

# Updated Instructions to Authors

To assist authors submitting papers for publication in VCOT, we have updated the instructions to authors to clarify the expected characteristics of each type of manuscript. The following paragraphs contain the new wording that will appear in the Instructions to Authors for papers submitted to VCOT.

**Original Research** papers documenting the findings of clinical or experimental investigations should contain a testable hypothesis. Papers reporting the diagnosis, treatment or outcome in clinical patients that lack a testable hypothesis but have a clear statement of purpose are published as **Clinical Communications**.

**Case Reports**, documenting one or several clinical cases will be considered for publication only if the disease, disorder, injury or procedure is exceptionally unique and has not been reported previously. The report must provide new and clinically important information about the disorder, which must be well characterized by appropriate documentation of clinical findings, diagnostic pathology, diagnostic imaging, or preferably a combination of these. Similarly, long-term follow-up data must be included, as appropriate to the case(s). The reason(s) why the case is important, and the impact of this new knowledge on furthering our understanding of the particular subject must be discussed.

Reports that are primarily describing additional cases of a previously reported disorder, albeit rare or unusual, will not be considered for publication. Moreover, variations in the manifestation of a disorder are not considered sufficiently unique to warrant publication – for example the occurrence of a fracture, tumour, infection or foreign body in an atypical species of animal or anatomical location.

Case reports should not exceed 15,000 characters, including spaces. There should be no more than 30 references, and a total of five essential figures and tables. Each figure

may consist of a montage of several images, for example orthogonal radiographic views.

## Authorship

Authors must meet all of the following four requirements:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception, study design, or acquisition of the data, as well as participation in the analysis and interpretation of the data.
2. Drafting of the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
3. Approval of the submitted version of the manuscript, all revised versions, and the final version to be published.
4. Agreement to be publicly accountable for the appropriate portions of the content.

The contributions of each author will be recorded on a special form that is to be sent to the Editorial Office at the time of submission.

The number of authors of any paper is limited to ten, except for case reports which are limited to five authors. Requests to exceed these limits must be accompanied by a detailed justification. Person or persons who contributed materially to the paper, but who do not meet these qualifications for authorship may be recognized for their function or contribution in the **Acknowledgements**.

Should authors have any questions regarding any aspect of the Instructions to Authors, including the updated paragraphs, you are most welcome to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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