

Notes for contributors

Submission of manuscripts

We will consider original research papers, review articles, leading articles and letters. Submissions may be concerned with any aspect of minimally invasive therapy and its allied technologies.

More specifically, they should deal with technological developments and their applications in various medical fields; we also welcome clinical reports dealing with the use of specific technologies in clinical situations. Moreover, we explicitly encourage contributions of a more speculative nature, dealing with trends and developments which seem promising, but are not yet ready for clinical application.

The style of papers should reflect the broad readership of the journal. Papers should be sent to the Technological Editorial Assistant, Zentrum für Medizinische Forschung, MIC-Sektion, Waldhoernlestrasse 22, D-72072 Tübingen, Germany (tel: + 49 7071 2981233; fax: +49 7071 295569; e-mail: elisabeth.hermann-decker@uni-tuebingen.de).

Papers must be submitted exclusively to the journal, with signed consent to publication in a letter sent with the manuscript. Papers are accepted on the understanding that they have not been and will not be published elsewhere. The Editors reserve the right to modify the style and length of a contribution (major changes will be agreed with the author) and to decide the time of publication.

Following final approval of articles, authors are asked to submit the accepted version on disk (the final version of the hard copy and the file on disk *must* be the same). These should be IBM-compatible. Note the software used, the type of computer and any special (non-keyboard) characters used. Do not use the carriage return (enter) at the end of lines within a paragraph. Turn the hyphenation option off. Always enclose a hard copy of figures and tables. Disks will not be returned to authors.

Presentation of manuscripts

Two copies of papers should be submitted, typed double-spaced on A4 paper (30 x 21 cm). The Editors cannot accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to, manuscripts.

The title page should contain the author(s) name(s), appointments and place of work at the relevant time. Present addresses and a correspondence address should appear as a footnote. A short running title of no more than 45 characters and spaces should be given, and up to six keywords for indexing purposes.

The text should begin with a Summary not exceeding 200 words, and then proceed conventionally; Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion. Pages should be numbered consecutively in arabic numerals, but tables, figure legends and acknowledgements should be submitted on separate sheets. Tables and figures should be referred to in the text with an indication of their preferred position in the margin.

Figures

Black and white photographs should be no larger than 16 × 16 cm. Colour prints, or preferably 35 mm transparencies, are welcomed where they complement and enhance the text. Electronic artwork is acceptable as tiff or EPS Mac files (without compression) and should be accompanied by a hard copy. (Please note: the Publisher does not charge for the

inclusion of colour illustrations.) All illustrations must be numbered together with the author's name on the reverse side, with their top indicated, and must be cited in the text. Concise legends must accompany each illustration and include the key if one is used.

Tables

Tables should be typed double-spaced on separate sheets and numbered consecutively within the text. Only horizontal rules should be used; one above and one below the column headings and one at the foot of the table. All abbreviations should be explained in a footnote.

Units and abbreviations

All measurements should be in SI units. *Units, Symbols and Abbreviations* (1988) published by the Royal Society of Medicine, and *SI: The International System of Units* (1982) from HMSO provide useful guides.

Permission

Authors must submit written permission from the publisher when material is reproduced from other sources.

References

The Vancouver system should be used, i.e. references should be numbered in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text, and should be identified in the text, tables and legends by arabic numerals in parentheses.

Journal names should be abbreviated in the form adopted by the US National Library of Medicine and used in *Index Medicus*. References must be verified by the authors against the original documents. Unpublished articles and personal communications are not to be listed with the references but should be referred to in the text by the author's initials and surname. Please list the first three authors of a reference before using *et al.* if there are more than four; for four or less, list them all.

The following are examples of the style to be used:

- 1 Lahita R, Kluger J, Drayer DE, Koffler D, Reidenburg MM. Antibodies to nuclear antigens in patients treated with procainamide. *N Engl J Med* 1979; **301**: 1382–5.
- 2 Beam AG. Wilson's disease. In: Stanbury JB, Wyngaarden JB, Frederickson DS, eds. *The metabolic basis of inherited disease*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972: 1055–60.

Proofs and offprints

Proofs must be returned by fax, if possible, within 48 hours of receipt. Only the Editor's corrections will be included after this time. Twenty-five offprints will be supplied free of charge to the corresponding author. Additional copies may be ordered when proofs are returned.

Checklist

1. Letter of submission, giving signed consent to publication.
2. Two copies of manuscript, typed double-spaced on one side of A4 paper, comprising:
 - a) title page, author's name, appointments and place of work, full and short running titles, keywords for indexing;
 - b) Summary of 200 words, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion;
 - c) References, using the Vancouver system; Tables, figures and legends on separate sheets.
3. SI units and standard abbreviations.