

# Journal of Perinatology

## Guide for Authors

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## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

### Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Perinatology* provides members of the perinatal/neonatal healthcare team with original information pertinent to improving maternal/fetal and neonatal care. We publish peer-reviewed clinical research articles, state-of-the-art reviews, comments, quality improvement reports, and letters to the editor. Articles published in the *Journal of Perinatology* embrace the full scope of the specialty, including clinical, professional, political, administrative and educational aspects. The *Journal* also explores legal and ethical issues, neonatal technology and product development.

The *Journal's* audience includes all those that participate in perinatal/neonatal care, including, but not limited to neonatologists, perinatologists, perinatal epidemiologists, pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, surgeons, neonatal and perinatal nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, speech and hearing experts, other allied health professionals, as well as subspecialists who participate in patient care including radiologists, laboratory medicine and pathologists.

The *Journal of Perinatology* accepts topics related to perinatology that have a direct relevance to fetal/and or neonatal care and outcomes. Articles that are primarily of obstetric and/or gynecological interest with little or no direct relevance to neonatal and pediatric care providers are not suitable.

### Editorial Note

Manuscripts are considered for publication with the understanding that they have not been published previously and are not under consideration by another publication. Complete reports following presentation or publication elsewhere of preliminary findings (e.g., in an abstract) will be considered. (Include copies of possibly duplicative material that has been previously published or is currently being considered by another publication when submitting a manuscript.) All accepted manuscripts are subject to editing. Manuscripts should have no more than six authors, all of whom should have contributed to the study and manuscript preparation.

A greater number will require justification. All authors should be thoroughly familiar with the substance of the final manuscript and be able to defend its conclusions.

*Journal of Perinatology* considers manuscripts prepared in accordance with "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (*Ann Intern Med* 1997;126; 36-47).

### Journal Details

#### Editor-in-Chief

Patrick G. Gallagher MD, USA

#### Editorial Office

[jperinatol@us.nature.com](mailto:jperinatol@us.nature.com)

#### Frequency

12 issues per year

#### Abstracted in:

Science Citation Index  
Excerpta Medica/EMBASE  
Index Medicus/Medline  
MEDLARS  
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts  
Elsevier BIOBASE/Current Awareness in Biological Sciences  
Combined Cumulative Index to Pediatrics  
CINAHL Information System

#### Impact Factor

1.967 (2019 *Journal Citation Reports*, Thomson Reuters, 2020)

#### Submission of manuscripts

Please visit the [online submission site](#) to submit a manuscript to the journal.

## ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

Please note that the *Journal of Perinatology* no longer accepts Perinatal/Neonatal Case Presentations or Imaging Casebooks.

Article Description	ABSTRACT	WORD LIMIT	TABLES/FIGURES	REFERENCES
<b>Original Articles:</b> Generally, the Journal only considers original research materials that are directly relevant to clinical practice. Any text beyond the limit can be published as online-only supplementary material if you feel that it is necessary (see instructions below on supplementary material)	Structured abstract, max 150 words.	Length should not exceed 25 pages, including the abstract, text, tables, illustrations, and references.	Maximum of 5 tables/figures.	No more than 50 references.
<b>Quality Improvement:</b> Authors are strongly encouraged to follow the <a href="#">SQUIRE framework</a> for these articles.	Please consult the <a href="#">SQUIRE guidelines</a> for abstracts.	Length should not exceed 20 pages, including the abstract, text, tables, illustrations, and references.	Maximum of 5 tables/figures.	No more than 50 references.
<b>Review:</b> Reviews are intended to update readers on important subjects relevant to maternal-fetal and neonatal care. These articles are considered to be complete from the most recent major review in the literature. Review Articles are normally commissioned. <b>Authors should contact the Editor before submission of a completed project.</b>	Abbreviated, unformatted abstract is preferred.	4,000-4,500 words max, including abstract.	Liberal use of tables and figures is encouraged.	No more than 100 references.
<b>Perspective:</b> Perspectives are shorter than reviews and provide an opinion-driven perspective on a particular research topic or field of interest to the JPER readership.	Unstructured, max 150 words	2,500 words max	Maximum of 2 tables/figures.	Maximum of 100 references.
<b>Correspondence:</b> These are brief comments on original research papers or other material published in the Journal within the last six months. These articles are subject to critical review and editorial policy. Original authors will have the opportunity to respond to the letter, should it be chosen for acceptance	No abstract required.	Word count should not exceed 500.	Maximum of 1 table or figure.	Maximum of 5 references.
<b>Brief Communication:</b> These reports are concise studies of high quality and broad interest and typically contain original data. Most surveys should be submitted in this article category. Brief Communications are subject to critical review and editorial policy.	No abstract required.	Word count should not exceed 750	Maximum of 1 table or figure	Maximum of 5 references.
<b>Comment:</b> Comment articles are personal viewpoints and discussions of important topics of particular interest to perinatology. Comments cover basic science and clinical issues as well as those which bridge the gap between research and practice. These articles are normally commissioned.	No abstract required.	Word count should not exceed 1,000.	Maximum of 1 table/figure.	Maximum of 10 references.
<b>Journal Club:</b> The Journal Club is a collaboration between the American Academy of Pediatrics Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (AAP SONPM), the International Society for Evidence-Based Neonatology (EBNEO), and the Journal of Perinatology. Submissions to Journal Club require pre-approval. Please contact <a href="#">Dr. Viral Jain</a> or <a href="#">Dr. Matthew Rysavy</a> for additional information.	-	-	-	-

To submit an article as a **Special Feature**, please contact the [Editorial Office](#).



## PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

**House Style:** Authors should adhere to the following formatting guidelines

- Text should be double spaced with a wide margin.
- All pages and lines are to be numbered.
- Do not make rules thinner than 1pt (0.36mm).
- Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs.
- Colour should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool.
- Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands.
- At first mention of a manufacturer, the town (and state if USA) and country should be provided.
- Statistical methods: For normally distributed data, mean (SD) is the preferred summary statistic. Relative risks should be expressed as odds ratios with 95% confidence interval. To compare two methods for measuring a variable the method of Bland & Altman (1986, *Lancet* 1, 307–310) should be used; for this, calculation of P only is not appropriate.
- Units: Use metric units (SI units) as fully as possible. Preferably give measurements of energy in kilojoules or megajoules with kilocalories in parentheses (1 kcal = 4.186kJ). Use % throughout.
- Abbreviations: On first using an abbreviation place it in parentheses after the full item. Very common abbreviations such as FFA, RNA, need not be defined. Note these abbreviations: gram g; litre l; milligram mg; kilogram kg; kilojoule kJ; megajoule MJ; weight wt; seconds s; minutes min; hours h. Do not add 's' for plural units. Terms used less than four times should not be abbreviated.

Please note that original articles must contain the following components. Please see below for further details.

- Cover letter
- Title page (excluding acknowledgements)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Results
- Discussion
- Materials (or Subjects) and methods
- Acknowledgements
- Conflict of Interest
- Author Contribution statement
- References
- Figure legends
- Tables
- Figures

### Cover letter

The uploaded covering letter must state the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration.

### Title page

The title page should contain:

- Title of the paper - brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion
- Full names of all the authors and their affiliations, together with the name, full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address of the corresponding author. If authors regard it as essential to indicate that two or more co-authors are equal in status, they may be identified by an asterisk symbol with the caption 'These authors contributed equally to this work' immediately under the address list.
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  - A Group name who is an author in its own right should have the list of authors as usual and then all the individual authors of the group listed in their own section at the end of the article, NOT in Acknowledgement/Appendix or Notes
- Competing Interests statement (see the section below on Editorial Policy). Authors should disclose the sources of any support for the work received in the form of grants and/or equipment and drugs.

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### Abstract

A structured abstract is required for original articles and a standard abstract format is required for other types of articles. An abbreviated unformatted abstract is preferred for Review articles. For clinical trials, the abstract should also include details of where and when the trial was registered, and the Clinical Trial Number.

The structured abstract should be limited to 150 words, under the following headings:

*Objective* - reflecting the purpose of the study or the hypothesis that is being tested

*Study Design* - the setting for the study, the subjects (number and type), the treatment or intervention, and the type of statistical analysis

*Result* - include the outcome of the study and statistical significance, if appropriate

*Conclusion* - state the significance of the results

## **Introduction**

The Introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be as brief as possible but can include a short historical review where desirable.

## **Materials / subjects and Methods**

This section should contain sufficient detail, so that all experimental procedures can be reproduced, and include references. Methods, however, that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named medical equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant.

## **Results and Discussion**

The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text, either. The discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The final paragraph should highlight the main conclusion(s), and provide some indication of the direction future research should take.

## **Acknowledgements**

These should be brief, and should include sources of support including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g. novel drugs) not available commercially.

## **Conflict of interest**

Authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included at this stage and will be published as part of the paper. Conflict of interest should also be noted on the cover letter and as part of the submission process. See the Conflict of Interest documentation in the [Editorial Policy](#) section for detailed information.

## **Author Contributions**

Authors must include a statement about the contribution of each author to the manuscript (see section on Authorship). The initials of each author may be used.

This is an example for a systematic review: MAJ was responsible for designing the review protocol, writing the protocol and report, conducting the search, screening potentially eligible studies, extracting and analyzing data, interpreting results, updating reference lists and creating 'Summary of findings' tables. SBM was responsible for designing the review protocol and screening potentially eligible studies. She contributed to writing the report, extracting and analyzing data, interpreting results and creating 'Summary of findings' tables. DIH conducted the meta-regression analyses and contributed to the design of the review protocol, writing the report, arbitrating potentially eligible studies, extracting and analyzing data and interpreting results. NAL contributed to data extraction and provided feedback on the report. FRT and RAL provided feedback on the report.

To understand more about authorship definitions, please refer to the [ICMJE Authorship Guidelines](#).

## **Funding Information**

The funding section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization). If no funding was received, please also state this.

## **References**

Only papers directly related to the article should be cited. Exhaustive lists should be avoided. References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text they should appear as numbers starting at one and at the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first six only should be quoted, followed by *et al.* Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest edition of *Index Medicus*. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such. Papers in press and papers already submitted for publication may be included in the list of references but no citation is required for work that is not yet submitted for publication.

*Journal article:*

Martin JC, Bourgnoux P, Fignon A, Theret V, Antoine JM, Lamisse F et al. Dependence on human milk essential fatty acids on adipose stores during lactation. *Am J Clin Nutr* **58**: 653–569 (1993)

*Journal article, e-pub ahead of print:*

da Costa SP, van den Engel-Hoek L, Bos AF. Sucking and swallowing in infants and diagnostic tools. *J Perinatol* (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sj.jp.7211924>.

*Complete book:*

Willett WC. *Nutritional Epidemiology*. Oxford University Press: New York, 1998.

*Chapter in book:*

Blizzard RM, Bulatovic A. (1996). Syndromes of psychosocial short stature. In: Lipshitz F (ed). *Pediatric Endocrinology*. Marcel Dekker: New York, 1986, pp 213–276.

*Abstract:*

Minck P. A synactive model of neonatal behavioral organization. *Phys Occup Ther Pediatr* 2002; **22**(Suppl 1): 28 (abstract 456).

*Correspondence:*

Sehgal A, Ramsden A (2008). Treating hypotension in the preterm infant: when and with what: a critical and systematic review [letter]. *J Perinatol* **28**, 167.

*Website*

Kassambara A. rstatix: pipe-friendly framework for basic statistical tests. 2020. <https://rpkgs.datanovia.com/rstatix/>.

*Preprint*

Babichev SA, Ries J & Lvovsky AI. Quantum scissors: teleportation of single-mode optical states by means of a nonlocal single photon. Preprint at <http://arXiv.org/quant-ph/0208066> (2002).

[EndNote](#) users should select the *Journal of Perinatology* output style for the correct reference style.

Personal communications must be allocated a number and included in the list of references in the usual way or simply referred to in the text; the authors may choose which method to use. In either case authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote his/her unpublished work.

### Tables

These should be labelled sequentially and cited within the text. Each table should be presented on its own page, numbered and titled. Reference to table footnotes should be made by means of Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. Unlike figures or images, tables may be embedded into the word processing software if necessary, or supplied as separate electronic files.

### Figures

Figures and images should be labelled, sequentially numbered and cited in the text. Figure legends should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section. Refer to (and cite) figures specifically in the text of the paper. Figures should not be embedded within the text. If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information. Scale markers should be used in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the [Artwork Guidelines PDF](#).

### Figure Legends

These should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section.

### Supplementary information

Supplementary information (SI) is material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. The article must be complete and self-explanatory without the SI, which is posted on the journal's website and linked to the article. SI may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables, view the [Artwork Guidelines PDF](#) for more information on accepted file types. Authors should submit documents in their FINAL format as they are not edited, typeset or changed, and will appear online exactly as submitted. When submitting SI authors are required to:

- Include a text summary (no more than 50 words) to describe the contents of each file.
- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text "Supplementary information is available at JPER's website") at the end of the article and before the references.

Please note: We do not allow the resupplying of Supplementary Information files for style reasons after a paper has been exported in production, unless there is a serious error that affects the science and, if by not replacing, it would lead to a formal correction once the paper has been published. In these cases, we would make an exception and replace the file; however there are very few instances where a Supplementary Information file would be corrected post publication.

### Availability of Data and Materials

Please see our [Editorial Policies](#) for information regarding data, protocols, sequences, or structures.

### Abbreviations and Symbols

Do not use abbreviations in the title or abstract, and limit their use in the text. The first time an abbreviation appears it should be preceded by the words for which it stands. For a list of standard medical abbreviations and measurements, consult the *American Medical Association Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*, 9th edition (Baltimore: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 1998). There should be no hyphenation of phrases such as "very low birth weight", "birth weight" and "extremely low birth weight".

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For manuscripts dealing with urgent issues that necessitate expedient publication, the author may request a Fast Track Review. The author should state the reason for such a request in his or her cover letter. The editor will make a decision for fast track within a few days. If an adverse decision is made, then the authors may request withdrawal of the manuscript or allow processing in the normal fashion.

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If your manuscript is accepted it will be checked by our copyeditors for spelling and formal style before publication.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

### Pre-submission Enquiries

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### Online Submission

We only accept manuscript submission via our online [manuscript submission system](#). Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to consult both our [Editorial Policies](#) and Preparation of Articles instructions above.

## Navigating the online submission system

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You will need to have the following details for all authors to submit your paper online. Items in parenthesis are not essential for co-authors:

- Email Addresses
- First and Last Names
- Institution
- (Full Postal Address)
- (Work Telephone Numbers)

In addition, you will need:

- Covering letter, including a Conflict of Interest statement
- Title (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Abstract (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Manuscript files in Word, WordPerfect, text or any RTF format
- Figures/Images in external files in TIFF or JPEG, in either grayscale or CMYK color, not in RGB
- Tables in Excel (preferred) as separate files or embedded at the end of the manuscript file

**The manuscript submission process is broken down into a series of 4 primary tasks that gather detailed information about your manuscript and allow you to upload the pertinent text and figure/image files. The sequence of screens is as follows:**

1. The 'Files' primary task allows you to select the actual file locations (via an open file dialogue). You will be able to 'Browse' for the relevant files on your computer. **Please include the figure number in the title line for each figure.** On the completion screen, you will be asked to specify the order in which you want the individual files to appear in the merged document. Editors and/or reviewers will also be able to look at the individual PDF files if necessary. For more information on accepted file types, view the [Artwork Guidelines PDF](#).
2. The 'Manuscript Information' primary task which asks for author details, the manuscript title, abstract, other associated manuscript information and types/number of files to be submitted. Please note, if you are the corresponding author please submit your details in the corresponding author fields; DO NOT re-enter the same details in the contributing author fields.
3. The 'Validate' primary task gives you the opportunity to check and verify the manuscript files and manuscript information uploaded. If you are submitting manuscript files separately, we create a merged PDF containing your manuscript text, figures and tables to simplify the handling of your paper. You will need to approve the merged PDF file, and a PDF or any other file not included in the merge, to submit your manuscript. You may also update and/or change manuscript files and manuscript information by clicking on the 'Change' or 'Fix' links respectively.
4. The 'Submit' primary task is the last step in the manuscript submission process. At this stage the Manuscript Tracking System will perform a final check to ensure that all mandatory fields have been completed. Any incomplete fields will be flagged by a red arrow and highlighted by a red box. Click on the 'Fix' link to return to relevant section for completion. Once your manuscript has been finalised, click on the 'Approve Submission' button to submit your manuscript for consideration. A 'Manuscript Approved' message will display on your author desktop to confirm the submission.

### Conflict of interest

It is essential that you note whether or not there is any conflict of interest in the submission form. This does not act as a substitute for the information that must be provided in the manuscript. See the Conflict of Interest documentation in the Editorial Policy section for detailed information.

### Reviewers

Authors should suggest a minimum of three suitable independent reviewers. Email addresses provided must be institutional email addresses



only. Personal email addresses will not be accepted. Authors may also request that the journal excludes one or two individuals or laboratories. However, it is ultimately at the editor's discretion to determine the choice of referees.

Author-suggested referees should not include reviewers that have published or had research funding with any of the authors in the last 3 years. Former mentors and mentees should also be excluded.

### Social media

Did you know that JPER is on Twitter? Follow us at [@JPerinatology](https://twitter.com/JPerinatology). If your paper is accepted, we would like to promote it on Twitter, and invite you to include your social media information on the online submission form while submitting your article. Please supply our social media editor with a suggested "tweet" or short blurb about your article, which may or may not be used or edited at the discretion of the journal (250 character limit). Please also include your Twitter handle and/or the Twitter handle of your co-authors so we can tag you in relation to your article.

### Submitting additional files

For more information on submitting figure files and tables, please refer to the [artwork guidelines PDF](#).

### Saving files with Microsoft Office 2007

Microsoft Office 2007 saves files in an XML format by default (file extensions .docx, .pptx and .xlsx). Files saved in this format cannot be accepted for publication. Save Word documents using the file extension .doc

- Select the Office Button in the upper left corner of the Word 2007 Window and choose "Save As"
- Select "Word 97-2003 Document"
- Enter a file name and select "Save"

These instructions also apply for the new versions of Excel and PowerPoint.

### Equations in Word must be created using Equation Editor 3.0

Equations created using the new equation editor in Word 2007 and saved as a "Word 97-2003 Document" (.doc) are converted to graphics and can no longer be edited. To insert or change an equation with the previous equation editor:

- Select "Object" on the "Text" section of the "Insert" tab
- In the drop-down menu - select "Equation Editor 3.0"

Do not use the "Equation" button in the "Symbols" section of the "Insert" tab.

### Adobe Acrobat

Best results are achieved if you have access to Adobe Acrobat Reader (6.0 or above). The program is FREE and is downloadable from the link [here](#). (Once the download is complete, you should amend the default settings. Select: Edit - Preferences - Web Capture, and select Open Web links: In Acrobat. This will open PDF files in Acrobat Reader rather than in your browser. The amendment will not affect functionality of either Acrobat Reader or your browser.) If the site replicates your details on screen, then your paper was successfully submitted. Once the files are submitted, the system will convert them to PDF. The conversion process can take up to 10 minutes before the PDF is ready for approval. Please note the manuscript will not move to the next stage and progress to the editorial office until you have approved the converted files.

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3. Clicking on the "Check Status" link at the bottom of the displayed page.

This procedure will display tracking information about where your manuscript is in the submission/peer review process. See Navigating the system in the [Submission of Papers](#) section for more information.

## Submission of Revisions

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

- (1) A rebuttal letter, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.
- (2) A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- (3) A 'clean' (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.

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