

ANNALS OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

STANDARDIZED STRUCTURE FOR FEATURED ARTICLE

The *Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery* (ACS) is a premier multimedia journal that has a focused theme in each issue. In the Featured Article section, authors must submit **original scientific reports** of clinical research, including randomized controlled trials, prospective studies and large institutional or multi-institutional reports, etc. Submissions that solely summarise bodies of existing published work will not be accepted.

This document is a structured template for writing an ACS Featured Article.

FONT

The preferred file format is a Microsoft Word document. A readable font (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, or Verdana) with 10 or 12 pt. font size is preferred. Line spacing should be 1.5 or 2. There should be a space between each paragraph/bullet point.

TITLE PAGE

Title: maximum 200 characters

Authors: include those who have contributed intellectually and practically. For all authors please include first name, middle initial (if appropriate) and last name.

Institutions: primary and affiliated institutions, including Department, Institution, City and Country.

Corresponding author: include first name, middle initial (if appropriate), last name, postal address (including Department, Institution, City and Country) and e-mail address. Also include the telephone number and fax number for the corresponding author.

Keywords: 3-5 keywords

Running head: 60 characters maximum

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

The structured abstract is limited to 300 words. The abstract should contain the following subheadings: *Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions*.

Background: preferably 2 to 3 sentences about the targeted patient population, the current management or treatment controversies and the primary objective(s) of the study.

Methods: one paragraph about patient population, intervention, design, data collection and statistical analysis.

Results: one paragraph about the main research results, including demographic data, primary outcome measures (eg. short-, mid- or long-term outcomes) and secondary outcome measures.

Conclusions: Preferably one sentence on the main conclusion and/or the study's clinical implications. This should be limited to the primary results of the study, without any further discussions.

BODY OF TEXT

The following sections must be written in proper narrative prose with complete sentences. The word limit is 3000 words. A Featured Article should follow the IMRaD style (*Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion*).

Introduction: should be succinct, in no more than three paragraphs, focusing on three broad points: 1) targeted patient population; 2) clinical setting and controversies in management; and 3) primary and secondary objectives of the study.

Methods: preferably three or four paragraphs that focus on the following subheadings: Patients, Interventions, Study Design, Data Collection, and Statistical Analysis.

Results: preferably include structured subheadings, for example: Demographic Data, Perioperative Outcomes, Survival Outcomes.

Discussion: should be structured, comprise no more than five paragraphs and follow this overall structure, although you do not need to signpost these elements with subheadings: 1) statement of principal findings; 2) discussion of the principal findings in relation to other studies (important differences in results); 3) weaknesses and limitations of the study (sample size, confounding factors, lost to follow up and other reasons for bias); 4) implication of the study: generalizability to other populations and implications for clinicians and policymakers; and 5) unanswered questions and future research.

FIGURES

5 maximum - high definition TIFF

TABLES

5 maximum - editable version in Microsoft Word

REFERENCE

40 references maximum

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Study funding/potential competing interests

SUBMITTING ONLINE

Manuscripts should be submitted online (<http://www.annalscts.com/author/submitYourManuscript>).

