Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery publishes Original Articles, Review Articles, How I Do It articles (technique articles), Gastrointestinal Images, and other special categories of articles relevant to surgery of the digestive tract. Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (N Engl J Med 1991; 324:424-428). Manuscripts submitted must not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Material accepted for publication is subject to copyediting.

INFORMATION ABOUT ARTICLE TYPES:

ORIGINAL ARTICLES
REVIEW ARTICLES
HOW I DO IT ARTICLES
GASTROINTESTINAL (GI) IMAGES
CASE REPORTS
MULTI-MEDIA ARTICLES
EVIDENCE-BASED SURGICAL PRACTICE
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Original Articles

Original Articles are full-length reports of original research, either clinical or basic science. They most typically discuss topics relevant to the gastrointestinal tract ( alimentary tract) and most commonly include organs such as the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, jejunoleum, colon, rectum, anus, appendix, liver, spleen, pancreas, peritoneal cavity, etc. Both adult and pediatric issues are considered. To be published, the work presented in the manuscript should be original, should include appropriate scientific content and should be appropriately analyzed with statistics. Considerations for acceptability of a submitted manuscript by the Editors and the Editorial Board will include its importance, the soundness and appropriateness of the experimental design, the validity of the methods, the appropriateness of the conclusions, and the overall quality of the presentation.

Original Articles submitted to the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery should not exceed 6,000 words, including the abstract, text, figure and table legends, and references. The editors reserve the right to publish excessively long tables as “on-line only” material.

Review Articles

Each issue of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery may contain one or more Review Articles. Review Articles must not exceed a total of 6,000 words, and should typically have a maximum of 100 references or less. Review Articles will be considered if they deal with relevant topics in either the clinical or the bench research realm, and provide an up-to-date synthesis of previously published material. Preference is given to reviews that are scholarly, systematic and critical (e.g. evaluation of quality and levels of evidence). Liberal use of illustrations, figures, or tables is encouraged.
How I Do It Articles

The *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* will publish short ‘How I Do It’ articles that focus upon specific operations, interventions, or techniques. These articles should clearly describe an intervention in a step-by-step fashion, and provide appropriate illustrations (best not intraoperative photographs) that depict the intervention described in the text. Strong consideration will be given to How I Do It articles written by experts in the field, describing a technique used on large numbers of patients, with successful outcomes. Submissions as How I Do It manuscripts of single cases or novel interventions in small numbers of patients are discouraged. How I Do It articles should include some comment about the number of patients treated via the intervention, specific preoperative evaluation and postoperative care, and outcomes.

How I Do It articles submitted to *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* should not exceed 1,000 words including body text and figure / table legends. Abstracts are not allowed for this article type. A maximum of three authors are allowed for How I Do It items. Up to six images may be included. If appropriate, a reference list limited to no more than three (3) references may be provided.

Gastrointestinal (GI) Images

The *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* will be pleased to publish GI Images that provide a striking clinical image meant to challenge and inform readers. This section is intended to illustrate and teach important medical or surgical points. Images may be pathologic, endoscopic, or radiographic. Images should be of high quality and illustrate the diagnosis well.

The case should be described in brief with a maximum of seven hundred and fifty (750) words in the body text, with a short history and physical exam, with pertinent laboratory findings and clinical course. A maximum of three (3) figures is allowed, each with a maximum per-image description / legend limited to two hundred and fifty (250) words per legend.

GI Images should include no abstract.

Manuscripts of this type should be limited to a maximum of three (3) references, a maximum of three (3) authors, with the maximum of three (3) total images.

Figures should be in either TIFF (Tag Image File Format) or EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) format. The JPEG format is acceptable if the image is saved at the highest quality (without or with lossless compression). Images created in slide presentation programs, such as Microsoft PowerPoint, are not recommended. Charts created with Microsoft Excel are not acceptable in any circumstances.

Case Reports

Multi-Media Articles

The Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery is pleased to consider multi-media articles, where the heart of the article is the video. As with Case Reports, simple anecdotal “interesting case” videos are usually not competitive. At a minimum an abstract and references should be included. Multi-media components to an Original Article, Review or How I Do It article may also be submitted, where supplementary electronic material is added to the normal text.

For those individuals interested in submitting multi-media or dynamic articles, please note that all submissions must be in English, and that additional information and requirements for submission are included subsequently in the “Instructions for Authors” section.

Evidence-Based Surgical Practice

The Journal, in collaboration with the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract publishes an article type designated “Evidence-Based Current Surgical Practice” which represents an expert review of a gastrointestinal surgical topic identified through the annual SSAT Maintenance of Certification course or through its Continuing Medical Education Committee. Unsolicited manuscripts of this sort will NOT be considered outside of the work of a SSAT committee, and should instead be submitted as Review Articles.

Letters to the Editor

The editors of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery invite comments in the form of Letters to the Editor that express differences of opinion or supporting views of previously published editorials or recently published papers in the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Each letter should not exceed 750 words, should be typed with double-spacing, and should include complete references. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or excerpt letters without changing the views expressed by the writers. Such correspondence is evaluated only for articles published within three months of submission of the Letter to the Editor. Those letters deemed of interest to the Journal are, if appropriate, sent to the authors of the original article for a response. The authors of the original article are given a short period of time to reply. A decision will then be made by the editors whether to publish the letter with or without its corresponding reply.

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Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Allowing one’s name to appear as an author without having contributed significantly to the study, adding the name of an individual who has not contributed, or including an individual as a co-author who has not agreed to the work in its final form is considered a breach of appropriate authorship.

As per the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), authors must meet all of the following criteria:
- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Those who do not meet all 4 criteria should not be listed as an author, but rather should be listed in the Acknowledgements section.

SEX INCLUSIVE REPORTING
The National Institutes of Health has now asked that sex be considered as a biologic variable in all National Institutes of Health-funded research. As such, Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery supports uniform, defined reporting of the sex used for human, animal, tissue, and cell research in ALL manuscripts published in the Journal. If only one sex is studied, authors must include a justification statement as to why a single-sex study was conducted. Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery also requires sex-based reporting and analysis of data for all human, animal, tissue, and cell research.

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Abstract: Each Original, Multi-Media, Evidence-Based Surgical Practice and Review Article manuscript must include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words, divided into the following subheadings: (1) Background or Purpose, (2) Methods, (3) Results, and (4) Discussion or Conclusions. Do not use abbreviations, footnotes, or references. Submit 3 to 5 key words using standard Index Medicus terminology at the bottom of the abstract.

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For references where there are two or more authors who share first authorship, the Journal of Gastrointestinal of Surgery requires those authors’ names to be in bold type.
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Video is subject to Editorial review and approval.

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Multimedia articles are papers where the heart of the article is the video and, generally, only an abstract and references are included. Dynamic articles are regular articles with video(s) included as electronically supplementary material.
Upon submission of multimedia or dynamic articles, the author(s) will be required to submit the video in the following format:

The video should not exceed 9 minutes.  
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The maximum size for all files (including videos) in the submission 350 MB. Videos must be in one the following formats: MPEG-1, QuickTime (not mpg4) or Window media video (WMV). The video file must be playable on a Windows-based computer.  
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Editor-in-Chief: Hodin, R.A.; Pawlik, T.M.
ISSN: 1091-255X (print version)
ISSN: 1873-4626 (electronic version)
Journal no. 11605
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