INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Korean Circulation Journal (KCJ) is the official journal of the Korean Society of Cardiology, the Korean Pediatric Heart Society, the Korean Society of Interventional Cardiology, and the Korean Society of Heart Failure. It is published monthly in English.

It is a professional, peer-reviewed journal covering all aspects of cardiovascular medicine, including original articles of basic research and clinical findings, review articles, editorials, images in cardiovascular medicine, and letters to the editor.

This journal is published on the official website (https://www.e-kcj.org). It is indexed in PubMed, PubMed Central, Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE, Web of Science), Scopus, EMBASE, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), Google Scholar, KoreaMed, KoreaMed Synapse, and KoMCI and is easily accessible to international researchers.

Manuscript Submission

The Korean Circulation Journal has an online submission and peer review system. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically at http://kcj.edmgr.com. Please first log in as an author and follow the directions. Manuscripts should be submitted by the corresponding author, who must indicate the contact address, phone number, and e-mail for correspondence on the title page of the manuscript. All articles submitted to the Journal must abide by these instructions. Failure to do so will result in return of the manuscript and possible delay in publication. For assistance, please contact us via e-mail, telephone, or fax.

Revised manuscripts should be submitted through the same web system under the same identification number.

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Editorial and Peer Review Process

Manuscripts are examined by editorial staff, who then decide whether to request external peer review by experts in related topics. Generally, the authors are blinded when the manuscript is requested for external review. The acceptance criteria for all papers are based on the quality and originality of the research and their clinical and scientific contributions in cardiovascular medicine. After request for external review, the initial decision is typically made within 4 weeks. The results of review and the reviewers’ comments will be sent to the corresponding author via e-mail. After revision according to the comments and recommendations, the corresponding author must submit the revised manuscript in the same E-submission system. The corresponding author must indicate the alterations highlighted or marked in red item by item in the revised manuscript. Failure to resubmit the revised manuscript within 8 weeks without notification to KCJ is considered to be a withdrawal of the manuscript.

Editorial Policy

The editorial staff assume that all authors agreed with the KCJ policies of manuscript submission. Except for the preapproved secondary publication, all manuscripts submitted to the Journal must be previously unpublished in all languages and not be under consideration for submission or publication in other journals. The identities of decision makers will not be disclosed in any circumstances. All published manuscripts become the permanent property of the KCJ and cannot be published elsewhere without written permission.

Ethical Consideration


For all investigators involving human subjects, manuscripts should be based on human studies approved by an institutional review committee with the subjects’ written informed consent. All clinical research must be performed according to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki: (https://

Research using animals also should be reviewed by an appropriate committee following the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Studies using pathogens requiring a high degree of biosafety should receive permission from a relevant committee such as the Institution Biosafety Committee (IBC). The editor of the KCJ can request copies of informed consent and proof of permission from IRB or related committees.

All medical research participants should record a research note detailing the research process and achievements and follow the research note guidelines of their research institute.

If the author’s affiliation is different from the institution that conducts the research, the institution that conducted the research should be marked first, and the original affiliation should be marked separately.

KCJ will follow the guideline by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, http://publicationethics.org/) for settlement of any misconduct.

Authorship

Authorship credits should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception or design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of the data; AND 2) drafting of the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual contents; AND 3) final approval of the version to be published; AND 4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work and ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Authors must meet all of these criteria. In addition, an author should be accountable for the parts of the work he or she has done and should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work. Authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors. All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, and all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors. Those who do not meet all four criteria should be acknowledged as contributors not be authors. These authorship criteria are intended to reserve the status of authorship for those who deserve credit and can take responsibility for the work. The criteria are not intended for use as a means to disqualify colleagues from authorship who otherwise meet authorship criteria by denying them the opportunity to meet criterion #2 or 3. Therefore, all individuals who meet the first criterion should have the opportunity to participate in the review, drafting, and final approval of the manuscript.

The corresponding author can be only an author(s) who meets all four criteria and cannot be an author who did not meet any one or more of the criteria. The corresponding author should be available throughout the full processes even after publication. When a study is conducted by a large and multicenter group, the group should identify the individual authors who accept responsibility for the manuscript before submission. When submitting a manuscript authored by a group, the corresponding author should clearly indicate the preferred citation and identify all individual authors as well as group name. Contributors to the study can be listed in an acknowledgment section. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research does not meet the authorship criteria, and such parties should not be listed as authors. If the corresponding author requests the addition or removal of authors after submission, the editor will assess the reason and a written document regarding agreement from all co-authors. The KCJ has no responsibility for changes in authorship.

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Redundant publication is defined as “reporting (publishing or attempting to publish) substantially the same work more than once, without attribution of the original source(s)”. Characteristics of reports that are substantially similar include the following: (a) “at least one of the authors must be common to all reports (if there are no common authors, it is more likely plagiarism than redundant publication),” (b) “the subjects or study populations are the same or overlapped,” (c) “the methodology is typically identical or nearly so,” and (d) “the results and their interpretation generally vary little, if at all.”

When submitting a manuscript, authors should include a letter informing the editor of any potential overlap with other material already published or material being evaluated for publication and should also state how the manuscript submitted to KCJ differs substantially from other materials. If all or part of your patient population was previously reported, this should be mentioned in
the Methods, with citation of the appropriate reference(s).

Clinical Trials

Obligation to register

Clinical trial defined as “any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome” should be registered to the primary registry to be prior publication. KCJ accepts the registration in any of the primary registries that participate in the WHO International Clinical Trials Portal (http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/), NIH ClinicalTrials.gov (http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/), ISRCTN Resister (www.ISRCTN.org), or the Clinical Research Information Service (CRIS), Korea CDC (https://cris.nih.go.kr/cris/index.jsp). The clinical trial registration number shall be published at the end of the abstract.

Data sharing statement


Conflict of Interest

At manuscript submission, the KCJ requires the corresponding author to summarize all author conflicts of interest disclosures. The conflicts of interest can exist when an author (or author’s institution or employer) has financial or personal relationship or affiliations that could have influence on or bias the authors’ decisions, works, or the manuscript. The KCJ requires complete disclosure of all relevant financial relationships and potential financial conflicts of interest regardless of amount of value. The corresponding author is asked to inform the Editor of all author conflicts of interest that could influence their interpretation of the data. In particular, all sources of funding for the study should be listed explicitly. Such conflicts can be financial support or private connection to pharmaceutical companies, potential pressure from interest groups, or academic benefits. All sources of funding should be declared in the ‘Acknowledgement’ section. At manuscript acceptance, the KCJ can ask the authors to confirm and update their disclosure of conflicts of interest online. At the time of publication, the final status of conflicts of interest will be disclosed to the readers on https://www.e-kcj.org. If any author’s disclosure of conflicts of interest is determined to be inaccurate or incomplete after publication, a correction will be published to rectify the original published disclosure statement, and additional action can be taken as necessary.

All forms are now signed and submitted electronically. Once the revision manuscript is submitted, the authors will be sent links to complete the electronic Relationship with Industry form and all authors are required to electronically sign a relationship with industry form. Once completed, the further process will be started. Only authors appearing on the final title page will be sent a form.

Journal Categories

KCJ publishes the following manuscript types: Original articles, Review Articles, Editorials, Images in Cardiovascular Medicine, and Letters to the editor.

1. Original Articles

• Clinical Investigation and Reports: Studies conducted in humans or analysis of human data
• Basic Science Reports: Studies conducted in animals and in vitro experiments
• Word count: ≤ 5000 words excluding the title page, abstract, and tables
• Structured abstract: ≤ 250 words with the following sections: Background and Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Use complete sentences. All data in the abstract also must appear in the manuscript text or tables
• Keywords: Up to 5 words from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus
• Number of references: ≤ 30
• Number of figures and tables: ≤ 8

The manuscript should be arranged in the following sequence: 1) Title Page, 2) Abstract, 3) Keywords, 4) Text, 5) Acknowledgements (if applicable), 6) References, 7) Figure Legends, 8) Figures, 9) Tables, and 10) Supplemental Materials. Page numbering should begin with the Title Page.

2. Review Articles

Concise and comprehensive articles devoted to review a topic from basic mechanisms to clinical manifestations and interventional approaches to global health implications comprise this category. Most review articles are invited by the Editors; however, unsolicited material might also be considered for publication. If you wish to submit a review article to the journal, please do so via
our submission site.

- Word count: ≤ 10,000 words excluding tables
- Unstructured abstract: ≤ 250 words
- Keywords: Up to 5 words from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus
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3. Editorials

Editorials are commentaries on articles that appear in the journal and are invited by the editors. Editorial topics could include active areas of research, fresh insights, and debates in all fields of cardiovascular medicine. If you are invited to write an editorial, specific requirements will be sent to you. Please do not submit unsolicited editorials.

4. Images in Cardiovascular Medicine

Clinical images illustrate either important or novel findings and provide insight into diagnosis and mechanisms responsible for cardiovascular medicine. The maximum number of authors for images in cardiovascular medicine is 8.

- Word count: ≤ 250 words
- Number of references: ≤ 5

5. Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor focus on a specific article published in KCJ within 3 months of the issue date. We will seek a reply to your letter from the authors of the original paper and publish both together.

- Word count: ≤ 500 words excluding references
- Number of references: ≤ 5
- Number of figures: ≤ 1
- Number of tables: ≤ 1

The decision will be made by the reviewers who reviewed the original articles.

Manuscript Preparation and Format

- The manuscript should be prepared according to “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (ICMJE Recommendations, formerly the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts)” (http://www.icmje.org).
- All materials must be written in clear, appropriate English using Microsoft Word (doc) or other major word-processing program. The manuscript must be written in Times New Roman 12-point font and be double-spaced.

1. Title Page

- Full title
- Short title (not to exceed 45 characters including spaces)
- Authors’ names including academic degrees
- The contact information for correspondence and reprints, including name, academic degree(s), address (institutional affiliation, city, zip code, and country), telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. The corresponding author will be the sole contact for all submission queries.
- Total word count

2. Abstract

- Do not cite references in the abstract.
- Limit use of acronyms and abbreviations. Define acronym or abbreviation at its first use in parentheses.
- A structured abstract of no more than 250 words for Original Articles

- Use the following headings in Original Articles
  - Background and Objectives: Rationale for study
  - Methods: Brief presentation of study design and key methods
  - Results: Succinct presentation of key results; please include sample sizes
  - Conclusions: Succinct statement of data interpretation

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- Provide a maximum of 5 keywords from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh

4. Text

- The text of Original Articles should be structured using the main headings of Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.
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  - Studies of medications, biologics, and devices: Generic rather than trademark names of all therapeutics should be used.

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5. Acknowledgments

The Acknowledgments section recognizes all sources of support for research, plus substantive contributions of individuals.

6. References

- Accuracy of reference data is the responsibility of the author.
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- The reference list should be typed double-spaced on pages separate from the text; references must be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. List all authors if 6 or fewer; otherwise, list the first 3 and add “et al.”
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  Sweeney RJ, Gill RM, Reid PR. Increased action potential prolongation by low voltage biphasic versus monophasic field stimulation. J Am Coll Cardiol 1995;86A. Abstract
- Personal communications, unpublished observations, and submitted manuscripts are not legitimate references. They must be cited in the text only (not the reference list).
- If an article has been published online, but has not yet been given an issue or pages, the digital object identifier (DOI) should be supplied.

7. Figure Legends

- All figures must have a number, title, and caption.
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- Figure titles should be short and followed by a 2 to 3 sentence caption.
- Figure Legends should be typed double-spaced on pages separate from the text.
- All abbreviations should be identified in alphabetical order at the end of each legend.

8. Figures

- Figures and graphs should be provided in GIF, TIFF, EPS, or JPG format.
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- If the number of files is more than five, one PowerPoint file is acceptable.
- Figure numbers must correspond with the order in which they are mentioned in the text.
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- Begin each table on a separate page, double-spaced.
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- Tables should be self-explanatory, and the data presented in them should not be duplicated in the text or figures.
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- Indicate footnotes in this order: *, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, #, **.

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Supplemental materials will be provided in the online version only. Such materials can consist of 1) Information that cannot be printed, such as animations, video clips, and sound recordings, 2) Information that can be presented more conveniently in electronic form, AND 3) Large original data,
e.g., additional tables or illustrations.

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  - Submit all supplemental materials in standard file formats.
  - All submitted supplemental materials must be mentioned in the manuscript.
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  - Multimedia files should be accompanied by brief relevant information explaining the content of the audio, video, or animation files.
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- Text and Presentations
  - Submit your material as a PDF, DOC, or PPT file.
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□ Title page with article title, authors’ full name(s) and affiliation(s), information of correspondence (including address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail), short title (less than 45 characters including spaces), and footnotes if any.

□ Abstract in structured format within 250 words and a maximum of 5 keywords as in MeSH in original articles.

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□ References are assessed for accuracy and listed in proper format. Check that all references listed in the references section are cited in the text.

□ Figures are professional and in an acceptable format.
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