

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

I. General: The *Circulation Journal* is an official publication of the Japanese Circulation Society. Contributions from non-members are also accepted. Articles deal with either clinical or experimental investigation of the cardiovascular and related systems. The Journal will also consider the publication of review articles summarizing the present state of knowledge in a particular field. Manuscripts must conform to the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* as presented in *N Engl J Med* 1997; 336: 309–315 (<http://www.icmje.org/>).

II. Previous Publication: Submission of a manuscript to the *Circulation Journal* implies that the article is original and that no portion (including figures or tables) is under consideration elsewhere or has been previously published in any form other than as an abstract. Previous publication includes publishing as a component of symposia, proceedings, transactions, books (or chapters), articles published by invitations or reports of any kind, as well as in electronic databases of a public nature.

III. Copyright / Permissions: Submission of a manuscript implies that, when accepted for publication, the authors agree to automatic transfer of the copyright to the Japanese Circulation Society. Every reproduced figures and tables must have permissions from their copyright holders. Please obtain them yourselves in advance and clearly state that in their figure legends. *Examples:* (1) ‘Adapted from reference xx with permission’ (2) ‘Reproduced with permission from xxxx, et al. *Circ J* 2013; 77: xx-xx’

IV. Ethics: When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional). The participants' informed consent should be obtained and should be indicated in the article. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether institutional or national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

V. Submission of Manuscripts: All manuscripts must be submitted electronically. [URL: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cj>] Please upload your manuscript files (main document and tables must NOT be uploaded as PDF). After you upload your manuscript files, your manuscript will undergo a conversion process. Before approving submission, please check the converted PDF file thoroughly. When submitting, please also note that a manuscript with study design alone and without any original data cannot be received for possible publication in the Journal.

VI. Authorship Agreement: When you submit a manuscript electronically, please make sure to download the “Authorship agreement” and email/fax it to the editorial office. We cannot accept any additional co-authors after the manuscript has been accepted. Please make sure that you add all co-authors in the revision process.

VII. Manuscript Form: All manuscripts should be written in English (US spelling) and prepared according to the following specifications. The main document should be typewritten with double spacing, and include (1) title page, (2) abstract, (3) key words, (4) text, (5) acknowledgements, (6) references and (7) legends for the tables/figures. The total number of tables and figures should not exceed 8 (it is highly recommended for all figures to be in full-colors; the publication in colors are cost-free; figures could be chosen to appear on the cover of *Circulation Journal*). Pages should be numbered consecutively in this sequence, beginning with the title page.

VIII. Clinical Trials: In accordance with the Clinical Trial Registration Statement from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org/>), all clinical trials published in *Circulation Journal* should be registered in a public trials registry at or before the participant recruitment. Please refer to CONSORT 2010 guidelines (<http://www.consort-statement.org/>) for the randomized clinical trials, and the STROBE statement (<http://www.strobe-statement.org/>) for the observational studies (cohort, case-control, or cross-sectional designs), respectively.

Original Articles

1. The title page must have (1) the complete title of the paper (do not use abbreviations in the title), (2) name(s) of author(s), with highest academic degree(s) including only MD, PhD, or BSc, (3) department(s) and institution(s) of origin, (4) a short title of no more than 50 characters including spaces, (5) name(s) of grant(s), (6) the name and address of the author responsible for correspondence, (7) the total word count of the manuscript, including the title page, abstract, text, references,

table /figure legends within 6000 words and (8) total number of tables and figures. When any supplementary file is submitted, (9) the number of supplementary files needs to be noted as well.

2. The second page should have an abstract of no more than 220 words and 3-5 key words. Regarding the abstracts for regular papers and rapid communications, use the following headings: Background (rationale for study), Methods and Results (brief presentation of methods and presentation of significant results; note that both categories are included under one heading), and Conclusions (succinct statement of data interpretation).
3. Letters and symbols in figures should be clear and of sufficient size to be legible after reduction to the width of one column. Specify the size to be printed, if necessary.
4. Units of measurement should be SI units, except for blood pressure, which should be expressed in mmHg. Do not spell out numbers and standard units of measurement except at the beginning of sentences. Use Arabic numerals and standard abbreviations to indicate numbers and units.
5. References must be numbered consecutively as they appear in the text. References should be listed in the same numerical order at the end of the article with all the authors listed when there are 6 or less; when there are 7 or more, list only the first 6 authors' names and add "et al.". The titles of journals should be abbreviated to the style used in Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html>). References should accord with the system used in the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*. Basically, only published manuscripts are accepted as references. If a reference is from a yet-to-be-published book, please include 'In Press' as well as anticipated year to be published. If a reference is from a material published online only, "D.O.I" or "URL along with the last available date accessed" should be also clarified.

Examples:

- 1) Tanaka S, Yokoyama C, Kawamura I, Takasugi N, Kubota T, Ushikoshi H, et al. Conservative medication follow-up for over 20 years of a patient with ischemic heart disease after diagnosis of chronic total occlusion of the 3 main coronary arteries. *Circ J* 2008; **72**: 1205 – 1209.
 - 2) Opie LH. Mechanism of cardiac contraction and relaxation. In: Braunwald E, editor. Heart disease, 5th edn. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1997; 360–393.
 - 3) Hunt SA, Abraham WT, Chin MH, Feldman AM, Francis GS, Ganiats TG, et al. 2009 Focused update incorporated into the ACC/AHA 2005 Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults A Report of the ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines Developed in Collaboration With the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2009; **53**: e1 - e90, doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2008.11.013.
6. Supplementary files
- 1) Up to 3 supplementary files will be accepted per manuscript.
 - 2) If a supplementary file contains References, they should be separate references for the supplementary file only.
 - 3) Supplementary files will only be published in the online journal.
 - 4) There is a size limit of 5 MB for uploaded files per manuscript (including text, figures and tables).

Rapid Communications

These are reports of novel findings of particular importance and/or current interest and will be accepted if they merit immediate publication. The papers will normally be published within 2 months of acceptance. The manuscripts should be no more than 1000 words of text, have a maximum of 15 references and an abstract not exceeding 100 words. The total number of tables and figures should be less than 2. The manuscripts normally occupy no more than 3 journal pages. Provide both a short title and 3 key words (see Regular Paper section). Please refer to the General Instructions for reference style and other manuscript requirements.

Review Articles (Invited)

These are invited articles (not an open submission) by internationally recognized authorities on various topics.

Editorials (Invited)

The manuscripts must not exceed 1500 words in length, including a maximum of 15 references, and no abstract. The total number of tables and figures must be limited to 2. The manuscripts normally occupy no more than 2 journal pages. Please refer to the General Instructions for reference style and other manuscript requirements.

Images in Cardiovascular Medicine

The manuscripts should contain novel color images with scientific impact. The manuscripts must not exceed 250 words in length, including a maximum of 15 references, and no abstract. Please make sure to remove Case Report from a title page / sub-headings. The total number of color figures must be limited to 2 (in addition to 2 supplementary files if needed). Submission of tables is not encouraged. The manuscripts normally occupy no more than 2 journal pages. Please refer to the General Instructions for reference style and other manuscript requirements. Circulation Journal has terminated receiving simple Case Reports from 31st October 2008.

Letter to the Editor / Author's Reply

This is an opinion-letter forwarded to a manuscript which has been published in Circulation Journal. The manuscripts must not exceed 1000 words in length and have no more than 5 co-authors. Please refer to the General Instructions for reference style.

IX. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy

The submitting author should submit the online form in order to disclose all author's relationships that could be perceived as real or apparent conflict(s) of interest.

When submitting a manuscript for publication, all authors are required to disclose any financial relationship (within the past 12 months) with a biotechnology manufacturer, a pharmaceutical company, or other commercial entity that has been involved in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. Items requiring disclosure are outlined in Conflict of Interest Policy in Clinical Research (IV. Matters to be reported <http://www.j-circ.or.jp/coi/coi_shishin_eng.pdf>)

When a manuscript has been accepted for publication, all disclosed COI will appear in the article as a "Conflict of Interest Statement".

Example:

Conflict of Interest Statement

A (author name) serves as a consultant to Z (entity name); B's spouse is chairman of Y; C received a research grant from X; D received lecture fees from V; E holds a patent on U; F has been reimbursed by T for attending several conferences; G received honoraria for writing promotional material for S; H has no conflict of interest.

If you, your spouse, or other immediate family member, has any of the following types of relationships with a commercial entity involved in the subject matter of the submitted manuscript, please refer to JCS's definition of "potential conflict of interest" and disclose all COI.

The JCS has decided to follow recommendations of the World Medical Association and arrangements under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), and JCS journals will not publish research papers submitted or funded by tobacco companies (including subsidiaries) and tobacco research organizations such as the Smoking Research Foundation, in Japan and overseas.

X. Review of Manuscripts: All original manuscripts are basically evaluated by 2 reviewers assigned by the Editors.

XI. Proofs: Galley proofs of accepted manuscripts will be sent to the authors for their correction. Changes should be limited to typographical errors or errors in the presentation of data. Excessive corrections may be charged to the authors.

XII. Publication Charges:

Page charges: free for the first 2 pages
¥15,000 for 3–5 pages
¥30,000 for 6–8 pages
¥75,000 for pages exceeding 8

If we cannot confirm payments of previously published manuscripts, all co-authors will no longer be able to submit a new manuscript to our journal.

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