

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The journal **Biochimica Clinica** is a peer-reviewed, subscription-based journal which publishes papers related to Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology and more generally to Laboratory Medicine. Manuscripts may be submitted **either in Italian or in English** in the form of editorials (by invitation only), reviews (normally by invitation, but suggestions on topics of interest are welcome), original articles, opinions, documents, SIBioC documents, case reports, letters to the Editor. The journal aims to provide its readers with papers of the highest quality and impact through a process of rigorous single-blinded peer review and independent editorial management. Duties and responsibilities of all the subjects involved in the editorial process are summarized at [Research ethics policy](#). Manuscripts are expected to comply with the instructions to authors which conform to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Editors by the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#). **Biochimica Clinica**, as a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), complies to its principles and follows the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct.

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Articles published in the journal undergo peer review. Edizioni Minerva Medica carefully oversees each step of the process ensuring that all parties involved operate and interact efficiently with the aim of guaranteeing that the published content is of high scientific quality, complies with ethical research principles, and is released in a timely manner. The peer review process is fully documented and recorded at every stage to ensure transparency, honesty and integrity. More information about the peer review policy are available at the Peer-review policy page of the journal.

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Authors are welcome to suggest 2-3 suitable reviewers when they submit their manuscript by providing in the covering letter their names, institutions and e-mail addresses. When suggesting reviewers, authors should make sure they have a high degree of expertise and independence in the field of the study presented.

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Data availability - When reporting original research data, a statement on data availability should be included in the manuscript at the end of the “Materials and Methods” section.

Randomized controlled trials - The trial registry name, registration number and a paragraph on blinding and allocation concealment should be included in the “Materials and Methods” section.

Studies involving human subjects - A statement should be included in the manuscript at the beginning of the “Materials and Methods” section, indicating that the study has been approved by the appropriate ethics committee before experiment was started and that the study has been conducted in accordance with the principles set forth in the [Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2024](#).

Informed consent – A statement on informed consent, clearly indicating that patients have freely given their consent to participate in the research study and to have their data published in a journal article, should be included at the beginning of the “Materials and Methods” section of the manuscript.

Studies involving human embryos, gametes and human embryonic stem cells – A statement should be included at the beginning of the “Materials and Methods” section of the manuscript confirming that the study has been approved by the appropriate ethics committee before experiment was started and that the study has been conducted in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations.

Studies involving animals – A statement should be included in the manuscript at the beginning of the “Materials and Methods” section indicating that the study has been approved by the appropriate ethics committee and specifying the guidelines for care of animals that have been followed.

Duplicate or multiple publication

A single study should not be split up into several parts to increase the author’s publication output. Splitting the data concerning one study in more than one publication could be acceptable if authors justify the choice with good reasons both in the cover letter and in the manuscript. Authors should state what new scientific contribution is contained in their manuscript compared to any previously published article derived from the same study. Relevant previously published articles should be included in the cover letter of the currently submitted article. All submissions are subject to review with Crossref Similarity Check powered by iThenticate.

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Research involving human participants

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Authors should clearly identify in the manuscript dual-use research of concern, that is intended to provide a clear benefit but which could easily be misapplied to do harm.

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Authors are required to comply with validated standards of reporting during manuscript preparation, and to submit the relevant checklists with the cover letter upon submission. Below we provide examples of validated reporting standards relevant to specific types of articles:

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- observational studies: STROBE - <https://www.strobe-statement.org>;
- systematic reviews: PRISMA - <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/prisma>;

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Article types

Editorials

Commissioned by the Editor in Chief, editorials deal with a subject of topical interest about which the author expresses his/her personal opinion. The text must not be subdivided.

Original articles

These should be original contributions to the subject. The article must be subdivided into the following sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion (IMRD structure); the Abstract should follow the same IMRD structure.

Introduction: brief description of the background of the research, with references to the relevant literature, followed by an indication of the purpose of the work. **Methods:** fully describe the population enrolled in the study (subjects or patients), chemical and biological reagents, diagnostic kits, calibrators, control materials, analytical instruments and systems, analytical methods; include a paragraph describing statistical methods. If commercial reagents and analytical systems in current use are used, please indicate the principle of the method and the commercial analytical system used without adding further details. The instrumentation and diagnostic kits used must be followed by the name of the manufacturer, town and Country. For the statistical methods, please refer to the specific section of the Instructions ([Statistical Guidelines](#)).

In the case of studies involving human subjects or patients and/or biological samples from human subjects, a declaration (to be inserted in the text) is mandatory that during the study the Declaration of Helsinki dated 1975, as amended in 2013, was respected and applied (Declaration of Helsinki - WMA - The World Medical Association) and, in the case of biological samples collected for the purpose, a specific Informed Consent was obtained from each of the subjects enrolled in the study. **Results:** they must be reported concisely, with a

logical sequence that reflects the purpose of the work, with precise references to the included iconography (tables and figures). Numerical values resulting from measurements must always be followed by the corresponding unit of measurement. The results can be reported in tables (if the focus is on the figure's detail, or if they are observations/descriptions) or in figures/graphs (when a quick global evaluation is important, or when there is no other possibility). For the same dataset use either one or the other, not both. **Discussion:** the meaning of the results achieved with regard to the purpose of the work, hypotheses reported in the literature, hypotheses issued, any concordance or discrepancy with previous observations should be included. Report hints of clinical and/or analytical interpretation of the results. End with a brief conclusion, mentioning if the aim of the paper has been achieved or not, and the possible practical significance of the obtained results. Avoid statements not supported by the obtained data.

Review articles

These articles are usually commissioned by the Editor in Chief or by the Associate Editors; they can also be submitted spontaneously by the Authors when the topic is of particular interest. They should discuss a topic of current interest, outline current knowledge of the subject, analyse different opinions regarding the problem discussed, be up-to-date on the latest data in the literature. Systematic reviews should include the method used to explore the literature. Reviews do not require a specific structure or a structured Abstract, however an Introduction and a Conclusion are suggested.

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These articles express the Opinion of a single or a group of Authors about topics of particular and current interest. Opinions do not require a specific structure or a structured Abstract.

Documents

These articles can be submitted by a Group of experts or a Society (or Intersociety) Working Group on topic of current interest and express the opinion or the experience of the Authors in this field. Collective papers reporting the content of the presentations given in a specific meeting are included in this type of articles. Documents do not require a specific structure or a structured Abstract, however an Introduction and a Conclusion are suggested.

Society Documents

These are papers prepared by a Society (or Intersociety) Working Group and can be submitted only after an official endorsement by the Society. The issuing of these Documents must follow a specific process described in detail in the Society regulations. The endorsed Document is not subject to a peer-review, but only to the editorial revision. These papers do not require a structured abstract but should include an Introduction and a Conclusion paragraph

Letters to the Editor

These may refer to articles already published in the journal or to particularly interesting observations or scientific data that the authors wish to present to readers in a concise form. Letters do not require an abstract. Text should not be subdivided.

Case reports

These articles deal with the presentation of clinical cases of particular interest for the contribution of the clinical laboratory to a difficult issue presented by a single patient (or a group of patients with similar characteristics) with the aim of helping the clinical laboratory personnel to cope with possible future similar cases. The description of analytical interferences is not in line with the scope of this type of contribution, unless they are rather uncommon or difficult to cope with. These contributions require a definite structure. Case Report presentation: maximum 500 words. This section should include: a description of the case with a definition of the clinical matter (diagnostic, prognostic, monitoring); a brief description of the laboratory tests performed; the logical path followed to obtain conclusions, with specific references to the clinical relevance of the laboratory data obtained.

Case discussion: 1000 words maximum. This section should include: a succinct review of the disease in question, the description of the peculiarity of the case, containing a clear reference to the role played by the laboratory tests.

Format and length of the different types of articles

Type	Abstract/words	Word count	Tables & Figures	N. of references
Editorials	NO	1200	1	12
Reviews	YES/250	6000	8	150
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Opinions	YES/250	3500	5	50
Documents	YES/250	NA	NA	NA
SIBioC Documents	YES/250	NA	NA	NA
Letters to the Editor	NO	1200	2	12
Case reports	YES/150	1500	2	12

The figures in the table should be considered as maximum values. NA, not applicable.

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Text file

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The formats accepted are Word (.DOC and .DOCX) and RTF. The text file must contain title, running title, authors' details, abstract, key words, text, references, notes, tables and titles of tables and figures. Figures should be submitted as separate files. The file should not contain active hyperlinks.

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Abstract and key words

Articles should include an abstract of between 200 and 250 words. For original articles, the abstract should be structured as follows: background (what is already known about the subject and what the study intends to examine), methods (experimental design, patients and interventions), results (what was found), conclusions (meaning of the study). For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, the abstract should be structured as follows: introduction, evidence acquisition, evidence synthesis, conclusions. Key words should refer to the terms from Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) of MEDLINE/PubMed. No abstracts are required for editorials or letters to the Editor. The first time an abbreviation appears in the abstract, it should be preceded by the words for which it stands. References are not permitted in the abstract.

Text

Identify methodologies, equipment (give name and address of manufacturer in brackets) and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other researchers to reproduce results. Specify well-known methods including statistical procedures; mention and provide a brief description of published methods which are not yet well known; describe new or modified methods at length; justify their use and evaluate their limits. For each drug generic name, dosage and administration routes should be given. Brand names for drugs should be given in brackets. Units of measurement, symbols and abbreviations must conform to international standards. Measurements of length, height, weight and volume should be given in metric units (meter, kilogram, liter) or their decimal multiples. Temperatures must be expressed in degrees Celsius. Blood pressure must be expressed in millimeters of mercury. All clinical chemistry measurements should be expressed in metric units using the International System of Units (SI). The use of unusual symbols or abbreviations is strongly discouraged. The first time an abbreviation appears in the text, it should be preceded by the words for which it stands.

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The references must contain only the authors cited in the text, be numbered in Arabic numerals and

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Journals

Each entry must specify the author's surname and initials (list all authors when there are six or fewer; when there are seven or more, list only the first six and then "et al."), the article's original title, the name of the Journal (according to the abbreviations used by MEDLINE/PubMed), the year of publication, the volume number and the number of the first and last pages. When citing references, please follow the rules for international standard punctuation carefully.

Standard article. Liu H, Li J, Du L, Yang M, Yang D, Li J, et al. Short-term effects of core stability training on the balance and ambulation function of individuals with chronic spinal cord injury: a pilot randomized controlled trial. *Minerva Med* 2019;110:216-223.

Organization as author. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Ann Int Med* 1988;108:258-65.

Both individual authors and organization as author. Castelli E, Fazzi E; SIMFER-SINPIA Intersociety Commission. Recommendations for the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy. *Eur J Phys Rehabil Med*. 2016;52:691-703.

Issue with supplement. Lacarrubba F, Musumeci M, Martorell A, Palmucci S, Petrillo G, Micali G. Role of the Imaging Techniques in the Diagnosis and Staging of Hidradenitis Suppurativa. *G Ital Dermatol Venereol* 2018;153 (3 Suppl 2), 20-5.

Books and monographs

For occasional publications, the names of authors, title, edition, place, publisher and year of publication must be given.

Books by one or more authors. Rossi G. Manual of Otorhinolaryngology. Turin: Edizioni Minerva Medica; 1987.

Chapter from book. Donas K, Torsello G. Management of Restenosis after Carotid Artery Stenting and Carotid Endarterectomy. In: Jacobs M (editor). Prevention and management of vascular complications. Turin: Edizioni Minerva Medica; 2011. p.17-20.

Congress proceedings. Novo S, Angelides N, Fletcher J, Roztocil K, editors. A multidisciplinary approach to cardiovascular diseases. Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Chapter of the International Union of Angiology (IUA); 2014 Oct 2-5; Palermo, Italy. Turin: Edizioni Minerva Medica; 2016.

Electronic material

Standard journal article on the Internet. Williams JS, Brown SM, Conlin PR. Videos in clinical medicine. Blood-pressure measurement. *N Engl J Med*. 2009 Jan 29;360(5):e6.

Article published electronically ahead of the print version. Di Pierro F, Bertuccioli A, Cavecchia I. Possible therapeutic role of a highly standardized mixture of active compounds derived from cultured *Lentinula edodes* mycelia (AHCC) in patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus. *Minerva Gastroenterol Dietol* 2020 Mar 12. [Epub ahead of print]

Standard citation to a book on CD-ROM or DVD. Boglione L, Cariti G, Di Perri G. Interferon-free treatment of hepatitis C patients [CD-ROM]. Torino: Edizioni Minerva Medica; ©2017

Standard citation to a homepage. AMA: helping doctors help patients [Internet]. Chicago: American Medical Association; ©1995-2007 [cited 2007 Feb 22]. Available from: <https://www.ama-assn.org/>.

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Acknowledgements (mandatory where applicable) - Acknowledgements should be provided for persons who do not meet the criteria for authorship (“Participating Investigators”, “Contributors”) and for persons responsible for acquisition of funding; general administrative support, writing assistance, technical editing, language editing, and proofreading.

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