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Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Coronary Artery Disease* (JCAD) is a peer reviewed, open access journal spanning coronary disease research, medicine and surgery. Supported by the Japanese Coronary Association, the journal publishes a range of article types: Original Articles, Reviews, Rapid Communications, Case Reports, and Imaging Case Reports. Published online 4 times per year, JCAD provides important information and knowledge to a broad international audience of researchers, clinicians, allied health workers and all those interested in coronary artery disease.

Manuscript Types

The journal welcomes five main manuscript types, all of which undergo peer review.

Original Articles

Original Articles are full and comprehensive reports describing original research. They should follow the standard format of Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and References. The main text (excluding references, tables, and figure legends) should not exceed 5000 words.

Reviews

Reviews present novel or unique overviews of recent or important developments in the field. They must be insightful and must address the question(s) of interest using appropriate and fully presented evidence; exhaustive general summaries will not be published. Reviews are generally 5000–6000 words and can explore several aspects of importance in a broader subject area. The journal welcomes proposals from interested authors. Reviews on topics determined by the Editorial Board and invited on behalf of the Editor-in-Chief are published as Invited Articles.

Case Reports

Case Reports present a novel disease, confirm a rare or newly identified disease, or offer new insights into the pathogenesis, etiology, diagnosis, or treatment of a condition. They may also highlight novel findings related to a known disease. Case Reports should begin by clearly stating the subject, purpose, and significance of the case. After this introduction (which requires no heading), the report should be structured under the following headings: Case Report, Discussion, and, if necessary, Conclusions.

Imaging Case Reports

Imaging Case Reports consist primarily of figures, illustrations, or photographs that provide descriptive insights into coronary artery disease, which are accompanied by minimal text. They must include a title page; up to 3 figures, illustrations, or photographs; descriptive text of no more than 1,000 words; up to 4 references (if applicable); and figure legends.

Rapid Communications

Rapid Communications describe innovative original research that receives strong endorsement and merits expedited publication. They should be concise, with a maximum of 3,500 words and no more than 5 figures. The peer review process is conducted as swiftly as possible to ensure timely publication.

Journal & Ethics Policies

The journal upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described in full below.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not previously been published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints').

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they should first withdraw it from the journal.

Submission

The journal welcomes manuscript submissions from authors based anywhere in the world.

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript is original work. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the editors' discretion.

Authorship

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Authors are encouraged to consider the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Recommendations on '[Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors](#)'. The ICMJE recommends that authorship is based on four criteria: making a substantial contribution to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work; drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; approving the final version of the manuscript for publication; and agreeing to be held accountable for all aspects of the work. Any contributor who has met all four criteria should be an author on the manuscript. Contributors who do not meet all four criteria should not be authors of the manuscript but may be included in the Acknowledgments section instead.

Authors must include a statement in the cover letter detailing the specific contributions of each author.

Given that artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as large language models (LLMs) and various openly available services do not meet the requirements listed above, they cannot be listed as an author of a manuscript.

Data falsification, data fabrication and image integrity

Authors must not falsify or fabricate data. Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

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Availability of data and materials

Authors must disclose the source of publicly available data and materials, such as public repositories or commercial manufacturers, by including accession numbers or company details in their manuscript, as appropriate.

Authors may make their own data and materials available in supplementary material, or by linking from their manuscript to relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and consideration made for them to be made publicly available by the date of publication. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least three years from the date of publication in the journal.

Human/animal experimentation

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with: the principles and guidelines set forth in the “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals” (ICMJE Recommendations); the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and its revisions; and any guidelines approved by the authors’ institutions. Authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding their participation in the research and publication of the research, especially in regard to any participant who is potentially or otherwise identifiable from photography or videography within the manuscript. Authors must comply with the “Guidelines for the Protection of Patient Privacy in Medical Papers Containing Cases and Presentations at Academic Meetings” of the Council of Japan Surgical Associations.

Authors must also include a statement that the study protocol has been approved by the institutional review committee on clinical research and has been undertaken in compliance with relevant regulations.

Studies involving animal experimentation should conform to Article 21 of the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and its revisions, as well as the animal welfare regulations in the authors’ country or countries (for example, the “Act on Welfare and Management of Animals” for authors in Japan). Where relevant, authors must include a statement that the study protocol has been approved by the institutional review committee on animal experiments and undertaken with appropriate animal handling.

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The journal adheres to the ICMJE policy on [Clinical Trials Registration](#), which recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. Manuscripts describing clinical trials must include the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry.

Reporting guidelines

The journal requires authors to follow the EQUATOR Network’s [Reporting Guidelines](#) for health research. Study types include, but are not limited to, randomized trials, observational studies, systematic reviews, case reports, qualitative research, diagnostic and prognostic studies, economic evaluations, animal pre-clinical studies and study protocols.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools

As per the COPE position statement on [Authorship and AI tools](#), authors must disclose and fully describe any use of generative or non-generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (also known as large language models, or LLMs) in the Materials and Methods section. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI tools to collect or analyze data, produce or amend images or graphics used in the manuscript, or write all or part of the manuscript. Authors must describe which tools they used and how the tools were used. In general, the use of generative AI tools is allowed only where that use is an integral part of the research design or methods. Any other uses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the editors. In all cases, authors remain responsible for all the content of their submitted manuscript.

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In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an author’s ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Full details about the requirements for the declaration and the manuscript are in the ‘Disclosure Statement’ section.

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The journal does not accept advertising on its article pages, the journal's website, or elsewhere.

Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

Peer review is a critically important process of evaluation for any manuscript submitted to JCAD. Every article dispatched for full peer review receives a comprehensive, fair, unbiased and critical assessment. The journal uses single-anonymized peer review.

When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to a handling Editor, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. For the remaining manuscripts, the Editor selects two to three appropriate reviewers to provide their assessment.

Once the reviewers' reports have been received, the Editor determines whether the manuscript requires revision. Authors who are asked to revise their manuscript must do so within 4 weeks, otherwise it may be treated as a new submission. The Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgment to assess how closely the authors have followed the comments on the original manuscript. The Editor then makes a final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal.

The Editor-in-Chief acts as an arbitrator when necessary.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within 2 weeks of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

Acceptance criteria

If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Editor may accept it for publication in the journal.

Articles in the journal must be:

- within the subject area of the journal's scope
- novel and original
- descriptions of technically rigorous research
- of high interest to the journal's audience
- important additions to the field.

If a manuscript does not meet the journal's requirements for acceptance or revision, the Editor may reject it.

Editorial independence

The Japanese Coronary Association (JCA) has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The JCA will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests.

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Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by the Editor-in-Chief, whose decision is final. The guidelines of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE) are followed where relevant.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors and reviewers will not:

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2. discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review
3. use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
4. use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization
5. share or upload the content of the manuscript to any AI tool or public platform.

In addition, reviewers will not reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript or involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first receiving permission from the Editor.

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A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor or reviewer's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript.

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A published article that contains invalid or unreliable results or conclusions, has been published elsewhere, or has infringed codes of conduct (covering research or publication ethics) may be retracted. Individuals who believe that a published article should be retracted are encouraged to contact the journal's Editorial Office with full details of their concerns. The Editor-in-Chief will investigate further and contact the authors of the published article for their response. In cases where co-authors disagree over a retraction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Retraction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

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Responding to potential ethical breaches

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However, authors who opt for Advance Publication—which allows manuscripts to be published online prior to the relevant issue being released—will be subject to an article processing charge of 4,000 yen per manuscript. This charge is required to cover the administrative costs associated with expedited online publication.

You can choose to order offprints upon acceptance of your manuscript, which attract printing and shipping charges.

An order form with full details is provided at the time of acceptance.

Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal’s online submission system, Editorial Manager: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jcoron/>. The required file formats are:

- Main Text: MS Word
- Tables: MS Word or MS Excel (data as images or text boxes are not acceptable.)
- Figures: TIFF, MS PowerPoint or MS Word

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office at the details provided in the Contact section.

Manuscript Preparation

Style and format

Manuscripts should be prepared in Microsoft Word or other appropriate software using double line spacing throughout, with margins of at least 3 cm. Pages should be numbered sequentially in Arabic numerals.

Manuscripts must contain the sections below, and each section should begin on a new page.

- Title page
- Abstract
- Main text
- Acknowledgments (if any)
- Disclosure Statement
- Data Availability Statement
- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Patient consent for publication
- References
- Figure Legends
- Tables (Table number and title should be above each table.)
- Figures (Each figure should be numbered.)

The main text of each Original Article should comprise the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions.

The main text of each Case Report or Imaging Case Report should comprise the following sections: Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, and Conclusions.

In other article types, the main text sections may be omitted or combined as appropriate.

English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

Cover letter

Authors must submit a cover letter that includes the title of the manuscript and the contact details of the corresponding author. Authors should summarize the aims and outcomes of their work and how and why the manuscript is appropriate for publication. Details of any relevant consent and/or ethics approvals and other such items must be included in the cover letter. The cover letter should also contain a statement that describes the contribution made by each author. This can be based on [CRediT](#) (Contributor Roles Taxonomy), or per the authors' choice.

Title page

The title page should contain:

- The title of the article
- The authors' names and affiliations
- The name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address of the corresponding author
- The manuscript type (Review Article, Original Article, Rapid Communication, Case Report, Imaging Case Report, or others)
- Key words (not more than 5) complying with Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) of National Library of Medicine.

The title should describe the content of the article briefly but clearly. A concise, descriptive title is important for search purposes by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in the field.

Abbreviations

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses after its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract).

Units

The International System of Units (SI) or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available from the [Bureau International des Poids et Mesures](http://www.bipm.org/) (BIPM).

Abstract

All manuscripts must contain an Abstract not exceeding 250 words that clearly expresses the basic content of the manuscript. Avoid using specific abbreviations.

Structured Abstracts are required for Original Articles in the format: Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion.

Unstructured Abstracts are required for Review Articles, Rapid Communications, Case Reports, and Imaging Case Reports.

The URLs for the registry and trial registration numbers of clinical trials should be included at the end of the Abstract.

Introduction

The Introduction should provide sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand the purpose of the investigation and its relationship with other research in related fields. It should not include an extensive review of the literature.

Materials and Methods

The description of the methods should be brief, but it must include sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be repeated. The manufacturer or supplier of chemicals, animals, microbial strains or equipment should be listed in parentheses when they are first mentioned, along with their location (city, country). If hazardous materials or dangerous procedures are used in the experiments and the precautions related to their handling are not widely recognized, it is recommended that the authors provide the necessary details.

Results

This section includes the results of the experiments. The Results and Discussion sections may be combined if this helps readers to understand and evaluate the study. Tables and figures, including photographs, can be used to present the experimental results (see below). Excessive explanations of the data presented in tables and figures should be avoided.

Conclusion

The Conclusion or Discussion should concisely describe the authors' interpretation of the results. Novel models or hypotheses may be proposed in this section only if they are suggested by the results obtained in the experiments. Descriptions of the experimental results should not be repeated in this section.

Acknowledgments

Authors may briefly acknowledge those who have assisted in the work or preparation of the manuscript, but who do not qualify for authorship (as defined in the 'Authorship' section). Authors should also list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgments section.

Disclosure Statement

All disclosures of conflict of interest should be included in a Disclosure Statement, as shown in the following example.

A (author name) serves as a consultant to Z (entity name); B's personal partner is chairman of Y; C received a research grant from X; D received lecture fees from V; E holds a patent on U; F has been reimbursed by T for attending several conferences; G received honoraria for writing promotional material for S; H has no conflicts of interest.

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Authors are required to declare any competing financial or other conflicts of interest in relation to the work described. Please see the 'Author competing interests and conflicts of interest' section for detailed information. If there are no declared interests, authors should include the following statement in this section of their manuscript: "The authors declare no competing interests."

Data Availability Statement

Authors are encouraged to include a Data Availability Statement in manuscripts that report results from research data. Following Hrynaszkiewicz et al. (2020, <http://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2020-017>), statements should include information on where the manuscript's data can be found and (where applicable) directly link to the data. If research data are not publicly available, this should be stated in this section along with any conditions for accessing the data.

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Patient consent for publication

Authors are required to declare that they have obtained informed consents for publication from participants for any relevant studies involving humans. If such consent is not relevant or

applicable to a manuscript describing research that involves humans, authors should include the statement “Not applicable” under this section heading.

References

References should be typed with double spacing and cited in the Vancouver style. Examples are listed below.

Unpublished communications should be cited in the text, in parentheses. In the text, references should be numbered consecutively by superscript: ^{1,2)} or ¹⁻³⁾. References should be listed in numerical order at the end of the article.

The style for journal articles is: author(s), paper title, journal name (abbreviated as in *Index Medicus* or written in full if no abbreviation quoted), year of publication, volume number, first and last pages.

The style for a book is: author(s), title, book title, editor(s) or compiler(s), edition number, publisher’s name and place of publication, year of publication, first and last pages (if relevant).

In the References list, if a book or journal article has four or more authors, list the names of the first three authors, followed by et al. If there are three authors or less, list all of their names.

Examples of different styles are below.

Journals

Endo M, Hirose K, Kaneko N, et al: Prinzmetal’s variant angina: Coronary arteriogram and left ventriculogram during angina attack induced by methacholine. *N Engl J Med* 1976; **294**: 252-255

Books

Everson C, Mills N: The inferior epigastric artery. *Alternative Bypass Conduits and Methods for Surgical Coronary Revascularization*, ed by Grooters RK, Nishida H, 2nd Ed, Futura, New York, 1994, 73-80

Tables

Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Table 1, Table 2, etc.). Each table should have a title. Explanatory material and footnotes should be typed below the table and should be designated with superscript letters. Ensure that all numerical values in tables are associated with a unit of measurement (for example, at the top of the relevant column). Avoid detailed explanations of the experimental conditions used to obtain the data shown in tables; they should be included in other sections as relevant.

Figures

Figures should be of sufficiently high resolution for direct reproduction for printing. Note that figures may include line drawings, photographs, diagrams and charts. Magnifications of photographs should be indicated in the legends and/or by scales included in the photographs. Illustrations must be self-explanatory and should be numbered consecutively with Arabic

numerals (i.e., Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.). Each figure should have a short title. Figure legends should be grouped together and presented after the main text. Figure legends should include sufficient experimental details to make the figures intelligible; however, duplicating the descriptions provided in other sections should be avoided.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material adds, but is not essential, to a reader's understanding of a manuscript. Authors may submit supplementary material for online-only publication. Supplementary material may comprise data, text, audio or movie files, and is published online alongside the accepted manuscript.

As supplementary material is peer-reviewed, authors must submit it in its final form as part of their manuscript submission. After a manuscript has been accepted for publication, authors may not make any changes to the supplementary material.

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Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should check and return them via email or fax within 48 hours; checking the proofs is the responsibility of the authors. Only essential corrections to typesetting errors or omissions are accepted; excessive changes are not permitted at the proofing stage.

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