

1. General

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In addition to the main topic selected for an issue, articles can also be submitted for the following sections:

Original articles**Case reports****Technical innovations****Letters to the editor****Book reviews**

Case reports and **Technical innovations** should not exceed 2 printed pages including references, tables and 2 figures (i.e. 4 type-written pages A4 with 33 lines per page and 65 strokes per line).

Manuscripts must be written in standard grammatical English. Spelling may be British or American, but it must be consistent throughout the text, figure legends and table titles. In order to reduce mailing costs rejected manuscripts will not normally be returned, except for original illustrations.

All manuscripts are subject to copy editing and will, if necessary, be returned to the authors for open questions to be answered or missing information to be supplied before being sent to the printer for composition. When corrections are extensive, the author is responsible for having the manuscript retyped. Manuscripts must be accompanied by the "Copyright Transfer Statement" (the form is regularly published in this journal).

2. Format

The manuscript should be typed in doubleline spacing with wide margins on one side of the paper only. Text pages should be numbered consecutively and include the references, tables and legends to figures. The author should indicate in the margin where figures and tables are to be inserted. Both form and content of the paper should be checked carefully to exclude the need for corrections in proof. A charge will be made for changes introduced after the manuscript has been set in type.

3. Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be organized as follows.

The title page should contain

- The name of the authors.
- The title of the paper. (For bibliographic reasons, double titles are undesirable, particularly if the authors of the main and subsidiary parts are different.)

- The names of the authors together with their respective affiliations. Addresses should be complete and may be given in the local language. An envelope symbol should be used to indicate to which author correspondence should be sent.

- The fax and e-mail numbers of the corresponding author.

The manuscripts must be preceded by an abstract stating the main problem, methods, results and conclusions.

Following the abstract up to 5 keywords are to be given for subject indexing. They should be taken from *Index Medicus* or composed on similar lines.

The text should be arranged as follows: the Introduction should state the purpose of the investigation and give a short review of pertinent literature.

Materials and methods should be described in detail with appropriate information about patients or experimental animals.

Results should be reported concisely and regarded as the important part of the manuscript. The Discussion should be an interpretation of the results and their significance with reference to pertinent work by others authors.

4. References

The list of references should include only works referred to in the text. They should be listed at the end of the paper, numbered in alphabetical order or in order of appearance in the text. The style is as follows:

1. Alling C, Westerberg B (1981) Fatty acid composition of serum lecithin in healthy children. *Eur J Pediatr* 137: 197-201
2. Erbslöh F, Krämer W (1970) Skeletal muscle glycogenosis in adult life. In: Walton JN, Canal N, Scarlato G (eds) *Muscle diseases*. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, pp 609-612
3. Palay SL, Chan-Palay V (1974) *Cerebellar cortex*. Cytology and organization. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York

5. Tables, Illustrations

The number of figures and tables is to be kept to the absolute minimum. Numerical data given in graphs or tables must not be duplicated. Tables (including titles and footnotes) should be submitted on separate sheets. For *color illustrations* the authors will be expected to make a contribution of € 485 per article towards the extra costs.

All figures, whether photographs, graphs or diagrams, should be numbered consecutively throughout and submitted on separate sheets.

Line drawings. Good-quality glossy prints should be submitted in the desired final size. The inscriptions should be clearly legible. Letters 2 mm high are recommended.

Half-tone illustrations. Well-contrasted photographic prints should be submitted that are trimmed at right angles and in the desired final size. Inscriptions should be about 3 mm high.

Legends must be brief, self-sufficient explanations in no more than 4 lines. They should be typed on a separate page.

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