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Manuscripts submitted for publication must contain a statement to the effect that all human studies have been approved by the appropriate ethics committee and have therefore been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki.

It should also be stated clearly in the text that all persons gave their informed consent prior to their inclusion in the study. Details that might disclose the identity of the subjects under study should be omitted.

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4 Manuscript preparation

■ General remarks

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All manuscripts are subject to copy editing.

Research Notes should consist of not more than **five printed pages (2400 words)**, including references and **one or two illustrations at the most**; they should be preceded by a short abstract (not exceeding 250 words). This section enables authors to communicate interesting findings of their on going research to be published quickly. **Accordingly, papers submitted as *Research Note* will not be considered for publication in that category if major revisions are required.** Research Notes are not to be submitted for publication elsewhere as part of a full paper.

■ **Genus and species names** should be in *italics*. The common names of animals should not be capitalized.

■ **SI units** should be used throughout except where non-SI units are more common [e.g. litre (l) for volume].

■ Title page

The title page should include:

- A concise and informative title
- The name(s) of the author(s)
- The affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s)
- The e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the communicating author
- Acknowledgements of funding and grants (if any)

■ **Abstract** Each paper must be preceded by an abstract presenting the most important results and conclusions.

■ **Keywords** Up to five keywords taken from *Index Medicus* (Medical Subject Headings) should be supplied after the Abstract for indexing purposes.

■ **Abbreviations** should be defined at first mention in the abstract and again in the main body of the text and used consistently thereafter.

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The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication.

In the text, references should be cited by author and year (e.g. Hammer 1994; Hammer and Sjöqvist 1995; Hammer et al. 1993) and listed in alphabetical order in the reference list.

Examples:

Journal articles

Biryukova EV, Roschin VY, Frolo AA, Ioffe ME, Massion J, Dufosse M (1999) Forearm postural control during unloading: anticipatory changes in elbow stiffness. *Exp Brain Res* 124:107-117

Books

Spillmann L, Ehrenstein WH (1996) From neuron to Gestalt: mechanisms of visual perception. In: Greger R, Windhorst U (eds) *Comprehensive human physiology*, vol 1. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York, pp 861-893

References such as “personal communications” or “unpublished data” cannot be included in the reference list, but should be mentioned in the text in parentheses: this also applies to papers presented at meetings but not yet published or accepted for publication. A date should be given for both “personal communications” and “unpublished data”.

Papers which have been accepted for publication should be included in the list of references with the name of the journal and “in press”.

A paper published online but not (yet) in print can be cited using the **Digital Object Identifier (DOI)**. The DOI should be added at the end of the reference in question.

Example:

Perreault EJ, Kirsch RF, Crago PE (2004) Multijoint dynamics and postural stability of the human arm. *Exp Brain Res* DOI 10.1007/s00221-004-1864-7

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Line drawings Please submit good-quality prints. The inscriptions should be clearly legible.

Halftone illustrations (black and white and color). Please submit well-contrasted photographic prints with the top indicated on the back. *Magnification* should be indicated by *scale bars*.

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1. Use a normal, plain font (e.g. Times Roman) for text.
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 - for textual emphasis use *italic* types.
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5. Use the table functions of your word processing program, not spreadsheets, to make tables.

6. Use the equation editor of your word processing program or MathType for equations.
7. Place any figure legends or tables at the end of the article.
8. Submit all figures as separate files and do not integrate them within the text.

Data formats

Save your files as:

Text: RTF (Rich Text Format) or Microsoft Word compatible formats.

Figures: EPS or TIFF.

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The preferred figure formats are EPS for vector graphics exported from a drawing program and TIFF for halftone illustrations. EPS files must always contain a preview in TIFF of the figure. The file name (one file for each figure) should include the figure number. Figure legends should be included in the text and not in the figure file.

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Authors should make their proof corrections on a printout of the PDF file supplied, checking that the text is complete and that all figures and tables are included. After *online publication*, further changes can only be made in the form of an Erratum, which will be hyperlinked to the article. **The author is entitled to formal corrections only. Substantial changes in content, e.g. new results, corrected values, title and authorship are not allowed without the approval of the responsible editor. In such a case please contact the Section Editor before returning the proofs to the publisher.**

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