

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

The Pan-African J. of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery aims to improve the practice of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery. To achieve these objectives, the journal publishes original articles, reviews and clinical case reports. Correspondences should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, P. O. Box, 19571-00202 Nairobi, Kenya, Telephone: +254-714342214; email: info@panafricanjournal.co.ke or Support email: nangole2212@gmail.com.

The Pan-African J. of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery peer review process: All the manuscripts submitted to this Journal are peer reviewed. About one fifth of such manuscripts are rejected after an in-house review by two editors. Primary reasons for rejection at this stage are lack of originality, lack of significant scientific message important to a general PRAS readership. Such a decision is normally reached within one month.

The remaining manuscripts are sent to one or more external referees selected from a database of many experts. Once returned, those with statistical component are reviewed by a statistician, after which all those considered suitable for publication are discussed at the quarterly editorial panel meeting. This is the last stage of the peer review process. We aim at reaching a final decision on publication within two months of manuscript submission. Original articles and authoritative reviews should be published within two months of being finally accepted or after any necessary revisions.

General instructions: All materials submitted to be considered for publication must be submitted exclusively to *The Pan-African J. of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery*. All authors must give signed consent to publication. For original articles and clinical case reports, written permission must be obtained from the Director/Superintendent of the hospital where the work was done or the case was managed. All manuscripts should be typed in double line spacing on numbered pages and conform to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (1). Authors should provide their names, addresses and appointment/designation at the time they undertook the study. They should also provide a current address (including telephone and e-mail) for purposes of correspondence. Material accepted for publication will be edited including the title. Where possible, Galley proofs are sent to authors of the manuscripts. Once an article has been

approved for processing, the authors will be required to pay APF of US\$ 100

Original articles and reviews. You are advised to keep a further copy for your own reference. Articles should be between two and four thousand words with a maximum of six tables or other illustrations. Original articles should report data from original research which is relevant to the practice of PRAS especially in the African continent and developing countries. The message carried in the article should be clear and having the potential of improving the practice of PRAS upon implementation. Reviews must be critical analyses of the subjects reviewed, giving a state-of-the art and a balanced view of all the issues, for instance, controversies. Reviews should preferably be contributed by authorities and experts in the field of PRAS. Similar to the case for original articles, the message of the review must be clear and of significance.

Format and House style: A structured abstract of no more than 250 words must be included. For original articles, the abstract should have the following headings: objective(s), design, setting, subjects or participants, interventions, main outcome measures, results and conclusion (2). For reviews the headings should be objectives(s), data sources, study selection, data extraction, data synthesis and conclusions. Copies of related papers already published should be submitted. This requirement is important where details of study methods are published elsewhere or when the manuscript is part of a series, say, part II of a series where part I has been published elsewhere. Copies of any non-standard questionnaires should also be submitted for consideration of publication as indexes, if deemed necessary. Statistical methods should be defined and the level of significance used stated. Original articles should conform to the AIMRADAR format, that is, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion, Acknowledgments (if any) and References.

Other submissions: Case reports are welcome, however, the reason for presenting them must be clearly stated, particularly their critical significance in clinical practice. Case reports must be authentic, adequately and appropriately illustrated and the identity of any individual concealed according to ethical requirements.

They must not be more than one thousand five hundred words which includes a succinct, informative prose summary of no more than one hundred words.

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References

Only references which are clearly related to the authors work should be quoted. *The Pan-African J. of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* allows up to twenty eight references for original articles and up to forty for reviews and only ten or less for case reports. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text. At the end of the article, the full list of references should give the names and initials of all authors (except where there are more than six when only the first six should be given followed by et al). References made to a journal should include, title of the paper quoted, name of the journal, abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus, (see "list of journals indexed", printed yearly in the January issue of Index Medicus); and arranged in Vancouver style, that is, year, volume, first and last page numbers. References made to books should bear the author's or editor's last name, initials, title, edition number, place of publication, publisher and year.

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1. *Internal Committee of Medical Journal Editors.* Uniform requirements for manuscript submitted to biomedical journals, PA: ICMJE, 1963.
2. Haynes, R.B., Mulrow, C.D., Huth, E.J., Attman, D.G. and Gardner, M.J. More informative abstracts revisited. *Ann. Intern. Med.* 1990; 113:69-76.
3. Editorial. The Ingelfinger Rule revisited. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 1991; 235:1371-1373.