

List of useful links

Where to submit? <http://bjog.allentrack.net>

Full Author Guidelines:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bjog> and click on Author Guidelines on the left hand side

Advice on writing systematic reviews

consult: The Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook: <http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook>

Blackwell Author Services:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor/>

BJOG's requirements for authorship and for preparation of manuscripts submitted

are in accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: <http://www.ICMJE.org> [read this before preparing and submitting your manuscript]

Committee on publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines:

www.publicationethics.org.uk

The standards for the BJOG editorial process are in accordance with these guidelines

The Declaration of Helsinki:

<http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>

A statement of ethical principles to provide guidance to physicians and other participants in medical research involving human subjects.

BJOG

An international Journal of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Why choose BJOG?

BJOG's mission is to report the best research in women's health, from around the world.

BJOG will make your work rapidly accessible to the international scientific community. The time from submission to first decision ranges from a few days to an average of six

to eight weeks. Final acceptance to print publication is only two months on average, and online early publication is even quicker at just over a month. BJOG has a global impact, being available in over 7000 libraries worldwide. Papers are PubMed cited within a few days of appearing in the Journal, with a hotlink from the citation to the paper on the Blackwell Synergy website. On average, papers published in BJOG are downloaded more than 250 times in the first month after they appear. Over 4000 Members and Fellows of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists receive the Journal as part of their membership subscription. Articles published in BJOG have a wide impact not only in the obstetric and gynaecological community around the world but also in the general media. In the last year or so many articles in the national and international media have highlighted BJOG papers. Authors may even be interviewed for a BJOG podcast*, further increasing their paper's exposure. Selection of a paper for inclusion in one of our theme issues will increase its downloads by 50%.



Just as important as rapid, high-profile publication is the editorial process, geared towards improving your paper for publication. BJOG is owned by the RCOG but is editorially independent, ensuring that papers are refereed fairly. We have a robust editorial process which is based upon the majority view of at least five specialist opinions. In addition to sending you referees'

comments, we have over 20 specialist editors, at least one of whom will be knowledgeable in your field and will help you to improve your paper.

BJOG is innovative, and recent developments include the introduction of free access online from institutions in the developing world through the HINARI initiative** with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Each month, the 'editor's choice' and his 'paper of the month' are available free to view by anyone. Moreover, authors can now choose to pay upfront for their manuscripts to be open access (free for all to view and download). Authors also have the choice to add supplementary material to the web-based version of their paper, and we encourage this for pictures and videos of surgical procedures and similar material. We regularly commission commentaries by leading authorities in the field on important papers, thus increasing their profile. Recently we have begun adding 'mini commentaries' to selected papers to improve their impact. There is a lively correspondence column, which will increase your paper's citation index.

We welcome papers on original research, commentaries on areas of scientific development, or new hypotheses. We give priority to papers containing original data, systematic reviews and commentaries suggesting innovative approaches to women's health problems. We like to publish basic science research (so long as its relevance to clinical medicine is clear and properly explained), clinical research, and public health research, and the criteria for acceptance is quality rather than locality of origin. For example, in the May 2007 issue, we had papers from the USA, Canada, South America, China, Cameroon, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, and the UK. For selected papers, we offer technical rewriting, especially for those whose first language is not English. Our editors can help explain technical or basic science research to make it more accessible for the general reader.

BJOG was first published in 1902, and has continued to play a leading role in the international scientific community relating to women's health ever since. The editorial team is determined to continue BJOG's proud reputation, and indeed is working hard to improve its global impact still further. We would welcome you to join us in this endeavour by sending us your best and most original work!



Philip Steer

Philip Steer, UK –
BJOG EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/podcast/bjog.asp>

** <http://www.Healthinternetwork.org/>

Flow diagram for Authors

Author(s) prepare manuscript
Each author approves final version of manuscript
(see all presubmission pages)

BJOG Editorial Office

Submit manuscript online: <http://bjog.allentrack.net/>

Corresponding Author approves files in AllenTrack once they have checked the converted files

Editorial Assistant accesses uploaded files and carries out the quality control (QC) stage.
Are all submission requirements met?

Yes No

Editor in Chief (EIC) performs initial assessment of suitability. Does the manuscript fall outside the scope of the journal or is it clearly of poor quality? *

No Yes Rejected

Next column

Author makes changes as detailed in the email received from Editorial office
e.g. upload missing copy of ethics approval

No

*If the content of the manuscript is suitable for review but the standard of language is poor, the EIC will recommend that the language is improved. See: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor/english_language.asp

No (continued)

The EIC allocates the manuscript to an appropriate specialist Scientific Editor (see full list on p11)

Scientific Editor performs initial assessment and invites appropriate external experts to review the manuscript

Once all reviews on the paper are received the Scientific Editor consults with other Scientific Editors

Scientific Editor emails decision to Corresponding Author, including the reviews and comments from the Scientific Editors to explain the decision

Reject	Reject, with an invitation to resubmit	Accept, major revision needed	Accept, minor revision needed	Accept, no revision required
		6 weeks to submit revision	6 weeks to submit revision	[Author sent links to the Online Open form and the Exclusive License to Publish form, one of these needs to be returned to the Blackwell Production Office]

Scientific Editor assesses paper. Is the paper acceptable for publication?

Yes [Author sent links to the Online Open form and the Exclusive License to Publish form, one of these needs to be returned to the Blackwell Production Office]

No further revision requested within 6 weeks

Manuscript sent to Blackwell Production Office (see over)

Blackwell Production Office

Author returns signed Open Online form (OOF) or Exclusive Licence to Publish form (ELF)†

Manuscript to the typesetters

†Without the Production Office receiving either a signed Exclusive License to Publish form (ELF) or an Online Open form (OOF), the paper cannot be published

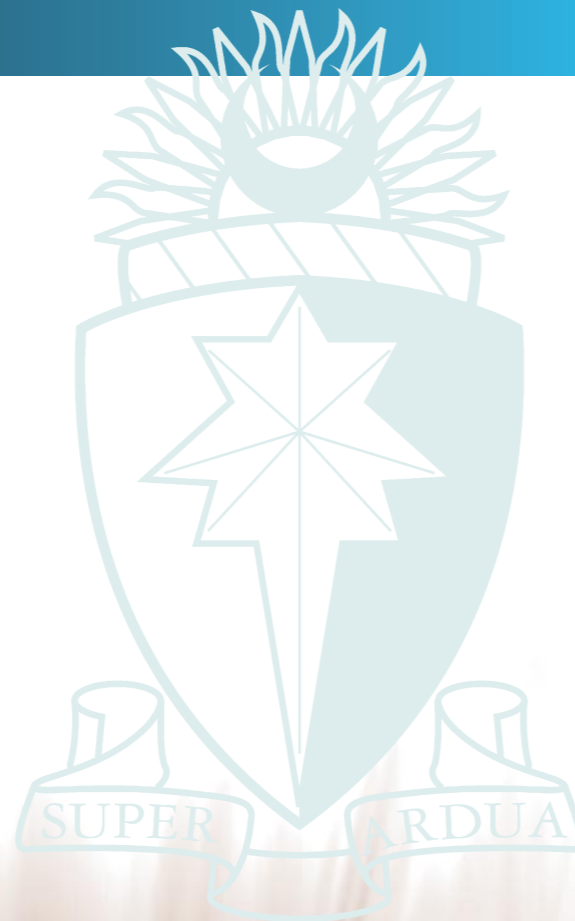
Corresponding Author receives, corrects and returns proofs

OnlineEarly Publication, the article is given a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) which stays with the article

Article published in a monthly issue of BJOG; online issue available on Blackwell Synergy and print journal distributed

Corresponding authors will automatically receive a free PDF offprint by e-mail. Additional offprints can be ordered on the offprint order form, which accompanies the proofs

www.blackwellpublishing.com/bjog



Presubmission

RESPONSIBILITY

Authors are responsible for proofreading of the text, references, tables and figures for absolute accuracy.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDITING

Does the manuscript require a professional English-language editing service? See here for details:

http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor/english_language.asp

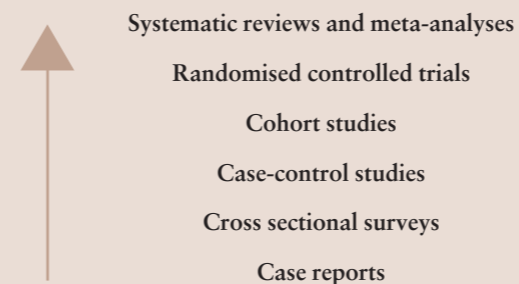
OPTIMIZE

Is the manuscript written in the best possible way for it to be found by search engines? Find out how to improve your title and abstract here:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/optimize>

CASE REPORTS

BJOG do not publish case reports unless they highlight important innovations with wide applicability, or previously unpublished complications of new techniques or medications. Over the last year we rejected 98% of case reports submitted. As you will see case reports are at the bottom of the hierarchy of evidence when different types of primary study are considered:



www.blackwellpublishing.com/bjog

CONFIDENTIALITY

BJOG Editors and Reviewers must not disclose information about manuscripts (including their receipt, content, status in the reviewing process, criticism by reviewers, or ultimate fate) to anyone other than the authors, editors and reviewers.

AUTHORSHIP

(1) remember that to qualify for authorship an individual should meet these criteria:

- substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- final approval of the version to be published.

Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content

(2) during the submission process within AllenTrack you will be asked to confirm that all individuals who qualify for authorship are listed.

(3) all authors will need to confirm to the Corresponding Author that they concur with the submission of the manuscript to BJOG and that neither this manuscript nor one with substantially similar content under their authorship has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere, it is helpful for the Corresponding Author to gain written documentation to prove this.

PREVIOUS SUBMISSION

If the manuscript has been submitted previously to another journal, it is helpful to include the previous editor's and reviewers' comments with the submitted manuscript, along with the authors' responses to those comments. Editors encourage authors to submit these previous communications.

COMPETING MANUSCRIPTS BASED ON THE SAME STUDY

Two kinds of competing submissions are considered: submissions by coworkers who disagree on the analysis and interpretation of their study, and submissions by coworkers who disagree on what the facts are and which data should be reported.

DUPLICATE SUBMISSION

BJOG will not consider manuscripts that are simultaneously being considered by other journals. Among the principal considerations that have led to this policy are: (1) the potential for disagreement when two (or more) journals claim the right to publish a manuscript that has been submitted simultaneously to more than one; and (2) the possibility that two or more journals will unknowingly and unnecessarily undertake the work of peer review and editing of the same manuscript, and publish the same article, which would result in redundant publication (see FAQs). Duplicate publication of original research is particularly problematic, since it can result in inadvertent double counting or inappropriate weighting of the results of a single study, which distorts the available evidence.

TRANSPARENCY

When submitting a paper, the author must always make a full statement in the cover letter about all submissions that might be regarded as redundant or duplicate publication of the same or very similar work. The author must alert the editor if the manuscript includes subjects about which the authors have published a previous report or have submitted a related report to another publication. Any such report must be referred to and referenced in the new paper. Copies of such material should be included with the submitted paper to help the editor decide how to handle the matter.

CONTRIBUTORSHIP

Contributors who do not qualify for authorship should be included in the Acknowledgements section.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Some material (e.g. tables and figures) can be treated as supplementary material, to be published in the online version only. Supplementary material must be important,

ancillary information that is relevant to the parent article but which does not or cannot appear in the printed edition of the journal. <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor/suppmat.asp>

How should Supplementary Material be supplied?

1. Supplementary material should be sent as individual files clearly labelled as such (e.g SuppMatTable1; SuppMatFig1; SuppMatVideo1). It should not be supplied within the main article document.
2. References within Suppmat tables/figures should have their own separate reference list and not be part of the main article in anyway. This should be supplied with the Suppmat tables/figures.
3. When citing the supplementary material within the text it should be in the format of (Table S1; Figure S1)
4. Legends must be supplied for each type of Suppmat supplied

Finally, it is important to note that Suppmat material is published exactly as received. It is not edited or styled in any way so the authors should ensure that all the material is correct and are happy for it to appear as supplied.

PATIENT CONSENT

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt.

OBLIGATION TO PUBLISH NEGATIVE STUDIES

Editors will consider seriously for publication any carefully done study of an important question, relevant to BJOG readers, whether the results are negative (that is, convincingly allow the null hypothesis to be accepted) or positive (that is, allow the null hypothesis to be rejected). Failure to submit or publish negative studies, in particular, contributes to publication bias.

ESSENTIAL SECTIONS, THAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE MANUSCRIPT:

Acknowledgements

Disclosure of Interests

Contribution to Authorship

Details of ethics approval; and

Funding

References

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Include, for example, funding for OnlineOpen publication, or funding for writing or editorial assistance also include contributors who do not qualify as authors, with their contribution described.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

These include relevant financial (for example patent ownership, stock ownership, consultancies, speaker's fees), personal, political, intellectual or religious interests. Please note that a conflict of interest should not prevent someone from being listed as an author if they qualify for authorship. If there is doubt about whether conflicts are relevant or significant, it is prudent to disclose.

CONTRIBUTION TO AUTHORSHIP

A paragraph explaining each author's contribution.

DETAILS OF ETHICS APPROVAL

Any reports of studies or trials involving human or animal subjects, or medical records should contain a statement, that the procedures of the study received ethics approval

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

When authors submit a manuscript, whether an article or a letter, they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias their work. To prevent ambiguity, authors must state explicitly whether potential conflicts do or do not exist.

from the relevant regional or institutional ethics committee responsible for human experimentation or complied with regulations governing experimentation using animals. The date of approval and reference number must be supplied. If no ethics approval was received please explain why, and include an explanation as to how the study adhered to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. Authors may wish to include statements to confirm that trials conformed to Good Clinical Practice (for example, US Food and Drug Administration Good Clinical Practice in FDA-Regulated Clinical Trials; or, UK Medicines Research Council Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice in Clinical Trials).

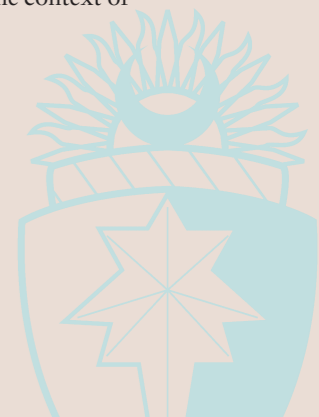
FUNDING

Funding for any type of publication, for example by a commercial company, charity or government department, should be stated here. This applies to all types of papers (including, for example, research papers, review papers, letters, editorials and commentaries).

REFERENCES

Although references to review articles can be an efficient way of guiding readers to a body of literature, review articles do not always reflect original work accurately. Authors should therefore include direct references to original research sources whenever possible.

Authors are responsible for checking that none of the references cite retracted articles except in the context of referring to the retraction.



A SELECTION OF MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES

RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS (RCT)

Randomised controlled trials require (a) a copy of the ethics approval (or an explanation as to why ethics approval was not received), (b) a CONSORT flowchart/checklist (submitted as a Figure File): <http://www.consort-statement.org/Downloads/download.htm> and (c) a copy of the original protocol upon which the trial was based. Additionally, the clinical trial registration should be included along with the name of the trial at the end of the abstract. Clinical trials should be registered in free, public clinical trial registries (for example, www.clinicaltrials.gov, <http://clinicaltrials-dev.ifpma.org/>, <http://isrctm.org/>) before publication.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

A QUOROM statement checklist is required for systematic review meta-analyses: www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf

Systematic reviews are welcome. They should be critical assessments of current evidence covering a broad range of topics of concern to those working in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology. Systematic reviews should be 4000–5000 words.

OBLIGATION TO REGISTER CLINICAL TRIALS

BJOG require, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry.

A systematic literature review is a means of identifying, evaluating and interpreting all available research relevant to a particular research question, or topic area, or phenomenon of interest. Individual studies contributing to a systematic review are called *primary* studies; a systematic review is a form a *secondary* study.

N.B. For advice on writing systematic reviews consult: The Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook: <http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook>

META-ANALYSIS OF OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

A MOOSE statement is required for meta-analysis of observational studies: <http://www.consort-statement.org/Initiatives/MOOSE/moose.pdf>

EMBARGO POLICY

BJOG articles are embargoed until their publication Online Early to prevent publication of stories in the general media before the original paper on which they are based is available. Doctors in practice need to have reports available in full detail before they can advise their patients about the report's conclusions. Moreover, media reports of scientific research before the work has been peer reviewed and fully published may lead to the dissemination of inaccurate or premature conclusions.

Authors should not publicize their work while their manuscript is under consideration or awaiting publication. BJOG has an agreement with the media that they will not release stories before the embargo, in return for which the journal will cooperate with them in preparing accurate stories.

DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS

A STARD flow diagram and checklist are required for manuscripts reporting results of evaluations of diagnostic tests: www.consort-statement.org/stardstatement.htm

FOR A FULL LIST OF MANUSCRIPT TYPES GO TO THE BJOG AUTHOR GUIDELINES:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bjog>, and click Author Guidelines on the lefthand side

FAQs

PRESUBMISSION FAQs

What style of referencing should I use?

Vancouver Style

One of the other authors has submitted the manuscript to another journal, but we do not know if it has been accepted yet; can we submit it to BJOG?

No, until a reject decision has been received BJOG cannot consider a paper currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

I want to submit a video, is this possible?

Yes, this can be hosted online as supplementary material and referred to in the print version.

What is redundant publication?

Redundant (or duplicate) publication is publication of a paper that overlaps substantially with one already published in print or electronic media.

What is peer review?

Peer review is the critical assessment of manuscripts submitted to journals by experts who are not part of the editorial staff.

Colour illustrations?

Yes, authors can include colour images free of charge.

POST ACCEPTANCE FAQs

Will I see proofs of my paper prior to publication?

Yes, the production office will send the corresponding author PDF proofs.

How long will it take for my paper to appear online?

On average it takes 39 days from acceptance.

If I pay for OnlineOpen (free for all to view and download), how will readers know my article is free online?

An OnlineOpen icon will appear next to your article on Blackwell Synergy.

Will I have access to the article once published?

Yes, a PDF will be sent to the corresponding author.

How much does it cost for my article to be OnlineOpen (open access), and when do I pay?

Each OnlineOpen article will be subject to a one-off fee of £1300 to be met by or on behalf of the Author in advance of publication.

Check List

- Avoid abbreviations in the title
- All values in SI units (except blood pressure in mm Hg)
- Manuscript double spaced
- Number all pages of the manuscript consecutively, beginning with the title page
- Include all Essential Sections (see list above)
- Do NOT include pictures/graphs/diagrams within your text. Submit EACH picture/graph/diagram as a separate FIGURE FILE
- TITLE PAGE of your text must include full title, author details, contact details of the corresponding author with email address and the shortened running title
- Details of ethics approval (or a statement that it was not required) – this is required for all original research articles (see BJOG Guidelines to Authors for full details)
- If reporting experiments on animals, in the manuscript have you indicated whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed?
- Has informed consent obtained been indicated in the manuscript and has a copy of the signed patient consent form been submitted?
- For randomised controlled trials (RCTs):
 - a checklist and flowchart in accordance with the CONSORT guidelines <http://www.consort-statement.org>
 - the trial protocol
 - the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry (included in the manuscript on the last line of the structured abstract)
- Read Author Guidelines for details of structured abstracts for main research articles, and types of abstracts required for other manuscript types
- Read Author Guidelines for details of how the main text should be structured
- Studies of diagnostic accuracy: STARD <http://www.consort-statement.org/stardstatement.htm>
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: QUOROM <http://www.consort-statement.org/Initiatives/MOOSE/moose.pdf>
- Observational studies in epidemiology: STROBE <http://www.strobe-statement.org>
- Meta-analyses of observational studies in epidemiology: MOOSE <http://www.consort-statement.org/Initiatives/MOOSE/moose>

Scientific Editors

Reproductive medicine

- Hesham Al-Inany *Egypt* Reproductive medicine
Paul Hardiman *UK* Reproductive medicine
Adam Balen *UK* Reproductive medicine, endocrinology and paediatric/adolescent gynaecology

Oncology

- Stephen Dobbs *UK* Gynaecological oncology
Pierre Martin-Hirsch *UK* Gynaecological oncology, general gynaecology, meta-analysis of dichotomous outcomes, diagnostic test methodologies and meta-analysis

Urogynaecology

- Douglas Tincello *UK* Urogynaecology, clinical trials, general gynaecology, qualitative studies
Paul Hilton *UK* Urogynaecology, general gynaecology

Basic Science

- Shanthi Muttukrishna *UK* Basic science - placental trophoblast function, serum screening markers for pregnancy complications, reproductive endocrinology, inhibin and related proteins

Obstetrics; maternal fetal medicine

- Steve Walkinshaw *UK* Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine
Sig-Linda Jacobson *USA* Obstetrics, pre-eclampsia, intrauterine growth restriction placentation, placental pathology, medical complications of pregnancy
Euan Wallace *Australia* Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, down syndrome screening, fetal physiology, basic science
Andrew Weeks *UK* Labour, maternal mortality, developing world, miscarriage
John Thorp *USA* Obstetrics, epidemiology

General obstetrics and gynaecology

- Patrick Chien *UK* General obstetrics and gynaecology; case reports; Minimal access surgery and systematic reviews
Mike Marsh *UK* Obstetrics (diabetes, neurology, psychiatric disease, maternal medicine), menopause, osteoporosis, gynaecological neuroendocrinology

Trainee editors

- Lucy Chappell *UK* Maternal fetal medicine
Arri Coomerasamy *UK* Reproductive medicine; trials and protocols
Andrew Horne *UK* Reproductive medicine, minimal access surgery, basic science
Aris T. Papageorghiou *UK* Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, ultrasound diagnosis, pre-eclampsia, screening

General gynaecology

- Ellis Downes *UK* General gynaecology, minimal access surgery, urogynaecology, endometrial ablation and new surgical techniques

Editorial Board

- | | |
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