



Instructions for Authors

Aims and Scopes

The *Journal of Child Neurology (JCN)* is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed biomedical journal publishing articles in the fields of child neurology, pediatric neurosurgery, pediatric neuroradiology, child psychiatry, pediatric neuropsychology, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, pediatric neuroscience, and developmental neurobiology.

General Instructions

All submissions (including invited material) are subjected to peer review and all material must be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/childneurology>. New authors should use the "create new account" button. Manuscript text should only be submitted in Microsoft Word (MSWord) document format (saved as ".doc" files). To upload manuscripts go to the "Author Center." Files to be uploaded should include text of the article, abstract and keywords, tables (prepared in MSWord), photographs, line drawings, and figures; do not insert existing figures into the MSWord document file. At the completion of the upload of each file, a confirmation window will appear asking for a description of the document (for your main document, use language such as "article text" or "main document"; for figures, indicate a figure number, such as "Figure 1"; and for other supporting documents, indicate clearly what the document is).

Copyright

The transfer of copyright form signed by the corresponding author, available on the Web site, should be uploaded at the time of submission, if possible, or faxed to the editorial office at 402-280-5247. Submission of a manuscript to *JCN* is taken as evidence that no part of the text or any of the figures has been copyrighted, published, or submitted for publication elsewhere unless information regarding previous publication is explicitly cited and permission obtained (a copy of such permission must be provided with the manuscript).

Text

Manuscripts should follow the usual format for scientific articles and conform to the style adopted by the American Medical Association. Authors should refer to articles in a current issue of *JCN* for guidelines. Manuscript pages should

be numbered consecutively. Avoid use of all abbreviations unless the abbreviation itself (e.g., DNA) will be more familiar to readers than the words it replaces. Only generic names of drugs should be used. Express clinical laboratory data (including normal ranges) in conventional rather than SI (Système International) units, although SI units can be provided in parentheses.

Pages should be double spaced and numbered consecutively with the appropriate subheadings used to designate different sections in the following order: title page, abstract, keywords, text, references, tables, and figure legends. Prior to submission, manuscripts prepared by authors whose native language is not English must be edited for proper spelling, grammar, and syntax by a professional editor or colleague who is a native English speaker. Authors should retain for their own files at least one complete copy of all material submitted. Additional information on style can be obtained from the website <http://www.icmje.org/> or from the following references:

1. American Medical Association *Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 9th ed. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1997.
2. Huth EJ. *Writing and Publishing in Medicine*. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999.
3. Brumback RA. Publishing in biomedical journals: The system in review. *J Child Neurol*. 1991;6:193-195.
4. Kushlan JA. Use and abuse of abbreviations in technical communication. *J Child Neurol*. 1995;10:1-3.
5. Young DS, Huth EJ. *SI Units for Clinical Measurement*. Philadelphia, PA: American College of Physicians, 1998.

Title page. The title should be brief and meaningful. Following the title, there should be a listing of first and last names of all authors, along with highest academic or medical degrees and affiliations. Authorship should be limited to direct participants (technical assistance can be acknowledged as a footnote). A separate paragraph should identify where the work was done, if supported by a grant or otherwise, and the meeting, if any, at which the material was presented. List the complete name, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address for the corresponding author (authors who do not have an e-mail account can obtain one from among the free sites such as "gmail.com," "hotmail.com," or "yahoo.com"). Any potential conflicts of interest or commercial support of the authors should be described. For multi-authored submissions, up to three authors can be designated as "first authors who contributed equally to this work" if the contributions of those individuals essentially

constituted the majority of the work on the project. In addition, “mentors who contributed equally to this work” can be used to define a category of authorship for senior investigators, clinicians, or directors who provided the support and mentorship necessary for the success of the work.

Abstract. An unstructured abstract of no more than 150 words should be provided on a separate page and should be factual, presenting the reason for the study, main findings, and conclusions.

References. Authors are responsible for correctness and completeness of reference citations. The reference list should be typed double-spaced and begin on a separate page. Reference citations should be arranged according to their order of appearance in the text, and indicated by superscript numbers in the text. References should be typed generally in accordance with the style of the *American Medical Association Manual of Style* (examples shown below). Only the first four authors should be listed; when there are more than four authors, list only the first three followed by “et al.” Abbreviations of journal names should conform to the style in PubMed. Abstracts should be noted as such. Sample references are given below.

1. Liptak GS, Bloss JW, Briskin H, et al. The management of children with spinal dysraphism. *J Child Neurol.* 1988; 3:3-20.
2. Benson DF. The role of frontal dysfunction in attention deficit hyper-activity disorder. *J Child Neurol.* 1991;6(Suppl):S9-S12.
3. Christoferson LA, Leech RW. Animal models of hydrocephalus. In Leech RW, Brumback RA, eds. *Hydrocephalus: Current Clinical Concepts.* St. Louis, MO: Mosby-Year Book; 1991:71-76.
4. Volpe JJ. *Neurology of the Newborn.* 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PA: WB Saunders; 1987.

Personal communications, unpublished manuscripts submitted but not yet accepted, and similar unpublished items should not appear in the reference list, but can be noted parenthetically in the text. If reference managers (such as EndNote) are used, the author must assure that the submitted manuscript has the references provided in the same plain text manner as the rest of the manuscript.

Artwork Submissions

Artwork includes charts and graphs, maps, photographs, line

art, and tables with 17 or more columns. For electronic art acceptable file formats include the following: TIFF, EPS, and JPEG. Microsoft application files are acceptable for vector art (line art). All images should be a minimum of 2100 pixels wide. Graphs should be submitted as figure files and should be finished drawings, not requiring further artwork. Recognizable photographs of patients must be accompanied by written permission for publication. Written permission must be included from both the author and the publisher to reproduce any previously published illustration. Care must be given to the preparation of figures, including legends and explanatory titles. Figure legends should be typewritten double-spaced and grouped on a separate page (in the same document), with numbers corresponding to those on the figure files themselves. All figures must be referred to specifically in the text and numbered in order of appearance in the text. Abbreviations appearing in illustrations must be identified in the legend. Color photographs or illustrations will be published in the online version at no cost to the authors; however publication of color images in the print version will be charged to the author at a cost of \$800 for the first figure and \$200 for each additional figure.

Tables

Tables should be numbered consecutively corresponding to in-text citation. Each table should be prepared in MSWord on a separate page at the end of the text document and preferably should be no larger than a single page. Include a brief descriptive title of the table. All tables must be referred to specifically in the text and numbered in order of appearance in the text.

Conflict of Interest

Authors must disclose any commercial or other associations that could pose a conflict of interest in connection with their submitted article. These conflicts of interest can be disclosed to the Editor in a cover letter at the time of submission and will be held in confidence. Questions regarding conflict of interest should be directed to: Roger A. Brumback, MD, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Child Neurology, Creighton University Medical Center, 601 North 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (e-mail: jcn@creighton.edu).