

ANNALS OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

STANDARDIZED STRUCTURE FOR ART OF OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES

The *Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery* (ACS) is a premier multimedia journal that has a focused theme in each issue. We emphasize on visual impact of the journal and would like to depict surgical procedures or techniques in a step-by-step format, using professional medical illustrations.

This document describes the standardized requirements for making an Art of Operative Techniques article. All sections must be completed before submission. This submission category is by **invitation only**.

Please note: To ensure consistency of style, the ACS Medical Illustrator will be made available to complete the illustrations.

Before you begin, there are a few important dates that must be observed:

- You must provide your provisional sketches, drawings and/or photos that would help our medical illustrator understand what you would like to depict, along with your manuscript and figure legends by the submission date. The illustrations produced are original works and do not infringe upon the copyright of any reference material provided.
- It can take at least one month for our medical illustrator to complete initial drafts and an additional month for finalizing all the colored illustrations with you. Please ensure that your final Art of Operative Techniques Article is submitted on time.

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

NON-STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

Non-structured abstract is limited to 300 words. The abstract should be written in one paragraph and contain no subheadings. Preferably the abstract will describe the history of the technique, current status of the technique, key technical details/merits and clinical results obtained by using the technique.

BODY OF TEXT

The following sections must be written in proper narrative prose with complete sentences. Please complete all the sections. A 3000 word limit applies. The Art of Operative Techniques should consist the following broad subheadings: *Introduction*, *Operative Techniques*, and *Comments*.

Introduction: should be succinct, in no more than two paragraphs, focusing on two broad points, although you do not need to signpost these elements with subheadings: 1) background information about the clinical setting and the current surgical techniques 2) history and evolution of your technique described in this manuscript. Please note it is interesting to the readers to briefly mention the history of your technique.

Operative Techniques: This is the bulk of your manuscript, usually including 8-12 medical drawings, accompanied by detailed legends, describing the operative techniques in a step-by-step format. Please note the maximum number of single figures is 12. Our professional medical illustrator will complete the illustrations to ensure consistency of style. In this section, there is some freedom for variation, but we would encourage you (although not limited to), to use the following second-degree subheadings: *Preparation*, *Exposition*, *Operation*, *Completion*.

- **Preparation:** preferably one paragraph about the overall set-up and positioning of the patient to give readers an overview.
- **Exposition:** preferably one to two paragraphs. This is a necessary step for all procedures, detailing your standard approach and the helpful tips and tricks to gain optimal exposure.
- **Operation:** this is the section you are encouraged to be as thorough as possible. Please spend 8-10 illustrations on this section and fully describe your techniques in detail. It is really important to think what the key and most representative steps of your technique are – we have the best medical illustrator to help you! In the end, a short paragraph on what not to do may be also very informative.



- **Completion:** any special considerations when completing the surgery.

Comments: In this section, please focus on the following subheadings: Clinical Results, Advantages, and Caveats.

- **Clinical Results:** your institutional results using this technique
- **Advantages:** your expert opinions regarding the major advantages of your techniques in comparison with alternatives
- **Caveats:** weaknesses of your technique, cautions to readers and/or potential room for improvement.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

Detailed figure captions are required for each illustration, and must complement the text. Captions should be

sufficiently detailed such that readers can understand the basic aspects of the procedure without having to refer to the body of the text.

REFERENCES

20 references maximum

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Study funding/potential competing interests. Please kindly acknowledge our illustration editor, Beth Croce, if the illustrations are created by her.

SUBMITTING ONLINE

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

