

# 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. We emphasize on a standardized reproducible publication structure that is designed specifically for the authors and readers. We publish high-caliber original scientific reports of clinical research, including randomized controlled trials, prospective studies and large institutional or multi-institutional reports, etc.

This document provides an example of an ACS Featured Article.

### FONT

The preferred file format is a Microsoft Word document. Please use 12 pt Arial or Times New Roman fonts throughout. 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

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Study funding/potential competing interests

### SUBMITTING ONLINE

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

