

BioHealth Informatics

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1. Aims and Scope

BioHealth Informatics (BHI) is an official journal of Japan Association for Medical Informatics (JAMI). This open access, peer-reviewed online journal provides a forum for original research, practical studies, and methodological advances in medical informatics. Our scope encompasses (but are not limited to) electronic health records, clinical decision support, health data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning applications, natural language processing, telemedicine, mobile health, interoperability and standards, medical information system development/management, security and privacy protection, education and training, and socio-technical aspects of health information technology. Submissions detailing system design, implementation, evaluation, and informatics education are also encouraged.

Our mission is to advance the effective use of information technology in healthcare and public health, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and informing practice in the field.

2. Manuscript Types and Formats

The journal accepts the following article types for submission. Authors should carefully select the most appropriate article type for their work. Authors should also consult '4-4. Reporting guidelines' to ensure compliance with the relevant reporting guideline for their study design.

The word limit specified for each manuscript type excludes tables/figures, references and figure captions.

2-1. Original Article

Original Articles report novel and completed research in medical informatics. We invite submissions of empirical studies that feature clear hypotheses, sound methodology, and sufficient data to support the conclusions. Manuscripts should critically interpret findings

within the context of existing literature and demonstrate a meaningful contribution to the field.

Word Limit	up to 4,000 words
Abstract	Structured with the subheadings of Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion; max 300 words
Main Text	Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 8 figures/tables combined

2-2. Review Article

Review Articles provide a comprehensive and critical synthesis of literature on key topics in medical informatics. They aim to summarize current knowledge, identify research gaps, and suggest future directions. Both systematic reviews and narrative reviews are welcome. Narrative reviews should provide balanced, authoritative overviews of evolving areas in the field, such as emerging technologies, implementation challenges, or policy implications. Purely descriptive or opinion-based summaries lacking a clear methodology will not be accepted.

Word Limit	up to 4,800 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 300 words
Main Text	Abstract, Body texts (flexible structure appropriate to the contents), Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 10 figures/tables combined. For systematic reviews, submission of PRISMA checklist is encouraged as a supplementary file.

2-3. Short Communication

Short Communications report preliminary findings, novel technical developments, or focused studies that merit rapid publication but do not require the length of a full research article. Suitable topics include pilot studies, proof-of-concept implementations, initial validation of novel algorithms, negative results of importance, or replication studies. Manuscripts should represent complete work within a limited scope.

Word Limit	up to 2,400 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 200 words
Main Text	Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 4 figures/tables combined.

2-4. Technical Note

Technical Notes describe novel devices, software tools, or analytical workflows that offer significant improvements in efficiency, accuracy, or usability over existing solutions. While Original Articles focus on theoretical novelty, this category emphasizes practical utility and implementation details. We invite authors to demonstrate the tool’s effectiveness through specific use cases or benchmarks. Open availability of the software or protocol (e.g., via a public repository) is strongly encouraged to foster community adoption.

Word Limit	up to 3,600 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 200 words
Main Text	Abstract, Introduction, Technical Description, Discussion, Conclusion, Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 5 figures/tables combined.

2-5. Data Report

Data Reports describe the creation, characteristics, and potential utility of datasets relevant to medical informatics research and applications. Manuscripts should include data acquisition methods, validation processes, and possible reuse scenarios. We encourage submissions that provide detailed metadata to facilitate data sharing and transparency within the community. While extensive analysis is not required, authors must ensure that the dataset is published as open data and registered in a public data repository, and must include a Data Availability Statement with a valid persistent identifier.

Word Limit	up to 3,600 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 200 words
Main Text	Abstract, Introduction, Data Description, Usage Notes, Conclusion, Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 5 figures/tables combined.

2-6. Perspective

Perspectives present informed opinions, critical analyses, or forward-looking viewpoints on key issues in medical informatics from recognized experts in the field. Topics may include ethical considerations in AI-driven healthcare, policy recommendations, workforce development, emerging technology implications. Manuscripts should offer well-reasoned arguments supported by evidence, aiming to stimulate community discussion and offer fresh insights into current practices or future directions.

Word Limit	up to 2,400 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 200 words
Main Text	Abstract, Body texts (flexible structure appropriate to the contents), Declarations, References, Figure Legends

Components	Maximum of 4 figures/tables combined. Brief statement of author expertise relevant to the topic is encouraged.
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2-7. Tutorial

Tutorials provide educational content designed to guide researchers, practitioners, or students through specific methodologies or technical topics such as machine learning fundamentals, clinical terminologies, or data privacy regulations. Manuscripts should be practically oriented, offering clear explanations and examples to help readers acquire new skills and deepen their understanding of the field.

Word Limit	up to 2,400 words
Abstract	Unstructured; max 200 words
Main Text	Abstract, Body texts (flexible structure appropriate to the contents), Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 4 figures/tables combined.

2-8. Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor provide a forum for readers to comment on, or offer alternative interpretations of articles recently published in this journal. Authors of the original article will generally be given an opportunity to reply. Additionally, Letters may report very brief, novel observations that do not warrant a Short Communication, or concise scientific notes of general interest.

Word Limit	up to 1,200 words
Abstract	Not required
Main Text	Body texts(continuous text without section headings), Declarations, References, Figure Legends
Components	Maximum of 1 figures/tables combined.

3. Copyright, Open Access and Fees

All articles in BHI are published under the Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 ([Attribution 4.0 International](#)). This license allows users to share and adapt an article, even commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given.

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There is no submission fee and publication fee for this journal. However, Authors are required to pay an excess page fee of 20,000 Japanese yen (tax excluded) per journal typeset page if manuscripts exceed the stated typeset page limits in Table 1.

Invited manuscripts are exempt from excess page fees.

Table 1

Manuscript type	Typeset page limits	Excess page fee
Original Article	9 typeset pages	20,000 JPY (+tax) /per typeset page
Review Article	11 typeset pages	
Technical Note, Data Report	7 typeset pages	
Short Communication, Perspective, Tutorial	5 typeset pages	
Letter to Editor	3 typeset pages	

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4. Journal Policies

BHI upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing and welcomes manuscript submissions from members and non-members of Japan Association for Medical Informatics based anywhere in the world.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor-in-Chief 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 of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

4-1. Originality

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript is original work, 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.

The journal uses Crossref's Similarity Check plagiarism software to screen manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see '4-12. Preprints').

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

4-2. Research ethics

Authors of manuscripts describing research involving human participants, human materials or human data, 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 authors' institutions.

A statement detailing this, including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number where appropriate, must appear in all manuscripts reporting such research.

Where relevant, authors must describe the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants or provide an explanation if consent was waived (for example, in studies using anonymized or de-identified data), in accordance with institutional and national guidelines.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving animals or materials derived from animals must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with institutional and national guidelines for animal care and use.

Manuscripts may be rejected if the Editor considers that the research has not been carried out within an appropriate ethical framework. In rare cases, the Editor may contact the ethics committee for further information.

4-3. Clinical trial registration

The journal adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) policy on Clinical Trials Registration, which requires 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.

4-4. Reporting guidelines

The journal requires authors to follow the EQUATOR Network's Reporting Guidelines for health research. For studies in medical informatics, authors should consult additional relevant guidelines, such as:

PRISMA for systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

CONSORT-EHEALTH for web-based and mobile health interventions.

CONSORT-AI and SPIRIT AI for AI intervention trials.

STARE-HI for health informatics evaluation studies.

TRIPOD+AI (or TRIPOD) for prediction model development and validation.

SQUIRE for quality improvement studies.

STROBE for observational studies.

4-5. Data Availability

For all empirical studies, authors must include a "Data Availability Statement" section in their manuscript detailing where the data supporting their findings can be found.

Authors are encouraged to make their data and materials publicly available in community-recognized repositories. If data are publicly available, accession numbers or DOIs must be provided.

All data sets should be made available to editors and reviewers during the peer review process upon request, unless legal, ethical, or contractual restrictions prevent disclosure. In such cases, explain these restrictions in the "Data Availability Statement".

4-6. 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. In principle, the journal permits a maximum of two authors to be designated as co-first authors, provided that their equal contribution is clearly indicated in the manuscript. Changes of authorship by adding or deleting authors, and/or changes in corresponding author, and/or changes in the sequence of authors are not permitted after acceptance of a manuscript.

Authors should consider ICMJE Recommendations on '[Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors](#)'. The ICMJE recommends that authorship is based on four criteria: making a substantial contribution to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work; drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; approving the final version of the manuscript for publication; and agreeing to be held accountable for all aspects of the work.

Any contributor who has met all four criteria should be an author on the manuscript. Contributors who do not meet all four criteria should not be authors of the manuscript but may be included in the Acknowledgments section instead.

Given that Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as Large Language Models (LLMs) and various openly available services cannot meet the requirements above, they cannot be listed as an author of a manuscript.

4-7. Data falsification, data fabrication and image integrity

Authors must not falsify or fabricate data. 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.

4-8. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools

As per [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\) guidance](#), authors must disclose any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (also known as Large Language Models or LLMs) in a suitable part of the manuscript. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI tools to collect or analyse data, produce or amend images or graphics used in the manuscript, or write all or part of the manuscript. Authors must describe which tools they used and how the tools were used. In general, the use of generative AI tools is allowed only where that use is an integral part of the research design or methods. Other use will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, authors remain responsible for all the content of their submitted manuscript.

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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. Manuscripts must be compliant with the [ICMJE standards](#) on this matter.

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Funding section of their manuscript.

4-11. 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.

4-12. Preprints

To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal encourages authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers, either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript may be posted on the preprint server.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

4-13. 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. The journal encourages authors to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

4-14. Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including the journal, 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.

5. Peer Review

BHI operates a single-blind peer-review system, where the reviewers are aware of the names and affiliations of the authors, but the reviewer reports provided to authors are anonymous.

5-1. Editorial and peer review process

Publication of research articles by BHI is dependent primarily on their scientific validity and coherence as judged by our expert editors and peer reviewers, who will also assess whether the writing is comprehensible and whether the work represents a useful contribution to the field. Submitted manuscripts will be reviewed by two external Reviewers who will be asked to evaluate whether the manuscript is scientifically sound and coherent, whether it duplicates already published work, and whether or not the manuscript is sufficiently clear for publication. Reviewers will also be asked to indicate how interesting and significant the research is. The handling Editor will reach a decision based on these reports and, where necessary, they will consult with the Editor-in-Chief.

Authors have the option to choose either English or Japanese as the language for the peer review comments.

5-2. Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

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 asked to submit their first review within 3 weeks of accepting the invitation to review.

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 handling Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the handling Editor's sole discretion.

5-3. 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 the journal must be:

- *technically rigorous*
- *original or educationally valuable*

- *important to the field*
- *within the subject area of the journal's scope*
- *well-constructed and written*
- *of high interest to the journal's audience*

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

5-4. Editorial independence

JAMI has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. JAMI 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.

5-5. 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 [COPE](#) are followed where and when relevant.

5-6. Confidentiality in peer review

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

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

In addition, reviewers will not reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript or involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first receiving permission from the Editor.

5-7. Editor and reviewer conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor or reviewer'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, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Editors and reviewers are to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An Editor or reviewer who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the manuscript in question and is replaced by a new Editor or Reviewer.

The Editor-in-Chief and Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias.

5-8. 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 editor who handled their manuscript or 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.

5-9. 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 the journal is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal.

5-10. Responding to potential ethical breaches

The journal will respond to allegations of ethical breaches by following its own policies and, where possible, the guidelines of COPE.

6. Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system, ScholarOne Manuscripts at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bhi>.

The manuscript text should be submitted in Microsoft Word, and include Title page, Abstract, Main text, Declarations, References, Figure legends, and Tables with each title. Figures must NOT be embedded within the manuscript file.

If included in the submission, each set of materials listed below must be cited appropriately in the manuscript text. A title for each Table, Figure or Video must be included.

- 1) Text (Title page, Abstract - Legends): MS Word
- 2) Tables: MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint (saving as an image is not a valid format)
- 3) Figures: JPEG, TIF, PNG, PowerPoint (image files should have a minimum of 300 dpi)
- 4) Video: MP4 (each file must not exceed 50MB)

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office as per the details in the Contact section.

7. Manuscript Preparation

7-1. Style

The manuscripts should be typed double-spaced throughout with 12-point type face, formatted for A4 paper leaving margins of at least 2.5 cm (1 inch).

Line and page numbers must be indicated.

7-2. English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English with American or British spelling used consistently throughout. Authors whose native language is not English are required 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. A concise style avoiding unnecessary jargon is preferred.

7-3. Cover Letter

A cover letter that includes the following information is encouraged.

- An explanation of why your manuscript should be published in BHI
- An explanation of any issues relating to journal policies.
- A declaration of any potential competing interests.
- Confirmation that the content of the manuscript has not been published, or submitted for publication elsewhere.

7-4. Title page

The title page should comprise the following.

- 1) A concise but informative title. Only the first letter of each word should be capitalized, except for conjunctions, articles, or prepositions unless the first word of the title.
- 2) Authors' full names and ORCID ID (if they have), without academic qualifications.
- 3) Full names of the department(s) and institution(s) in which the research was undertaken, together with the location (city, state, and nation). Use superscript numbers to indicate authors from different institutions.
- 4) Corresponding author's name, full address, telephone and e-mail address. Only one corresponding author is permitted.

7-5. Title

The title should be concise and informative, not exceeding 30 words; it should describe the content of the article briefly but clearly and is important for search purposes by third-party services. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in related fields, and avoid formulae and trade names where possible.

7-6. Authors and affiliations

Provide the full names of the author(s). In addition, provide the full names of institutions where the work was done (including laboratory, department, institute and/or university). When authors belong to different institutions, their respective addresses should be indicated by superscript numbers.

7-7. Keywords

Three to five keywords representing the main content of the article. Keywords should refer to MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), the MEDLINE thesaurus.

7-8. Units

SI or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available at the [Bureau International des Poids et Mesures \(BIPM\) website](#). Units in common clinical use (e.g., mmHg for blood pressure) are also acceptable where appropriate.

- 1) Length: m
- 2) Mass: kg
- 3) Time: s
- 4) Temperature: °C (Use a combination of the degree symbol "°" and a capital "C", rather than a single special character.)

7-9. Method of stating the names of devices

For all equipment and products mentioned in the text, include the model name/number, the manufacturer and its location (city, state, country) in parentheses in the text. For statistical software, specify the version, manufacturer, and manufacturer's location.

7-10. Abstract

The abstract should briefly summarize the aim, findings or purpose of the article. It should not exceed the word limits for each article type. Minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.

7-11. Abbreviations

A list of abbreviations should be provided between Abstract and 'Introduction' section of the manuscript.

Once defined in the list of abbreviations, abbreviations may be used throughout the main text. However, abbreviations should be defined in Figure and Table legends.

7-12. Declarations

Funding

All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. The role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared.

Examples:

Funded: "This work was supported by XXXXX (Grant Number XXXXX). The funder had no role in the study design, data collection, or preparation of the manuscript."

Not funded: "The authors received no specific funding for this work."

Authors' contributions

The individual contributions of authors should be specified using the CRediT ([Contributor Roles Taxonomy](#)) framework, which consists of 14 contributor roles. Authors should also state that all authors have reviewed and approved the final manuscript, and agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Example:

"Conceptualization: AB; Methodology: AB, CD; Data Curation: CD; Formal Analysis: CD; Writing–original draft: AB; Writing–review&editing: AB, CD, EF; Visualization: EF; Supervision: EF. All authors have reviewed and approved the final manuscript and agree to be held accountable for all aspects of the work."

Data availability statement

An article's data availability statement lets a reader know where and how to access data that support the results and analysis. It may include links to publicly accessible datasets that were analysed or generated during the study, descriptions of what data are available and/or information on how to access data that is not publicly available.

Examples:

"The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are available in the [repository name, unique persistent identifier, hyperlink to datasets]."

When data are included within the article and/or as additional files: "The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are included within the article [as additional files]."

If data sharing is restricted by privacy regulations or ethical considerations: "Data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request." or "Data cannot be shared due to patient privacy concerns."

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Manuscripts reporting studies involving human participants, human data, or human tissue must:

- Include a statement on ethics approval and informed consent, even if the need for approval or consent was waived (for example, in studies using anonymized or de-identified data).
- Include the name of the ethics committee that approved the study and the committee's reference number if appropriate.
- If your study involves animals, a statement on ethics approval must also be included.

Examples:

Standard Approval: "This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of XXXXX (Approval No. 12345). Informed consent was obtained from all the participants in the study."

Waiver: "Ethical review and approval were waived for this study by the Ethics Committee of XXXXX due to the retrospective nature of the study using anonymized data."

If your manuscript does not report on or involve the use of any human or animal data or tissue, please state "Not applicable" in this section.

Consent for publication

If your manuscript contains any identifiable individual person's data in any form (including individual details, images, or videos), consent to publish must be obtained from that person, or in the case of children, their parent or legal guardian.

Example: "Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this manuscript and any accompanying images."

If your manuscript uses entirely anonymized data or does not contain data from which an individual could be identified, please state "Not applicable" in this section.

Competing interests

All financial and non-financial competing interests must be declared in this section.

Examples:

No competing interests: "The authors declare that they have no competing interests."

Financial competing interests: "AB has received consulting fees from [Company Name]. CD has received research grants from [Company Name]. Rest of the authors declare that they have no competing interests."

A Disclosure Statement form is available here. All authors of the manuscript should complete this form and return it to the corresponding author, who should upload these to the submission system along with the manuscript files.

If you are unsure whether you or any of your co-authors have a competing interest, please contact the Editorial Office.

7-13. References

BHI uses the Vancouver referencing style. Number references consecutively in the order cited in the text, not alphabetically. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by superscript Arabic numerals in closing parenthesis on the line.

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Accuracy of reference data is the author's responsibility.

Provide inclusive page numbers for all references. In citation of articles list the first three authors only, and add "et al" if there are four or more authors. Journal titles should be abbreviated according to Index Medicus. For papers written in Japanese, follow the style of example 2. For papers cited only by DOI, see example 3. For books, see example 4. For online materials, write the details in this order: name of webmaster, page title, URL, last access date, see example 6.

Examples:

1. Mulford DK, Dawson AE. Atypia in fine-needle aspiration cytology of nonpalpable and palpable mammographically detected breast lesions. *Acta Cytol* 1994; 38:9-17.
2. Nakajima T. Tabular analysis of 10 000 cases of gastric cancer in the Cancer Institute Hospital. *Jpn J Cancer Chemother* 1994; 21:1813-97. (in Japanese)
3. Mitchell AJ, Vaze A, Rao S. Clinical diagnosis of depression in primary care: a meta-analysis. *Lancet* 2009; doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60879-5.
4. Watanabe H, Jass JR, Sobin LH. *Histopathological typing of oesophageal and gastric tumours*, 2nd ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York: Springer; 1990. p. 23.
5. Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: *The dictionary of substances and their effects*. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. http://www.rsc.org/dose/title_of_subordinate_document. Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

7-14. Tables

Tables should be numbered and cited in the text in sequence using Arabic numerals (i.e. Table 1, Table 2 etc.).

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