

Fernando Fernandez-Llimos

Co-editor

New Manuscript Preparation and Submission Guidelines

Internationalizing a journal poses a significant challenge for editorial teams. The process of internationalization expands the journal's audience, encompassing a wider range of potential authors and readers, while also enlarging the pool of potential peer reviewers. Furthermore, internationalization enhances the standing of the journal within the community of related publications and bolsters the discipline as a whole. It is important to note that internationalization is often a prerequisite imposed by the majority of bibliographic databases in order to have the journal indexed.

The internationalization of a journal necessitates the adoption of certain standardized procedures by all parties involved. In an effort to enhance the internationalization of *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia*, the editorial board has made the decision to gradually implement these requirements, commencing with the first issue slated for publication in 2023. This editorial contribution serves to provide information regarding these requirements.

Publishing a paper serves two distinct purposes: communicating research or practice findings to readers and providing recognition to the authors. To accurately identify these contributing authors, articles traditionally display their names prominently on the first page. However, in today's globalized world, with a multitude of researchers and practitioners in each scientific field, having a unique and unambiguous name is nearly impossible. Additionally, different conventions exist for abbreviating authors' official names when creating author lists. To address these challenges, persistent digital identifiers for authors, such as ORCID (<https://orcid.org/>), were developed. "ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier (an ORCID iD) that you own and control, and that distinguishes you from every other researcher". This identifier serves to distinguish them from every other researcher. ORCID operates as a public registry that provides a free and unambiguous identification for each contributor. The ORCID of each author can be accessed through the logo positioned near their name in the author list. *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia* actively encourages the use of ORCID by all authors who submit manuscripts to the journal. As a requirement for indexing in databases, providing an ORCID for each author will be mandatory.



The current article structure commonly used, known as IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion), was developed to facilitate effective communication of research findings and ensure reproducibility. The visibility of an article is largely dependent on its retrievability in bibliographic databases. However, it is important to note that most databases only index the metadata of articles, which typically includes the title and abstract, rather than the entire text of the article. Consequently, the IMRAD structure should be reflected in the abstract itself, leading to the creation of structured abstracts. Structured abstracts are designed to mimic the IMRAD structure, presenting key elements of the article's content in a concise format. They provide a condensed overview of the study's purpose, methodology, results, and conclusions. In line with this, *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia* will progressively require the use of structured abstracts, aligning with best practices in the field.

Research reproducibility has emerged as a significant concern for researchers and funding bodies alike. In scholarly publishing, there is a prevalence of poor reporting practices, which can hinder the reproducibility and transparency of research findings. To address this issue and enhance reporting practices, various reporting guidelines have been developed to assist authors in producing more effective and comprehensive manuscripts. The Equator Network website (<https://www.equator-network.org/>) serves as a valuable resource that compiles numerous reporting guidelines. These guidelines are specifically designed to guide authors in different study designs and research areas, facilitating more consistent and transparent reporting. Within the context of *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia*, it is highly recommended that authors adhere to relevant reporting guidelines when submitting articles. Some of these reporting guidelines should guide most of the articles submitted to *Rev Port Cirurg* like CONSORT for randomized studies, STROBE for observational studies, CARE for case reports, or PRISMA for systematic reviews.

Another crucial aspect of reproducible research articles is the inclusion of a comprehensive and easily accessible bibliographic support. Incorporating bibliographic references serves not only to demonstrate that authors have consulted reliable sources of information but also to enable readers to delve deeper into the topic. Properly citing bibliographic references poses a significant challenge for many practitioners and researchers. While various reference manager software systems are available to assist with this task, *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia* has adopted the American Medical Association (AMA) referencing style. This style was chosen not only for its simplicity but also because it is readily available as the default option in the "citing" feature of PubMed. This feature allows authors to easily copy and paste the reference after identifying the article to cite in PubMed.

The choice of language for publishing a journal often sparks a highly sensitive debate. Preserving local languages serves to uphold a nation's cultural heritage, while adopting a lingua franca enables readers from various countries and cultural backgrounds to access the journal's content. Therefore, the decision on language is closely tied to the goal of internationalization. To internationalize *Revista Portuguesa de Cirurgia*, adopting English as the lingua franca in the field of medical sciences becomes necessary. Using English not only fulfills the requirements for indexing in numerous bibliographic databases such as PubMed



Central but also facilitates the invitation of international peer reviewers. This, in turn, reduces the duration of the editorial process.

Adopting these international standards does not ensure the highest quality standards in a journal. At the end of the day, the quality of the articles will do. “Clothes do not make the man” but help to properly dress him.

