All AAST 2024 papers must be submitted to the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* by **AUGUST 1, 2024** via its [web-based tracking system](http://www.editorialmanager.com/jt/).

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Once the manuscript is submitted, you will be able to track its progress through the peer review process.

**SUBMISSION FEE AND WAIVER INFORMATION**

A non-refundable submission fee of $75 per manuscript will be due at time of submission. The fee will be waived if the corresponding author is a member of any of the affiliated societies:

- The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)
- The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST)
- The Western Trauma Association (WTA)
- The Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS)
- The Trauma Association of Canada (TAC)
- The Chest Wall Injury Society (CWIS)
- The Australian and New Zealand Association for Surgery of Trauma (ANZAST)

The fee will also not apply to authors from Research4Life/Hinari countries.
COLOR FIGURES AND COST INFORMATION

Figures should be submitted in color or black and white as they are to appear in the final published article. Members of the affiliated societies of JTACS (see list above) will receive a maximum of 2 eligible color illustrations per article free of charge. Non-member authors and members with more than 2 eligible color figures will be billed for the color images at the following rates: $750 (first color figure); $250 (each subsequent figure).

Color Figures
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- Histology Pictures
- Immunofluorescence Pictures
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Black and White Figures
- Computer Generated Graphs:
  - Bar
  - Column
  - Pie
  - Line
  - Histogram
  - Kaplan-Maier Curves
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- Algorithms
- Flow Charts

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- Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: The submitting/corresponding author must collect from their co-authors individual Conflict of Interest (COI) forms and upload them during the manuscript submission process as supplemental digital content. A link to download the form can be found here. For those authors unsure whether they have financial conflicts to disclose, The Journal encourages them to consult the CMS Open Payments Program Database at https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/forms. Any amount received above $10 USD dollars should be disclosed.
  - The peer review process will not start until each author completes the JTACS COI form, which must be uploaded with the manuscript files. If the article is accepted for publication, all JTACS COI forms will be published as supplemental digital content information with the article.

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- Structured abstract. Include the following subheadings: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, and Level of Evidence (for more information, see below). Limited to 300 words with 3–5 key words.

- The specific EQUATOR Guidelines are also required. A statement regarding the use of the
specific guideline must be part of Methods and the specific checklist/guidelines must be uploaded as digital supplemental content (SCD).

✓ **Manuscript text** should be separated into four main headings: Background, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Limit Brief Reports to 2,000 words, Original Articles and Systematic Reviews to 4,000 words, and Reviews to 5,000 words. To review figure/table and reference limits for all article types, see the “Manuscript Types and Content Limits” table in our Instructions for Authors.

✓ **References** should include the first 6 authors of a study followed by “et al.”

✓ **Visual Abstract.** A Visual Abstract will be required for any original research manuscript at the time a revision is requested by the editors at JTACS. Upon notification of a revision decision, JTACS will provide details and instructions for submitting the Visual Abstract to Editorial Manager and the JTACS Visual Abstract Template that must be used.

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**REPORTING STANDARDS**

The *Journal of Trauma* asks that prospective authors follow international reporting standards when documenting study methods. To find guidelines for a particular study design, please see the [EQUATOR Network’s library](#). Please note the following study-specific requirements:

► **Clinical Trials.** All trials must be registered prospectively in a publicly accessible registry to be considered for publication. Authors must state the registry and accession details in the first paragraph of the Methods section of the manuscript.

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The *Journal of Trauma*’s editors have created a levels-of-evidence framework specific to surgical studies, which was published in June 2012 (*J Trauma Acute Care Surg.*, 72(6):1484-1490). Levels may be regraded by the *Journal*’s statistical editor prior to publication.

Please note that a level-of-evidence grade is only required for clinically oriented studies; work involving cadavers or animals, basic-science studies, in vitro work, and review articles are excluded. If you
have any questions about determining levels, please contact Bishoy Zakhary, MPH, at zakharybishoy@gmail.com.

**QUESTIONS?**
For questions concerning manuscript formatting, the review status of first submissions, the copyright transfer/disclosure process, editorial requirements, review status of revisions, appeals, embargo policies or production, please contact Michelle Gaffney at info@jtrauma.org.