

Definitions of Publication Misconduct

Fabrication

Fabrication is inventing data or results of research and recording or reporting them in order to deceive people.

Falsification

Falsification is inaccurate presentation of research results with the intention to give a false impression. This includes manipulation of research instrumentation, materials, and processes, changing, adding or omitting data, manipulating images, and omitting research results.

Scientific images for publication must be minimally processed. We understand that some image processing may be necessary. Applications of adjustments, such as brightness, contrast, or color are permissible as long as these adjustments are applied to an entire image uniformly and do not selectively enhance, eliminate, or mispresent any elements in the original image, including the background.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas, processes, results, words, or theories as if they were the author's own, without giving appropriate credit. This involves any part of the manuscript, including the figures and tables. All information and content that originate from other resources must be credited and cited, and included in the "References" section. Upon submission, the manuscript will be automatically checked for plagiarism by using plagiarism screening services or software to determine both text overlap and manuscript originality.

Redundant or Duplicate Publication

Articles that are being considered for publication in another journal, including advanced publications such as "in-press" or "E-pub ahead of print" articles, in any language will be regarded as redundant or duplicate publication.

ACE does not consider the deposition of manuscripts to preprint servers before submission to *ACE* to be redundant or duplicate publication.

The author should notify the editor formally about all submissions, postings, and previous reports that could be regarded as redundant or duplicate publication of the same or similar work. Any such material must be referred to and referenced in the submitted work. Copies of such work should be included with the submission. Abstracts

or posters presented at scientific meetings are not considered previously published work. Editorial actions should be expected if redundant or duplicate publication is attempted or occurs without such notification. Editorial actions may include: immediate rejection of the submitted manuscript, retraction of published work, a published notice of violation, and revocation of publishing privileges in the journal.

Citation Manipulation

Citation manipulation, such as inclusion of references from other publications without actually reading the cited work, or self-citing works that are irrelevant, must be avoided.

Improper Authorship/Contributorship

All authors listed in the manuscript must meet the following criteria of contribution described by the [ICMJE in the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals](#).

Exclusion of authors who made a definite contribution, or inclusion of individuals as authors who have not made a definite contribution to the work is not permitted. Consent to submit to *ACE* must be obtained explicitly from all authors prior to submitting a manuscript.

Salami-Slicing

“Salami-slicing” or dividing a single study into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions to other journals or the same journal is not permitted.

Noncompliance with Local Laws and Regulations

Authors must comply with local regulations and laws if the work involves animals or human subjects, or if it involves investigational drugs, recombinant products, new devices, or any chemical materials that may be hazardous in their use.

Copyright Infringement

All information and contents that originate from other resources must be credited and cited. If any copyrighted or previously published material, adapted, edited or otherwise, are used in the manuscript, the author must obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) prior to submitting the paper for review. Also, the authors must cite the source and indicate that permission has been received, as required by the copyright owner(s).

Failure to Obtain IRB Approval

Clinical research included in articles, which report on human subjects or materials of human origin, must comply with the provisions of the [Declaration of Helsinki](#), and it must be mentioned that the study has been approved by the relevant institutional or national review board (IRB). If no approval from any IRB was required, that must be explicitly stated in the manuscript.

Author's Undisclosed Conflict of Interest (COI)

All authors are required to report all potential conflicts of interest within the last three years, including specific financial interests, that are relevant to the subject of their manuscript. Any possible COI related to the study presented in the manuscript must be disclosed in the manuscript.