

Research and Publication Ethics

This journal operates specific and practical research and publication ethics regulations based on the ethical guidelines for research and publication described in the Good Publication Practice Guidelines (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>) and the ICMJE Recommendations (<http://www.icmje.org>).

The Editor-in-Chief has the right to reject a manuscript if research misconduct is suspected. When violation of publication ethics related to the papers of this journal is detected, the authors will be announced in the journal and their institutes will be informed, and there will also be penalties for the authors.

1) Conflict of interest statement

The corresponding author must inform the editor of any potential conflicts of interest that could influence the authors' interpretation of the data. Examples of potential conflicts of interest are financial support from or connections to companies, political pressure from interest groups, and academically related issues. In particular, all sources of funding applicable to the study should be explicitly stated. If there is a conflict of interest between editors or reviewers and the authors, or if they belong to the same institution, the reviewer is automatically excluded from the review process.

2) Statement of human and animal right

Clinical research should be done in accordance of the Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects, outlined in the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (revised 2013), available from: <https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>. Clinical studies that do not meet the Helsinki Declaration will not be considered for publication. Human subjects should not be identifiable, such that patients' names, initials, hospital numbers, dates of birth, or other protected healthcare information should not be disclosed. For animal subjects, research should be performed based on the National or Institutional Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the ethical treatment of all experimental animals should be maintained. Articles describing research involving humans and animals must state in the "Materials and Methods" section that the work was approved by the applicable institutional ethics committee or review board. The manuscript must also state that informed consent was obtained from the subjects, when appropriate.

3) Statement of informed consent and institutional review board approval

Copies of written informed consent documents should be kept for studies on human subjects, which includes identifiable information or sensitive information. For clinical studies of human subjects, a certificate, agreement, or approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the author's institution is required. If necessary, the editor or reviewers may request copies of these documents to resolve questions about IRB approval and study conduct.

4) Authorship

- Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, and/ or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; 3) final approval of the version to be published; and 4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Every author should meet all of these four conditions. After the initial submission of a manuscript, any changes whatsoever in authorship (adding author(s), deleting author(s), or re-arranging the

order of authors) must be explained by a letter to the editor from the authors concerned. This letter must be signed by all authors of the paper. Copyright assignment must also be completed by every author. Regulations are established for the registration of co-authors who are minors under the age of 19 or special relations such as family members (within the fourth degree of kinship), and internal review is strengthened. In the event of research misconduct involving such special relations, the relevant authorities are notified.

- Corresponding author and first author: Basically JMSNI does not allow multiple corresponding or first authors for one article. Only one author should correspond with the editorial office and readers for one article. Exceptionally, JKNA does accept notice of equal contribution for the first author/the corresponding author when the study was clearly performed by co-first author/co-corresponding author.
- Correction of authorship after publication: JMSNI does not correct authorship after publication unless a mistake has been made by the editorial staff. Authorship may be changed before publication but after submission when an authorship correction is requested by all of the authors involved with the manuscript.

5) Originality, plagiarism and duplicate publication

Submitted manuscripts must not have been previously published or be under consideration for publication elsewhere. No part of the accepted manuscript should be duplicated in any other scientific journal without the permission of the Editorial Board. Submitted manuscripts are screened for possible plagiarism or duplicate publication by Similarity Check upon arrival. If plagiarism or duplicate publication is detected, the manuscripts may be rejected, the authors will be announced in the journal, and their institutions will be informed. There will also be penalties for the authors.

6) Secondary publication

It is possible to republish manuscripts if the manuscripts satisfy the conditions of secondary publication of the ICMJE Recommendations (http://www.icmje.org/urm_main.html).

7) Process for managing research and publication misconduct

When the journal faces suspected cases of research and publication misconduct such as redundant (duplicate) publication, plagiarism, fraudulent or fabricated data, changes in authorship, an undisclosed conflict of interest, ethical problems with a submitted manuscript, a reviewer who has appropriated an author's idea or data, complaints against editors, and so on, the resolution process will follow the flowchart provided by the Committee on Publication Ethics (<https://publicationethics.org/news-opinion/new-flowcharts-ethical-concerns-data-publication>). The discussion and decision on the suspected cases are carried out by the Editorial Board. In the event of a confirmed violation, the society may take actions such as rejecting the publication of the manuscript in the journal, prohibiting manuscript submissions for a certain period, and notifying the relevant institutions. Depending on the severity of the violation, the following disciplinary measures may be imposed on the offender: (1) warning, (2) suspension of membership, or (3) termination of membership. In addition, reviewers affiliated with the same institution as the submitting author will be excluded from the review process.

8) Process for handling cases requiring corrections, retractions, and editorial expressions of concern

Cases that require editorial expressions of concern or retraction shall follow the COPE flowcharts available from: <https://publicationethics.org/news-opinion/new-flowcharts-ethical-concerns-data-publication>. If correction needs, it will follow the ICMJE Recommendation for Corrections, Retractions, Republications and Version Control available from: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/corrections-and-version-control.html> as follows: Honest errors are a part of science and publishing and require publication of a correction when they are detected. Corrections are needed for errors of fact. Minimum standards are as follows: First, it shall publish a correction notice as soon as possible detailing changes from and citing the original publication on both an electronic and numbered print page that is included in an electronic or a print Table of Contents to ensure proper indexing; Second, it shall post a new article version with details of the changes from the original version and the date(s) on which the chang-

es were made through CrossMark; Third, it shall archive all prior versions of the article. This archive can be either directly accessible to readers; and Fourth, previous electronic versions shall prominently note that there are more recent versions of the article via CrossMark.

9) Editorial responsibilities

The Editorial Board will continuously work to monitor and safeguard publication ethics: guidelines for retracting articles; maintenance of the integrity of the academic record; preclusion of business needs from compromising intellectual and ethical standards; publishing corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies when needed; and excluding plagiarism and fraudulent data. The editors maintain the following responsibilities: responsibility and authority to reject and accept articles; avoiding any conflict of interest with respect to articles they reject or accept; promoting publication of corrections or retractions when errors are found; and preservation of the anonymity of reviewers.

10) Operation of the Research Ethics Committee and Implementation of Ethics Education

The society operates an internal Research Ethics Committee and holds at least one committee meeting per year to share cases related to research ethics and discuss preventive measures. A research ethics pledge based on the self-assessment checklist is prepared, and regular online training and offline workshops on publication ethics are conducted for editors and reviewers.

11) Gender Innovation Policy

For studies requiring gender-based analysis, the inclusion of sex and gender variables is verified during the research design and interpretation stages.

※ Supplementary Provisions

- 1) This guideline enforces from January 1st, 2010
- 2) This guideline enforces from March 6th, 2020 (modification).
- 3) This guideline enforces from September 1st, 2022 (modification).