

Queries about submission requirements may be addressed to either of the managing editors:

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EDITORIAL POLICIES

Submission

Authors must submit manuscripts online at www.ees.elsevier.com/ajog. Hard-copy submissions will NOT be considered or returned. All policies of the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, particularly with regard to Conflicts of Interest, Inappropriate Acts, and IRB approval, also apply to abstracts presented at Society meetings and published in this Journal as a result of the proceedings.

Submitted manuscripts will first be screened by the Journal staff and editors. Because of the large number of papers submitted for consideration, it is important for the Journal to process submissions in a timely fashion. Many papers are turned away based on this in-house screening alone, and authors will be notified of the decision promptly. For many papers, an immediate decision is made to decline without further peer review. All other papers are sent out for peer review.

Ethics of the editorial process

A policy of the Journal entitled "Specific Inappropriate Acts in the Publication Process" (Am J Obstet Gynecol 2006;194:18A-23A) [http://www.ajog.org/webfiles/images/journals/ymob/YMOB_194\(1\)-SPEC_INAPP_ACTS.pdf](http://www.ajog.org/webfiles/images/journals/ymob/YMOB_194(1)-SPEC_INAPP_ACTS.pdf) describes the Journal's policies regarding ethical practices, which apply to all submitted articles, whether accepted for publication or not. **Authors are advised to review this document prior to submission.**

Noncompliance with any of the provisions of this policy may lead to an investigation and to an editorial judgment regarding these policies. Besides describing issues such as plagiarism and falsification of data, the document contains information regarding duplicate publication of which all prospective authors must be aware. If a report by any or all of the same author(s) has previously been published in any medium that deals in any respect whatsoever with the same patients, animals, laboratory experiments, or data, in part or in full, as those reported in the manuscript being submitted, a reprint of the published article(s) or a copy of the final manuscript must be uploaded with the submitted manuscript. Additionally, a current copy of any new manuscript being prepared for possible publication must be provided. The author(s) are to inform the editors in detail about the circumstances surrounding the reports as well as their similarities and differences.

The same requirement applies to the submission of a manuscript in which additional patients, animals, laboratory experiments, or data were added to those reported in a previous publication, submission, or accepted manuscript. Articles previously published in another language will not be considered for publication in the Journal.

Previous submission (unpublished)

If the manuscript was previously submitted elsewhere and not accepted, the authors may, if they wish, provide a copy of the peer review comments and a detailed response to each point.

Human and nonhuman experimentation

Authors must follow the ethical standards for human experimentation established in the Declaration of Helsinki (World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: recommendations guiding physicians in biomedical research involving human subjects. JAMA 1997;277:925-6). The editors assume that a manuscript emanating from a particular institution is submitted with the approval of the requisite authority. The authors of reports of human experimentation that requires local institutional approval must have obtained this approval **before the experiment was started**; upon request of the Journal editors,

the author(s) are required to provide copies of the appropriate documentation. Institutional approval must be indicated in the Materials and Methods section of the submitted manuscript. If the study is exempt from Institutional Review Board approval, an explanation must be provided under Materials and Methods.

For reports of experiments on nonhuman animals or other species, authors must state in the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript that guidelines for the care and use of the animals approved by the local institution were followed. The type(s) of nonhuman animals or other species used in an investigation must be named in the Title, Abstract, Key Words, and Materials and Methods sections of the manuscript.

Case reports require authors to have obtained written permission from the patient(s) on whom the report is based. Authors must attest to having obtained the written consent in the submitted cover letter, and provide this documentation upon request from the editor.

Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, both of which should be documented in the paper.

Trial and research guidelines

Authors must adhere to the following guidelines when formulating the study. Upon submitting the manuscript, authors are to indicate on the Submission Checklist the type of trial/research used.

- **Randomized controlled trial.** Authors are to consult the revised CONSORT statement (Moher D, Schulz KF, Altman D, for the CONSORT Group. The CONSORT statement: revised recommendations for improving the quality of reports of parallel-group randomized trials. JAMA 2001;285:1987-91; www.consort-statement.org). A flowchart as a figure must be submitted in the manuscript.
- **Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and metaanalyses.** Authors are to consult the PRISMA statement (Moher D, Liberati A, Tezloff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group [2009]. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and metaanalysis: The PRISMA Statement. Ann Intern Med 151:4) <http://www.prisma-statement.org/index.htm>.
- **Metaanalysis or systematic review of observational studies.** Authors are to consult the MOOSE guidelines (Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, et al, for the Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology [MOOSE] group. Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology: a proposal for reporting. JAMA 2000;283:2008-12; www.consort-statement.org/mod_product/uploads/MOOSE%20Statement%202000.pdf).
- **Diagnostic tests.** Authors are to consult the STARD Initiative (Bossuyt PM, Reitsma JB, Bruns DE, et al., for the STARD Group. Towards complete and accurate reporting of studies of diagnostic accuracy: the STARD Initiative. Clin Chem 2003;49:1-6) <http://www.clinchem.org/cgi/content/full/49/1/19>.
- **Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology.** Authors are to consult the STROBE guidelines (von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Götzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. STROBE Initiative. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. J Clin Epidemiol 2008 Apr; 61:344-9) www.strobe-statement.org.
- **Health economics.** In addition to the general instructions for authors and other guidelines applicable to their study (eg, CONSORT guidelines for a randomized controlled trial), authors of health economics manuscripts should consider the following issues specific to such studies and address

them in the manuscript and/or submission letter. The checklist, available at http://www.elsevier.com/framework_products/promis_misc/ajoghealth.pdf is to be included with the general manuscript checklist at the time of submission.

Authorship and contributorship

Authorship requirements for manuscripts submitted to the Journal must conform to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. www.icmje.org.

Each author must qualify by having participated actively and sufficiently in the study reported. The inclusion of each author in the authorship list of a report must be based only on 1) substantial contributions to (a) the concept and design or analysis and interpretation of data and (b) the author’s having drafted the manuscript or revised it critically for important intellectual content; and 2) final approval by each author of the version of the manuscript being submitted. All conditions (1a, 1b, and 2) must be met. Others contributing to the work, including participants in collaborative trials, should be recognized separately in the Acknowledgment(s) section. In the cover letter that accompanies the submitted manuscript, it must be confirmed that all bylined authors fulfill all conditions. Accordingly, authors are encouraged to limit the number of authors listed. Additional authors may be considered on an individual basis only if all authorship requirements indicated above are met and a request has been submitted for the editors’ approval.

Conflict of interest

Authors are expected to address any potential conflict of interest in the cover letter of the submitted manuscript. Such potential conflicts include any financial interest by the authors in a company producing products described in the submitted manuscript as well as stock, stock options, direct employment, consulting status, or membership in a speakers’ bureau. If an author owns stock in the company valued at \$10,000 or more, or is employed by the company, either full time or part time, this should be stated in the cover letter. The monetary value of any such stock holdings should be named. *Manuscripts written or developed by anyone other than the listed authors should have the name(s) of those individuals and their relationship to any commercial enterprise in the letter of submission.* Failure to do so may result in sanctions. If the manuscript is accepted, the editor in consultation with the author will decide what potential conflicts must be disclosed to the reader on the first page of the article. Such information is confidential, is not given to the reviewers, and does not play a part in the decision of the quality or timeliness of the manuscript. No policy could cover every contingency that might be construed as a conflict of interest. Therefore, it is the hope and preference of the editors that if any possibility of a conflict of interest exists when authors submit a paper, the

authors reveal this situation to the editors to allow us to determine whether readers should be so informed when the article is published. If the editors determine that no conflict exists, no such notification will be published with the article. The usual and customary listing of sources of support and institutional affiliations on the title page is proper and does not imply a conflict of interest.

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Permissions

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Submission checklist

The checklist that follows this document must be completed in full by the author(s) and included with the submitted manuscript. A complete description of each item to be checked is provided under the appropriate heading. If the checklist is not completed in full, the submission will not be considered.

Suggested reviewers

Upon submitting a manuscript, authors are required to provide the name, address, and e-mail address of at least 3 potential reviewers for editorial consideration. Suggested reviewers may include anyone knowledgeable in the area of study presented. Authors should not knowingly recommend as a potential reviewer a person with a potential conflict of interest, either financial or personal (positive or negative bias), such as a mentor or close associate. Additionally, individuals located at the same institution as any of the authors should not be recommended.

Reprints

The publisher will send reprint-ordering information directly to the corresponding author of articles accepted for publication during the production process.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The requirements for manuscripts submitted to the Journal generally conform to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (www.icmje.org). Manuscripts must be submitted in English with a font size no smaller than 12. Number pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner in the following order: title page, condensation, abstract, text, acknowledgments, references, figure legends, and tables. **The author(s) accept(s) responsibility that the electronic file is complete and accurate upon submission, revision, and acceptance.**

Basic format

Title page (page 1)

The title page (page 1) should contain, in the following sequence: the title (as concise as possible, to a maximum of approximately 12 words, without parenthetical abbreviations for terms used in the title, and suitable for indexing purposes; conclusion statements should NOT be included); author line, including each author’s first name, middle initial, and LAST NAME (surname in all capital letters), with highest academic degrees (honorary degrees are not

permitted); city or cities, state(s), and country or countries other than the United States in which the study was conducted; divisional and/or departmental and institutional affiliations of each author at the time the study was performed; source(s) of financial support, if any; presentation information (if the findings of the submission were presented at a meeting, include the name of the meeting, its number [eg, “the 24th Annual Scientific Meeting”], the organization presenting the meeting, the city and state or city and non-US country [with the province, for Canada and Australia] in which the meeting was held, and the day, month, and year of the presentation); disclaimers, if appropriate,

such as for authors in the Armed Forces; the name of the individual responsible for reprint requests, along with his/her contact information: full mailing address, email address, or both (if reprints will not be available, this should be so stated); and for editorial use only, the name, address, business and home telephone numbers, fax number, and email address of the author responsible for correspondence related to the manuscript.

Word count

The word counts of both the abstract and the text (excluding references) should be stated in the lower left corner of the title page and on the checklist.

Article condensation and short version of the title (page 2)

Page 2 of the manuscript should contain a 1-sentence condensation of the paper, double spaced, and consisting of no more than 25 words, that briefly and concisely states its essential point(s). This sentence, which is subject to copy editing to conform with Journal style, will appear in the Table of Contents.

Also on page 2, please supply a short version of the article title. This will be used in the identification line at the base of each table and figure.

Abstract page, including key words/phrases (page 3)

Page 3 of the manuscript should consist of the abstract, double spaced, and the full name(s) of all bylined author(s). Below the abstract, list 3 to 5 key words or short phrases, alphabetized, for indexing purposes.

Abstract formats

Research articles

A **structured abstract** of no more than 150 words should contain the following major headings:

- **Objective(s):** Reflects the purpose of the study (the hypothesis that is being tested).
- **Study Design:** The setting for the study, the subjects (number and type), the treatment or intervention, and the type of statistical analysis used.
- **Results:** The outcome(s) of the study and, if appropriate, its/their statistical significance.
- **Conclusion(s):** The significance of the results.

Case Reports, Clinical Opinions, and Review papers

A 1-paragraph **unstructured abstract** (1 paragraph, no categories) for a Case Report should contain no more than 50 words. An **unstructured abstract** for a Clinical Opinion or Review article should contain 50 to 150 words.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are not acceptable in the title and should be avoided, if possible, in the abstract. In the text they should be kept to a practical minimum. The full word or phrase for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a conventional standard unit of measurement. Conventional units of measure are recommended, with *Système International d'Unités* (SI) units shown in parentheses. Only standard abbreviations may be used. For this and other issues of style, authors are advised to consult the *AMA style manual* (Iverson C, Christiansen S, Flanagan A, et al. *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2007).

Text

The editors recommend that Research articles (not applicable to Reviews or Clinical Opinion papers) be organized into sections identified with the following headings:

- **Introduction.** State concisely the purpose of the study and the rationale for the study. Present only the background, supported by a limited number of pertinent references necessary for the reader to understand why the study was conducted. The introduction should not include any data or conclusions from the current study.
- **Materials and Methods.** Describe briefly, but in sufficient detail to permit others to replicate the study, its plan, patients, experimental animals or other species, materials, and controls; methods and procedures; and statistical method(s) employed. **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** issues are to be addressed here as stated in the section of this document entitled Human and Nonhuman Experimentation above. If the study was exempt from IRB approval, an explanation should be provided under Materials and Methods. The generic, chemical, or proprietary names of drugs may be used. If the

generic or chemical name is used, authors may, if they desire, insert the proprietary name in parentheses after the first mention in the text. When a proprietary drug name is used, it should be followed parenthetically (at first mention only) by the full name of the manufacturer and the city and state (US) or the city, province (if appropriate), and country (non-US) in which its main headquarters are located. Do not insert the symbols for registered trademark (®) or trademark (™); if they are included, they will be removed before publication.

- **Results.** This section includes detailed findings and must cite all tables and/or figures, which should supplement, not repeat, the text. Emphasize only the most important observations; do not compare your observations with those of others. Such comparisons and comments are reserved for the Comment section.
- **Comment.** Do not repeat the details of data presented under Results or present any new data here. The editors strongly advise that the Comment section be structured as follows:
 - A brief statement of the principal findings, limiting any claims to those strictly supported by the data, avoiding speculation and overgeneralization. Give equal emphasis to positive and negative findings of equal scientific merit.
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the study.
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the study in relation to other studies, discussing particularly any differences in results.
 - Meaning of the study: eg, hypothesized mechanisms that might explain the outcomes observed and/or the implications for clinicians or policy makers. Indicate whether additional research is required before the information is used in clinical settings.
 - Unanswered questions and proposals for future research.

Use of statistics

In describing the statistical analyses that have been performed, authors must clearly state which tests were used to evaluate a specific data set. When data are presented in tabular form, the statistical test(s) used to evaluate the data should be indicated with a footnote for each test used.

Acknowledgment(s)

Only persons who have made substantive contributions to the study should be named in this section.

References

Reference format should follow that in the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. Use journal title abbreviations as in the List of Serials Indexed for Online Users (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/terms_cond.html).

- Published abstracts may be used, although a reference to the complete published article, if available, is preferred.
- Websites may or may not be an appropriate source for citation; eg, websites that serve as repositories of genetic information maintained by NIH, NCI, and the National Library of Medicine are acceptable.
- Provisional patent applications are unacceptable.
- Personal communications are not permissible references, but may be included in the text followed by the reference information in parentheses.

Numbering and order

All references are to be numbered sequentially as they fall in the text. Any references cited only within table(s) or figure(s) should be numbered in the order in which those tables and/or figures fall in the main text, with the first of the table/figure reference numbers to follow the last number used in the reference list for the main text. Citations are to be inserted in Arabic numerals, superscripted, not in parentheses. If the reference falls at the end of a sentence, the superscript should follow the period at the end of the sentence. The surname of the first author of the cited reference should not be included in the text, in parentheses or otherwise, except as desired within the text (Smith et al found. . .).

Authors must type the reference numbers in the reference list individually. Automatic reference numbering software is unacceptable.

If any reference is repeated or out of order, the author is responsible for renumbering all subsequent references prior to submission or resubmission. Additionally, should any reference(s) be added or deleted, the author is re-

sponsible for renumbering all subsequent references, both in citations within the text (and tables and figures) and, correspondingly, in the reference list at the end. If citations are used in tables or figure legends, renumbering should similarly be done there, as appropriate.

Examples (for up to 6 authors, list all; for 7 or more authors, list 3+ et al):

- **Journal article.** Brosens JJ, Pijnenborg R, Brosens IA. The myometrial junctional zone spiral arteries in normal and abnormal pregnancies. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2002;187:1416-23.
- **Book chapter.** Kim M. Amenorrhea: primary and secondary. In: Zuspan FP, Quilligan ED, eds. *Handbook of obstetrics, gynecology, and primary care*. St Louis, MO: Mosby; 1998:3-10.
- **Personal communications and unpublished data.** If essential, these may be used, within parentheses, at the appropriate location in the text, but not as numbered references. Written, signed permission from the individual(s) quoted *must accompany the manuscript upon submission*.

Figures, tables, video files, and computer graphics

Figures

Submit figures online, each in a separate image file, not embedded in the manuscript document or in a slide presentation. Cite figures consecutively, as they appear in the text, with Arabic numbers (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3A, etc.). Each figure must be assigned a *brief* title (as few words as possible, and reserving abbreviations for the legend) as well as a legend. For further explanation and examples of artwork preparation, see Elsevier’s Author Artwork Instructions. <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authors.authors/authorartworkinstructions> For additional instructions pertaining to this Journal. http://www.elsevie.com/ajog_artwork.

Figure legend page

Legends should appear on a separate page, not as part of each figure. The legend page is to be numbered in sequence after the last page of the reference list. List all figures sequentially, as they appear in the text, with Arabic numerals (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3A, etc.), and accompanied by a 1- or 2-sentence description. Any symbol, arrowhead, or letter used to identify parts of a photograph, drawing, or other illustration must be explained. Any abbreviations must be spelled out. If appropriate, explain the internal scale and identify the method of staining in photomicrographs. If a figure was previously published by you or others, a statement that permission has been granted and by whom should appear in the figure legend, as should a full citation of the original site of publication.

Tables

Submit tables in separate text files, not embedded in the manuscript. Tables are to be double spaced and numbered sequentially, with Arabic numbers (Table 1, Table 2, etc.), in the order of text citation. Each column, including the first, must have a heading. Write a *brief* title (as few words as possible; reserve abbreviations for the key) for each table. Put all explanatory matter in footnotes, including the spelling out of any nonstandard abbreviations used in the table. If a table, in whole or in part, was derived from copyrighted material, a footnote at the bottom of the table must credit the original source, cited fully. When using copyrighted material, submit a **completed permission form** or

letter with the manuscript. Footnote symbols within tables should be used in the order noted on pages 90-95 of the AMA style guide, 10th edition. For placement, start in the upper left corner and work across, left to right, and down, line by line.

Videos and computer graphics

Authors are encouraged to submit videos and computer-generated graphics; eg, a slide presentation with or without animation and sound. An author who wishes to supply such material should notify the editors in the cover letter and note this intention in the Author Comments area of the online submission form. Although the publisher will not edit any video or computer graphic, the editors and reviewers may suggest changes. All patient-identifying information must be removed or masked.

The maximum length of a video or computer graphic is 8 minutes. Longer submissions may be divided into smaller clips, each of which should be identified at the beginning of that section; eg, Video Clip 1, Graphic 1. A concise legend for each video clip or computer graphic presentation must be included with the manuscript. Videos are to be submitted in MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 (*.mpg) or QuickTime (*.mov) format. Videos must be compatible with Windows Media Player. Detailed instructions can be found at <http://www.elsevier.com/artwork> (search for “Multimedia files”). Videos and computer graphics accompanying a manuscript that is declined for publication will not be accepted separately. If the manuscript is accepted for publication, the presentation will be archived at www.AJOG.org.

Publication format

Research and Clinical Opinion articles are published in 2 formats: 1) an abbreviated form, as a summary of the article, with 1 figure or table, in the printed Journal and 2) in full on the Journal website (www.AJOG.org). An exception is articles on studies in basic science, which appear in print as abstracts only and in full online. Case Reports are published online only. All articles remain fully citable and available to searches.

Authors of Research and Clinical Opinions articles are asked, upon acceptance, to highlight the most significant contents in the article for use in the preparation of an abbreviated version of the article for the printed Journal. To expedite publication, authors are encouraged to permit a Journal-affiliated medical writer to produce the article summary, which will be submitted to the authors for their review and approval prior to publication. Authors who prefer to produce the abbreviated version themselves will receive guidelines to follow. Author-produced article summaries will be subject to editing for length and consistency and to conform with Journal style. Using this format accelerates publication considerably. An online version will be published once the production process is completed and will be fully accessible to subscribers before the print version is published. The full-length article will be available for citation before the print issue containing the summary appears. Impact factors and other citation indices will be based on the full-length online version. The print summary will appear on the Journal website as well as the full-length article.

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE TYPES

The use of multimedia components such as PowerPoint, additional images, or video clips is encouraged for all article types.

Research articles

While authorship is generally limited to 7, additional authors may be considered on an individual basis only if they have met all authorship requirements (see Authorship, above). It is preferred that authors beyond 7 be listed at the end of the article in the Acknowledgments section. Manuscripts of more than 3000 words will not be considered. Include a structured abstract of no more

than 150 words (see instructions above) and accompanied by 3 to 5 alphabetized key words or short phrases, alphabetized, for indexing purposes.

An abbreviated version of the article, containing no more than 1 figure or table, will appear in print; the article in full, containing all figures and tables, will be published on the Journal website. (For exceptions, see the previous section.) The editors encourage authors to permit a Journal-affiliated medical

writer to produce the abbreviated version, which will be submitted to the authors for their review and approval before publication. Authors who prefer to produce the abbreviated version themselves will receive guidelines. Such article summaries will be subject to editing for length and consistency and to conform with Journal style.

Basic Science articles

Authors are to identify basic science articles and to format the submission in accordance with the instructions for research articles (above). Generally, basic science articles describe research done on animals or in the laboratory involving fluids or tissues obtained from humans, but do not describe information that is used clinically (eg, laboratory tests for identifying disease). Editors will also determine whether an article falls into this category. The full abstract will appear in print, without an abbreviated summary, and the article in full will be published on the Journal website.

Case Reports

Limited to 5 authors and 700 words of main text (excluding tables, figures, and references). Include: 1) a 1-paragraph unstructured abstract of no more than 50 words; 2) 3 to 5 key words/phrases, alphabetized, for indexing purposes; 3) a brief introduction; 4) 1 or more case descriptions, labeled either Case Report (if the article discusses only 1 case) or Case 1, Case 2, etc.; and 5) a section headed Comment. Written permission from the patient(s) on whom the report is based is required. Authors must attest to having obtained the written consent in the submitted cover letter and provide this documentation upon request from the editor. Only case reports that are highly original, have significant implications for clinical practice, and/or provide information that will lead to important future research will be considered for publication. Case Reports are published on the Journal website only.

Clinical Opinion papers

Limited to 7 authors, and 3000 words of main text (excluding tables, figures, and references). Include an unstructured (1 paragraph; no headings) abstract of 50 to 150 words and 3 to 5 key words/phrases, alphabetized, for indexing purposes. Subheadings used to identify sections of the text are expected to be unique to the topic and should not follow the standard categories recommended for Research articles. To prevent such subheadings from occupying many lines on a page, they should be as short as possible, not exceeding approximately 6 words. A Clinical Opinion should not be a systematic review of an extensively researched subject, but represent the authors' studied and balanced opinion on a specific issue of clinical importance or controversy. An abbreviated version, containing no more than 1 figure or table, will appear in print; the article in full will be published on the Journal website. The editors encourage authors to permit a Journal-affiliated medical writer to produce the abbreviated version, which will be submitted to the authors for their review and approval before publication. Authors who prefer to produce the abbreviated version themselves will receive guidelines. Such article summaries will be subject to editing for length and consistency and to conform with Journal style.

Reports of Major Impact

If the authors feel that their original research article has the potential for affecting clinical practice in a major way or is otherwise of urgent importance, they may submit the manuscript under the category of "Reports of Major Impact." The Editors, in consultation with experts in the specific area addressed in the article, will make a decision regarding the impact of the article and notify the authors whether the article will be considered for this category or alternatively processed as a regular original research manuscript.

Articles accepted as "Reports of Major Impact" will be reviewed and published as rapidly as possible. The authors should follow the format for original research articles and submit the entire article. Once an article has been accepted in this category, the author in conjunction with the Journal's science

writer will write a 1000-word summary to be published as rapidly as possible and clearly identified in the print journal as a "Report of Major Impact." The full manuscript will follow a short time later in its entirety online. As with any article, conflicts arising from the timing of publication relative to a presentation at a scientific meeting may be communicated to the editors, who will, at the authors' request, delay publication until the paper has been presented.

Images in Obstetrics; Images in Gynecology

An interesting image of clinical significance, such as a clinical photograph or evidence of a diagnostic test (ultrasound scan, MRI film, slide, photomicrograph, DNA blot, or similar), is accompanied by a case description of no more than 300 words. The manuscript should include: 1) a brief case presentation; 2) relevant image(s) accompanied by a short description; 3) a description of management, results, and patient outcome; and 4) the solution.

Images are published, in different forms, in both the printed Journal and online. The text of the print article should not exceed 300 words. The online article may include more pictures and/or a more detailed explanation than the print article, but should not exceed 500 words and should be accompanied by no more than 5 references. The number of authors is limited to 3. The inclusion of multimedia components such as PowerPoint, additional images, or video clips is encouraged.

Surgeon's Corner

The article introduces a new surgical technique, surgical instrument, or application of a standard surgical procedure. Surgeon's Corner will be published, in different forms, in both the printed Journal and online. The online version includes a video clip and an explanation of the technique or instrument. The print version includes a description of the clinical situation or video clip in 300 words or less. A sample picture may appear in the print edition of the Journal, where readers will be referred to www.AJOG.org for the full article. The inclusion of multimedia components such as PowerPoint, additional images, or video clips is encouraged.

Letters to the Editors

Selected Letters to the Editors are published on the Journal website only. Only submissions that reference an article published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* will be considered for publication.

Letters are to be submitted online no more than 3 months after the date of the issue in which the related article appeared.

Letters should be brief and should contain no more than 400 words plus 1 to 4 references, one of which must cite the related Journal article. All data presented in the letter must be fully citable and listed as a supporting reference. Letters should be double spaced and signed by no more than 3 authors.

Include a title page as outlined above under Requirements for the Preparation of Manuscripts.

Letters are subject to minor editorial alterations and may be shortened without the approval of the author(s). The editors routinely invite the author(s) of the related article to respond in writing. Published Letters are accompanied by either a reply from the original author or the statement "Reply declined."

Review articles

Review articles are invited by the Journal editors. Limited to 3000 words of main text (ie, apart from figures, tables, references, and title/author information). Include an unstructured (1 paragraph, no categories) abstract of 50 to 150 words and 3 to 5 key words/phrases, alphabetized. Subheadings within the text may be unique to the article and subject matter; the prescribed subheadings used in Research articles do not apply. Reviews should represent a comprehensive and systematic review of the literature with inclusion and exclusion criteria and an enumeration of articles accepted and rejected according to criteria outlined in the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript. Reviews may not contain any new, unpublished information and may not be combined with other manuscript types.