Instructions for contributors

Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology

Submitting new papers

The letter accompanying a submitted manuscript must be signed by all the authors, or the corresponding author must state that all authors have read it and agree to it being submitted for publication. Authors in the USA should also append the following statement:

In consideration of Mac Keith Press taking action in reviewing and editing my submission entitled (title), the author(s) undersigned hereby transfer(s), assign(s), or otherwise convey(s) all copyright ownership to Mac Keith Press in the event that such work is published by Mac Keith Press.

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Permissions and consents: if the manuscript includes work previously published elsewhere, it is the authors’ responsibility to obtain permission to use it, and they must indicate that such permission has been granted.

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Ethical approval: authors of research articles should demonstrate that the research has been approved by a named research ethics committee, that their recommendations have been adhered to, and that written informed consent for participation and publication has been obtained. All case reports and clinical photographs require consent.

Conflict of interest and financial disclosure: authors of articles should declare any financial arrangement with any product or rival product featuring in the article, sources of funding, institutional affiliations, and any possible financial or personal conflicts of interest.

Presentation

All papers

Title page: should include only the title of the paper, the authors’ names, degrees, main appointments, and word count. Please identify the corresponding author and give his or her postal address, fax number, and E-mail address.

Summary: on the second page, this should be 150–200 words, covering the aims, method, results, and conclusions of the study; and a shortened form of the title for use as a running foot.

Tables, figures, and appendices: set out on separate pages, not incorporated within the text. Figure and table legends, which should be brief, should be presented on a separate sheet.

Original Articles: these should not normally exceed 3000 words or include more than 25 references. There should be an introductory section (but not headed ‘Introduction’), followed by ‘Method’ (with optional subheadings such as ‘Participants’ (rather than ‘Subjects’ and ‘Statistical Analysis’), ‘Results’, and ‘Discussion’ sections, and a ‘Conclusion’ if necessary. Subheadings, otherwise, should be kept to a minimum.

Case Reports: these should not normally exceed 1500 words or include more than 15 references. There should be an introductory section as above, followed by the ‘Case Report’, then a ‘Discussion’ section, with a ‘Conclusion’ if appropriate.

Reviews: please ask for special instructions at eanda@mackeith.co.uk

Letters to the Editor: these are published at the Editor’s discretion. Please email eanda@mackeith.co.uk to ask for special instructions.

Preparation and Submission: Manuscripts should be double spaced on numbered pages. An electronic copy, with all sections of the paper included in a single file, should be emailed to eanda@mackeith.co.uk, or sent on a disk (the single file should be labelled with first author’s name and date, e.g. ‘Shah3/12.doc’). This will be acknowledged within 7 days of receipt. One printed copy should be sent to: The Editor, Mac Keith Press, 3rd Floor, 30 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JQ.

Accuracy: the primary responsibility for accuracy rests with authors. Please take special care with references, checking at source and ensuring journal title abbreviations are accurate (see References).

Selection and publication

Refereeing: all submissions are sent to at least two referees. Authors may suggest three suitable independent referees (with their addresses) but the choice of referee rests with the Editor.

Rejections: about 50% of manuscripts received are rejected. Rejected manuscripts and illustrations will not be returned unless specifically requested.

Fast track publishing: there is usually some delay between the final acceptance of a paper and its publication. However, papers thought to have immediate, clinically important consequences may be considered for fast-track publication. The decision to prioritize remains with the Editor.

Pre-prints: with the Editor’s permission, authors may place papers that have been finally accepted, but not yet copy-edited, on their institution’s website, saying that the paper has been accepted by DMCN.

Forthcoming articles: when a paper has been completely copy edited and is ready to go to press, it is likely there will be
some delay before it is printed. In these circumstances, the paper will be put on the Mac Keith Press part of the Cambridge University Press website (http://journals.cambridge.org/journal_DevelopmentalMedicineandChildNeurology) as a Forthcoming Article, and will be available for downloading for the usual fee.

Style Points

**Jargon**: avoid it strenuously. The journal aims to communicate across disciplines, and many of its readers do not have English as their first language, so plain language is always preferred. The Editors will clarify and shorten manuscripts accepted for publication as necessary.

**Abbreviations**: these must be spelled out in full on first usage in text, figure captions, and table footnotes.

**Participant details**: give mean (SD) age in years and months (not decimal years) and sex (n, not %). Ensure this information is included in the abstract. In the body text indicate where study and comparison groups are from and how participants were selected.

**Measurements**: use SI units, except for blood pressure (mmHg); convert imperial units to metric. Do not use percents for sample sizes below 50; use the symbol ‘%’ in tables. Show standard deviations as (SD), not ±. Abbreviate probability with a lower case italicized p.

**Numbers**: in general, use numerals, but where they occur at the beginning of sentences, spell them out. Spell out numbers ‘one’ to ‘nine’ if they refer to nouns which are not units of measurement, e.g. ‘The results from four children confirm the findings’.

**Equipment**: when referring to technical or medical equipment, include (in brackets) the name of the manufacturer, the city, and country of production.

**Figures**

**Electronic**: figures should be submitted electronically wherever possible. All images should be a minimum size of 10cm x 10cm and sent as separate files rather than pasted into a Word/Text file.

Photographs should be in the file format ‘tiff’ or ‘eps’, with a minimum resolution of 300dpi and be in grayscale.

Graphs and line drawings should be scanned in bitmap mode at a minimum resolution of 1200dpi.

**Size**: the originals of all figures (photographs, line drawings, and graphs) should be as close as possible to their likely printed size.

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**Colour**: if colour printing of figures is essential for their comprehension, please indicate this. There is normally a charge to the author for printing in colour.

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**References**

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**Journal articles**: All authors should be listed with initials, followed by the date, full title of the article, then abbreviated journal title in italics (go to www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html for the Index Medicus list of recognized abbreviations), followed by volume number and page numbers. Page range should be in full (162–168, rather than 162–8), e.g:


If an article has only one page number, the nature of the publication should be stated in parentheses at the end of the reference, e.g:


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