

## PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Prepare manuscript according to the appropriate standard reporting guideline.
- Entire manuscript has been proofread for typographical errors and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling (follow American English language rules). If you are looking for assistance with language editing, formatting tables, or creating artwork according to journal guidelines, please visit our [Author Services Portal](#).
- Cover letter is a separate file and addresses any potential overlap with existing publications, relevant disclosures from the authors, and any other special circumstances that may apply.
- Title page is a separate file and includes all authors and their affiliations; disclosures including all sources of support and potential conflicts of interest; disclaimers if required; and acknowledgments (other contributors, preprints, AI usage).
- Main document does not identify the authors in any way (blinded file). Author initials are OK but omit any full names in the paper.
- Abstract format is correct per journal instructions and includes all key points and registry number (if applicable)
- All abbreviations are defined at first mention in the abstract and main text.
- All abbreviations and symbols are explained in the table footnotes / figure legends.
- Justification and rationale the objectives and approach are given in the introduction.
- Ethical statements regarding IRB review, consent, approval are mentioned in methods.
- Study design, location, dates, outcomes, and data analyses are clearly described in methods.
- Manufacturer information is given for all materials and equipment used in the study.
- All outcomes/measures in the methods are described in the results.
- Data in the text, tables, figures, and abstract agree.
- Limitations, generalizability, and future research directions are mentioned in the discussion.
- All claims are supported by data from the study and/or appropriate references.
- References are numbered, cited in numerical order, and written in English.
- Tables include a short title and footnotes to define all symbols and abbreviations.
- Figure legends are listed at the end of the manuscript; all abbreviations and symbols are defined.
- Figures are separate files and are optimized for print quality: at least 5 inches wide, 14-point font size, and 300+ dpi.
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