

Asian Journal of Andrology Information for Authors

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Aims and Scope

Asian Journal of Andrology (AJA) launched in 1999, is an international peer-reviewed open-access journal devoted to basic and clinical andrology and related sciences. *AJA* is sponsored by the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (SIMM) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). *AJA* has an Advanced Online Publication service and publishes in print bimonthly. The Editor-in-Chief of *AJA* is Professor Jin-Song Li from the Center for Excellence in Molecular Cell Science at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The scope of *AJA* includes, but is not limited to:

- Male infertility: etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention
- Sperm biology: cellular and molecular mechanisms
- Semen analysis, sperm function, and ART outcomes
- Male reproduction: structure, function, and hormonal regulation
- Male sexual dysfunction
- Male puberty development
- Male aging
- Prostate diseases
- Surgical technique and treatment in the field of andrology
- Environmental, lifestyle, and genetic factors in male health

The journal is indexed in DOAJ, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region, MEDLINE/Index Medicus, PubMed Central, Scimago Journal Ranking, Scopus, Science Citation Index Expanded, and Web of Science.

Article Types

AJA publishes Original Articles, Reviews, Opinions, Invited Commentaries, Research Highlights, Clinician's Workshop, and Letters to the Editor.

Original Article

Studies that are of high scientific quality and that are of interest to the diverse readership of the journal. Manuscripts should include abstract and appropriate experimental details to support the conclusions. Original Articles should be no more than 5000 words and should not normally include more than six display items (tables and/or figures). Manuscripts should consist of the following sections: title, abstract and keywords, text (introduction, materials and methods, results, and discussion), author contributions, competing interests, acknowledgments, supplementary information, references, tables and/or figures with captions.

Review

Reviews survey recent developments in a topical area of andrology. Most Review articles are solicited by the editors; however, we also welcome timely unsolicited Reviews. Authors should present the

proposed content to the editors prior to submission. Reviews have a word limit of 6000 words excluding references, and a maximum of 100 references.

Letter to the Editor

Letters report clinical case studies, preliminary experimental studies of novel findings but limited by small sample size or duration, and personal perspectives on the field of andrology. Letters do not contain an abstract and keywords, and there is no obligation to divide the text into sections. Experimental details are not required, but brief experimental methods and results should be included. In all other aspects, the directions for full papers should be followed. The text, not including references, tables, figures or legends, must not exceed 1000 words. No more than 10 references and either 1 table or 1 figure are allowed.

Opinion

These may be submitted or invited by the editors. To submit a pre-submission inquiry, please send an email to the editorial office to obtain quick editorial feedback on the unsolicited work. Opinions are stand-alone and discuss an important and contemporary element of andrology. They do not contain primary research data, but they may present funding trends, demographics, bibliographic data, scientific and social development, *etc.* Opinions have a word limit of 1500 words excluding references, no more than 2 figures or tables, and 10 references.

Commentary

This is a commission-only section. Commentaries which briefly highlight the findings and the merits of the work, focus on the *AJA* articles, and explain the significances to a broad readership. The word limit is 1000 and a maximum of 10 references are allowed. The authors from the original articles may present a brief reply (less than 500 words) to the Commentaries.

Research Highlight

This is a commission-only section. Research Highlights provide a 'digest' of the best and most interesting publications in the field of andrology. They should contain no more than 1000 words and a maximum of 10 references.

Clinician's Workshop

This section represents innovative clinical experiences of the application of new technology or techniques in andrology, particularly to a specific question relevant to clinical diagnosis or treatment. This feature covers cutting-edge technology, modified and improved techniques or procedures, and outcome data. Experimental details are not required, but experimental methods and results should be outlined. They should contain no more than 1500 words with a summary of 100 words, a maximum of 3 tables or figures, and 20 references. No more than 5 authors are allowed.

Formatting Requirements

Please take care to follow the requirements when preparing your article before submission. The main text and tables should be submitted as editable files (Word doc or docx), not PDFs. Use 12-point font size, double-space text, and leave right margins of at least 2.5 cm. Continuous line numbering should be used on the submitted manuscript. Figures should be uploaded as separate files where possible. Please make spelling consistent with current editions of either Webster's Dictionary or Oxford English Dictionary. Submissions should include the following sections.

Cover letter

The cover letter must state that the material has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration for *AJA*. Identify the name, full postal address, and Email address of the corresponding author.

Title page

The title should be concise but informative, and keywords in the title will help the articles be searched online. The title page should have full names and affiliations for each author. Full contact details should be provided for the corresponding author. There should be fewer than 10 co-authors.

Authorship must meet all the following 4 criteria, based on International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines.

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Abstract and keywords (if applicable)

The abstract should be non-structured and no more than 250 words. Abbreviations and reference citations should be avoided. It should outline the purpose of the study, the basic procedures, and the most important conclusions. Please provide a running title of no more than 50 characters, including spaces.

Three to eight keywords separated by a semicolon (;) should be given in alphabetical order below the abstract. Whenever possible, please choose the terms from the [Medical Subject Headings list of Index Medicus](#).

Introduction

This should give a short, precise account of the background and reasons for undertaking the study. It should not be a review of the literature.

Materials and methods

This section should contain sufficient details so that all experimental procedures can be repeated by others in conjunction with cited references. This section may be divided into subheadings to assist the reader. Names of products and manufacturers should be included only if alternative sources are deemed unsatisfactory, giving both the company name and city. Generic names of drugs should be used. If necessary, the brand, trade, or commercial name of a drug can be included in parentheses on the first mention. Scientific species nomenclature should be used at all times, providing the genus, species (in italics), and authority for all microorganisms, plants, and animals.

Novel experimental procedures should be described in detail, but published procedures should be referred to by literature citation of the original article and published modifications. Use of standard abbreviations and SI units of measurement (according to the Systeme International d'Unites) is encouraged. Measurements that are not currently converted to SI units in biomedical applications are blood and oxygen pressures, enzyme activity, H⁺ concentration, temperature, and volume. Abbreviations, if used, should be defined on their first appearance in the text.

Identify the drug administration schedule, for example, dose (base or salt) and route of administration. The routes of administration may be abbreviated: intraarterial (ia), intracerebroventricular (icv), intragastric gavage (ig), intramuscular (im), intraperitoneal (ip), intravenous (iv), *per os* (po), subcutaneous (sc).

Statistical methods should be described when they are used to verify the results. Choose suitable techniques for the statistical treatments; for example, *t*-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-squared test, Ridit, probit, logit, regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise), correlation, analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance, etc.

Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. Give the number of observations and subjects (*n*). Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study should be reported.

Values such as ED₅₀, LD₅₀, IC₅₀ should have their 95% confidence limits calculated and compared by weighted probit analysis (Bliss and Finney).

The word 'significantly' should be replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P*-value (if it indicates statistical significance).

Dosage is expressed as per kg (even in mice). Concentration in solution is expressed as per l, not per ml. Values for rpm should be converted into gravity (*g*). Absorbance (*A*) values are preferred to optical density (OD) values.

Symbols are not pluralized (e.g., 9 kg, not kgs) and are not followed by a period (e.g., min, not min.).

Use 12.4 mm (not 0.0124 m), 5 μmol (not 5×10⁻⁶ mol), 3–8 g, 3%–8%, 3 m×8 m×2 m, 8±3 g, (8±3) nmol l⁻¹ g⁻¹ (protein).

Do not include more digits than are justified by the accuracy of the determinations. For example, a dog weighs 9 kg (not 9000 g, which implies an accuracy of 1 g). In a sample, the effective digits are

determined by the variation within the sample, that is, one-third of the standard deviation. For example, 8.6 ± 2.9 kg (not 8619 ± 2930 g, or 9 ± 3 kg).

For isotopically labelled compounds, use a square bracket directly attached to the front of the name (word) or formula. Examples: [^{14}C]urea, [α - ^{32}P]ATP (not AT^{32}P), sodium [^{14}C]formate, [1 - ^{14}C , 2 - ^{13}C]acetaldehyde, [carboxy- ^{14}C]leucine, and [1 - ^3H]ethanol. However, both [^{131}I]iodoalbumin and ^{131}I -albumin are correct.

The SI unit for radioactivity is becquerel (Bq): $1 \text{ Ci} = 37 \times 10^9$ disintegrations per second = 37 GBq. The disintegrations per minute (dpm), not counts per minute (cpm), should be converted to Bq for presentation.

Results

The description of results should not simply reiterate data that appear in tables and figures, and, likewise, the same data should not be displayed in both tables and figures. The results section should be concise and follow a logical sequence. If the paper describes a complex series of experiments, it is permissible to explain the protocol/experimental design before presenting the results. Do not discuss the results or draw any conclusions in this section. This section may be divided into subheadings to assist the reader. Large datasets or other cumbersome data pertinent to the manuscript may be submitted as supplementary information.

Discussion

Do not recapitulate the results but discuss their significance against the background of existing knowledge and identify novel aspects. The final paragraph should highlight the main conclusion(s) and indicate the direction future research should take. This section may be divided into subheadings to assist the reader.

Author contributions

All multi-authored papers should include an 'Author contributions' section at the end of the paper to accurately reflect the contributions of each co-author. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): JDE carried out the genetic studies, participated in the proteomic analysis, and drafted the manuscript. JSR carried out the immunoassays and performed the statistical analysis. JMP conceived the study, participated in its design and coordination, and helped draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

Define if there is any competing interest. If there is no competing interest, we suggest the following format: All authors declare no competing interests.

Acknowledgments

These should be brief and made only for those who have made a significant contribution to the study. Please state the financial support if applicable.

References

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. Published articles as well as those in press (please state the name of the journal

and enclose a copy of the manuscript) may be included. All references to the literature cited will be given in the order of their appearance in the text in a consecutively numbered list at the end of the article. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to five authors; for papers with more than five authors, only the first five authors should be quoted, followed by *et al.*

An EndNote style file is available to download [here](#).

Example of journal citations:

- 1) Wang Y, Xiang MF, Zheng N, Cao YX, Zhu FX. Genetic pathogenesis of acephalic spermatozoa syndrome: past, present, and future. *Asian J Androl* 2022; 24: 231-7.
- 2) Oyama Y, Miyata H, Shimada K, Fujihara Y, Tokuhira K, *et al.* CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing reveals 12 testis-enriched genes dispensable for male fertility in mice. *Asian J Androl* 2022; 24: 266-72.
- 3) Xiong Y, Zhang FX, Zhang YC, Wu CJ, Qin F, *et al.* Genetically predicted insomnia causally increases the risk of erectile dysfunction. *Asian J Androl* 2022. Doi: 10.4103/aja202261. [Online ahead of print].

Example of a book citation:

- 4) Armitage P. Statistical Methods in Medical Research. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publishers; 1971. p239.

Example of an article in a book:

- 5) Morley JE, Kaiser FE, Jonson LE. Male sexual function. In: Cassel CK, Riesenber DE, Sorensen LB, Walsh JR, editors. Geriatric Medicine. New York: Springer-Verlag; 1990. p25670.

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Tables

These should be labeled sequentially as Table 1, Table 2, *etc.* Multiple sub-tables (Table 1a, Table 1b) are not allowed. Tables should be cited in the text consecutively. Reference to table footnotes should be made by means of Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Tables should have a brief footnote that identifies all abbreviations used. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the text, particularly the totals and percentages are calculated correctly.

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Scale bars should be provided on photographs. Colour figures are welcomed, and will be published in colour both online and in print. Please note that there will be a cost for colour figure printing.

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The author's institution or funding agency must defray the cost of colour printing. The cost for each colour page is 2500 CNY.

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Manuscripts are considered with the understanding that they have not been published previously in print or electronic format and are not under consideration by another publication or electronic medium. A manuscript will be considered for publication on the understanding that all named authors have agreed to its submission

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To avoid unnecessary delays in the review process, please consider the following policies carefully before you submit your manuscript.

Duplicate publication

Materials submitted to *AJA* must be original and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere in any language. Authors should notify the Editor(s) if part of their contribution (e.g., Meeting Abstract) has appeared or will appear elsewhere, or if any related material is under consideration or in press elsewhere.

If an *AJA* submission re-uses a figure that is published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure reproduction. The *AJA* Editors consider all materials in good faith and assume that the journal has full permission to publish every part of the submitted materials, including illustrations.

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In the interests of transparency and to help reviewers assess any potential bias, *AJA* requires authors of original research papers to declare any conflicts or competing interests concerning the submitted article. Referees are also asked to indicate any potential conflicts they might have when reviewing a particular paper.

Misconduct

Misconduct includes fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. As a member of the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), *AJA* will act according to the [COPE guidelines](#) if misconduct is suspected.

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Manuscripts related to human subjects (including human organ, tissue and cell studies) should provide an institutional review board (IRB) number or reference indicating ethical approval of the project, and it should be stated clearly in the text that all human subjects, their guardians or the appropriate authority gave their informed consent to their inclusion in the study. Details that might disclose the identity of the subjects under study should be omitted. Authors should be mindful of the regulations of the country where the studies were conducted, as well as the international norms and the Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association ([Declaration of Helsinki, revised in 2013](#)).

Experiments on animals should comply with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must indicate that the experiments and procedures had been approved by the appropriate regulatory body. The sex, age and measured body weights of tested animals or humans should be expressed as mean, standard deviation and total range.

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