

# Neurocirugía (English edition)

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# Introduction

## Introduction

*Neurocirugía* (Neurosurgery) is the official Journal of the Spanish Society of Neurosurgery (Sociedad Española de Neurocirugía) (SENEC). It is published every 2 months (6 issues per year).

*Neurocirugía* will consider for publication, original clinical and experimental scientific works associated with neurosurgery and other related neurological sciences, as well as articles requested from experts, consensus documents and clinical guidelines, clinical cases, opinion articles, and any other information of interest for neurosurgeons.

The Journal is published in two versions (Spanish and English). *Neurocirugía* is indexed in Research Alert Institute, C.A.B., Excerpta Medica, JCR, Index Medicus/Medline, and IBECS.

The Editorial Committee is appointed independently of the governing bodies of the Society. All manuscripts are submitted for review by experts in the field (peer review), separate from the Journal Editorial Committee, and are carried out anonymously (double blind).

We suggest that articles by Spanish authors should comply with the general criteria of Law 14/2007, from 3rd July, for biomedical research (BOE n 159), which protects the rights of individuals who are subjects of research. Clinical assays should be registered with public databases prior to their initiation and patient recruitment, and only after approval of the institutional or regional Clinical Research Ethics Committee. The authors should provide the archive number and database where the assay is registered. For all clinical assays that initiate patient recruitment as of 1 January 2017, registration in public databases will be mandatory. Assays with patient recruitment prior to this date may still be submitted to the Journal for evaluation.

## Types of article

Any article submitted to this journal must follow the guidelines outlined in this author's guide, so it is essential to consult it before submitting manuscripts.

### FIRST PAGE

Regardless of the type of article or section of this journal, authors must always include **on the first page of the manuscript**, in addition to the title, authors, affiliations, and email address, declarations regarding **Ethical Considerations, Informed Consent, Funding, Conflict of Interests, Use of Artificial Intelligence, and Authorship**.

**Declarations are required even if the author considers that such considerations do not exist or are not applicable.**

**Ethical Considerations.** Any article involving experiments with humans will require the author to declare that all procedures were conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, relevant laws, and institutional guidelines. The reference number of the study approval by an ethics committee should be included in the Original Articles involving human experimentation. For animal experimentation, compliance with the relevant regulations must also be stated.

*This declaration is mandatory in the Original Articles section.*

**Informed Consent.** All articles containing data, photographs, or patient tests, whether anonymized or not, must explicitly mention in the body of the article that informed consent has been obtained from the patient(s) included for reproduction. It should be declared that there are no patient data in the article, or if present, that such data do not violate patient privacy and confidentiality or allow recognition, and that informed consent is in possession. Privacy rights of

human subjects must always be respected.

Appropriate consent and permissions must be obtained when presenting one or more cases without experimentation or when an author wishes to include personal details, other information, or images of patients or any individuals in an Elsevier publication. The author must retain written consent forms and provide copies or proof of acquisition upon request. **In clinical cases, informed consent is always required**, regardless of whether images are anonymized or not, including radiographs. Any images with patient data always require this declaration.

*This obligation applies to all sections except Editorials, Letters to the Editor, and Reviews.*

**Funding.** The author must identify who provided financial support for the research and/or manuscript preparation and briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if applicable, in study design; data collection, analysis, and interpretation; manuscript drafting; and decision to submit for publication. If the funding source(s) did not participate in these activities, this should be declared.

*This declaration is mandatory in all sections, and if there is no funding, the author must explicitly state that none exists.*

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**If a member of the Editorial Committee contributes as an author to any submitted manuscript, the responsible editor must state in the conflict of interests section:** "As ABC is a member of the Editorial Committee of the journal, they have not participated in or had access to review or acceptance information related to the manuscript."

*This declaration is always mandatory and should be made for each participating author.*

**Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Writing.** Any other use is not authorized. See the detailed description later in these guidelines.

*This declaration is always mandatory whenever AI is used.*

**Authorship.** Individuals listed as authors must have made substantial contributions. Changes to authorship or order of authors after submission are not allowed without prior justification and approval by the Chief Editor. Refer to the relevant sections later in these guidelines for more details.

## BODY OF THE ARTICLE

In addition to including the above declarations on the first page, remember that Ethical Considerations and Consent must also be stated in the Materials and Methods section when experiments involve animals or humans and in the presentation of Clinical Cases.

If experiments involve animals or humans, certain declarations must also be included within the manuscript itself, even if they are already required on the first page. These should always be declared in the Original Articles or Brief Reports (if included), regardless of whether the author believes they do not exist or are not applicable.

**Ethics and Informed Consent.** In experiments involving humans or animals, the author will declare in the Materials and Methods section of Original Articles, Brief Reports, or Case

Series/Reports that the guidelines on Human and Animal Rights described in the “Ethics in Publishing” section of this guide have been followed. Specifically, for human experiments, authors must confirm that the research was conducted according to the World Medical Association’s Declaration of Helsinki, and for animal experiments, that ARRIVE guidelines were followed or that they comply with the Laboratory Animal Use and Care Law and, when applicable, the Animal Welfare Law. Authors should also declare in the Materials and Methods (original or brief report) that they have informed consent and approval from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC) or the relevant ethics committee, without revealing data that could hinder blind review. Note that Spanish Biomedical Research Law mandates that ethics committees evaluate all biomedical research involving interventions in humans or the use of biological samples.

All articles containing patient data, photographs, or tests, whether anonymized or not, must explicitly state in the body of the manuscript that informed consent has been obtained from the patient(s) for reproduction. Proper consent forms and permissions should be obtained when presenting cases without experimentation or when including personal details or images of patients or individuals in an Elsevier publication. The author must keep written consent forms and provide copies or evidence of their acquisition upon request.

**Originals.** Empirical studies associated with any aspect of research in the field of Neurosurgery that is in the form of a scientific article, with the following sections: abstract, introduction, Material and methods, Results, and Discussion. The length of the text will be 3,000 words. Besides, it will be included a structured abstract (Spanish and English), 4-6 key words and 30-40 literature references. Besides the text, until 8 Figures or Tables will be accepted. It is recommended that the number of authors does not exceed 6.

**Reviews.** These types of manuscripts will be specifically commissioned by the Editorial Committee. Authors who wish to collaborate spontaneously in this section should previously consult the Journal Editors. These will be review on relevant and current topics in Neurosurgery with the following structure: Abstract, Introduction, Development and Conclusions. The maximum length of text will be 3,000 words. Besides that an unstructured abstract (in Spanish and in English) of 150 words will be included, as well as the corresponding 4-6 key words, and up to a maximum of 50 literature references will also be included. Besides the text, up to 4 Figures or Tables will be accepted. It is advisable that the number of signing authors does not exceed 3.

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**Opinion articles.** This section has as its purpose to publish relevant and current topics in Neurosurgery that contain novel aspects for the specialty. The text does not need to be formally structured, but should maintain the narrative logic (introduction, development of the experience and conclusions). The maximum length of text will be 2,000 words. Besides it will include an unstructured resumen/abstract (in Spanish and in English) of 150 words plus the 4-6 corresponding key words. Up to a maximum of 15 literature references will also be included. Besides the text, up to 2 Figures or Tables will be accepted.

**Letters to the Editor.** These will refer to works published in the Journal and will contribute opinions, observations or experiences which due to their characteristics may be summarized in a short text. The maximum length will be 1,000 words of text, with no abstract, including a maximum of 5 literature references. The maximum number of authors will be 4. One Figure or

Table will be accepted.

**Editorials.** Opinion articles written by the request of the Editorial Committee. They must not be longer than 1,000 words and with up to 8 literature references. Its subject should be related with original articles published in the Journal, or on topics of general interest. It will include a maximum of 10 literature references. It will not contain any Figures or Tables, except in special cases where they are essential to improve the understanding of the text.

**Other sections.** The Journal includes other sections: Special Articles, which are commissioned by the Editorial Committee, or Clinical Practice Guidelines or Consensus Statements. Authors who wish to collaborate spontaneously in any of these sections should previously consult the Editors associated with the Journal.

## Contact details for submission

You can send your manuscript at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/neurocirugia>

## Language

This journal is published in Spanish and in English language.

## Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

### Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

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All necessary files have been uploaded:

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- Include keywords
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- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
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# Before you begin

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Please see our information on [Ethics in publishing](#).

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1. that autonomous consent free from coercion was obtained from the donor(s) or their next of kin; and
2. that organs/tissues were not sourced from executed prisoners or prisoners of conscience.

All animal experiments should comply with the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, [EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments](#), or the National Research Council's [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

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## Declaration of interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. [More information](#).

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Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier's [AI policy for authors](#).

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

### **Disclosure instructions**

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'

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## Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses

### *Reporting guidance*

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [SAGER guidelines checklist](#). These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

### *Definitions*

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and

how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous--thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the [resources on this page](#) offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

## Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

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Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

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## Reporting clinical trials

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## Registration of clinical trials

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more

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## Suggesting reviewers

Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential reviewers.

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# Preparation

## Peer review

This journal operates a double anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review](#).

## Double anonymized review

This journal uses double anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

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*Anonymized manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

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It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

## Article structure

This section describes the article structure for this journal.

## Sections

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

## Introduction

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed

literature survey or a summary of the results.

## Material and methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

## Results

Results should be clear and concise.

## Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

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