

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHOR

About the Journal

APCRI Journal is the official Journal of Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India. It is a peer-reviewed international journal and published biannually. Its ISSN is 0973-5038. It is Indexed in Index Copernicus International. The journal allows free access (Open Access) to its contents and permits authors to self-archive final accepted version of the articles. The journal's full text is available online at www.apcrijournal.com

Scope of the journal

The Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India publishes articles of authors from India and abroad with special emphasis on original research findings that are relevant for developing country perspectives including India. The journal considers publication of articles as Original Articles, Review Articles, Brief Reports, Case Reports, Letters to the Editor, Personal Viewpoint, Notes and News for APCRI Journal and News Letter etc.

The Editorial Process

A manuscript will be reviewed for possible publication with the understanding that it is being submitted to APCRI Journal alone at that point in time and has not been published anywhere, simultaneously submitted, or already accepted for publication elsewhere. The journal expects that authors would authorize one of them (corresponding author) to correspond with the Journal for all matters related to the manuscript. All manuscripts received are duly acknowledged. On submission, editors review all submitted manuscripts initially for suitability for formal review. Manuscripts with insufficient originality, serious scientific or technical flaws, lack of a significant message, and lack of rabies expertise or not conforming to the journal norms are rejected before proceeding for formal peer-review. Manuscripts that are found suitable for formal review are sent to two or more expert reviewers. During submission, the contributor is requested to provide names of at least two qualified reviewers who have experience in the subject of the submitted manuscript and are not associated as contributor/s, but this is not mandatory. However, the selection of the reviewers is at the sole discretion of the editor/ managing editor. The journal follows a double-blind review process, wherein the reviewers and authors are unaware of each other's identity. Based on the comments from the reviewers the editorial team takes a final decision on the manuscript. The comments and suggestions (acceptance/ rejection/ amendments in manuscript) received from reviewers are conveyed to the corresponding author. If required, the author is requested to provide a point by point response to reviewers' comments and submit a revised version of the manuscript. This process is repeated till reviewers and editors are satisfied with the manuscript. Manuscripts accepted for publication are copy edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and format. Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author. The corresponding author is expected to return the corrected proofs within three days. It may not be possible to incorporate corrections received after that period. The whole process of submission of the manuscript to final decision and sending and receiving proofs is completed online. With a view to achieve faster and greater dissemination of knowledge and information the journal will try to publish articles online as 'Ahead of Print' after the articles have been accepted for publication.

Authorship Criteria

Authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to each of the three components mentioned below:

1. Concept and design of study or acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data.
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and

3. Final approval of the version to be published. Each contributor should have participated sufficiently in the work to take rabies as responsibility for appropriate portions of the content of the manuscript. Once submitted the order cannot be changed without written consent of all the contributors. The journal prescribes a maximum number of authors for manuscripts depending upon the type of manuscript, its scope and number of institutions involved (*vide infra*). The authors should provide a justification, if the number of authors exceeds these limits, in exceptional cases.

Contribution Details

Contributors should provide a description of contributions made by each of them towards the manuscript. Description should be divided in following categories, as applicable: concept, design, definition of intellectual content, literature search, clinical studies, experimental studies, data acquisition, data analysis, statistical analysis, manuscript preparation, manuscript editing and manuscript review. One or more author should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole from inception to published article and should be designated as 'guarantor'.

Conflicts of Interest/ Competing Interests

All authors must disclose any and all conflicts of interest they may have with publication of the manuscript or an institution or product that is mentioned in the manuscript and/or is important to the outcome of the study presented. Authors should also disclose conflict of interest with products that compete with those mentioned in their manuscript.

Clinical trial registry

APCRI Journal favors registration of clinical trials and is a signatory to the Statement on publishing clinical trials in Indian biomedical journals. APCRI Journal would publish clinical trials that have been registered with a clinical trial registry that allows free online access to public.

Submission of Manuscripts

All manuscripts must be submitted on-line through the website <http://www.apcrijournal.com/> Article Submission.aspx . First time users will have to register at this site. Registration is free but mandatory. Registered authors can keep track of their articles after logging into the site using their user name and password. If you experience any problems, please contact the editorial office by e-mail at Admin@apcrijournal.com. The submitted manuscripts that are not as per the "Instructions to Authors" would be returned to the authors for technical correction, before they undergo editorial/ peer-review. Generally, the manuscript should be submitted in the form of two separate files:

[1] Title Page/First Page File/covering letter:

This file should provide

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technical help; and 3) acknowledgments of financial and material support, which should specify the nature of the support. This should be included in the title page of the manuscript and not in the main article file.

- d. Registration number in case of a clinical trial and where it is registered (name of the registry and its URL)
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[5] Documents of clearance by Institutional Ethics Committee or equivalent should also be sent as scanned image with first page file.

Preparation of Manuscripts

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with "Uniform requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (October 2006). The uniform requirements and specific requirement of Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India are summarized below. Before submitting a manuscript, contributors are requested to check for the latest instructions available. Instructions are also available from the official website of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (<http://www.apcrijournal.com>) and from the manuscript submission site (<http://www.apcrijournal.com/ArticleSubmission.aspx>) .

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Original articles:

These include population based surveys, program evaluations, impact assessment studies, randomized controlled trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic test, outcome studies, cost effectiveness analyses, meta-analysis, systematic reviews, cohort studies and case-control studies,. The text of original articles amounting to up to 3000 words (excluding Abstract, references and Tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract, Key-words, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Tables and Figure legends. Abstract should be structured, not more than 250 words, briefly mentioning background, objectives, methods, results and conclusion.

Introduction:

State the purpose and summarize the rationale for the study or observation.

Materials and Methods:

It should include and describe the following aspects:

Ethics: The journal will not consider any paper which is ethically unacceptable. A statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under the 'Materials and Methods' section. When reporting studies on human beings, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (available at http://www.wma.net/e/policy/17-c_e.html). For prospective studies involving human participants, authors are expected to mention about approval of (regional/ national/ institutional or independent) Ethics Committee or Review Board, obtaining informed consent from adult research participants and obtaining assent for children aged over 7 years participating in the trial. The age beyond which assent would be required could vary as per regional and/ or national guidelines. Ensure confidentiality of subjects by desisting from mentioning participants' names, initials or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or any national law on the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

The ethical standards of experiments must be in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) and World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Humans for studies involving experimental animals and human beings, respectively).

These articles generally should not have more than six authors.

Review Articles:

It is expected that these articles would be by invitation, written by individuals who have done substantial work on the subject or are considered experts in the field. Articles by other rabies experts can be accepted on the basis of merit of article. A short summary of the work done by the contributor(s) in the field of review/their area of expertise should accompany the manuscript. The prescribed word count is up to 3000 words excluding tables, references and abstract. The manuscript may have about 90 references. The manuscript should have an unstructured summary (250 words) representing an accurate summary of the article. The section titles would depend upon the topic reviewed. Authors submitting review article should include a section describing the methods used for locating, selecting, extracting, and synthesizing data. These methods should also be summarized in the abstract. Restrict the maximum number of tables and or/figures to four. The journal expects the contributors to give post-publication updates on the subject of review. The update should be brief, covering the advances in the

field after the publication of the article and should be sent as a letter to editor, as and when major development occurs in the field. Review articles could be authored by upto six authors.

Brief Research article

Brief Research article should contain interesting observations/ brief reports of original studies presenting the authors' views on a topic of current interest. The purpose of a brief research article in APCRI Journal is to provide additional insights into topics of current rabies concerns. It should be limited to 1,500 words with unstructured summary not exceeding 150 words, no more than two tables and/or figures, and no more than 10 references. It could be authored by up to six authors.

Ethical consideration as per original article should be followed.

Case Studies/ Case Series Report:

New, interesting and intriguing case studies can be reported. They should be unique and have demonstrated methods to overcome any rabies challenge by use of novel tools and techniques and provide a learning point for the readers. Case studies with rabies significance or implications will be given priority. These communications could be of up to 1000 words (excluding Abstract and references) and should have the following headings: Abstract (unstructured summary not exceeding 150 words), Key-words, Introduction, Case report, Discussion, Reference, Tables and Legends in that order. It must not have more than 10 references.

Case Reports could be authored by up to four authors.

Letter to the Editor:

These should be short and decisive observations. They should preferably be related to articles previously published in the Journal or views expressed in the journal. They should not be preliminary observations that need a later paper for validation. The letter could have up to 500 words and 5 references. It could be generally authored by not more than four authors.

References:

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text (not in alphabetic order). Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript after the punctuation marks. References cited only in tables or figure legends should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure. Use the style of the examples below, which are based on the formats used by the NLM in Index Medicus. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus. Use complete name of the journal for non-indexed journals. Avoid using abstracts as references. Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted/ published should be cited in the text as "unpublished observations" with written permission from the source. Avoid citing a "personal communication" unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in parentheses in the text.

Sending a revised manuscript

The revised version of the manuscript should be submitted online in a manner similar to that used for submission of the manuscript for the first time. However, there is no need to submit the “First Page” or “Covering Letter” file while submitting a revised version. When submitting a revised manuscript, contributors are requested to include, the ‘referees’ remarks along with point to point clarification at the beginning in the revised file itself. In addition, they are expected to mark the changes as underlined or colored text in the article.

Reprints and proofs

Journal provides no free reprints. Request for reprints may be made to the editorial office after acceptance of the articles for publication.

Manuscript submission, processing and publication charges

Right now there are no processing and publication charges.

Submission charge: Nil

Checklist

- Signed by all contributors
- Previous publication / presentations mentioned
- Source of funding mentioned
- Conflicts of interest disclosed

Authors

- Last name and given name provided along with Middle name initials (where applicable)
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- Identity not revealed in paper except title page (e.g. name of the institute in Methods, citing previous study as ‘our study’, names on figure labels, name of institute in photographs, etc.)

Presentation and format

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- Margins 2.5 cm from all four sides
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- Title page contains all the desired information
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- Abstract page contains the full title of the manuscript
- Abstract provided (unstructured summary of 250 words for review articles, structured abstract of about 250 words for original articles, unstructured summary of about 150 words for brief research article and case series report)
- Key words provided (three or more)
- Introduction of 75-100 words
- Headings in title case (not ALL CAPITALS)
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- References according to the journal’s instructions, punctuation marks checked
- Send the article file without ‘Track Changes’

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- Numerals at the beginning of the sentence spelt out
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Tables and figures

- No repetition of data in tables and graphs and in text
- Actual numbers from which graphs drawn, provided
- Figures necessary and of good quality (colour)
- Table and figure numbers in Arabic letters (not Roman)
- Labels pasted on back of the photographs (no names written)
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