

Aims and Scope

Neurologia medico-chirurgica (NMC) is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal that publishes significant and novel contributions primarily in neurosurgery. Articles can take basic, experimental, applied, or clinical approaches. NMC especially welcomes articles that present work at the interface of these areas. Article types include Original Articles, Case Reports, Technical Notes, Rapid Communications, Special Topics, Review Articles.

NMC covers a broad range of topics spanning the functional, vascular, tumor, trauma, spinal, geriatric, pediatric aspects of neurosurgery. Articles on basic research and clinical works are also welcomed.

NMC is supported by the Japan Neurosurgical Society (JNS), which aims to advance the neurosurgical sciences worldwide. NMC, therefore, provides its global authors with rapid but full peer-review services to select original, innovative, important work that is of the highest interest. A global audience of researchers and clinicians frequently access the journal's articles, which are available freely online as soon as they are published.

Manuscript Types

The journal welcomes six manuscript types, all of which are subject to peer review.

Original Articles

Full and comprehensive reports describing original research presented in the standard format of Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and References.

Case Reports

Concise case report(s) may be accepted if important and educational. Case reports are published in the *NMC Case Report Journal* except the those which are judged by members of the Editorial Committee to be particularly significant and interesting to the readership of NMC.

Technical Notes

Descriptions of new techniques or significant modifications of techniques that are directly applicable to clinical practice or research are considered.

Rapid Communications

Short, concise summaries of highly significant findings that justify immediate publication. Provide the specific findings and avoid extensive interpretative text or general discussion.

Special Topics

Social or ethical items related to neurosurgery, neurology, and neurosciences, such as cost-effective analysis or medical training issues.

Review Articles

Insightful overviews that provide timely or critical discussion about the present status and directions for future research. Review Articles are at the invitation of, or after discussion with, the Editorial Committee.

Journal & Ethics Policies

NMC 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 been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The affidavit following the instructions must be completed and signed by all authors and submitted with the manuscript.

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Submission

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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.

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To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal encourages authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers, either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript may be posted on the preprint server.

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When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers after the date of submission to NMC (or after the date of posting on a preprint server, if the manuscript is submitted to the journal within 4 months).

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Authors are encouraged to consider the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Recommendations

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If identification of patients is unavoidable in being able to affirm scientific validity, the authors must include a statement in the Materials and Methods section that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research. A PDF of the statement of approval of the study by the relevant institutional or regional review board should be uploaded to the submission system upon first submission.

Patient anonymity must be protected by avoiding details that might identify patients unless essential for scientific purposes. Details in the text, figures, photographs that might disclose identity of subjects should be omitted to preserve subjects' anonymity. Measures such as masking of the eye region in photographs of patients may be inadequate.

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The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above provisions. Authors remain fully responsible for their statements.

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The journal adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) policy on Clinical Trials Registration, which recommends that all clinical trials are registered to one of 5 ICMJE-approved public trial registries (www.umin.ac.jp/ctr/index/htm, www.ClinicalTrials.gov, www.actr.org.au, www.ISRCTN.org, or www.trialregister.nl) 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 at the end of the Abstract and in the Materials and Methods section.

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, case reports, qualitative research, diagnostic and prognostic studies, economic evaluations, animal pre-clinical studies and study protocols.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses must be reported according to the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, an evidence-based minimum set of items for reporting in systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Author competing interests and conflicts of interest

In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript in the 'Disclosure of Conflict of Interest' section of the manuscript (see the relevant section below). 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) employment-consultancy relationships, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Further disclosure standards of financial conflicts of interest are available.

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section of their manuscript.

Members of Japan Neurosurgical Society (JNS) must have supplied a current annual COI declaration to the JNS Office before submitting a manuscript.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving policy

Self-archiving enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. *NMC* encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

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Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-blind peer review. When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned to an Editor and two reviewers to assess each manuscript. The deadline for submission of the reviewers' reports are within 2 weeks.

Upon receipt of the two reviewers' reports, the Editor makes the first decision on the manuscript. If the decision is to request revision of the manuscript, authors have 3 months to resubmit their revised manuscript. Authors of revised manuscripts must submit a detailed point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments in the field of Response to Decision Letter on the submission system. The modified parts should be highlighted by under line or color font.

Revised manuscripts submitted after this deadline may be treated as new submissions. The Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have followed the Editor's and the reviewers' comments on the original manuscript.

The Editor then makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for making the final decision on each manuscript.

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For Case Reports, the Editorial Committee considers the level of significance and interest to the journal's audience. Those judged to be of particular note will be accepted into NMC. Otherwise, authors may be offered the opportunity to publish the manuscript in the *NMC Case Report Journal*.

Reviewer timing and suggestions

Reviewers are invited within 2 weeks of an article being submitted. 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 in Chief may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor in Chief'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.

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Articles in *NMC* 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 recommend rejection.

Editorial independence

As the journal owner, the Japan Neurosurgical Society (JNS) has granted the journal's Editorial Committee complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The JNS 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. The authors' ability to pay any publication charges has no bearing on whether a manuscript is accepted for publication in the journal.

Appeals

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 and when relevant.

Editor Confidentiality

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

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Conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor's or reviewer's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

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Errata and retractions

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The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

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There are many costs associated with publishing scholarly journals, such as those of managing peer review, copy editing, typesetting and online hosting. To cover these costs, authors (or their representatives) are asked to pay modest article processing charges (APCs) if the length of their article exceeds the given limits (see below). There is no submission fee.

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Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system, ScholarOne: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nmc>.

The manuscript text must be submitted as a Microsoft Word file, and include the title page, Abstract, text, COI disclosure, References, and figure legends. Figures and tables must NOT be embedded within the manuscript file.

If included in the submission, each set of materials listed below must be cited appropriately in the manuscript text. A title for each Table, Figure or Video must be included. Total file size is limited to ≤20 MB including figures, tables and supplementary materials.

- 1) Text (Title page, Abstract - Legends): MS Word
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- 3) Figures: JPEG, PNG, GIF
- 4) Video: AVI, MP4, MPEG

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Style

The manuscripts should be typed double-spaced throughout with ≥ 12-point type face, formatted for A4 paper leaving margins of at least 2.5 cm (1 inch). Number all pages consecutively.

English standards

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Article structure and lengths

The first page of each manuscript should contain: Title, Authors' full names, Affiliations, Key words, Running Title, and the name and full address (including telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address) of the corresponding author.

Each manuscript should comprise the following sections.

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Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment (if any), Conflicts of Interest, References, Legends

Case Report/Technical Note:

Abstract, Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, Acknowledgment (if any), Conflicts of Interest, References, Legends

Special Topic/Review Article:

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The following limits apply to the respective article types. Manuscripts should conform to the length specified in the below table. The word limit or the printed pages includes References and tables and figures. One printed page is approximately 800 words. One table or figure is the equivalent of approximately 400 words.

Article type	Words / printed pages	Tables/Figures in total
Special Topics Review Articles	9,600 / 12	8
Original Articles	6,400 / 8	5
Case Reports Technical Notes Rapid Communications	4,000 / 5	4

Title Page

The title page should comprise the following.

- 1) A concise but informative title. Only the first letter of each word should be capitalized, except for conjunctions, articles, or prepositions unless the first word of the title. Chemical formulas or abbreviations should not be used, but long common terms such as names of compounds or enzymes can be abbreviated.
- 2) Authors' full names without academic qualifications or nomenclature
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- 4) Up to 5 informative keywords (or short phrases), based on the Index Medicus or similar.
- 5) A brief running head (running title), not to exceed 60 characters (count letters and spaces). Abbreviations defined in the text can be used.
- 6) Corresponding author's name, full address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

Footnotes

Footnotes, if any, should be typed in a separate sheet (the second page of the manuscript). Abbreviations should also be listed on this page.

Abbreviations

Avoid nonstandard abbreviations, unfamiliar terms or symbols, and laboratory jargon. Each abbreviation should

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Use Arabic numerals. Standard metric units (mm, cm, ml, l, mg, g, msec, sec, min, hr, etc.) can be used throughout without definition.

SI or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website.

Abstract

The Abstract should clearly express the basic content of the paper in a single paragraph without subheadings and should state the purpose of the investigation, describe the study design or experimental procedure, outline the main findings or major contributions, and finally state specific conclusions or recommendations. Provide enough information for the Abstract to be easily understood without reference to the text, and emphasize new and important aspects of the study

Abstracts must not exceed 250 words for all article types. Avoid using specific abbreviations. If it is essential to refer to a previous publication, omit the article title (e.g. Maekawa, S., Endo, S., and Sakai, H. (2015). *Sci. Journal.*, 14: 10–15).

Introduction

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

Materials and Methods

The Materials and Methods should be brief, but must include sufficient details to allow others to evaluate and/or reproduce the experiments. When referring to devices like catheters or coils for the first time, the company should be stated. Do not append TM or ®. For example: Launcher (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA). Designate drugs by their generic names; but for particular chemicals or equipment, the brand names and locations of the supplier (city, state, and nation) should be given in parentheses.

Study subjects should be described adequately to demonstrate that control and experimental groups contain matched subjects.

Describe statistical methods and details of randomization or blinded observations. Specify the numbers of observations made and individuals who could not be followed up until the end of the study.

Include statements in relation to human or animal experimentation, clinical trial registration and reporting guidelines (as specified in the relevant sections above) in the Materials and Methods section.

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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. Include only the data and illustrative materials that are pertinent to the subject of the article. Avoid repetition of all the data in the tables or illustrations in the text, but do emphasize or summarize important trends or observations and avoid duplicate presentation of the same data in both tabular and graphical forms.

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The Discussion should be concise and should be an interpretation of the results. Novel models or hypotheses may be proposed in this section only if they are supported by the

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Interpret the present data concisely, giving particular attention to the question or hypothesis posed in the Introduction section. Include discussion of previous works that not only agree but also disagree with the present results.

State the conclusions or recommendations that can be directly drawn from the present results. Logical implications of the present findings for practical applications or future studies are permissible, but unsubstantiated speculation must not be included.

Acknowledgments

This section should be brief. State personal or institutional contributions, and financial or material support. Supply full information for nature of support (technical help, critical review, data collection, and participation in clinical trial), number of grants-in-aid, and name and location of institution or organization.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

All authors must state any actual or potential conflicts of interest with regard to the manuscript submitted for review under a heading of "Conflicts of Interest Disclosure" following the "Acknowledgment" section. Authors should also state if there are no conflicts of interest. In addition, authors who are members of the JNS must include a statement about whether all authors have registered online self-reported COI Disclosure Statement Forms through the website for JNS members or not.

Example: A (author name) received a research grant from X (entity name); B serves as a consultant to Y.; C received lecture fees from Z.; All authors have no conflict of interest.

References

The journal uses a modified Vancouver style; number references consecutively in the order cited in the text, not alphabetically, and use superscript numbers followed by a closing parenthesis (e.g.¹⁻³). When there are six or fewer authors, all should be listed; when there are seven or more, include only the first three and add "*et al.*". If no person or organization can be identified as the author and no editors or translators are given, begin the reference with the title of the article. Do not use 'Anonymous'.

Articles accepted but not yet published can be included in the reference list, but manuscripts in preparation, unpublished observations, and personal communication should be noted in parentheses in the text.

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Examples:

- 1) Albright AL, Barry MJ, Painter MJ, Shultz B: Infusion of intrathecal baclofen for generalized dystonia in cerebral palsy. *J Neurosurg* 88: 73–76, 1998
- 2) Donegan J: Anesthesia for pediatric neurosurgery, in Cottrell J, Turndorf H (eds): *Anesthesia and Neurosurgery*. St Louis, CV Mosby, 1986, pp 173–187
- 3) Russell DS, Rubinstein LJ: *Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System*, ed 5. London, Edward Arnold, 1989
- 4) Tanaka T, Yonemasu Y, Olivier A, Andermann F: [Clinical analysis of reoperation in cases of complex partial seizure]. *No Shinkei Geka* 17: 933–937, 1989 (Japanese)
- 5) Kinoshita M, Miyashita K, Tsutsui T, Furuta T, Nakada M: Critical neural networks in awake surgery for gliomas. *Neurol Med Chir* doi.org/10.2176/nmc.ra.2016-0069 Epub 2016 Jun 2.
- 6) Report of brain tumor registry of Japan (20012004) 13th Edition. <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/nmc/54/>

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Cite all tables in the text, and number consecutively according to appearance in the text. Provide each table on a separate page, supplying a brief title and explanatory footnotes. All abbreviations used in each table should be explained in the footnotes. Each column must carry an appropriate heading, and units in numerical measurements should be added to the column heading in parentheses.

If data can be described in one or two sentences in the text, do not present them in a table.

Tables must be submitted as either Microsoft Word or Excel files, NOT converted into images.

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Figure legends should provide a brief, self-sufficient explanation of the illustrations and typed together in the "Figure Legends" section of the manuscript. Describe the staining method and original magnification for photomicrographs, and bar measurements for electron micrographs.

Figures can be in color in the print version at the costs as detailed in the 'Publication fees and charges' section.

Supplementary material

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