

INSTRUCTION FOR AUTHORS

Thank you for your interest in *Quantitative Imaging in Medicine and Surgery* (QIMS). Please consult the following instructions to help prepare your manuscript, and feel free to contact us with any questions. To ensure fast peer review and publication, manuscripts that do not adhere to the following instructions will be returned to the corresponding author for technical revision before undergoing peer review. Upon acceptance, we aim to publish the papers within 3 months, and we will make sure that all accepted papers will be published within 6 months.

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1. ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The *Quantitative Imaging in Medicine and Surgery* (Print ISSN 2223-4292; Online ISSN 2223-4306; QIMS) publishes peer-reviewed original reports and reviews in medical imaging, including X-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy, nuclear medicine and related modalities, and their application in medicine and surgery. While focus is on clinical investigations, papers on medical physics, image processing, or biological studies which have apparent clinical relevance are also published. This journal encourages authors to look at the medical images from a quantitative angle. Descriptive papers are of particular interests are also published. This journal is also interested in publishing papers on biomedical research policy, medical education and training, public health, and philosophical and historical thoughts related to biology and medicine.

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2. REVIEW PROCESS

Manuscripts are assigned sequentially to Associate Editors. An Associate Editor solicits reviewers (typically, two external reviews are sought). The reviewers' evaluations and Associate Editor's comments are compiled by the Editor-in-Chief for disposition and transmittal to the authors. A decision is made usually within six weeks of the receipt of the manuscript.

The Editor-in-Chief will advise authors whether a manuscript is accepted, should be revised or is rejected. Minor revisions are expected to be returned within four weeks of decision; major revisions within three months. Manuscripts not revised within these time periods are subject to withdrawal from consideration for publication unless the authors can provide extenuating circumstances.

A number of manuscripts will have to be rejected on the grounds of priority and available space. A manuscript may be returned

to the authors without outside review if the Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor find it inappropriate for publication in the Journal. Similarly, the Editors may expedite the review process for manuscripts felt to be of high priority in order to reach a rapid decision. Such 'fast-track decisions' will normally occur within one week of receipt of the manuscript.

Authors may provide the Editor-in-Chief with the names, addresses and email addresses of up to three suitably qualified individuals of international standing who would be competent to referee the work, although the Editor-in-Chief will not be bound by any such nomination. Likewise, authors may advise of any individual who for any reason, such as potential conflict of interest, might be inappropriate to act as a referee, again without binding the Editor-in-Chief.

The Editor-in-Chief's decision is final. If, however, authors dispute a decision and can document good reasons why a manuscript should be reconsidered, a rebuttal process exists. In the first place, authors should write to the Editor-in-Chief.

All journals manuscripts should be written so that they are intelligible to the professional reader who is not a specialist in the particular field. They should be written in a clear, concise, direct style. Where contributions are judged as acceptable for publication, the Editor and the Publisher reserve the right to modify manuscripts to eliminate ambiguity and repetition and improve communication between author and reader. If extensive alterations are required, the manuscript will be returned to the author for revision.

3. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES

(1) ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Word limit: 5,000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 450 words maximum, structured with the following subheadings: Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions.

References: no limit.

Figures/ tables: no limit, but 8 figures should be sufficient.

Description: Full-length reports of current research in either basic or clinical science. Meta-analysis will be categorized into this type.

(2) REVIEWS

Word limit: no limit.

Abstract: 450 words maximum.

References: no maximum.

Figures/tables: no limit.

Description: Review papers should contain authors' analytical appraisal of published papers and personal viewpoints, instead of a mere aggregation of published abstracts. It is expected that review papers are in three forms, **1) expert reviews**, usually published in editorial format, provide authors' own insights and perspective; **2) systematic review**; **3) educational reviews**, including pictorial reviews. Systematic reviews (maybe narrative

in writing but critical in nature) are particularly welcomed.

Both solicited and unsolicited review articles will undergo peer review prior to acceptance.

(3) MINI REVIEWS (research highlights)

Description: Mini Reviews are shorter reviews of topics that may be controversial or unresolved.

(4) IMAGE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Word limit: 1000 words excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: A brief abstract, usually of 3-4 sentences, is required.

References: Up to 10.

Figures/Videos: 2 still images maximum for the print and PDF article, supplemented by 2 video maximum online. It is important to demonstrate how quantitative measure supported the diagnosis or management of the disease.

Description: Videos which are unique or highly illustrative of specific occurrences. They will be reviewed by the Editors prior to acceptance, but they do not have to go out for external peer review. They must be accompanied by a brief one paragraph description of relevant information. Please note our journal can publish limited such images per year.

(5) LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Word limit: 1000 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 10 maximum.

Figures/ tables: 1 maximum.

Description: Letters usually offer perspective to content published in QIMS. In this case, a Letter must reference the original source, and a Response to a Letter must reference the Letter in the first few paragraphs. Letters can use an arbitrary title, but a Response must cite the title of the Letter: e.g. Response to [title of Letter]. This ensures that readers can track the line of discussion. Presentation of interesting clinical cases can also be published in this format. Letters of any matter of interest to readers of the QIMS are also published.

(6) EDITORIALS

Word Limit: 2,500 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: Not required.

References: 25 maximum.

Figures/tables: 2 maximum.

Description: Editorial is written by the recognized leader(s) in the field. It is generally solicited by the (Deputy) Editor(s)-in-Chief.

(7) EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

Word Limit: 2,500 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.

References: 25 maximum.

Figures/Tables: 2 maximum.

Description: The Editors will invite an expert in the field to discuss a paper or report or event within the past few months or so, or in the near future and provide a commentary on the importance of each accepted paper to outline its strengths and weaknesses. It should set the problems addressed by the paper/report/event in the wider context of the field.

(8) PERSPECTIVES

Word limit: 3000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: Unstructured. 300 words maximum.

References: no maximum.

Description: Perspectives can be more personal, forward-looking or speculative, compared with reviews of a scientific topic. A paper presenting controversial positions or papers of the same topic advocate opposite sides will be published as Perspectives. While perspectives are solicited by the editors; we also welcome timely, unsolicited Perspectives.

(9) CASE REPORTS

Word limit: 2,500 words maximum excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: A brief abstract, usually of 3-4 sentences, is required.

Figures/ tables: 8 maximum.

Description: New observations of diseases, clinical findings or novel/unique treatment outcomes relevant to practitioners in medicine and surgery. The text should be arranged as follows: Introduction, Case Report, Discussion. This journal welcomes case reports where quantitative imaging played a role for diagnosis and/or treatment; also welcome first time realization (in animals or in human subjects) of a new imaging technique. We do not publish case report only because of the rarity of the cases. Note, although we believe reporting case materials is important for the advancement of medicine, the space reserved for case report remains limited for each issue. The decision to publish or not publish a case material submission can sometimes depend on the available space of the journal. For manuscripts that do not qualify, Editors may ask authors to shorten manuscripts and rewrite as Letters to the Editor.

(10) TECHNICAL NOTES

Word limit: 2,500 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).

References: Up to 35.

Figures/tables: Up to 10 in total.

Description: Technical notes articles should present a new experimental or improved method, test or procedure. The method described may either be completely new, or may offer a

better version of an existing method. The article must describe a demonstrable advance on what is currently available. The method needs to have been well tested and ideally, but not necessarily, used in a way that proves its value.

(11) BRIEF REPORTS

Word limit: 2,500 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).

References: Up to 35.

Figures/tables: Up to 8 in total.

Description: Manuscripts containing pertinent and interesting observations concerning quantitative imaging research in medicine and surgery and reports on new observations or studies that do not warrant publication as a full research article will be considered for the Brief Reports. These submissions will undergo full peer review.

4. DISCLOSURE

At the time of submission, the submitting author must include a disclosure statement in the body of the manuscript. The statement whether the authors have published or submitted the manuscript elsewhere. The statement will also describe all of the authors' relationships with companies that may have a financial interest in the information contained in the manuscript. This information should be provided under the heading titled 'Disclosure,' which should appear after the 'Acknowledgement' section and before the 'References' section. The absence of any interest to disclose must also be stated. In addition, any financial interests must be detailed in the Financial Disclosure form, which will be provided to the corresponding author upon acceptance for distribution to each author.

5. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

For studies involving living animals, approval from the institutional animal care committee should be obtained.

For studies involving human subjects, authors must state that the protocol for the research project has been approved by a suitably constituted Ethics Committee of the institution within which the work was undertaken and that it conforms to the provisions of in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, available at: <https://www.wma.net/policy/current-policies/>.

The journal retains the right to reject any manuscript on the basis of unethical conduct of either human or animal studies.

6. INFORMED CONSENT

All investigations on human subjects must include a statement

that the subject gave informed consent (or informed consent was waived in some retrospective analyses). The statement should be included in the footnote. It may be possible to publish without explicit consent if the report is important to public health (or is in some other way important); consent would be unusually burdensome to obtain; and a reasonable individual would be unlikely to object to publication (all three conditions must be met).

Patient anonymity should be preserved. Photographs need to be cropped sufficiently to prevent human subjects being recognized. Identifying information, including names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication.

7. POLICIES ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Our journal complies with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' uniform requirements on Conflict of Interest statement.

Conflict of Interest exists when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships with other persons or organizations that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions. The existence of such relationships does not necessarily represent true conflict of interest. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the relationship affects their judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patents) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, and of science itself (<http://www.icmje.org/index.html>).

(1) PARTICIPANTS

All participants in the peer-review and publication process—not only authors but also peer reviewers, editors, and editorial board members of journals—must consider their conflicts of interest when fulfilling their roles in the process of article review and publication and must disclose all relationships that could be viewed as potential conflicts of interest.

a. Authors

When authors submit a manuscript of any type or format they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias or be seen to bias their work. The ICMJE recommends that authorship is based on the following 4 criteria:

- 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 revising 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.

b. Peer Reviewers

Reviewers should be asked at the time they are asked to critique a manuscript if they have conflicts of interest that could complicate their review. Reviewers must disclose to editors any conflicts of interest that could bias their opinions of the manuscript, and should recuse themselves from reviewing specific manuscripts if the potential for bias exists. Reviewers must not use knowledge of the work they're reviewing before its publication to further their own interests.

That a reviewer knows the authors in professional capacity usually does not necessarily create conflict-of-interests, as long as the reviewer can evaluate the manuscript fairly and objectively.

c. Editors and Journal Staff

Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts should recuse themselves from editorial decisions if they have conflicts of interest or relationships that pose potential conflicts related to articles under consideration. Other editorial staff members who participate in editorial decisions must provide editors with a current description of their financial interests or other conflicts (as they might relate to editorial judgments) and recuse themselves from any decisions in which a conflict of interest exists. Editorial staff must not use information gained through working with manuscripts for private gain. Editors should publish regular disclosure statements about potential conflicts of interests related to the commitments of journal staff. Guest editors should follow these same procedures.

(2) REPORTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Articles should be published with statements or supporting documents, declaring:

- Authors' of interest; and
- Sources of support for the work, including sponsor names along with explanations of the role of those sources if any in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; the decision to submit the report for publication; or a statement declaring that the supporting source had no such involvement; and
- Whether the authors had access to the study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is on-going.

To support the above statements, editors may request that

authors of a study sponsored by a fund with a proprietary or financial interest in the outcome sign a statement, such as “I had full access to all of the data in this study and I take complete responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.”

8. COPYRIGHT

Papers accepted for publication in the journal become copyright of QIMS and authors will be asked to sign a transfer of copyright form. In signing the transfer of copyright, it is assumed that authors have obtained permission to use any copyrighted or previously published material. All authors must read and agree to the conditions outlined in the Copyright Assignment Form, and must sign the Form or agree that the corresponding author can sign on their behalf. Acceptance of a manuscript is contingent upon receipt of a signed Copyright Assignment Form.

9. STYLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Manuscripts must follow the style of the Vancouver agreement detailed in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' revised 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication', as presented at: <http://www.ICMJE.org/>.

Author name Each author's given name should be followed by family name.

Capitalize each letter of the Family name. A hyphen could be used in Family name according to the rule in Author region

Capitalize the first letter of those words/syllables that they hope to be abbreviated in their given name, otherwise, DO NOT capitalize the first letter and use a hyphen to connect it with its anterior word.

Spelling The Journal uses US spelling and authors should therefore follow the latest edition of the Merriam–Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

Units All measurements must be given in SI or SI-derived units. For more information about SI units, please go to the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website at: <http://www.bipm.fr>

Abbreviations must be used sparingly – only where they ease the reader's task by reducing repetition of long, technical terms. Initially use the word in full, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter use the abbreviation only.

Trade names Drugs should be referred to by their generic names. If proprietary drugs have been used in the study, refer to these by their generic name, mentioning the proprietary name, and the name and location of the manufacturer, in parentheses.

10. STRUCTURE OF THE MANUSCRIPT

The length of manuscripts must adhere to the specifications

under the section Manuscript Categories.

Manuscripts should be presented in the following order: (i) title page, (ii) abstract and keywords, (iii) text, (iv) acknowledgments, (v) disclosure, (vi) references, (vii) supplementary material, (viii) figure legends, (ix) tables (each table complete with title and footnotes) and (x) figures. Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

TITLE PAGE

The title page should contain (i) the title of the paper. Concise titles are easier to read than long, convoluted ones. Titles that are too short may, however, lack important information, such as study design (which is particularly important in identifying randomized controlled trials). Authors should include all information in the title that will make electronic retrieval of the article both sensitive and specific. (ii) the full names of the authors and (iii) the addresses of the institutions at which the work was carried out together with (iv) the full postal and email address, plus facsimile and telephone numbers, of the author to whom correspondence about the manuscript should be sent. The present address of any author, if different from that where the work was carried out, should be supplied in a footnote. The title should be short, informative and contain the major keywords so that readers and in particular online users will discover the article easily in online search. Do not use abbreviations in the title. (v) A short running title (less than 60 characters) should also be provided.

ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

The length of abstracts must adhere to the word count specifications under the section Manuscript Categories. Do not use reference, table or figure in the abstract. The abstract of an original article should be structured into four paragraphs with headings of Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions. The abstracts for all other manuscript types should be non-structured. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be limited and general statements (e.g. “the significance of the results is discussed”) should be avoided.

Three to five keywords should be provided below the abstract, in alphabetical order, and should be taken from those recommended by the US National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) browser list at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>.

TEXT

Authors must use the following subheadings to divide the sections of their Original Article manuscript: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment, Disclosure, References, and when relevant, Supplementary Material.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing or language editing assistance, or a department chairperson who provided only general support. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.

When there is no one to be acknowledged, authors should also indicate 'Acknowledgments' section as 'None'.

DISCLOSURE

At the time of submission, each author must disclose and indicate any involvement, financial or otherwise, that might potentially pose a conflict of interest. Disclosure should be included in the footnote of the manuscript.

REFERENCES

The Vancouver system of referencing should be used (examples are given below). In the text, references should be identified using numbers in round brackets in which they appear consecutively [e.g., "cancer-related mortality (19)"; "denocarcinoma (29,30)"; "malignancies (14-18)"]. If cited in tables or figure legends, number according to the first identification of the table or figure in the text. In the reference list, cite the names of all authors. Do not use *ibid.* or *op cit.* Reference to unpublished data and personal communications should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text only (e.g. Smith A, 2000, unpublished data). All citations mentioned in the text, tables or figures must be listed in the reference list. Names of journals should be abbreviated in the style used in PubMed. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.

• Journal article

1. Gibas Z, Prout DF Jr, Pontes JR. Chromosome changes in germ cell tumours of the testis. *Cancer Genet Cytogenet* 1986; 19: 254-52.

• Online article not yet published in an issue

An online article that has not yet been published in an issue (therefore has no volume, issue or page numbers) can be cited by its Digital Object Identifier (DOI). The DOI will remain valid and allow an article to be tracked even after its allocation to an issue.

1. Furuya R, Takahashi R, Furuya S, Saitoh N, Ogura H, Kurimura Y, Tsukamoto T. Is urethritis accompanied by seminal vesiculitis? *Int J Urol*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1442-2042.2009.02314.x

• Book

2. Ernstoff M. *Urologic Cancer*. Blackwell Science, Boston, 1997.

• Chapter in a Book

3. Gilchrist RK. Further commentary: Continent stroma. In: King LR, Stone AR, Webster GD (eds). *Bladder Reconstruction and Continent Urinary Diversion*. Year Book Medical, Chicago, 1987; 204-5.

TABLES

Tables should be self-contained and complement, but not duplicate, information contained in the text. Number tables consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. Type tables on a separate page with the legend above. Legends should be concise but comprehensive – the table, legend and footnotes must be understandable without reference to the text. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. Column headings should be brief, with units of measurement in parentheses; all abbreviations must be defined in footnotes. Footnote symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, should be used (in that order) and *, **, *** should be reserved for P-values. Statistical measures such as SD or SEM should be identified in the headings. If tables have been reproduced from another source, a letter from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be attached to the covering letter.

FIGURES

All illustrations (line drawings and photographs) are classified as figures. Figures should be cited in consecutive order in the text. Magnifications should be indicated using a scale bar on the illustration. If figures have been reproduced from another source, a letter from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be attached to the covering letter.

Size Figures should be sized to fit within the column (82 mm), intermediate (118 mm) or the full text width (173 mm).

Resolution Figures must be supplied as high resolution saved as .eps or .tif. Halftone figures 300 dpi (dots per inch), Color figures 300 dpi saved as CMYK, figures containing text 400 dpi, Line figures 1,000 dpi.

Color figures Files should be set up as CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) and not as RGB (red, green, blue) so that colors as they appear on screen will be a closer representation of how they will print in the Journal.

Line figures Must be sharp, black and white graphs or diagrams, drawn professionally or with a computer graphics package.

Text sizing in figures Lettering must be included and should be sized to be no larger than the journal text or 8 points (Should be readable after reduction – avoid large type or thick lines). Line width between 0.5 and 1 point.

Figure legends Type figure legends on a separate page. Legends should be concise but comprehensive – the figure and its legend must be understandable without reference to the text.

Include definitions of any symbols used and define/explain all abbreviations and units of measurement.

VIDEO

QIMS will accept digital files in mp4, flash video (flv.), MPEG (MPEG video file), DVD video format, mov., avi., and mwm. formats or video on CD/DVD. Contributors are asked to be succinct, and the Editor-in-chief reserves the rights to require shorter video duration if necessary. Video files can be submitted with a manuscript online: <http://qims.amegroups.com/pages/view/submit-multimedia-files>.

Duration: Video files should be limited to 20 minutes.

Quality: Please set the video aspect ratio as 4:3 or 16:9 (widescreen). The original video should be of high quality. The resolution is no less than 1280*720, the frame rate no less than 24 frames per second and the bit rate no lower than 5Mbps.

Text in video: All the text notes, explanations or descriptions, etc. in the video must be in English. And the logo or watermark of hospital should not be stick on the screen. Plus, the information of patients should be erased from the video.

Video legends: Legends for the video files should be provided. The video files should be numbered consecutively in the order of reference in the text.

EQUATIONS

Equations should be numbered sequentially with Arabic numerals; these should be ranged right in parentheses. All variables should appear in italics. Use the simplest possible form for all mathematical symbols.

11. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supporting Information is provided by the authors to support the content of an article but they are not integral to that article. They are hosted via a link on Synergy but do not appear in the print version of the article. Supporting Information must be submitted together with the article for review; they should not be added at a later stage. They can be in the form of tables, figures, appendices and even video footage. Reference to Supporting Information in the main body of the article is allowed. However, it should be noted that excessive reference to a piece of Supporting Information may indicate that it would be better suited as a proper reference or fully included figure/table. The materials will be published as they are supplied and will not be checked or typeset in any way. All Supporting Information files should come with a legend, listed at the end of the main article. Each figure and table file should not be larger than 5MB, although video files may be larger.

12. SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts must be submitted online at:

<http://www.amepc.org/qims/login/signIn>

Authors must provide an email address as all correspondence will be through email.

In cases of submission difficulties, please directly e-mail to qims@amepc.org

Once a manuscript ID is obtained, for further communications, including submission of a revised version of the manuscript, authors can also directly e-mail to qims@amepc.org.

GENERAL

All articles submitted to the Journal must comply with these instructions. Failure to do so will result in the return of the manuscript and possible delay in publication.

- Submissions must be double-spaced.
- All margins should be at least 30 mm.
- All pages should be numbered consecutively in the top right-hand corner, beginning with the title page.
- Do not use Enter at the end of lines within a paragraph.
- Turn the hyphenation option off; include only those hyphens that are essential to the meaning.
- Specify any special characters used to represent non-keyboard characters.
- Take care not to use l (ell) for 1 (one), O (capital o) for 0 (zero).
- Use a tab, not spaces, to separate data points in tables. If you use a table editor function, ensure that each data point is contained within a unique cell (i.e. do not use carriage returns within cells).

Each figure should be supplied as a separate file, with the figure number incorporated in the file name. For submission, low-resolution figures saved as .jpg or .bmp files should be uploaded, for ease of transmission during the review process. Upon acceptance of the article, high-resolution figures (at least 300 d.p.i.) saved as .eps or .tif files should be uploaded. Digital images supplied only as low-resolution files cannot be used for publication.

COVER LETTER

Please carefully prepare a cover letter noting the key new conclusions from the study.

Papers are accepted for publication in the Journal on the understanding that the content has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere except as a brief abstract in the proceedings of a scientific meeting or symposium. This must be stated in the covering letter.

The covering letter must also contain an acknowledgment that all authors have contributed significantly, and that all authors are in agreement with the content of the manuscript.

APPENDIX

The Supplementary Appendix should be paginated, with a table of contents, followed by the list of investigators (if there is one),

text (such as methods), figures, tables, and then references. The supplementary appendix should not be included in the article's reference list.

The Appendix must be submitted in a Word file. The Appendix will not be edited for style. It will be presented online as additional information provided by the authors.

The published article will contain a statement that supplementary material exists online and will provide the reader with a URL and link. To reference the supplementary appendix in the text of the article, refer to it as in the following example:

"Many more regressions were run than can be included in the article. The interested reader can find them in a supplementary appendix online."

13. PROOFS

It is essential that corresponding authors provide an email address to which correspondence can be emailed while their article is in production. Notification of the URL from where to download a Portable Document Format (PDF) typeset page proof, associated forms and further instructions will be sent by email to the corresponding author. The purpose of the PDF proof is a final check of the layout, and of tables and figures. Alterations other than the essential correction of errors are unacceptable at PDF proof stage. The proof should be checked, and approval to publish the article should be emailed to the Publisher by the date indicated, otherwise, it may be signed off by the Editor or held over to the next issue. Acrobat Reader will be required in order to read the PDF. This software can be downloaded (free of charge) from the following Web site:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> This will enable the file to be opened, read on screen, and printed out in order for any corrections to be added. Further instructions will be sent with the proof.

14. OFFPRINTS

Minimum orders of 100 offprints will be provided upon request, at the author's expense. If you have queries about offprints, please email sales@amegroups.com.

15. ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

To cover the cost of publishing our journal, we gently ask authors with available resources such as research grants to pay this article processing charge (APC). This APC also covers standard English language editing and image/graph editing services. However, very extensive language editing and statistical services may incur additional charges.

For authors who do not have sufficient resources to pay APC, they can write a letter to QIMS editorial office to ask for a

reduction of half price of APC, or ask for a waiver of APC, and such applications are usually granted. Articles contributed/co-authored by editorial members of this journal will not be charged with APC. Authors' ability to pay publication fee will not be a consideration in the decision of whether to accept a manuscript.

Article Type	Price (USD)
All invited articles	Free
Articles contributed/co-authored by QIMS editorial members	Free
Editorials	Free
Original articles, reviews	Full price: \$1390
Short communications, brief reports, research highlights	1/2 price: \$695
Case reports (long case)	1/2 price: \$695
Letters related to medical case representation and ' <i>Image in Medicine and Surgery</i> '	1/4 price: \$348
Other letters and commentaries	Free
* This APC policy is valid from January 10th, 2018.	

16. TRACKING MANUSCRIPTS

(1) BEFORE ACCEPTANCE

Authors can track your manuscript's progress through the review process at: <http://www.amepc.org/qims/login/signIn>

(2) AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Author Services enable authors to track their article, once it has been accepted, through the production process to publication online and in print. Authors can check the status of their articles online and choose to receive automated emails at key stages of production so they do not need to contact the production editor to check on progress. **Please note that change of author information (except for grammatical error) and retraction of manuscript are not allowed after the manuscript is accepted.**

17. EPUB AHEAD OF PRINT (ACCEPTED ARTICLES)

QIMS offers Accepted Articles service for selected articles. Accepted Articles are complete full-text articles published online in advance of their publication in a printed issue. Articles are therefore available as soon as they are ready, rather than having to wait for the next scheduled print issue. Accepted Articles have been fully reviewed and approved for publication, but have yet to undergo copy-editing and proof correction. They are therefore given a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which allows the article to be cited and tracked before it is allocated to an issue. After print publication, the DOI remains valid and can continue to be used to cite and access the article. More information about DOIs

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