

Author Instructions*

Investigación Clínica publishes Original Papers, Reviews and Clinical Case Reports in Spanish and English, which contribute to advancing human or animal biology knowledge. It also includes an **Editorial** and a “Letters to the Editor” section.

Submission of the manuscript

The manuscript (Word for Windows®), with its corresponding checklist and accompanied by a cover letter to the editor, must be sent by email to the address *riclinicas@gmail.com*

If any, Tables and Figures must be at the end of the work, with their corresponding legend, and simultaneously be sent as separate files. In addition to the manuscript, the names of three possible referees and their respective institutional and electronic addresses may be included. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide whether to use any suggested reviewers. All matters relating to correspondence, including the opinion of the referees, the requirements resulting from the review of the work and the notification of the decision of the Editorial Committee, will be communicated by email. **The correspondence to follow up on the work must include the code assigned by the Journal in the receipt letter.**

Cover letter

The manuscript must be accompanied by a letter signed by all authors, stating that they have actively participated in the execution of the work, that they have not used “Artificial Intelligence” to prepare it, that it has not been previously published, that they are aware that

it is being sent to “Investigación Clínica” for publication, and that it has not been sent to another journal for consideration.

Authorship must be based on the following:

1) Substantial contribution to the conception and design of the study, data collection or its analysis and interpretation, 2) Critical review of the article and 3) Approval of the final version to be published. Obtaining funds, collecting data, or supervising the research group alone do not justify authorship. Those group members who do not meet the criteria to be authors must be mentioned in the **Acknowledgements** section. **Neither the number nor the order of appearance of the authors may be modified once the work has been accepted.** In the cover letter, it is essential to include funding, the individual contribution of each of the authors, their ORCID number, and if there is any conflict of interest. Also, in this case, the referee may recommend some experiment or unique statistical analysis that requires allocating another author, which is why we say it is when it is accepted.

Peer-review Process

An electronic arbitration process will be used throughout this procedure. All works will be submitted for consideration by the Journal’s Editorial Committee, which will decide whether they should be sent to arbitration or rejected for not complying with the editorial standards or not being of sufficient quality. The corresponding author will receive a letter of receipt with a numerical code.

*These will take effect from April 1st, 2025

The review of Original Works and Case Reports will be carried out by two experts in the scientific area of communication and, in the case of Reviews, by only one. The reviewers will have a maximum of two months to send their evaluations. If the opinions of the two referees coincide, the Editorial Committee may decide; in case of discrepancy, it will wait for the opinion of a third reviewer. If the situation warrants it, other opinions may be requested. **The Journal follows the double-blind evaluation; the names of the arbiters and the authors of the work will be strictly confidential and anonymous to each other.** Authors will receive, both in the case of modifications and rejection, the complete opinions regarding the work. The deadline to respond to the referees' recommendations will be a maximum of two months, after which the work will be rejected or readmitted as new.

Publication fees. All accepted works will be charged for Editorial Management, depending on the country's origin of the work. This fee will be applied in installments. The initial contribution (20% of the total) will be required once the referees have been assigned and the remainder at the time of acceptance for publication. This initial contribution will not be reimbursed due to rejection or withdrawal of the communication.

Editorial Standards

The papers must be double-spaced, with wide margins and page numbering in "Word for Windows"® and, preferably, in "Times New Roman 12pt".

Original papers, reviews, and case reports must be unpublished contributions that advance knowledge on the subject under study. The first page must include:

Indicate the **paper's title** with capital letters at the beginning or when it refers to a proper name. Then, the first name, the initial of the middle name, and the full surname of each of the authors are used; if they use two surnames, they must be separated with a hyphen. Each

author's name will have superscripts of consecutive numbers that correspond to each of the institutions to which they are affiliated. Do not repeat if they belong to the same institution; only place the respective superscript. Do not use professional titles. The title should not contain abbreviations.

A **short title** of no more than 75 characters in the language in which the manuscript was written.

Keywords. Three to six keywords should be written in Spanish and English on a separate line. Including words that appear in the abstract and avoiding those in the title is recommended.

Corresponding author. Enter the full name without academic titles, including the institutional address, city, country, telephone number, and email.

Next, an **abstract** should be presented in Spanish; then, the title and the abstract should be presented in English. If the author is not trained in English, it is important to consult an English language specialist before sending the papers or abstracts in that language. The use of American English is required. A paper may be rejected if it requires many linguistic or grammar corrections.

Original works will consist of an Abstract in Spanish and English, an Introduction, Material and Methods or Patients and Methods (if the work refers to human beings), Results, Discussion, Tables, Figures, Acknowledgements and References. The text of the works must end with a conclusion and not be written in a separate section. Tables and Figures must be presented at the end of the manuscript. A copy of these must be included in separate files.

The abstract (in Spanish) should consist of a maximum of 250 words and establish the objectives, methodology, original findings, and conclusions based on the results presented. It should not contain references or be structured. Abbreviations should be avoided, and if necessary, they should be defined in the first mention.

The **abstract** (in English) should be written in American English and follow the same guidelines as the abstract in Spanish.

The **Introduction** should include background and generalities on the subject of the study, controversial findings, questions and contributions of the author, and finally, **the main objective of the research.**

Material and Methods. This section should report on the characteristics and size of the sample. In studies with humans, informed consent must be provided, inclusion and exclusion criteria must be indicated, and approval must be obtained by the institution's Ethics Committee where the research was conducted. The guidelines of the 1975 Declaration of Helsinki, revised in 2024, must be followed. Using initials or hospital history numbers must be avoided, and photographs of the patient's face will not be accepted without written consent. Studies involving animals must also follow the corresponding Code of Ethics, which complies with the international standards for using, caring and treating laboratory animals. The procedures must be described in past tense and with sufficient detail to allow the work to be duplicated. Non-original methods must be referenced; the name and country of the supplier company must accompany the equipment and reagents used.

Statistical analysis. The statistics platform and the version and statistical tests used must be reported.

Results should be presented in the past tense, in a logical sequence in the text, tables and figures. Only important observations should be highlighted. The International System (SI) should express laboratory values and units. Do not repeat what is shown in the figures or tables in the text; express it. **Tables and figures** will be presented on separate pages. Tables must be in editable format. Tables and Figures will be numbered in Arabic characters. Do not include acronyms in the titles that have not been previously identified.

Discussion. Mention the study's main findings, then compare the results with others in the literature, including their contributions and strengths. Mention the limitations of the work and suggest guidelines for future research. The text of the works should end with a conclusion following the results and not write it in a separate section.

References. Limit to a maximum of 50 references for original articles and 100 for Narrative and Systematic Reviews or Meta-analysis. It is recommended that the latest issue of the Journal (<http://sites.google.com/site/revistainvestigacionescnicas>) be carefully reviewed as a guide for the preparation of the manuscript.

Narrative Reviews must be written by specialists in the reviewed field and contain the author's contributions, either in the references or with a discussion of the topic considered. **The maximum number of authors is four.** Reviews that consist merely of a bibliographic description without including an analysis will not be accepted. The body of the reviews is free, although it is convenient to subdivide it into sections. **Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses** should follow the international guidelines established by PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) or any other similar method.

Case Reports present clinical cases that are not common in medical practice. They should include a brief introduction to the pathology, a case description, and a discussion with the corresponding bibliographical support. Limit the discussion to the most notable aspects of the case.

The **Editorial** will be presented by a Member of the Editorial Committee of the Journal or by a guest proposed by this body, selected from among the regular contributors.

Letters to the Editor should be comments on recent publications in the Journal and, if possible, should not exceed two pages, including references.

Tables. Tables should occupy one page each and be numbered in Arabic characters. They should contain a descriptive title in the center, under the Table number. Lines should not separate columns. Notes referring to what is expressed in the body of the Table should be written at the bottom of the Table, preceded by the corresponding symbols. Tables should be analyzed without having to resort to the text; therefore, abbreviations should be described; the type of statistical analysis used should be indicated, and references should be made to the groups to which the statistical significance (p) refers.

The Journal does not accept the expression “Source of information” when referring to results presented in the same article, only if they come from another material. If the article is written in Spanish, decimal numbers should be separated by a comma and if it is written in English, by a period.

Figures. The following general points must be observed: each figure must be sent in a separate file in the generating program (for example, GraphPad Prism®). The figure number must be Arabic and follow the sequence in the text. The font and size must be uniform. All figures must be at least 300 dpi. Color figures must be sent in TIFF or RGB (red, green, blue) format. Figure captions must be sent separately, with sufficient information to avoid resorting to text.. Figures must be presented with adequate contrast. Radiographic images must not contain captions that identify the patient.

Photographs may be black and white or color, must have adequate contrast for reproduction and be in JPG or TIFF format, with the following conditions: color or grayscale photographs must be at least 600 dpi. In the case of electron micrographs, extreme care must be taken to ensure the sharpness of the findings reported and to indicate them using symbols. The magnification must also be indicated, preferably with a bar indicating its value (microns, millimicrons, nanometers). The legends must not be incorporated into

the photograph and must be presented on a separate page, in a sufficiently explanatory manner, without having to refer to the text, and care must be taken to describe the figure in color or shades of gray. The Journal will not accept photographs or figures from other journals without authorization.

References. All references must appear in the text with a superscript number without parentheses and cited in order of appearance, according to the international standards “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals”, updated in January 2025 (<http://www.icmje.org>); that is, first the last name with the initial letter capitalized, followed by the initials of the first name, also capitalized (without periods), of all the authors. **The authors’ names must be in bold** and separated from each other by commas. The terms “y col.” or “et al.” will not be accepted in the references section. Only the first six will be allowed in those works with many authors, followed by “y col.” or “et al.”.

The work’s full title must be capitalized only at the beginning and in proper names. The title of the Journal must be abbreviated according to the Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>), followed by the year of publication, volume; and first and last pages, separated by a hyphen. Next, the DOI of the work must be included. Unpublished observations, personal communications or works submitted for publication will not be accepted as references; however, these may be cited in parentheses in the text. The organization’s name must be included as a reference if the author is an organization.

Reference Examples

References to periodical publications: **Jaspe RC, Sulbaran Y, Hidalgo M, Loureiro CL, Moros ZC, Garzaro D, Rangel HR, Pujol FH.** A simple method for detecting mutations in amino acid 452 of the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 using restriction enzyme

analysis. *Invest Clin* 2021; 62(4): 371-377. <https://doi.org/10.22209/IC.v62n4a07>.

Book references: Kandel ER, Schwartz JH, Jessell TM. Principles of neural science. New York: McGraw Hill; 2001, p 1227-1246.

Articles in books: Molina-Vílchez R, Diez-Ewald M, Fernández G. Anemia y Embarazo. En: Zigelboim I, Guariglia D, Eds. Clínica Obstétrica. Caracas: Disinlimed; 2000. P 570-577.

Conference Proceedings: **Metabolic benefits of lifestyle intervention in the clinical setting: a pilot study in Latinos with prediabetes from Venezuela, South America.** Victoria Stepenka, Yoleida Rivas, Juan Casal, Roberto Gutiérrez, Elena Ryder, Hermes Flórez. 70th. Scientific Sessions. American Diabetes Association. 25-29 junio, 2010, Orlando, USA.

Thesis: León-N I. Caracterización de aislamientos del complejo *Sporothrix* spp. provenientes de diferentes regiones de Venezuela [Tesis de Maestría] Caracas: IVIC; 2013.

Online Journals: Calvo B, Melo A, Perozo A, Hernández M, Francisco E, Hagen F, Meis J, Colombo J. First report of *Candida auris* in America: clinical and microbiological aspects of 18 episodes of candidaemia. *J Infect* 2016 [citado, 2017 febrero 10] Disponible en: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jinf.2016.07.008>.

Checklist

- A letter signed by all authors indicating the corresponding author and each author's participation in the work's preparation, stating that it has not been previously published, nor is it being sent to another journal for publication.
- Pages are numbered sequentially.
- Title in Spanish.
- Title in English.
- A short title is used in the primary language of the manuscript.
- List of Authors with full names, without professional titles.
- Unstructured abstract in English and Spanish of no more than 250 words, including introduction, basic procedures, results and conclusion.
- Brief introduction, referring to the object of study.
- Material and Methods or Patients and Methods described precisely and with adequate references.
- Specification of the statistical analysis and platform used (when required).
- Results are presented clearly and in logical order without discussion.
- Discussion based on the findings obtained.
- References are presented in order of appearance, in superscript without parentheses, cited in the text and according to the Journal's specifications.
- Personal communications or presentations at conferences without published abstracts are not accepted.
- Tables are numbered in Arabic, with notes at the bottom.
- Illustrations and photographs are to be made according to the Journal's specifications.
- Legends of illustrations, figures and photographs on separate pages.
- ORCID number of all authors.
- Source of funding.
- Individual participation of the authors in the work.
- Conflicts of interest.