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# Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL STROKE ASSOCIATION  
AND THE JAPAN STROKE SOCIETY

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## Instructions to Authors

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Dispirited in the past by the damaging effects of cerebrovascular disease on brain function once considered beyond repair, the scientific community has awakened in the past quarter of a century to a new era in the management of stroke. Spurred on by experimental evidence that the brain can resist longer periods of ischemia than previously thought, and the more recent information from functional imaging that, in humans, new neuronal networks are activated in an attempt to overcome loss of function in others, there has been an explosion of investigation in the applied fundamental and clinical sciences of cerebrovascular disease. The National Stroke Association, born of the need to focus societal and medical effort on stroke, the most major cause of human morbidity, launched the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases* approximately five years ago. The NSA is proud to announce a relaunching of the Journal under a new Editor and with a new Publisher, W. B. Saunders Company.

The goal of the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases* is to provide its readership with the highest quality material possible through a process of careful peer review and editorial comment. The Journal seeks to publish original papers on basic and clinical science related to the fields of stroke and cerebrovascular disease including review articles, controversies, methods and technical notes, selected case reports, and other original articles of a special nature. Our editorial mission is to focus on prevention and repair of cerebrovascular disease. Thus, the scientific disciplines welcomed for publication will span from epidemiology to rehabilitation medicine. A new mission will be to publish experimental studies from the test tube to the in vivo model whenever these approaches are applied to an understanding of the mechanisms of injury or repair of the brain and its circulation. The journal will emphasize the physiopathology and molecular mechanisms of ischemia and hemorrhagic cell damage. Clinical papers will emphasize medical and surgical aspects of stroke, clinical trials and design, epidemiology, stroke care delivery systems and outcomes, imaging sciences, and rehabilitation of stroke.

Articles and all editorial communications should be addressed to:

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The Editors require that authors provide a cover letter in which they specifically state their written assurance of the following: (1) the submitted paper is an original and unpublished work in which the listed authors have all made important contributions; (2) the authors have not submitted the same materials or portions thereof for consideration of publication in any other journal, and no such additional submission will be made before completion of the review process by the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*. The Editors do not consider the submission of whole abstracts, or portions of letters to the editor, preliminary communications, or brief communications to other journals to be necessarily prohibited for publication in the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*. The authors must guarantee that once their material has been accepted for publication by the Journal, they will not submit the same material or portions thereof to another journal before publication in the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*.

Any manuscripts determined to be improperly prepared or edited can be returned to the authors without review.

All authors should adhere to the following instructions for submission of manuscripts to the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*.

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## Cover Letter

The author(s) should provide the aforementioned written assurances. In addition, author(s) are welcomed to suggest three to five referees for their paper (please include addresses). However, the Editors cannot guarantee assignment of a particular reviewer to a paper. Any unusual circumstances surrounding the research or explanations for deviations from standard procedures or format should be explained in the cover letter.

## Manuscript Preparation

Submit four complete copies of the manuscript typed and double-spaced with 1-inch margins on 8½ × 11-inch paper. Pages should be numbered. All submitted components of the manuscript are nonreturnable, unless a special arrangement has been made in advance with the Editors. Arrange the manuscript with the following components: (1) Title Page, (2) Abstract, (3) Introduction, (4) Materials and Methods, (5) Results, (6) Discussion, (7) References, (8) Tables, (9) Figure Legends, (10) Figures, (11) Author's Agreement.

Manuscripts must be submitted on a disk, preferably in Microsoft Word. A double-spaced hard copy version of the final manuscript, free of handwritten alterations, must accompany the disk. All components of the manuscript must appear within a single electronic file: references, figure legends, and tables must appear at the end of the manuscript. Please refrain from using end notes as references or automatic list numbering because these features are lost in conversion: simply type the reference number in parentheses in the text and type the reference list. Formatting, such as Greek letters, italics, super- and subscripts, may be used: the coding scheme for such elements must be consistent throughout.

## Abbreviations

When using abbreviations, write the full name of the abbreviated item followed by the abbreviation in parentheses at the point of first mention within the body of the manuscript. Do not use abbreviations in the abstract or title of the manuscript.

## Title Page

The title page should contain the following information: (1) The full title of the manuscript, not to exceed 120 characters. (2) The full names of all authors. Authors should be limited to those individuals who contributed in an important manner to the study design, data collection and analysis, or writing of the paper. (3) The department and institution where work was performed, as well as the affiliations of the individual authors. (4) Grant support. (5) Name, address, and phone and fax numbers of the author to whom communications regarding the manuscript should be directed. (6) A shortened version of the title that is 45 characters or less to be used as a running title.

## Abstract

The abstract is limited to 250 words. Do not use abbreviations, footnotes, or references in the body of the abstract. Include a brief description of the goal, materials and methods, findings, and conclusion of the study.

## Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion

Include within the body of the text a description of the ethical guidelines that were followed for human and animal studies. If appropriate, provide citation of institutional review by human or animal research committees. Also describe any hazardous procedures or chemicals involved in the studies and what precautions were taken to avoid injury to subjects or investigators. Within the Materials and Methods section, provide a brief but complete description of the statistical methods used, including which tests were used for analysis of which variables. Drugs, medications, or other material should be listed as generic items. If brand names are used, they should be placed after the generic name in parentheses with the manufacturer's name, city, and state or country.

Restrict all comments and discussion to the Discussion section. Results presented in the Results section should not be repeated in the Discussion section.

## References

Cite references in text in order of appearance using Arabic numerals in parentheses for citations. Place the reference list at the end of the final text page. References should be listed in text citation number order and must be double spaced. Include the names of all authors up to a total of three before resorting to the use of "et al." All published material, including brief communications and letters to the editor, must be cited in the References section. References to unpublished material, such as personal communications and unpublished data, must be placed within the text and not cited in the References section. Personal communications and unpublished data must include the individual's name, location, and month and year of communication as appropriate. In the reference list, use only abbreviations approved for use in the latest edition of *Index Medicus* and conform style and punctuation to the requirements listed below:

### Journal article

Bontia R, Ford MA, Stewart AW. Predicting survival after stroke: A three-year follow-up. *Stroke* 1988;19:669-673.

### Book chapter

Whyte J, Robinson KM. Pharmacologic management. In: Glenn MB, Whyte J, eds. *The practical management of spasticity in children and adults*. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1990:201-226.

### Complete book

Brooks VB. *The neural basis of motor control*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

### Special type of article

Schmidt R, Fazekas F, Horner S, et al. Lipoprotein (a) serum levels of normals are not associated with carotid atherosclerosis and microangiopathy-related cerebral damage. *J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis* 1995;5:116 (abstr).

## Tables

Tables must be cited in text and numbered according to order of appearance. Print each table on a separate piece of paper with a label including number and title of the table at the

top and any explanatory notes or footnotes at the bottom of the page.

## Figure Legends

Figure legends should allow interpretation of the figures without reference to the text. Type and double space the material and number figures according to their order of appearance within text.

## Figures

Figures must be submitted in quadruplicate in a format suitable for direct reproduction in the Journal. Appropriate formats include glossy prints or photographs, high-resolution (300 dpi or greater) laser printer output, or original artwork. Each figure should be identified on the back by the first author's name and figure number in pencil. There will be a charge for publication of color figures. Unless a special arrangement is made in advance, submitted materials will not be returned to authors. The Editors and Publisher reserve the right to reject illustrations or figures based upon poor quality of submitted materials.

Figures may be submitted in electronic format. Images should be provided in EPS or TIF format on Zip disk, CD, floppy, Jaz, or 3.5 MO. Graphics software such as Photoshop and Illustrator, not presentation software such as PowerPoint, CorelDraw, or Harvard Graphics, should be used to create the art. Color images must be CMYK, at least 300 DPI, with a digital color proof, not a color laser print or color photocopy (this proof will be used at press for color reproduction). Gray scale images should be at least 300 DPI and accompanied by a proof. Combinations of gray scale and line art should be at least 1200 DPI and accompanied by a proof. Line art (black and white or color) should be at least 1200 DPI and accompanied by a proof. Please include hardware and software information, in addition to the file names.

## Special Sections in the Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases

**Controversies:** A Controversies Section will appear several times yearly and serve as a medium for communicating controversy in the field of stroke and cerebrovascular disease. Authors will be selected for their expertise or outspoken positions or for their objectivity and analysis of a chosen subject. The Editor of the Controversy Section will oversee the preparation of the submitted manuscripts. They or an invited Guest Editor will add their commentary.

**Rapid Communications:** The Editor will provide the most rapid turnaround time possible in the review process. Authors may request rapid review of material found to be of critical importance to the field. The authors should accompany their manuscript with a letter stating clearly why they consider their work is appropriate for that request. These manuscripts will be published in the next subsequent issue of the Journal at the Editor's discretion.

**Case Reports:** Reports of clinical interest should contain no more than 400 words of text and one table or figure. The reference list should be limited to 10. The authors should also limit their case reports to new materials, rare clinical conditions, or cases that provide insight into controversial disease states. They should provide their reason for the case report in a separate cover letter to the author.

**Journal Club:** Journal Club will appear several times yearly. This section provides the opportunity for authors to publish journal clubs conducted in their own institutions on articles of recent interest from peer-reviewed medical literature. The authors should review no more than two articles and provide a summary of each article. This should be followed by their critical review of the paper, followed by the voiced opinion of named commentators in the audience. The authors should then summarize their conclusions at the end of the article. This section provides an opportunity for residents in training and students of clinical cerebrovascular disease to communicate their opinions of the stroke literature.

**Methodologic and Technical Reports:** The Journal will accept the full description of clinical trials prior to publication of results. The paper must include comprehensive details of the methodologic design. Publications are expected to enhance the science of clinical trials design and to provide extensive detail of these methods. It is hoped that authors will follow up with publication of some, if not, all aspects of the results of the clinical trial.

The Technical Note section will permit publication of innovative techniques in neurology, neurosurgery, and interventional radiology as regards the stroke and cerebrovascular disease sciences. The techniques should be novel and extensively described.

## Editorial Commentary

Every issue will be introduced by a section in which Guest Editors will comment on papers in the current Journal. These articles will be summarized, highlighting items of special interest. The commentary will discuss the importance of the paper and its relevance to the field. Controversial aspects of the selected articles will be emphasized.

## Manuscript Checklist

Remember to submit the author's agreement plus four copies of the manuscript, with components arranged in the following order:

- |                              |                   |                            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ 1. Title Page            | ___ 5. Results    | ___ 9. Figure Legends      |
| ___ 2. Abstract              | ___ 6. Discussion | ___ 10. Figures            |
| ___ 3. Introduction          | ___ 7. References | ___ 11. Author's Agreement |
| ___ 4. Materials and Methods | ___ 8. Tables     |                            |

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I also warrant that any animal or human investigations performed in connection with the submitted manuscript were performed with the approval of an ethical review board or local Human Investigations Committee and according to the established precepts of my institution. For research involving human subjects, I have also obtained informed consent from each subject or the subject's guardian.

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