GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

*Piel* is a journal oriented towards continuing education in dermatology. For this reason, its interest is not just limited to the Dermatologist, but it also extends to those physicians who started in this speciality, to those who practice outside the large hospital centres, and to those non-specialist physicians that are confronted with dermatological problems in their daily practice.

The focus of the journal clearly prioritises continuing education in dermatology, and the updating of topics, taking into account the latest advances that could be of interest to the reader. Articles have to make it easy to identify and assimilate the most relevant aspects of the subject.

To achieve this purpose, the journal is structured into sections: Novedades (Novelties), Revisiones (Reviews), Signos guía/Diagnóstico diferencial (Signs guide/Differential diagnosis), Casos para el diagnóstico (Cases for Diagnosis), La Piel en la práctica diaria (The Skin in daily Clinical Practice), Skin in the context of Medicine and its specialities, and Dermatological Therapeutics, among other topics. The journal's Editorial Committee ensures the rigour, quality, the practical interest, and the educational capacity, due to the careful selection of topics and authors, as well as for the variety of tables and illustrations that it uses.

**Types of article**

**Editorial.** The authors are asked to give a critical opinion on different aspects of the speciality (clinical, therapeutic, research, organisational, teaching), and in particular, their personal lines of thought on these. It is recommended to write the text without sections. The article should be introduced by establishing the knowledge bases on the topic, and pointing out the lines of future development. A maximum of 2 authors is accepted, with a length between 1,300 and 1,500 words and up to 20 literature references. No tables or figures are allowed in this section.

**Innovations.** Comments on current topics or scientific advances in aetiology, epidemiology, clinical, diagnosis or treatment. The comments may be based on recent articles in the literature on a particular topic. The opinion of the author on the mentioned topic is of special interest in the light of the new contributions. A maximum of 2 authors, a maximum length of 2,500 words, up to 20 literature references, and one Figure and one Table, being accepted.

**History of Dermatology.** A review and comments on the different historic aspects of the speciality. It must be accompanied by illustrations associated with their reason (photographs of people or institutions, maps, facsimiles of original publications, etc.). A maximum of 3 authors is
accepted, with a length between 2,500 and 3,500 words, and up to 40 literature references.

**Originals.** Preferably prospective works of basic research, clinical research, descriptions of series or other original contributions on aetiology, pathophysiology, histopathology, epidemiology, diagnosis, medical or surgical treatment, clinical management, research, or teaching. The articles of this section must be structured according to the following sections: Introduction, Material and methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusions. It will also be accompanied by a resumen/abstract in Castilian and in English, with a maximum of 250 words, structured as follows: Introduction, Methodology, Results and Conclusions.

A maximum length of 3,700 words will be accepted, as well as up to 40 literature references, and a maximum of six Figures and/or Tables. It is advisable that the number of signing authors does not exceed six.

**Clinical cases**

Clinical cases or short case series of high scientific and teaching interest. The text must be structured according to the following sections: Introduction, Clinical case, or Clinical cases, and Comments. A maximum length of 1,300 words will be accepted, as well as up to 25 literature references, and a maximum of two Tables and two Figures. The number of signing authors may not exceed six.

**Epidemiology and biostatistics**

A section intended for the presentation of works on the epidemiology of diseases of the skin. They can be reviews or specific studies performed by the authors. They can also be on topics of scientific methodology. It is important to provide Tables, Graphs and Diagrams. A length of between 2,500 and 3,500 words will be accepted, with up to 30 literature references and between 4 and 6 Tables and/or Figures. The number of signing authors may not exceed four. They will include the key points as described further down.

**Reviews**

Review article and update on a specific topic, developed by sections and with extensive literature references. Avoid long introductions or historical backgrounds. It must be no longer than 5,000 words in length, with up to 40 literature references, between 2 and 4 Tables, and 6 to 8 Figures. No more than 4 signing authors will be allowed.

**The skin in the context of Medicine and its specialities**

Original articles or reviews on a topic especially associated with other branches of medicine. They may include articles such as “Skin manifestations of... (systemic diseases)...”, or general problems with skin implications (e. g., immunological, biochemical studies, etc.). This section also accepts articles of general comments on one or several clinical cases in relation to systemic processes. A length of between 2,000 and 3,000 words is allowed, with a maximum of 25 literature references, between 2 and 4 Tables, and 6 to 8 Figures. No more than 4 signing authors will be allowed. They will include the key points as described further down.

**The skin in daily practice**

An article of a teaching character on common dermatoses, with a special emphasis on the clinical, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects, with a fundamentally practical approach. It should also point out what “should not be done”. It should constitute a work of promoting awareness of
skin diseases especially directed at the general practitioner. A length of between 2,000 and 3,000 words is allowed, with a maximum of 25 literature references, and between 2 and 4 Tables, and 6 to 8 Figures. No more than 4 signing authors will be allowed. They will include the key points as described further down.

Guide signs / differential diagnosis

An article of a teaching character, with a detailed clinical presentation of the dermatological signs or symptoms (e.g., isomorphic phenomenon), from which a differential diagnosis is established. The article should include classifications, Tables, etc. A length of between 2,000 and 3,000 words is allowed, with a maximum of 25 literature references, and between 2 and 4 Tables, and 6 to 8 Figures. No more than 4 signing authors will be allowed. They will include the key points as described further down.

Key points in the diagnosis of dermatology diseases

Article on the dermatopathological aspects of skin diseases. An approach from the histological findings to the key microscopic aspects of the diagnosis should be used, indicating the differential data with the most common processes. A length of between 2,000 and 3,000 words is allowed, with a maximum of 30 literature references, and between 2 and 4 Tables, and 10 to 12 Figures. No more than 3 signing authors will be allowed. They will include the key points as described further down.

Cases for diagnosis

Article presented in the form of a detailed clinical history, with a special emphasis on the clinical, histopathological and laboratory aspects, of interest for the diagnosis. This first part must be structured according to the following sections: clinical history, physical examination, and additional diagnostic tests. The second part must be structured with the following sections: diagnosis, outcome, comments and differential diagnosis, mentioning the similarities and differences with the diagnosis of the case. At the same time it should be accompanied by a comment on the correct diagnosis, and in the final part establish the differential diagnosis, mentioning the similarities and differences with the diagnosis of the case. The first part will have a maximum length of 200 words and between 2 and 4 Figures. The second part will have a maximum length of 450 words. The manuscript will have no more than 10 literature references, and a maximum of 3 authors.

Normal skin

An article explaining the physiological and histological aspects of normal skin, the mucosa and the skin appendages. It is advised to use diagrams and figures in this section. It will contain between 1,000 and 1,500 words, between 6 and 8 Tables and/ or Figures, and up to 30 literature references. A maximum of 4 authors are allowed. They will include the key points as described further down.

Diagnostic techniques

Article on the description of a particular technique, its basic indications, as well as its correct interpretation and usefulness in the diagnosis of skin conditions. It is essential to use the appropriate tables, diagrams or graphs. It will contain between 1,000 and 1,500 words, between 4 and 6 Figures, 2 to 4 Tables, and with up to 30 literature references. A maximum of 4 authors will be allowed. It will include the key points, as described further down.
**Aesthetic Dermatology**

A review article or personal experience on cosmetic treatments, products or techniques, with their effectiveness contrasted. The images provided should illustrate the technique and the outcomes, showing photographs or before and after the treatment. It will contain between 1,000 and 1,200 words, between 8 and 10 Figures, and up to 25 literature references. A maximum of 4 authors will be allowed. It will include the key points, as described further down.

**Dermatological surgery**

Description of dermatological surgery techniques, including those most commonly used as well as other original techniques used. The use of diagrams and/or drawings is recommended in order to illustrate the surgical technique presented, as well as photographs that show its steps and outcomes (before and after photographs). It will be between 1,000 and 1,200 words in length, contain up to 25 literature references. Up to a maximum of 4 authors will be allowed. It will include the key points, as described further down.

**Dermatological treatments**

Treatments review, describing groups of pharmacological agents, of systemic or topical use, pointing out their nature, form of action, and general indications, doses, and undesirable effects. It will also contain a review of the current treatment of a specific condition. This section will also contain articles on physical therapy, laser, or other non-surgical therapeutic methods. It will be between 1,000 and 1,200 words in length, with between 2 and 4 Tables, and up to 30 literature references. Up to a maximum of 4 authors will be allowed. It will include the key points, as described further down.

**Clinical Letters**

Clinical cases of interest that, due to their brevity or limitation of their contributions, cannot be accepted in the Clinical Cases section. The text must be written without sections. The maximum length will be 800 words, with up to 2 Figures, and up to 15 literature references. A maximum of 4 authors will be allowed.

**Letters to the Editor**

Comments on articles published in PIEL, and brief comments on any aspect of the speciality. The maximum length will be 800 words, with up to 2 Figures, and up to 10 literature references. A maximum of 4 authors will be allowed.

**Key points:** The articles for the Editorial sections: Reviews. The skin in the context of Medicine and its specialities, Daily practice, Epidemiology and biostatistics Guide signs, Key points in the diagnosis of dermatological diseases, Normal skin Diagnostic techniques Aesthetic Dermatology Dermatological Surgery, and Dermatological Treatments, must add at the end of the main text, and before the literature references, between 5 and 10 Key Points, each one with a single sentence (a maximum of 3 lines), which summarise the most important aspects of the article, and provide practical advice on the usefulness in daily clinical practice.

**Contact details for submission**

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**Submission checklist**
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For further information, visit our Support Center.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

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**Authorship**
All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

**Changes to authorship**
Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

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In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.

**Reporting clinical trials**
Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow
diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

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**PREPARATION**

**Peer review**

This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

**Use of word processing software**

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.
**Article structure**

*Subdivision - unnumbered sections*
Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

**Introduction**
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

**Material and methods**
Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

**Results**
Results should be clear and concise.

**Discussion**
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

**Conclusions**
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

**Appendices**
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
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- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article
was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Structured abstract**

A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

The headings will consist of: «Introduction», «Methods», «Results» y «Conclusions».

**Graphical abstract**

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site.

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**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using British spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Abbreviations**

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

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If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

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Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

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- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

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**References**

**Citation in text**
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.
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