

## PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- 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 and disclosures including all sources of support and potential conflicts of interest. Prior presentations mentioned.
- Main document does not identify the authors in any way (blinded file).
- Entire manuscript has been proofread for typographical errors and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling (follow American English language rules).
- 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.
- Study design, location, dates, outcomes, and data analyses are clearly described in methods.
- Ethical statements regarding IRB review, consent, approval are mentioned 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.
- Permission has been obtained for anyone who is mentioned in the acknowledgment section.
- Permission has been obtained to reprint and/or modify all tables / figures that have been published previously, and the appropriate credit line is included with the material.