

“La Tunisie Medicale” is a general scientific journal that publishes articles in medicine and sciences applied to medicine. It has been published by the Tunisian Society of Medical Sciences (STSM) since 1903.

PUBLICATION POLICY

Manuscripts must be submitted exclusively via the online submission platform of “[La Tunisie Medicale](#)”. By submitting a manuscript, the corresponding author certifies that:

- All listed authors meet authorship criteria and have approved the final version of the manuscript
- The manuscript has not been previously published and is not under consideration by another journal.

By submitting a manuscript, authors agree to comply with the journal’s editorial, ethical, and legal policies.

ETHICAL POLICIES

Ethical Approval

All studies involving human participants, human data, or animals must comply with the [the Helsinki Declaration](#) and relevant institutional, national, or international regulations. Approval by a **recognized independent ethics committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB)** is mandatory. The name, reference number, and date of approval must be clearly stated in the Methods section.

Informed Consent

For studies involving human participants, written informed consent must be obtained and explicitly stated in the manuscript. It includes:

- **General Research:** Consent for participation and publication of anonymized data.
- **Identifiable Information** (e.g., images, case details...): authors must include in the manuscript the patient consent following [CARE guidelines](#) and aligning with the principles of the [Declaration of Helsinki](#).
- **Waivers:** If consent was waived (e.g., retrospective studies), authors must provide ethics committee approval and justify the waiver.

Vulnerable Populations

Studies involving vulnerable populations (e.g., minors, prisoners, refugees, indigenous communities, cognitively impaired individuals, or other groups requiring special protections) must adhere to strict ethical standards. Authors must explicitly state in the Methods section how informed consent was obtained (or justified if waived) and how participant autonomy, confidentiality, and welfare were protected. They also must justify the inclusion of vulnerable groups by demonstrating that the research cannot be conducted with non-vulnerable participants.

Animal Studies

Animal research must comply with institutional and national regulations and follow the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) (e.g., NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals).

AUTHORSHIP, ORIGINALITY, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Authorship

All authors must meet the [ICMJE authorship criteria](#), have made substantial contributions to the work, approved the final manuscript, and agreed to its submission.

Originality and Integrity

Authors confirm that the manuscript is original, that all sources are appropriately cited, that ethical and copyright standards are respected, and that any conflicts of interest are fully disclosed. Valid ORCID identifiers must be provided for all authors.

Journal Responsibilities

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PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism and Scientific Misconduct

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Use of Generative AI

Authors should not list AI and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author.

AI tools can be used to improve readability and language of the manuscript. Applying AI tools should be done with human oversight and control and authors should carefully review and edit the result. The authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the cover letter and the Methods section. Declaring the use of these technologies supports transparency and trust between authors, readers, reviewers, editors and contributors and facilitates compliance with the terms of use of the relevant tool or technology.

Conflicts of Interest

All authors must disclose any financial, institutional, or personal relationships that could influence the work.

Funding

Authors must clearly identify **all sources of financial support received for their research**. This includes grants, fellowships, institutional funding, and support from commercial or non-profit organizations.

If no funding was received, authors state: “This research received no external funding”.

Data Availability

Authors may be requested to provide the data underlying their study. Failure to do so without justified reason may lead to rejection.

Non-compliance with ethical policies may result in rejection or retraction.

POST-PUBLICATION UPDATES

Post-publication issues are managed according to [COPE guidelines](#).

Errata and Corrections

The journal publishes author corrections for substantial author errors and publisher corrections for significant journal errors that could compromise scientific integrity or reputation.

Retractions

Articles are retracted when integrity is severely compromised due to design flaws, analysis errors, ethical violations, misconduct, or legal issues. Retracted articles remain accessible with clear retraction notices. Indexing databases are informed.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Article submission is free of charge. It contains separate mandatory files including:

- 1.The manuscript, completely anonymised, including tables and figures
- 2.Title page
- 3.Cover Letter

General format

Manuscript should be typed in a word processing software, Microsoft Word®, with numbered pages, using "Times New Roman" font size 12, single-spaced, justified, with titles in bold and subtitles in italics. If abbreviations are used in the text, they must be explained upon their first appearance (unless they are international units) and, if numerous (≥5), grouped in a glossary. Drugs must be mentioned by their generic name or chemical name.

The manuscript must include:

- Title in French and English
- Abstract in French and English (structured according to the article type). Additionally, the

submission of a graphical abstract is strongly encouraged for original articles and meta-analysis.

- Keywords in French and English, up to six.
- Article written in the chosen language, French or English. The journal also accepts articles written in Arabic.
- For original articles, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses: a box consisting of 3 to 5 sentences summarizing "What is known" and "What this article adds".
- Bibliographic references, limited according to the article section, numbered in the order of appearance in the text and placed in parentheses (Arabic numeral). All references must be cited in the text (including those cited in figures and tables). References must be written according to "[Vancouver](#)" style. **Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) must be included in all references**, where available.

Tables and Figures

The total number of tables **and** figures must **not exceed six**. They should be inserted in the text at the time of citation rather than at the end of the manuscript.

Tables are numbered in Arabic numerals, in the order of appearance in the text (e.g., Table 1), with gridlines and columns, and without colour.

Figures are numbered in Arabic numerals, in the order of appearance in the text where they are cited (e.g., Figure 1). They must be of good quality, preferably in TIFF format, otherwise JPEG (200 ppi at the final print size, approximately 15x14 cm). Abbreviations should be avoided.

If the figure and/or table contain abbreviations, they must be explained below each table/figure in alphabetical order. Asterisks should be in lowercase letters as superscripts and explained below the table/figure in order: a, b, c, d...

Videos are accepted in AVI, MP4, or GIF format. They must not exceed 150 MB. Reproduction of previously published documents must be accompanied by permission from the publisher or copyright holder.

Title Page

It contains:

- Title in French and English
- Running title (according to the language of the article)

- The list of authors, presented in the order of contribution, **must include the ORCID identifier for each author**.
- Authors' affiliations written in a single line as follows: University of xxxxx, Faculty of Medicine of xxx, postal code, Hospital xxx, Service of xxx, Research structure (name and code), postal code, City, Country. This list of authors with their affiliations must exactly match the list submitted on the "La Tunisie Medicale" platform.
- Corresponding author's name and contact information (email address and phone number)
- Word count (excluding abstract, illustrations, and references)
- Conflicts of interest and funding sources: "La Tunisie Medicale" follows appropriate procedures and best practices regarding conflicts of interest published by [COPE](#) "Committee On Publication Ethics"
- Acknowledgments
- Any use of AI or AI-assisted tools, specifying where and how they were used (e.g., manuscript writing or language editing)
- If the article or its results have been previously presented as a published abstract (with its reference) or at a congress.

ARTICLE TYPES AND FORMATS

Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

The journal encourages these publications. They involve synthesizing data published in original articles and commented on by the author, who evaluates their scientific value. The bibliographic search must be exhaustive. The structure follows the IMRAD format (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) and complies with the requirements of [PRISMA](#) guidelines. The maximum **word count is set at 5000 words**. A structured abstract of up to **250 words** must be provided.

Original Article

This presents original scientific results in a format that allows understanding and, if possible, replication of the work. It must be written following the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion). Original articles are limited to fewer than **3000 words** (excluding the title page, abstract, references, tables, and figures) and fewer than **40 references**. A structured abstract (Introduction/Aim/Methods/Results/Conclusion) of up to **250 words** must be provided.

Depending on the methodology of the study, certain editorial guidelines must be followed.

- Prospective clinical trials: must be registered in an appropriate and freely accessible electronic registry (e.g., [clinicaltrials](#), [pan-african clinical trials registry](#)), following the recommendations of the [ICMJE](#).
- All randomized clinical trials must follow the [CONSORT](#) guidelines. Randomized controlled trials must be clearly identified as such in both the title and abstract.
- Observational studies must adhere to [STROBE](#) guidelines.
- Retrospective studies must follow appropriate reporting standards relevant to their study design

Research Protocol

It describes all the necessary steps for conducting a research project. It must be structured as follows: an introduction explaining the problem, the research question, methodology of data collection and analysis, the strengths, any limitations of the study, and the expected results. **It must not exceed 2000 words, 2 tables and figures, and 15 references.** The abstract must not exceed **250 words**, structured as: Background/Objective(s)/Methods/Expected results/Conclusion.

The registration number in an international public trial registration platform (e.g., [ClinicalTrials.gov](#)) must be provided at the end of the abstract.

Review

A review involves summarizing a subject for educational synthesis purposes. It is an educational article. The presentation plan is flexible and must clearly show the educational logic of the article through the use of different levels of titles and subtitles. The maximum **word count is set at 4000 words**. An abstract of up to **250 words** must be provided

Editorial

Letters comment articles already published in “La Tunisie Medicale” in the last 6 months. Letters must not exceed **1000 words and 5-10 references**. The first reference is the published article in “La Tunisie Medicale” that is commented. An abstract is not required.

Letter to the Editor

Letters comment articles already published in “La Tunisie Medicale” in the last 6 months. Letters must not exceed **500 words and five references**. The first reference is the published article in “La Tunisie Medicale” that is commented. An abstract is not required.

Clinical Case

Only clinical cases written in English are considered. They must follow the [CARE](#) recommendations. They consist of an introduction, an objective, the reported case, and a discussion with **a maximum of 10 references, at least one and up to three high-quality figures**. We encourage clinical cases with literature reviews (in this case, the number of references can reach 20). A structured abstract not exceeding **250 words** (Introduction/Observation/Conclusion) must be attached.

Image

This consists of presenting a single figure with a legend of up to **800 words and 5 references**. No additional text should be provided for this section.

Abstracts Accepted in Congresses and Consensus Developed by Scientific Societies

They will be accepted upon special request to the editorial committee by sending an email to the following address:

administration@stsm.latunisiemedicale.com and stsm.tunismed.contact@gmail.com

REVISION PROCESS

To submit revisions, the revised document must be uploaded to the platform in the "Revisions" section, including a point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments following the template at the following link ([Box 1 in English](#), [Box 2 in French](#)). The table must be inserted at the beginning of the revised manuscript, and all corrections made in the text must be **highlighted in yellow**.

PUBLICATION FEES

Submission to “La Tunisie Medicale” is free of charge. Upon acceptance, **a fee of 300DT (200€ for authors residing outside of Tunisia)** is required regardless of the article type. Publication will proceed only after payment. An email detailing the payment procedure

will be sent to the corresponding author.
NB. Authors residing outside Tunisia may request a
fee exemption by contacting:
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