

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.

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

- It is extremely important to make a booking with our ACS medical illustrator 6 months prior to the submission date
- You must provide your provisional sketches, drawings and/or photos that would help our medical illustrator understand what you would like to depict, 4 months prior to the submission date
- It will 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 be submitted on time

#### 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:** 5 keywords 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.

The text word limit is 3000 words. 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 about 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. Our professional medical illustrator will be made available to you upon request. 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.

#### REFERENCES

20 references maximum

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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#### SUBMITTING ONLINE

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

