

# European Spine Journal

## Instructions to authors

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### 3 Editorial procedure

Please submit your manuscript as one Microsoft Word compatible file containing the title page (N.B. no author or institution names!), abstract, keywords, manuscript text, references, legends, tables, and figures.

### 4 Manuscript preparation

Papers may be submitted for the following sections and the number of manuscript pages should not exceed the number given in brackets:

Reviews (48)

Original articles (36)

Case reports (12)

(are generally not considered for publication)

Ideas and technical innovations (12)

Letters to the editors (3)

Announcements

(including meetings, prizes, new books).

Manuscripts must be written in English. Authors not familiar with English are advised to seek the help of an English-speaking colleague. Spelling may be British or American, but it must be consistent throughout the text, figure legends and table titles. If a manuscript is submitted in poor English, it may be returned to the author and there will be a delay in publication. 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 typesetter for composition. When corrections are extensive, the author is responsible for having the manuscript retyped.

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Manuscripts should be organized as follows:

In January 2004 ESJ started a website for online submission and reviewing. Please submit your manuscript to: <http://esj.manuscriptcentral.com>. Submitting Authors are requested to send one WORD compatible file containing the title page, the manuscript text, abstract, keywords, manuscript text, references, legends, tables, and figures. Outline and structure of the manuscript content should follow these Instructions to Authors (see below). Please ensure that due to a blinded review process title page, manuscript header line or filename do not contain any name or institution of contributing author(s). A copy of the submitted word file will be automatically converted to pdf during submission process. The online software Manuscript-Central offers to submit files in WORD compatible file types (.doc, .rtf). Embedded figures should be sent as .tif, or .eps (see for details ch. 7 below). Images file type .gif, .jpg and .ppt files will also be accepted for review process (only). Note that .pdf files will NOT be accepted.

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The manuscript text file must contain the title, an abstract stating the main problem, methods, results and conclusions.

Following the abstract up to 5 key words 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, experimental animals or in vitro systems. *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 other authors, followed by the *Conclusions*.

Only essential references that must also be cited in the text should be listed. They should be arranged in alphabetical order by first author's name and numbered. They should be cited in the text by these numbers only (in square brackets).

*Journal articles:*

1. Shirasaki N, Okada K, Oka S (1993) Cervical myelopathy in patients with congenital cervical block vertebrae. *Eur Spine J* 2:46-50  
(Abbreviate journal name as in "Index Medicus"). Abstracts, editorials, and letters to the editors should be noted as such.

*Books:*

25. Louis R (1983) *Surgery of the spine. Surgical anatomy and operative approaches*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York  
26. Colton Ch, Marti RK (1991) *Fractures in children*. In: Müller ME, Allgöwer M, Schneider R, Willenegger H (eds) *Manual of internal fixation. Techniques recommended by the AO/ASIF group*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York, pp 689-712

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For **color illustrations** the authors will be expected to make a contribution towards the extra costs (€ 485.00, irrespective of the number of color figures). They should be stored as RGB (8 bits per channel) in TIFF format. **Vector graphics:** Fonts used in the vector graphics must be included. Please do not draw with hairlines. The minimum line width is 0.2 mm (i.e., 0.567 pt) relative to the final size.

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