

Common Problems in Initial Submissions to JHTR

The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation (JHTR) recognizes that authors spend an inordinate amount of time readying a manuscript for submission to scientific journals. We would welcome standardization within the scientific community that would create universal formatting. In the meantime, if the content of an article is of interest to JHTR and the format will not distract or bias the peer reviewers, we will overlook certain formatting issues until revisions are requested in anticipation of acceptance for publication.

[Read the Instructions for Authors](#) for more information on the articles JHTR seeks and our preferred formatting—the list below does *not* replace the need to review and follow those instructions. But to save authors and editors valuable time, we have prepared the following description of the most frequent problems encountered in the initial submission of manuscripts to JHTR.

1. Topics or methods that do not fit JHTR

Articles appearing in JHTR address functional effects of TBI and interventions intended to ameliorate those effects. Findings should inform the treatment of individuals and families affected by TBI, the systems of care in which services are provided, or epidemiologic and public health issues relevant to TBI. In general, we do NOT publish:

- experimental studies that were not pre-registered prior to initiation of data collection;
- underpowered pilot, experimental studies (though we may publish true feasibility studies);
- case studies or case series
- manuscripts that are narrowly focused or relevant to only a single discipline or small group of methodologists;
- studies that include participants with non-traumatic, acquired brain injuries unless reported findings are shown to be consistent with analysis is limited to those with a TBI;
- studies in which proven clinical techniques or validated research methods were not used to determine that participants incurred a TBI.

2. Masking

JHTR masks the identity both of the authors to the reviewers and the reviewers to the authors. This requires that the Masked version of the main manuscript redact:

- most information typically contained on the Title page;
- any reference to the institution where the work was conducted;
- citations identified as the authors' previous work;
- grant numbers or names in Acknowledgements;
- the protocol number from ClinicalTrials.gov or similar registration sites.

3. Line numbering

Requiring line numbering may seem petty but peer reviewers have expressed frustration when they do not have a convenient way to refer to specific lines in the manuscript. (Continuous numbering is more popular than restarting with each page.)

4. Exceeding the limits on number of words, references and tables + figures.

JHTR has a strict annual page limit enforced by its publisher. As a result, article length becomes a zero-sum proposition. Publishing articles that exceed the limits reduces the number of articles that can be published annually. The Editor-in-Chief can grant small increases from the stated maximums, but authors need to inquire in advance of submission.