

Instructions to Authors

Annals of Vascular Diseases (AVD) is an online Open Access journal with a continuous publication model, reporting advances in medical, surgical, and endovascular science in vascular diseases. The journal is sponsored by the three societies: the Japanese College of Angiology, the Japanese Society for Vascular Surgery, and the Japanese Society of Phlebology. *AVD* is also the official journal of the Asian Society for Vascular Surgery and the Asian Venous Forum.

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Aims and Scope

Annals of Vascular Diseases (AVD) publishes Open Access, peer-reviewed original research articles, reviews, case reports, clinical trials, and methods in vascular research and allied fields. Topics include vascular and endovascular surgery, vascular medicine, peripheral vascular disease, and venous and lymphatic disease. Epidemiology, exercise, genetics, translational biology, health services, and transplantation related to vascular science are also considered.

The journal encourages authors anywhere in the world to submit original and important work on clinical and other investigations relating to vascular diseases and angiology. The editors are especially interested in articles that provide clues to the underlying causes of disease or lead to effective treatments. *AVD* also welcomes articles that provide conceptual breakthroughs.

As the official journal of the Japanese College of Angiology, the Japanese Society for Vascular Surgery, and the Japanese Society of Phlebology, the journal publishes peer-reviewed annual reports and selected papers presented at the annual society meetings, as well as original articles from members and non-members.

Manuscript Types

The journal welcomes five manuscript types, all of which are subject to peer review.

Original Articles

Original Articles are full and comprehensive reports describing all types of original research and clinical studies. They should be no more than 4,800 words (or 6 printed pages).

Review Articles

Review Articles focus on topics of interest to vascular scientists and should provide comprehensive and definitive information. Review Articles provide overviews of disease mechanisms, epidemiology, diagnostic strategies, and treatment approaches by summarizing published results on one topic. It is desirable to complete at a maximum of 8,000 words (or 10 printed pages).

Case Reports

Case Reports are high-quality clinical case reports in all aspects of vascular medicine. Case Reports must be valuable and educational, and must present unique insight that is important to the journal's audience. They are presented in format of Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, and Conclusion. They should be no more than 2,400 words (or 3 printed pages).

Clinical Trials

Clinical Trials are brief descriptions of important clinical trials, with an Introduction, main text, Discussion and Conclusion. They should be no more than 2400 words (or 3 printed pages).

New Methods and Techniques

New Methods and Techniques are innovative, brief articles that aim to educate readers about a particular clinical subject – for example, describing the efficient and effective procedure for performing electrocardiograms. They are presented in format of Introduction, New Methods, and Discussion. They should be no more than 2,400 words (or 3 printed pages).

Journal & Ethics Policies

AVD upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing and subscribes to the policies of the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. *Med Educ* 1999; **33**(1): 66-78 or see <http://www.icmje.org>).

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that all authors have seen and approved of manuscript. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described in full below.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Secondary publications approved by the AVD Editorial Board are excluded.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere.

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in *AVD*, they should first withdraw it from the journal.

Submission

AVD welcomes manuscript submissions from authors based anywhere in the world.

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript is an original work and has not been published previously in any language. The journal uses iThenticate plagiarism software (see <https://www.ithenticate.com>) to screen all manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, the authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the Editors' discretion.

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor.

All authors should meet all the criteria below, which are based on ICMJE Recommendations (<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>). Those who contributed to the article but do not meet the criteria should be mentioned in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript. Each author's contribution to the article should be stated in the Author Contributions section. To qualify as an author, contributors must:

- make a substantial contribution to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work
- draft the work or revise it critically for important intellectual content
- provide final approval of the version to be published
- agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work and for ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Image integrity

Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add, or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

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Authors may make their own data and materials available in Supplementary Material, or by linking from their manuscript to relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and must be made publicly available by the date of publication. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least 3 years from the date of publication in the journal.

The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

Animal/human experimentation

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans and human investigation must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki, its revisions, and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions, local ethics committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB). Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript (and on the title page of the submission) that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving animals or materials derived from animals must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the guidelines approved by the authors' institution(s), local ethics committee or IRB.

For all work, an approval number from the ethics approval body must be included; where this is not available, a scanned copy of the approval document should be submitted as a supplementary file attachment.

Clinical trial registration

The journal adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) policy on Clinical Trials Registration, which recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment as a condition of

consideration for publication. Manuscripts describing clinical trials must include the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry.

Reporting guidelines

The journal requires authors to follow the EQUATOR Network's Reporting Guidelines for health research (see <https://www.equator-network.org>). Study types include, but are not limited to, randomized trials, observational studies, systematic reviews, case reports, qualitative research, diagnostic and prognostic studies, economic evaluations, animal pre-clinical studies and study protocols.

Author competing interests and conflicts of interest (COI)

In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived, or potential circumstances that could influence an author's ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity. More details are provided in the 'Disclosure Statement (COI)' section below.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors, and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. *AVD* encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including *AVD*, with Portico in a dark archive (see <https://www.portico.org/publishers/jstage/>). In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

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Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-blind peer review. The editors and reviewers, by providing prompt and authoritative review, aim to optimize the quality of the published articles. All submitted manuscripts are firstly assessed by the Editor-in-Chief. With the exception for submissions

that are outside the scope of the journal or do not have sufficient merit to warrant further review, manuscripts are assigned to an Associate Editor, who selects at least two reviewers.

Reviewers are asked to provide confidential comments regarding the importance, originality, and scientific merit of the manuscript, and to suggest revisions that will improve the article where appropriate. Upon the reviewers' comments, the Associate Editor recommends a decision to the Editor-in-Chief. The Editor-in-Chief makes all decisions.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected without regard to geography and need not belong to the journal's Editorial Committee. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are invited within 2 weeks of an article being submitted. Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within 2 weeks of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

Review of Invited and Secondary Publication Manuscripts

Please note that even invited manuscripts or secondary publications may not be accepted for publication. All submissions, regardless of their nature, will undergo a thorough review process and must meet the journal's quality and relevance criteria. The final decision will be based on the assessment by the editorial board and reviewers.

Acceptance criteria

If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Editor may recommend acceptance for publication in the journal.

Articles in *AVD* must be:

- within the subject area of the journal's scope
- of high interest to the journal's audience
- novel and original
- descriptions of technically rigorous research
- important additions to the field.

The journal particularly welcomes articles that provide a conceptual breakthrough.

If a manuscript does not meet the journal's requirements for acceptance or revision, the Editor may recommend rejection.

Editorial independence

As the journal owner, the Editorial Committee of Annals of Vascular Diseases (ECAVD) has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The ECAVD will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests. The authors' ability to pay any publication charges has no bearing on whether a manuscript is accepted for publication in the journal.

Appeals

Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by the Editor-in-Chief, whose decision is final. The guidelines of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Guidelines) (COPE, see <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Guidelines>) are followed where and when relevant.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors will not:

- disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure
- discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review
- use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
- use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization.

Conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, or having a financial stake in the work or its publication.

Members of the journal's Editorial Board undertake to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An editor who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the manuscript in question and is replaced by a new editor.

Errata and retractions

The journal recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of published literature.

A published article that contains an error may be corrected through the publication of an Erratum. Errata describe errors that significantly affect the scientific integrity of a publication, the reputation of the authors, or the journal itself. Authors who wish to correct a published article should contact the Editorial Office with full details of the error(s) and their requested

changes. In cases where co-authors disagree over a correction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Correction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

A published article that contains invalid or unreliable results or conclusions, has been published elsewhere, or has infringed codes of conduct (covering research or publication ethics) may be retracted. Individuals who believe that a published article should be retracted are encouraged to contact the journal's Editorial Office with full details of their concerns. The Editor-in-Chief will investigate further and contact the authors of the published article for their response. In cases where co-authors disagree over a retraction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Retraction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief who is an author on a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review process. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

A manuscript authored by an editor of *AVD* is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal.

Responding to potential ethical breaches

Suspected or alleged misconduct in relation to a manuscript submitted to *AVD* or published in the journal will be subject to investigation and action by the Editorial Committee. Concerns about potential misconduct can be raised directly with the journal by contacting the Editorial Office (see 'Contact' section).

AVD Editors adhere to the COPE Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors. Charges of academic dishonesty will be managed in line with COPE's Guidelines.

Reviewer confidentiality

As part of their responsibilities, reviewers agree to maintain the confidentiality of unpublished manuscripts at all times. By accepting the invitation to review a manuscript, reviewers agree not to:

- disclose their role in reviewing the manuscript
- reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript
- discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved in the review process
- involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first requesting permission from the Editor
- use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
- use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization.

Reviewer conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence a reviewer's ability to assess a manuscript impartially. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias. Reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Editor, who will determine the best course of action.

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Fees and charges

Article Processing Charge

There are many costs associated with publishing scholarly journals, such as those of managing peer review, copy editing, typesetting and online hosting. To cover these costs in the absence of journal subscriptions, some article processing charges (APCs) are imposed. There is no submission fee.

There is no APC for articles that are within the designated page limits (see 'Manuscript Preparation' section). Invited Review Articles, Editorials and other invited articles are free regardless of the length.

For articles that exceed the designated page limits, the APC is 30,000 yen per extra page over the stated limits.

Offprints

Authors can order offprints if they desire when returning the proofs. The cost of offprints is scaled according to the number of pages and copies.

- Up to 12 pages, up to 100 copies: 30,000 yen, excluding taxes
- Up to 12 pages, 101 to 200 copies: 50,000 yen, excluding taxes
- More than 13 pages: price upon application

- More than 201 copies: price upon application

Payment process

AVD will issue an invoice for total publication fees and charges and the payment must be made before the article's publication. The article will be published once payment is received. If authors fail to complete payment within three months of receiving the email, the journal will withdraw the article. Publication fees and charges are subject to change without notice.

Waiver policy

There is no APC to publish articles in *AVD* that meet the designated page limits. Authors can avoid the need to pay an APC by remaining within those limits.

Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system, Editorial Manager: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/avd/>. Please use the following file formats:

- Text: Word
- Table: Word or Excel (Embedded tables are not acceptable.)
- Figure: TIFF, PowerPoint or Word
- Video: MP4 (A single file should be no more than 50 MB in size.)

Please note: video cannot be embedded in the PDF version of the article.

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office using the details found in the 'Contact' section below.

Manuscript Preparation

English standard

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript checked by a native English speaker or by an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

Format and style

Manuscripts should use double line spacing throughout, with margins of at least 3 cm.

Each of the following sections should begin on a new page, and all pages should be numbered serially.

- Title page
- Abstract
- Main text
- Acknowledgments (if any)
- Disclosure statement
- Author Contributions
- References
- Figure legends

- Tables (Table number and title should be above each table.)
- Figures (Each figure should be numbered.)

Manuscript lengths and limits

Maximum number of items per element by article type

Article type	Page / word limit	Keywords	References	Tables and figures in total
Original Article	6 printed pages / 4,800 words	5	30	5
Review Article	10 printed pages / 8,000 words	5	-	-
Case Report	3 printed pages / 2,400 words	3	10	3
Clinical Trial	3 printed pages / 2,400 words	3	10	3
New Methods and Techniques	3 printed pages / 2,400 words	3	10	3
Editorial	2 printed pages / 1,600 words	Not applicable	10	3

Title page

The title page should provide:

- The title of the article
- The authors' names and affiliation
- The name, affiliation, address, telephone, fax and email address of the corresponding author
- The article type
- Running title (no more than 50 characters including spaces)
- Key words

When informed consent has been obtained from participants, it should be stated in the title page.

Title

The title should describe the content of the article briefly but clearly. This is important for searches by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in related fields.

Abbreviations

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses together with its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract).

Drugs and devices

The sources of devices, chemicals, animals, microbial strains, or equipment should be described, and the company and its location (city, state, and country) should be provided in

parentheses. There is no need to append TM or ®: e.g., Zenith TX2 (Cook Medical Incorporated, Bloomington, IN, USA).

Units

SI or SI-derived units should be used.

Abstract

The Abstract should not exceed 200 words for Review Articles and Original Articles and 100 words for Case Reports, Clinical Trials, New Methods and Techniques, and Editorials.

Structured abstracts should be used for Original Articles. Use the sections: Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion.

Provide an unstructured abstract for Review Articles, Case Reports, Clinical Trials, New Methods and Techniques, and Editorials.

Main text

The main text should be structured using the following sections.

Original Article: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion.

Case Report: Introduction, Case report, Discussion, Conclusion.

Clinical Trial: Introduction, Clinical trial, Discussion, Conclusion.

New Methods and Technique: Introduction, New Methods, Discussion.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments should be brief. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in this section.

Disclosure statement (COI)

When submitting a manuscript to *AVD*, all authors are required to disclose any financial relationship with a biotechnology manufacturer, a pharmaceutical company, or other commercial entity that has an interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. Any Conflict of Interest (COI) should be disclosed both by 1) submitting the disclosure statement form and 2) adding the statement in the submitted manuscript. [Download the COI form.](#)

Author contributions

Each author's contribution to the work should be stated before the References, using the initials of the authors. The last three elements in the example below must be undertaken by all authors.

Example:

Study conception: AZ

Data collection: BY, CX

Analysis: DW
Investigation: BY, EV, FU
Manuscript preparation: AZ
Funding acquisition: EV
Critical review and revision: all authors
Final approval of the article: all authors
Accountability for all aspects of the work: all authors

References

References should be typed with double spacing and cited in Vancouver style.

Unpublished communications should be cited in the text, in parentheses. In the text, references should be numbered consecutively by superscript: 1,2 or 1-3. References should be listed in numerical order at the end of the article.

The sequence for a journal article is: author(s), title of paper, journal name (abbreviated as in Index Medicus or written in full if no abbreviation quoted), year of publication, volume number, first and last pages.

The sequence for a book is: author(s), editor(s) or compiler(s), title and edition number, place of publication and publisher's name, year of publication, first and last pages (if relevant).

Examples:

1. Stone DH, Brewster DC, Kwolek CJ, et al. Stent-graft versus open-surgical repair of the thoracic aorta: mid-term results. *J Vasc Surg.* 2006; 44: 1188-97.
2. Roos DB. Transaxillary first rib resection for thoracic outlet syndrome. In: Bergan JJ, Yao JST eds. *Operative Techniques in Vascular Surgery*. New York: Grune and Stratton, 1980: 125-9.

Authors should cite no more than 30 references for Original Articles and no more than 10 references for Case Reports, Clinical Trials, How to Do It articles and Editorials. There is no limit to the number of references in Review Articles.

Tables and figures

Number tables consecutively using Arabic numerals (Table 1, Table 2, etc.). A title should be given to each table and it must use capital letters. Explanatory material and footnotes should be typed below the table and should be designated with superscript letters, such as a) or b). Units of measurement should be included with numerical values at the top of columns. Avoid detailed explanations of the experimental conditions used to obtain the data shown in tables (which should be included in other sections as relevant).

Figures should be of sufficiently high resolution for direct reproduction for printing. Note that 'figures' includes line drawings and photographs, as well as charts. Magnifications of photographs should be indicated in the legends and/or by scales included in the photographs. Illustrations must be self-explanatory and they should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals (i.e., Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.). Each figure should have a short title. Figure legends should be typed together in a separate sheet(s). Figure legends should include sufficient experimental details to make the figures intelligible; however, duplicating the descriptions provided in other sections should be avoided.

See the table above for the limits on the number of tables and figures per article type.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material adds, but is not essential, to a reader's understanding of a manuscript. Authors are encouraged to submit supplementary material for online-only publication. Supplementary material may comprise data, text, audio or movie files, and is published online alongside the accepted manuscript.

As supplementary material is peer-reviewed, authors must submit it in its final form as part of their manuscript submission. After a manuscript has been accepted for publication, authors may not make any changes to the supplementary material.

Accepted Manuscripts

Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal's production team before publication. The journal operates under a continuous publication model, with articles made available online immediately after final approval. All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

Proofs

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Once the final checks are complete, each manuscript will be published online shortly as part of the continuous publication model.

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and

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