JAOAO Ethics Policies

Overview

At our journal, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics in publishing. We believe that trust in the integrity of scholarly communication is essential. Authors submitting to our journal are expected to ensure the originality of their work, properly cite sources, and avoid any form of plagiarism or data fabrication. All research must adhere to ethical guidelines, including the responsible treatment of human and animal subjects. Authors should also disclose any potential conflicts of interest. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that the peer review process is conducted fairly and transparently, and we are dedicated to correcting any errors or ethical breaches in published work. By adhering to these principles, we aim to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a manner that is both credible and responsible.

Our journal is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in publishing. We expect all authors to ensure the accuracy and originality of their submissions, properly disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and maintain integrity throughout the research and writing process. Transparency in reporting is crucial, including the correct citation of sources and the ethical treatment of study subjects. We encourage all authors to thoroughly understand and adhere to these guidelines to ensure their contributions meet our rigorous editorial expectations.

Ethics Approval

All studies involving human subjects/tissue and confidential patient information must be approved by ethics committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB). Please note the IRB approval in the cover letter. IRB documentation should be available upon request.

Informed Consent and Patient Details

Patient consent must be obtained for all human studies, and all manuscripts must include a statement indicating that such consent was obtained. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in publication. Written consents must be retained by the author, but copies should not be provided to the Journal. If such consent was not obtained, a letter of explanation indicating that the authors have obtained IRB approval/exemption to report the case without consent is acceptable. Individuals who are considered minors generally cannot provide consent and this permission must come from a parent or legal guardian instead.

For cases in which the patient is deceased and the report includes **no protected health information or other information that could reasonably lead to identification of the patient,** we encourage authors to contact a family member for verbal consent. For cases in which the patient is deceased and the report includes **information that is unique enough that the patient could be identified,** we require authors to either contact a family member for verbal consent or obtain a waiver from the appropriate IRB stating that such consent is not necessary. The authors are responsible for obtaining and retaining the documentation of such permission. In order to protect patient confidentiality, this documentation should not be forwarded to us. Only if specifically requested by the Journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. Unless the author has written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

Conflict of Interest

All authors are required to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. This is included in the submission process.

Authors who serve as *JAOAO* Editors should note this on the first page of their submission, as they will have to be recused from peer review and any editorial decisions.

Commercial Bias

Specific trade names of commercial products (such as implants, medications) should not be mentioned in the title of a manuscript, nor should they be mentioned repeatedly in the text. The first time a commercial name is mentioned in the text it should be mentioned in the Methods section of the paper with proper parenthetical identification of the company/source in the following manner: Device Name (Company, location of company). This should be done only once. For the rest of the paper, a generic/general term should be used to mention the specific device.

Declaration of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in scientific writing

The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyze and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans.

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled ‘Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the

writing process'.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

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Articles are accepted for exclusive publication in *JAOAO*. Previous presentation at a scientific meeting, and/or publication of the abstract in conjunction with the meeting, does not preclude publication of the article; however, this information must be disclosed in a cover letter at the time of submission. Previously published articles, including those published in non-English-language journals, are not accepted. *JAOAO* does not accept manuscript submissions involving human subjects (or their medical records) that have been previously posted to preprint servers.

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

Clinical Trials

Reporting clinical trials

Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

Registration of clinical trials

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrollment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

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Role of the funding source

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, it is recommended to state this.

Research data

This Journal encourages and supports the sharing of data that underpins your research publication, where appropriate, and facilitates linking this data to your published articles. Research data encompasses the results of observations or experiments that validate research findings, as well as related materials such as software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods, and other useful project materials.

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Data Linking

If your research data is stored in a data repository, you can directly link your article to the dataset. There are multiple methods to achieve this. For instance, you can provide the necessary information during the submission process to create a direct link between your dataset and your article. Additionally, you can include links to relevant data or entities within your manuscript by using identifiers formatted as follows: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Data Statement

To enhance transparency, we encourage you to include a statement regarding the availability of your data in your manuscript submission. This may be a requirement from your funding body or institution. If your data cannot be accessed or is unsuitable for posting, you will have the opportunity to explain why during the submission process, such as by stating that the data is confidential. This statement will be published alongside your article.

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Appeal Process

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