

JOURNAL OF CARDIAC FAILURE

Instructions to Authors

Editorial Policies

The Journal of Cardiac Failure publishes peer-reviewed manuscripts of interest to clinicians and researchers in the field of heart failure and related disciplines. These include original communications of scientific importance and review articles involving clinical research, health services and outcomes research, animal studies, and bench research with potential clinical applications to heart failure. The Journal also publishes manuscripts that report the design of ongoing clinical trials and editorial perspectives that comment on new developments pertinent to the field of heart failure or manuscripts published in other journals.

Published research must be in compliance with human studies guidelines and animal welfare regulations. Authors should indicate in the manuscript that human subjects have given informed consent and that the institutional committee on human research has approved the study protocol. Similarly, they should indicate that studies involving experimental animals conform to institutional standards.

Manuscripts

Submit in triplicate to: Barry M. Massie, MD, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Cardiac Failure*, Court International, 240S, 2550 University Avenue West, St Paul, MN55114. Manuscripts must be submitted on a disk, preferably in Microsoft Word. Three double-spaced hard copy versions of the final manuscript, free of handwritten alterations, must accompany the disk. All components of the manuscript must appear within a single electronic file: references, figure legends, and tables must appear at the end of the manuscript. The pages should be arranged and numbered in the following order: title page, abstract, key words, text, references, figure legends, and tables. Please refrain from using end notes as references or automatic list numbering because these features are lost in conversion: simply type the reference number superscripted in the text and type the reference list. Formatting, such as Greek letters, italics, super- and subscripts, may be used: the coding scheme for such elements must be consistent throughout.

Original works will be accepted with the understanding that they are contributed solely to the *Journal of Cardiac Failure*, are not under review by another publication, and have not previously been published except in abstract form. Accepted manuscripts become the sole property of the journal and may not be published elsewhere without the consent of the *Journal of Cardiac Failure*. A form stating that the authors transfer all copyright ownership to the journal will be sent from the publisher when the manuscript is accepted; this form must be signed by all authors of the article.

Manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Cardiac Failure will not automatically be returned to the authors. The editorial office will be entirely responsible for proper disposal of manuscripts so that confidentiality is preserved. Manuscripts and figures will be returned on request. Please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope for that purpose.

Submission Letter

The submission letter must include three statements: (1) that there has been no duplicate publication or submission elsewhere of any part of the work (excluding abstracts), (2) that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and (3) that there are no financial or other relations that could lead to a conflict of interest.

If a potential conflict exists, its nature should be stated for each author. When there is a stated potential conflict of interest and the Editors consider that it may have relevance to the accompanying paper, a footnote will be added indicating the author(s)' equity interest in or other affiliation with the identified commercial firms.

Title Page

The title page should include a brief and descriptive title of the article, a short title of less than 40 characters, the authors' names and academic degrees, hospital and academic affiliations, acknowledgment of grants and other support, and the name and address (including zip code), telephone, fax and e-mail address of the individual responsible for editorial correspondence.

All sources of financial support for the study should be cited, including federal or state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and pharmaceutical or other commercial sources.

Abstracts

Each article should include a brief abstract of no more than 200 words. The abstract should be structured with the following headings: Background, Methods and Results, and Conclusions. In the Background section, describe the rationale for the study. In Methods and Results, briefly describe the methods and present the significant results. In Conclusions, state succinctly the interpretation of the data.

Key Words

Authors should supply a list of up to four key words not appearing in the title, which will be used for indexing.

Text

The text should be organized as follows: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. The Introduction should describe the purpose of the study and its relation to previous work in the field; it should not include an extensive literature review. Methods should be concise

but sufficiently detailed to permit repetition by other investigators. Previously published methods and modifications should be cited by reference. Results should present positive and relevant negative findings of the study, supported when necessary by reference to tables and figures. The Discussion should interpret the results of the study, with emphasis on their relation to the original hypotheses and to previous studies. The importance of the study and its limitations should also be discussed.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgment of those who contributed to the research or preparation of the paper should follow the text.

References

References should be double-spaced in numerical sequence according to standard Vancouver style, using *Index Medicus* abbreviations for journal titles. The first 6 authors should be listed in each reference citation (if there are more than 6 authors, "et al" should be used following the sixth). Periods are not used in author's initials or journal abbreviations.

Journal Article

Parkin DM, Clayton D, Black RJ, Masuyer E, Friedl HP, Ivanov E, et al. Childhood leukemia in Europe after Chernobyl: 5 year follow-up. *Br J Cancer* 1996;73:1006-12.

Book

Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.

Chapter in Edited Book

Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, editors. Hypertension: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management. New York: Raven Press; 1995. p. 465-78.

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Figures and Legends

Photographs should be submitted as black-and-white glossy prints, not films or negatives, and should not be mounted or trimmed. Mark lightly on the back, in soft pencil, the lead author's name, figure number, and correct orientation ("top"). Lettering should be of adequate size to retain clarity after reduction and should not be done by hand.

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