

Guidelines for authors: Peer-reviewed articles

Completed authors' consent form and checklist must accompany all submissions.

The purpose of the *Journal of the Irish Dental Association* is to provide good-quality information to support continuing education, professional development and best practice. We aim to benefit our members, our patients, and the wider dental profession by publishing original research studies, clinical case reports, position papers, literature reviews, brief communications, clinical features, clinical tips, and other material that is of interest to the Irish dental profession.

The following guidelines explain the format in which peer-reviewed articles should be submitted to the *Journal of the Irish Dental Association*. This is recommended reading for anyone in the process of submitting material. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in rejection of manuscripts or delays in the review and publication process.

All material will be evaluated for publication on the understanding that the work submitted has not been published elsewhere (except as an abstract), that it has not and will not be submitted to another journal until the Editor has made a decision on its acceptability for this journal and that, if accepted, its contents will not be published elsewhere without the Editor's permission.

Accepted papers become the copyright of the *Journal of the Irish Dental Association* and permission must be sought from publishers before they can be reprinted elsewhere.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Aims and scope

Articles must clearly state the problem and objective of the research, include a summary of relevant literature in the introduction, describe the research method, report the results briefly and accurately, discuss the results, and list the conclusions that can be drawn from the research.

Clinical case reports should briefly describe the particular clinical problem, the author's method of managing the problem, and a rationale for such treatment with appropriate references to the literature. If appropriate, diagrams or descriptions of the differential diagnosis and any specialised

tests should be included, to improve understanding for the reader.

Literature reviews should emphasise what the reader can learn, and report new, helpful or timesaving techniques or procedures.

All accepted manuscripts are subject to editorial revision. The lead/corresponding author will receive edited proofs for approval. The authors will be responsible for all statements in the article, including changes made by the editor.

Manuscript format

- Papers submitted to the *Journal* should not exceed 3,500 words, counting from the Introduction, and including referencing and tables. To facilitate publication, authors should be mindful that they may need to reduce the word count if their paper includes a large number of images. Authors are strongly encouraged to stay within those limits. The 'Methods' and 'Results' sections are usually where papers go beyond the allocated word count, and authors are encouraged to consider submitting heavily detailed material for inclusion in a separate online Appendix.
- The text must be a minimum of 10pt size and double spaced.
- Each page must be numbered in consecutive order from the title page, through the abstract, text, references, tables and photographs in that order.
- For the body of the text, the standard headings – introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, conclusions, etc. – should be used.
- Do not include the title page in the manuscript. The title page should be a separate document, which follows the guidelines below.

Cover letter

- A short cover letter must accompany all submissions.

Title page

- The title page must contain the title and all the authors' names and affiliations. Dentists registered in the Republic of Ireland must not use any qualifications not registered by them with the Dental Council.
- This page must also give the name, address, phone number and email of the corresponding author, who will undertake correspondence, proofreading, etc.

Précis

- A concise précis (not more than 25 words) should state the conclusions of the report and must be submitted as a separate document.



Abstract

- Each manuscript should contain a structured abstract of a maximum of 250 words, with the headings: introduction; objectives; methods; results; and, conclusions.

References

- References should be from indexed, peer-reviewed journals but may include relevant clinical guidelines, and should be kept succinct. A maximum of 25 references is recommended.
- References must be identified in the text by superscript and numbered consecutively in order of appearance in the text. References appearing in tables only shall be numbered in relation to the first mention of the table in the text. The list of references should be placed at the end of the article and must be numbered as in the text and placed in numerical order. References shall be given in the Vancouver style.
For example:

Peres MA, Macpherson LM, Weyant RJ, Daly B, Venturelli R, Mathur MR *et al.* Oral diseases: a global public health challenge. *The Lancet*. 2019 Jul 20;394(10194):249-60.

Tables and figures

- All tables and figures must be uploaded separately, and must have a consecutive number and a clear, concise title. Do not duplicate data in tables and text. Include adequate information (using footnotes if necessary) to make the table self-explanatory.
- Pictures should be jpeg, pdf or eps files. These electronic images must be at least 300dpi/500kbs and of publishable size. Pictures must not be embedded in the word processing file.
- Radiographs must be of a high quality.

Multiple choice questions for CPD

Continuous professional development (CPD) is a significant element of the *Journal's* remit and dental professionals receive CPD points for reading a peer-reviewed article. We have a duty to the Dental Council to ensure that the article is read and understood.

The Editorial Board therefore now requires each lead author to submit three multiple-choice questions on their article, along with the answers. The questions will appear at the end of the article, and readers will need to submit their answers through the IDA website, which will then automatically award the relevant points, if the questions are answered correctly.

Questions should be factual, ensure synthesis of the article, and be fair to any non-expert reading the publication. The questions and answers should be uploaded with the other submission documents.

Authors' consent form and checklist

- A signed consent form and submission checklist shall be submitted by the authors confirming that they:
 - a. have contributed to the authorship of the submitted manuscript;
 - b. have seen and approved the submitted version of the manuscript; and,
 - c. consent to the corresponding author co-ordinating future correspondence between the *Journal* office and the authors.
- The authors' consent form and checklist form can be found [here](#).

General instructions

- Spelling should be that of the Oxford Dictionary.
- Avoid excessive use of abbreviations. Authors may use abbreviations that are in common use in scientific literature. They may introduce less familiar abbreviations whenever unwieldy terms are repeated in the text. The abbreviation should be introduced (in parentheses) where the term is mentioned first and the abbreviation should be used thereafter. On occasion it may be desirable to list abbreviations as a footnote.
- Authors must disclose any financial interest that they have in products mentioned in their articles or that they will receive compensation from a commercial company upon publication of the article.
- All acknowledgements should be concise and include only identification of grant sources and permission to reproduce from previous publications.

Peer review process

All manuscripts are reviewed by the Honorary Editor, editorial staff and a number of reviewers using a standardised peer-review process. The authors should be sent the reviewers' comments, a decision and any recommended changes by the Honorary Editor within six weeks of submission. The Honorary Editor and publishers reserve the right to make minor editorial changes to accepted manuscripts. The Honorary Editor's decision is final. The *Journal* administers a double-blind review system. Please ensure that you have removed any identifying information, such as the names of institutions, from the main text, and replaced it with XXX.

Submission

Submissions should be made via [Scholastica](#).

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