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS

### Original Manuscripts

Original articles describing clinical and basic investigations in the field of hepatology. Manuscripts submitted in this category are expected to be concise, well organized, and clearly written.

- The maximum length is **6000** words, **including** the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends.
- The structured abstract must not exceed **250** words.
- The title must not exceed **130** characters.
- A maximum in total **8 figures and/or tables** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **100**.
- The abstract **must be organized as follows**:
  - Background & Aims
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusions

Do not use abbreviations, footnotes or references in the abstract. An electronic word count of the abstract must be included.

- Three to ten key words at the end of the abstract must be provided.
- The manuscript must be arranged as follows:
  - a. Title page
  - b. Abstract in the *Journal of Hepatology* format
  - c. Introduction
  - d. Materials and methods (or Patients and methods)
  - e. Results
  - f. Discussion
  - g. Acknowledgements
  - h. References
  - i. Tables
  - j. Figure legends
  - k. Figures

Acceptance of original manuscripts will be based upon originality and importance of the investigation. These manuscripts are reviewed by the Editors and, in the majority of cases, by two experts in the field. Manuscripts requiring extensive revision will be at a disadvantage for publication and will be rejected. Authors shall be responsible for the quality of language and style and are strongly advised against submitting a manuscript which is not

written in grammatically correct English. The Editors reserve the right to reject poorly written manuscripts even if their scientific content is qualitatively suitable for publication. Manuscripts are submitted with the understanding that they are original contributions and do not contain data that have been published elsewhere or are under consideration by another journal. Meeting abstracts do not constitute prior publication.

### Review Articles

Review articles on selected clinical and basic topics of interest for the readers of the *Journal of Hepatology* **will be solicited by the Editors**. Review articles are expected to be clear, concise and updated.

- The maximum length is **5000** words, **excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **150**.
- The inclusion of a maximum of **4 high-quality tables** and **4 colored figures** to summarize critical points is highly desirable.
- Review articles must be accompanied by a title page and a summary.
- Reviews should include at least one **Key Point Box**, with a maximum of 5 bullet points, that briefly summarizes the content of the review.

Review articles are reviewed by the Editors and may be sent to outside expert reviewers before a final decision for publication is made. Revisions may be required.

### Editorials

This section consists of **invited** brief editorial comments on articles published in the *Journal of Hepatology*.

- The length of an editorial should not exceed **1500** words, **excluding** references.
- A maximum of **1 table** or **1 figure** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **20**.
- A title page must be provided.

### Case Reports

Case reports are not encouraged and will only be accepted if they represent an outstanding contribution to the aetiology, pathogenesis or treatment of a specific liver disorder. **Regular case reports will not be accepted even if they provide interesting clinical information.**

- The maximum length is **3000** words, **including** the summary and references.
- A maximum of **2 tables** and **2 figures** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **15**.
- A title page must be provided.

### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication **if they are related to articles published in recent issues** of the *Journal of Hepatology*. Occasionally, Letters to the Editor that refer to articles not published in the *Journal of Hepatology* will be considered.

- The length of a Letter to the Editor should not exceed **800** words.
- A maximum of **1 table** or **1 figure** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **10**.
- **No more than 4 Authors** may appear in the author list.

## Special Sections

The journal will contain special sections that focus on one or more specific topics within the hepatology field:

**Frontiers in Liver Transplantation.** Articles for *Frontiers in Liver Transplantation* section will review recent developments in the field of liver transplantation and **will be solicited by the Editors only**. Articles are expected to be clear, concise, and updated.

- The maximum length is **5000** words, **excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures.
- The inclusion of a maximum of **4 high-quality tables** and **4 colored figures** to summarize critical points is highly desirable.
- One **Key Point Box**, with a maximum of 5 bullet points.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **150**.
- It must be accompanied by a title page and a summary.

*Frontiers in Liver Transplantation* articles are reviewed by the Editors and may be sent to outside expert reviewers before a final decision for publication is made. Revisions may be required.

**International Hepatology.** *International Hepatology* commentaries will highlight a recent paper of interest from a high impact peer reviewed journal. *International Hepatology* commentaries **will be solicited by the Editors only**.

- Commentary articles should not exceed a maximum of **800** words, **excluding** tables or figures.
- A maximum of **1 table** or **1 figure** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **10**.
- A title page must be provided.

**Controversies in Hepatology.** The *Controversies in Hepatology* section will present two opposing viewpoints on a currently controversial subject within the field. *Controversies in Hepatology* commentaries **will be solicited by the Editors only**.

- The maximum of length is **2000** words, **excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures.
- A maximum of **2 tables** and **2 figures** is allowed.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **25**.
- It must be accompanied by a title page and a summary.

**Hepatology Snapshot.** *Hepatology Snapshot* consists of a **one single page figure, consisting of drawings, schematic diagrams and tables** that graphically summarizes current knowledge about a particular subject within the hepatology field. As an example, please see *J Hepatol.* 2012;56:990–992.

*Hepatology Snapshot* commentaries **will be solicited by the Editors only**.

- The figure is accompanied by a short summary article that should not exceed a maximum of **800** words, **excluding** tables or figures.
- In lieu of the article, a detailed figure legend which includes all relevant background information can be included.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **10**.
- A title page must be provided.

**Clinical Application of Basic Science.** *Clinical Application of Basic Science* articles will highlight and review relevant clinical applications of basic research. Articles are expected to be clear, concise and updated. *Clinical Application of Basic Science* commentaries **will be solicited by the Editors only**.

- The maximum length is **2000** words, **excluding** the summary, references, tables, and figures.
- A maximum of **2 tables** and **2 figures** is allowed.
- One **Key Point Box**, with a maximum of 5 bullet points.
- References should not exceed a maximum of **25**.
- It must be accompanied by a title page and a summary.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Responsible reporting of research studies, which includes a complete, transparent, accurate and timely account of what was done and what was found during a research study, is an integral part of good research and publication practice and not an optional extra. The *Journal of Hepatology* supports initiatives aimed at improving the reporting of health research. We ask authors to use the following guidelines when drafting their manuscripts:

CONSORT 2010 Statement: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomized trials. <http://www.consort-statement.org/>

STROBE Statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. <http://www.strobe-statement.org/>

STARD initiative: standards for reporting of diagnostic accuracy. <http://www.stard-statement.org/>

PRISMA Statement: preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses. <http://www.prisma-statement.org/statement.htm>

CHEERS Statement: consolidated health economic evaluation reporting standards. <http://www.ispor.org/taskforces/EconomicPubGuidelines.asp>

The MIQE Guidelines: Minimum Information for Publication of Quantitative Real-Time PCR Experiments. <http://miqe.gene-quantification.info/>

We ask authors to address all items recommended by the guidelines (as a minimum); where this is not possible please provide an explanation in the text to give a transparent account of your study.

Adherence to recommended reporting guidelines will facilitate review of your manuscript, increase the probability of its successful publication, and improve the usability of research findings from your study in further research and clinical practice.

**Animal trials.** Manuscripts reporting experiments using animals must include a statement giving assurance that all animals received human care and that study protocols comply with the institution's guidelines. Statistical methods used should be outlined.

**Human trials.** Manuscripts reporting data from research conducted on humans must include a statement of assurance in the methods section of the manuscript reading that: (1) informed consent was obtained from each patient included in the study and (2) the study protocol conforms to the ethical guidelines of the 1975 Declaration of Helsinki as reflected in a *priori* approval by the institution's human research committee.

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