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  - Manuscript title
  - Short running title
  - All authors: full name, academic degree(s), departmental and institutional affiliation(s)
  - Corresponding author: full name, academic degree(s), departmental and institutional affiliation(s), e-mail address, mailing address, telephone number
  - Conflict of interest statement: Every named author must disclose their conflicts or lack thereof through ICMJE COI forms
  - Details of earlier presentation: date(s) and site(s) of presentation (if applicable)
  - Funding
  - Acknowledgments, if any

- **MANUSCRIPT FILE**
  - Manuscript title
  - Abstract and keywords
  - Full manuscript with the appropriate headings when applicable
  - Ethics statement: Statement of institutional review board approval and/or statement of obtaining necessary informed consent(s). This should be included in the methods section
  - References: Cited sequentially in AMA style
  - Figure legends (Figure files should be uploaded separately)
  - Tables and their legends (include tables in the manuscript file)
  - Figures and tables must be cited sequentially in the main document
  - Formatted as double-spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins all around and saved as one file
  - Page and line numbers should be included

- **ART FILES**
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## EDITORIAL CONTACTS


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Article Types

The following graph shows what types of articles are accepted for publication, and what requirement they may have.

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<tr>
<td>Original article (up to 3,500 words)</td>
<td>Up to 300 words (Structured: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions)</td>
<td>3 to 7 keywords</td>
<td>Up to 35 words</td>
<td>Up to 5 tables/figures</td>
<td>Up to 60 references</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review article (up to 4,000 words)</td>
<td>Up to 300 words (Unstructured abstract)</td>
<td>3 to 7 keywords</td>
<td>Up to 35 words</td>
<td>Up to 5 tables/figures</td>
<td>Up to 100 references</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief report (up to 750 words)</td>
<td>Up to 150 words (Structured: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions)</td>
<td>3 to 7 keywords</td>
<td>Up to 35 words</td>
<td>Up to 3 tables/figures</td>
<td>Up to 10 references</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Up to 150 words (Unstructured abstract)</td>
<td>3 to 7 keywords</td>
<td>Up to 35 words</td>
<td>Up to 5 tables/figures</td>
<td>Up to 10 references</td>
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<td>Correspondence (up to 750 words)</td>
<td>Up to 150 words (Unstructured abstract)</td>
<td>3 to 7 keywords</td>
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<td>Up to 2 tables/figures</td>
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<tr>
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- **Original Article**: These include randomized controlled trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic test, outcome studies, cost effectiveness analyses, case-control series, and surveys with high response rate. The text of original articles amounting to up to 3,500 words (excluding abstract, references and tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract (Structure of format: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions) up to 300 words, Key-words (3–7 MeSH words), Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, References, Tables and Figure legends.

- **Brief Report**: These are similar to original research in that they follow the same format and guidelines but are designed for small-scale research or research that is in early stages of development. These may include preliminary studies that utilize a simple research design or a small sample size and that have produced limited pilot data and initial findings that indicate need for further investigation. Brief reports are much shorter than manuscripts associated with a more advanced, larger-scale research project. The text of brief reports amounting to up to 750 words (excluding abstract, references and tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract (Structured: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions; up to 150 words), Key-words (3–7 MeSH words), Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, References (up to 15 references), Tables and Figure legends.

- **Review Article**: It is expected that these articles would be written preferably by individuals who have done substantial work on the subject or are considered experts in the field. The prescribed word count is up to 4,000 words excluding tables, references and abstract. The manuscript may have about 75 references. The manuscript should have an unstructured Abstract (300 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.

- **Case Report**: New, interesting and rare cases can be reported. They should be unique, describing a great diagnostic or therapeutic challenge and providing a learning point for the readers. These manuscripts could be of up to 1,000 words (excluding abstract and references) and should have the following headings: Abstract (unstructured, up to 150 words), Key-words, Introduction, Case report, Discussion, Conclusion, Reference, Tables and Legends. The case reports could be supported with up to 10 references. The number of images/figures/tables/graphs is to be limited to 5. Case reports can include up to 5 authors.

- **Correspondence**: Articles that may not cover “standard research” but that are of general interest to the broad readership of the journal may be submitted as “Correspondence”.

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- Page and line numbers should be included.
- Each figure should be saved as a separate file. **Do not** embed figures within the manuscript file. This requires special handling by Thieme’s Production Department.
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- This journal adheres to a **double-blinded peer-review policy**. The title page should NOT be included in the main document.
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• Listing of each author's role/participation in the authorship of the manuscript on the manuscript (on a separate page in the manuscript).
• Statement of institutional review board approval and/or statement of conforming to the Declaration of Helsinki.

Abstract and Keywords
See the section Article Types for word limits. Structured format (Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions) is necessary for original articles and brief reports, not necessary for review articles or case reports. The abstract should briefly outline the content of the article and any conclusions it may reach. The keywords should be wording a reader would be likely to use in searching for the content of the article.

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• Please clearly distinguish the hierarchy of headings within the manuscript by using capital letters, underlining, italic, and bold styles as necessary.
• As needed, use italics, superscripts, subscripts, and boldface, but otherwise do not use multiple fonts and font sizes.
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References should be the most recent and pertinent literature available. They must be complete and thoroughly checked. If the reference information is incomplete, good online sites to search for full details are the National Library of Medicine: www.nlm.nih.gov; Books in Print: www.booksinprint.com; PubMed: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/; or individual publisher Web sites.

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• References must be cited sequentially (NOT alphabetically) in the text using superscript numbers.
• By way of exception to AMA style, do not italicize book titles or journal title abbreviations and do not put a period at the end of a reference.
• List all author names, up to and including six names. For more than six authors, list the first three followed by et al.
• References should be styled per the following examples:

1. Citing a journal article:

2. Citing a chapter in a book:

3. Citing a book:
   Stryer L.Biochemistry. 2nd ed. San Francisco: WH Freeman; 1981:559–596

4. Citing a thesis:

5. Citing a government publication:

6. Citing an online article:

7. Citing a symposium article:
   Eisenberg J. Market forces and physician workforce reform: why they may not work. Paper presented at: Annual Meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges; October 28, 1995; Washington, DC

Figure Legends

• Figures include photographs or radiographs, drawings, graphs, bar charts, flow charts, and pathways, but NOT lists or tables.
• Figures must be cited sequentially in the text. Number all figures (and corresponding figure legends) sequentially in the order they are cited in the text.
• Figure legends should be written after the reference list. Insert a page break between the end of references and the start of figure captions.
• Figure legends should include a description of the figure and/or each lettered part (A, B, etc.) and of any portions of the figure highlighted by arrows, arrowheads, asterisks, etc.
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• If a table contains artwork, supply the artwork separately as a digital file.
• For tables borrowed or adapted from another publication (used with permission), add a credit line as the first
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- Any abbreviations used in the table should be explained at the end of the table in a footnote.

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**General Guidelines**

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- Do not submit art created in Microsoft Excel, Word, or PowerPoint. These files cannot be used by the typesetter.
- Acceptable figure file formats are .tif, .eps, .jpg, .pdf.
- Save each figure in a separate file.
- Do not compress files.
- All black-and-white and color artwork should be at a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch) in TIFF format. Line art should be 1,200 dpi in EPS or TIFF format. Contact the Production Editor at Thieme if you are unsure of the final size.
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**Note:** Lower resolutions (less than 300 dpi) and JPEG format (.jpg extension) for grayscale and color artwork are strongly discouraged due to the poor quality they yield in printing, which requires 300 dpi resolution for sharp, clear, detailed images. JPEG format, by definition, is a lower resolution (compressed) format designed for quick upload on computer screens.

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- Black-and-white artwork can be halftone (grayscale) photographs, radiographs, drawings, line art, graphs, and flowcharts. Thieme will only accept digital artwork.
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- Arrows, asterisks, and arrowheads (or other markers) should be white in dark or black areas black in light or white areas, and large. If not, these highlighting marks may become difficult to see when figures are reduced in size during the typesetting process.
- Use 1-point (or thicker) rules and leader lines.
- Capitalize the first word of each label and all proper nouns. Consider using all capitals if you need a higher level of labels.
- Where there are alternate terms or spellings for a named structure, use the most common one and make sure it is consistent with what is used in the text.
- Avoid using multiple fonts and font sizes for the labels; use only one or two sizes of a serif font.

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- Always review your manuscript before submitting it. You may stop a submission at any phase and save it to submit later. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email. You can also check the status of your manuscript by logging in to the submission system. The Editor in Chief will inform you via email once a decision has been made.

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- You will also be provided space in which to respond to the reviewers’ and editors’ comments. Please be as specific as possible in your response.

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Authorship credit should be based on criteria established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Each author should have made the following contributions towards the completion of the manuscript:

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2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
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For all manuscripts reporting data from studies involving human or animal participants, formal review and approval, or formal review and waiver (exemption), by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee is required, as well as any necessary HIPAA consent, and should be described in the Methods section with the full name of the reviewing entity. All clinical trials must be registered in a public trial’s registry. Denote the registry and registry number.

Please follow the standard Levels of Evidence for Primary Research and the reporting guidelines specified by this table:

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<td>Studies of diagnostic accuracy</td>
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<td>QUOROM/PRISMA</td>
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<td>Observational studies in epidemiology</td>
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<td>MOOSE</td>
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