

Dental Materials Journal

Instructions to Authors



Aims and Scope	1
Manuscript Types	1
Journal & Ethics Policies	2
Peer Review Process	5
Copyright, Open Access and Fees	8
Manuscript Submission	9
Manuscript Preparation	9
Accepted Manuscripts	12
Contact	12

Aims and Scope

Dental Materials Journal is an open access, peer-reviewed journal published by the Japanese Society for Dental Materials and Devices. The journal publishes original research and review articles on basic and applied sciences in dental materials and biomaterials. Biological research that leads to materials and equipment development, and dental materials-related clinical science and instrumental technologies, also fall within the scope. All relevant materials are considered and include synthetic polymers, ceramics, metals and tissue-derived biomaterials. Articles that describe work at the forefront of dental materials and biomaterials research, in areas such as tissue engineering, bioengineering and artificial intelligence, are welcomed.

The journal is published continuously online as articles are available and collated into six issues per year. Articles are published online at the journal's J-STAGE website to a large and broad global audience of dental researchers, clinicians, practitioners and others interested in the field.

Manuscript Types

The journal welcomes two manuscript types, both of which are subject to peer review.

Original papers

Full length papers consisting of complete and detailed descriptions of a research problem, the experimental approach, the findings and appropriate discussion.

Review papers

Articles presenting novel or unique overviews of recent or important developments in the field. Reviews must be insightful and must address the question(s) of interest using appropriate and fully presented evidence; exhaustive general summaries will not be published. Authors should provide a draft title and outline to the editorial board by e-mail (per the details in the Contact section) before preparing and submitting a Review paper.

Journal & Ethics Policies

The journal upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing. Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described below.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints').

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they must first withdraw it from the journal.

Submission

The journal welcomes manuscript submissions from authors based anywhere in the world.

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript is original work. The journal may use Crossref's Similarity Check plagiarism software to screen manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the Editors' discretion.

Preprints

Authors may post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers (such as the Japan Science and Technology Agency-operated preprint server, Jxiv), either before or simultaneously with submission to *Dental Materials Journal*. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication, or published in a journal should not be posted on a preprint server. If a manuscript is accepted for publication in *Dental Materials Journal*, authors should update the preprint to include a link to the published journal article.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

Scooping

When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers

after the date of submission to the journal (or after the date of posting on a preprint server if the manuscript is submitted to the journal within 4 months).

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor.

Authors must follow the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Recommendations on ‘Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors’. The ICMJE recommends that authorship is based on four criteria: making a substantial contribution to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work; drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; approving the final version of the manuscript for publication; and agreeing to be held accountable for all aspects of the work. Any contributor who has met all four criteria should be listed as an author on the manuscript. Contributors who do not meet all four criteria should not be authors of the manuscript but may be included in the Acknowledgements section instead.

Given that Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as Large Language Models (LLMs) and various openly available services cannot meet the requirements above, they cannot be listed as an author of a manuscript.

Data falsification, data fabrication and image integrity

Authors must not falsify or fabricate data. Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

Reproducing copyrighted material

If a manuscript includes material that is not the authors’ own copyright, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright holder(s) to reproduce it.

If a manuscript includes previously published material, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright owners and the publisher of the original work to reproduce it. The authors must cite the original work in their manuscript.

Copies of all reproduction permissions must be included with the manuscript when it is first submitted.

Availability of data and materials

Authors must disclose the source of publicly available data and materials, such as public repositories or commercial manufacturers, by including accession numbers or company details in their manuscript, as appropriate.

Authors may make their own data and materials available by depositing the data in J-STAGE Data (see below), or other relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories, and linking this to the manuscript. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and consideration given to being made publicly available by the date of publication. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least ten years from the date of publication in the journal.

The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

J-STAGE Data

DMJ recommends that the data underlying the manuscript be made available on J-STAGE Data, a data repository operated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Authors who opt to make data available on J-STAGE Data should contact the Editorial Office for further instructions. If authors wish to publish data from J-STAGE Data, they must submit the data and its metadata to the editorial board for peer review. The copyright of the data published by J-STAGE Data is assigned to the JSDMD. Data is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 International license.

Animal/human experimentation

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki, its revisions, and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions. Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving animals or materials derived from animals must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the guidelines approved by the authors' institution(s).

Clinical trial registration

The journal adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) policy on Clinical Trials Registration, which recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. Manuscripts describing clinical trials must include the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools

As per COPE guidance, authors must disclose and fully describe any use of generative or non-generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (also known as Large Language Models or LLMs) in the Materials and Methods section. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI tools to collect or analyze data, produce or amend images or graphics used in the manuscript, or write all or part of the manuscript. Authors must describe which tools they used and how the tools were used. In general, the use of generative AI tools is allowed only where that use is an integral part of the research design or methods. Other use will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, authors remain responsible for all the content of their submitted manuscript.

Authors should be aware that there are ongoing concerns about the copyright status of any AI-generated content. Authors must adhere to the instructions in the ‘Reproducing copyrighted material’ section of this document and comply with relevant statutory and other copyright laws.

It is acceptable to use non-generative AI tools to improve the readability of a manuscript, such as checking spelling and grammar.

Reviewers and Editors must not upload unpublished manuscripts to any AI tool or service. Doing so would breach privacy and confidentiality provisions, as described elsewhere in this document. There are also potential copyright issues if unpublished material is uploaded to a third-party service.

Author competing interests and conflicts of interest

In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an author’s ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section of their manuscript.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. The journal encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including the journal, with Portico in a dark archive (see <https://www.portico.org/publishers/jstage/>). In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

Advertising Policy

The journal does not accept or publish advertising on its article pages or website.

Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-anonymized peer review. When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the an Associate Editor, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts

that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned, in principle, to two reviewers to assess each manuscript, however more may be sought if required.

Upon receipt of the reviewers' reports, the Associate Editor makes the first decision on the manuscript. If the decision is to request revision of the manuscript, authors have 3 months to resubmit their revised manuscript. Revised manuscripts submitted after this deadline may be treated as new submissions. The Associate Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have followed the Editor's and the reviewers' comments on the original manuscript.

The Associate Editor then makes a recommendation to the Editorial Board on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for making the final decision on each manuscript.

The members of the Editorial Board also act in advisory roles, providing feedback as reviewers and making suggestions to improve the journal. In cases where an Editor is an author on a manuscript submitted to the journal, they are recused from the peer review and final decision making process. The Editor-in-Chief acts as an arbitrator when necessary.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal. Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within 3 weeks of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

Acceptance criteria

If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Editor may recommend acceptance for publication in the journal.

Articles in the journal must be:

- within the subject area of the journal's scope
- novel and original
- descriptions of technically rigorous research
- of high interest to the journal's audience
- important additions to the field.

If a manuscript does not meet the journal's requirements for acceptance or revision, the Editor may recommend rejection.

Editorial independence

The Japanese Society for Dental Materials and Devices (JSDMD) has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The JSDMD will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests. The authors' ability to pay any publication charges has no bearing on whether a manuscript is accepted for publication in the journal.

Appeals

Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by the Editor-in-Chief, whose decision is final. The guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are followed where and when relevant.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors and reviewers will not:

1. disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure
2. discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review
3. use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
4. use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization
5. Share or upload the content of the manuscript with any AI tool or public platform.

In addition, reviewers will not reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript or involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first receiving permission from the Editor.

Editor and reviewer conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor or reviewer's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Reviewers and members of the journal's Editorial Board undertake to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An editor or reviewer who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the manuscript in question and is replaced by a new editor or reviewer.

Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias.

Errata and retractions

The journal recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of published literature.

A published article that contains an error may be corrected through the publication of an Erratum. Errata describe errors that significantly affect the scientific integrity of a publication, the reputation of the authors, or the journal itself. Authors who wish to correct a published article should contact the editor who handled their manuscript or the Editorial Office with full details of the error(s) and their requested changes. In cases where co-authors disagree over a correction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Correction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

A published article that contains invalid or unreliable results or conclusions, has been published elsewhere, or has infringed codes of conduct (covering research or publication ethics) may be retracted. Individuals who believe that a published article should be retracted are encouraged to contact the journal's Editorial Office with full details of their concerns. The Editor-in-Chief will investigate further and contact the authors of the published article for their response. In cases where co-authors disagree over a retraction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Retraction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief, who is an author on a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review process. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

A manuscript authored by an editor of the journal is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal.

Responding to potential ethical breaches

The journal will respond to allegations of ethical breaches by following its own policies and, where possible, the guidelines of COPE.

Copyright, Open Access and Fees

The journal uses open Creative Commons licensing from 1st April 2024. Articles published from this date can be used or reused without prior permission in ways defined by the Creative Commons license detailed below.

Copyright and licensing

From 1st April 2024, authors are required to assign all copyrights in the work to the JSDMD, who then publish the article under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license. This license allows users to share and adapt an article, even commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given.

The copyright in articles published before 1st April 2024 belongs to the JSDMD. Reuse of articles published before 1st April 2024 requires permission from the JSDMD, as outlined in the journal's copyright policy.

Article Processing Charge

There are many costs associated with publishing scholarly journals, such as those of managing peer review, copy editing, typesetting and online hosting. To cover these costs in the absence of journal subscriptions, authors (or their representatives) are asked to pay article processing charges (APCs). There is no submission fee.

The journal charges an APC of 40,000 Japanese yen for manuscripts of four journal pages or less, including tables and figures. Manuscripts that exceed four journal pages are charged an additional 9,000 Japanese yen per page. Authors of accepted manuscripts will be invoiced for the APC before publication of their manuscript. Articles appear online after payment is received.

Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system, Scholar One: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dmj>. Follow the instructions and supply the required information. The following formats are allowable:

- Text: doc, docx
- Tables: doc, docx or xls, xlsx
- Figures: pdf, jpg, bmp, tif, ppt, pptx, eps

All files can total a maximum of 20MB. For Figure and Table specifications, please see the relevant sections below.

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office using the details available in the Contact section.

Manuscript Preparation

Style

Manuscripts must set page size to A4 (297 mm×210 mm) using a word processor. Top, bottom and side margins should be 25 mm. Number all pages consecutively at the middle of the bottom margin. All text and file names should be free from non-English fonts; Times or Times New Roman fonts are adequate. The resolution of illustrations, photos and figures must be 300 dpi or higher.

Variables and abbreviations of Latin scripts should be written in italics ($p < 0.05$, *et al.*, *i.e.*).

English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. Authors whose primary language is not English are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript checked by a competent English speaker or by an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

Cover Letter

A cover letter must be included which includes the name of the manuscript and the contact details of the corresponding author. Authors should summarize the aims and outcomes of their work and how and why the work is appropriate for publication. Details of any relevant consent and/or ethics approvals, and other such items must be included in the cover letter.

Format

Manuscripts should include the following items:

- Abstract (100-150 Words)
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion (if included)
- Acknowledgments (if applicable)
- Conflict of Interest declaration
- References

Proprietary names of commercial products should be stated in parentheses by the brand name, model, company, city, state and country. For example:

- a cutting instrument (Komet-Brasseler, Lemgo, Germany)
- a luting cement (Maxcem, Kerr, Orange, CA, USA)

Title and title page

The title should describe the content of the article briefly but clearly and is important for search purposes by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in the field.

The title page of the manuscript should include the following items:

- Manuscript category (*i.e.* Original Paper or Review)
- Title (the head of title sentence in capital letters and the others in lower case)
- Full names of the authors (Sachio TAMAOKI¹ and Kanji TSURU²)
- Affiliations and addresses (including the all institutions' addresses;
 - ¹Section of Orthodontics, Department of Oral Growth and Development, Fukuoka Dental College, 2-15-1 Tamura, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka 814-0193, Japan
 - ²Section of Bioengineering, Department of Dental Engineering, Fukuoka Dental College, 2-15-1 Tamura, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka 814-0193, Japan)
- Keywords (3-5 words and the head of each keyword in capital letters)
- Number of reprints required (in multiples of 50)
- Corresponding author (full name; e-mail address: phone number, fax number)

Abbreviations

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses together with its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract).

Units

For units, the international system of units (SI), MKS-system and CGS system must be used. More information on SI units is available at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website.

Acknowledgments

This section should be brief and acknowledge those that have assisted in the work or preparation of the manuscript, but who do not qualify for authorship, as defined in the Authorship section. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section.

Conflict of Interest declaration

Authors are required to declare any competing financial or other conflicts of interest in relation to the work described. Please see the 'Author competing interests and conflicts of interest' subsection in the Journal & Ethics Policies for detailed information. If there are no declared interests, include a statement under the section heading "The authors declare no competing interests."

References

Cite references in the text should be in numerical order and used in superscript in line without any space (reference¹) reference^{1,2} or reference²⁻⁶). The journal follows the Vancouver referencing style; follow the sample references per the NLM guidelines. The references should be grouped in a section at the end of the main text in numerical order as they appear in the text and should take the following formats.

Journals

Authors' surname together with their initials (List the first six authors, followed by et al.), full title of the article, the abbreviated name of the journal (as shown in Index Medicus), year, volume, inclusive page numbers.

1) Tabira K, Kajimoto N, Minamisawa H, Sato T, Maruta M, Oka K, et al. Functional evaluation of mineral trioxide aggregate cement with choline dihydrogen phosphate. *Dent Mater J* 2023; 42: 485-492.

Books

Authors' surname together with their initials: title of the book, city of publication, publisher, year of publication, inclusive page numbers.

1) Tsuru K, Maruta M, Ishikawa K. In: Choi AH, Ben-Nissan B, editors. *Innovative and Intelligent Bioceramics in Translational Medicine*. Singapore, Springer Nature. 2022. p. 127-155.

Proceedings

1) Tsuru K, Nikaido T, Munar ML, Maruta M, Matsuya S, et al. Synthesis of carbonate apatite foam using beta-TCP foams as precursors. *Proceeding of the 25th Symposium and Annual Meeting of the International Society for Ceramics in Medicine*; 2013 Nov 7-10; Bucharest, Romania. Trans Tech Publications Ltd, Switzerland; 2014. p. 52-55.

Tables

Tables should be numbered according to their order in the text. Each table should be typed on a separate sheet and should be understandable without referring to the text. Standard deviations of values should be indicated in parentheses.

Figures

Figures should be numbered according to their order in the text. Each figure should be drawn separately. Figure captions must appear on a separate page after the References section.

The resolution of the photos and figures is desirable in 1200 dpi. Extra white space around figures should be erased. Further instructions on preparing TIFF files over 300 dpi must be followed when relevant.

Accepted Manuscripts

Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal's production team before publication. The journal is published in issues 6 times per year and continuously online as articles are ready to be published. All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

Proofs

Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should check and return them within 48 hours. Only essential corrections to typesetting errors or omissions are accepted; excessive changes are not permitted at the proofing stage.

Reprints

Order forms for reprints are sent with the proofs to the corresponding author and should be returned with the proofs. The orders can be placed in units of 50 copies.

Contact

To contact the Editorial Office or the Editor-in-Chief, please use the details below. All questions and contact sent by e-mail whenever possible to the editorial office should be titled as "DMJ-Inquiry".

The Japanese Society for Dental Materials and Devices
c/o Koku Hoken Kyokai, Komagome TS Building
1-43-9, Komagome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-0003, Japan
E-mail edit-dmj@kokuhoken.or.jp

Updated: 1.10.2024