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SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery (abbreviation to cite: **Robotics, Lap & Ebdosurg**), is an open access e-Journal and is the official publication of the **International Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery Association (ILRSA)**. It is a refereed journal published every four months, three times a year (**January, May, September**).

Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery provides an international platform for the presentation of articles, videos, surgical techniques and research related to robotic, laparoscopic and endosurgery.

No submission fee is required for manuscript submission and no fee is paid to the authors for submitting their work.

The editorial board has the authority not to publish articles that do not meet submission rules and to return them to the author for correction or to revise them.

The editors and redactors have full authority to correct the article regarding language, grammar and reference presentation and relevant matters according to the submission rules.

The article author has to obtain written permission from the publication rights owners and the authors, and to specify this in the article, if any previously published articles, tables, figures, etc. are used.

The Editor sends the article for the review of **at least two referees** if the article submitted to **Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery** conforms to the general requirements. The referees can provide approval for the article to be published once the requested changes are made in the article by the authors.

The authors are responsible for the opinions expressed in the article.

The copyright of the published articles belongs to the journal and cannot be reproduced even partially without the consent of the journal.

ETHICS

Scientific Responsibility

The authors are responsible for their article's conformity to scientific rules.

There must be a direct academic and scientific contribution of all authors in the submitted article.

The order of the authors' names must be a joint decision. **All writers must sign the author name order in the copyright transfer form. All the authors' names must be included under the article's title.**

Any individual who does not meet the criteria for authorship but has contributed to the article can be listed in the "Acknowledgements" section. These persons listed in the acknowledgements section also need to provide written consent.

Ethical Responsibility

The authors are responsible for the article's conformity to ethical rules.

Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery has made it a principle to conform to the ethic standards of the Human Experiments Committee of the 1975 Helsinki Declaration revised in 2000 (<http://www.wma.net/policy/b3.htm>). Therefore, all articles submitted for publication must specify that the ethic standards of the above

committee were adhered to. Any necessary permission documents from local and international ethics committees must also be sent with the article.

The authors must specify in the method(s) section that they performed the study according to these principles and that they obtained "informed consent" from their institution's ethics committees and the study participants.

If any "animals" have been used in the study, the authors must declare in writing in the material and methods section of the article that they have protected animal rights in their study according to the principles of the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" (www.nap.edu/catalog/5140.html) and that they received consent from the ethics committee of their institution and that they have also followed the institutional and national guidelines regarding the care and use of laboratory animals.

The editor and publisher make no warranties and assume no responsibility regarding the features and explanations of the commercial products advertised in the journal. The authors must specify in the references page that they have no commercial relations or the nature of the relation (consultancy, other agreements), if any, with the commercial product or drug used or the pharmaceutical company if there are any direct or indirect commercial connections or companies providing financial sponsorship for the article.

The Confidentiality and Privacy of Patients and Study Participants

Confidentiality may not be breached without the patient's permission. Descriptive information such as patient names, initials or hospital numbers, photographs and genealogy information, etc, cannot be printed unless absolutely necessary for scientific reasons and only after obtaining written informed consent from the patient (or parents or guardian).

The article must state that informed consent was obtained.

Relations with the editor, author(s) and referee(s)

The editor does not share information regarding the articles (article receipt, review process, referee opinions or final results) with anyone except the authors and referees.

When sending articles to the referees for review, the editor clearly states that the articles are the private property of the authors and that this correspondence is privileged. The referees and editorial board members cannot discuss articles in a public manner. The editors must send copies of the article to the Editor once their review is complete.

The referee reviews cannot be printed or disclosed without the permission of the author and the Editor. Care is taken to keep the identities of the referees secret.

In some cases, the Editor may decide to send referee opinions on the article to other referees reviewing the same article to inform them during the process.

CATEGORIES OF SUBMISSION

- **Case reports / Challenging cases / Case series**
- **Surgical technique**
- **Point of technique Video-article (Videosurgery)**
- **Mini-review**
- **Article summary with take home message and comment**

- **Research in robotics, laparoscopy & endosurgery**
- **Interview with the expert:** invited by the editor
- **How I do it?**
- **Special topic article:** invited by the editor
- **Meeting report:** invited by the editor

Covering Letter

A covering letter should be submitted with the manuscript signed by the corresponding author on behalf of the co-authors.

The corresponding author on behalf of the co-authors should confirm that the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration; no conflict of interest exists for any of the authors and no competing financial interest exists in relation to this work with any of the authors.

SUBMISSION

Please send your manuscript via e-mail to:

mailto:robotics.laparoscopy@gmail.com

MANUSCRIPT FORMATTING

Language

Submitted papers should be written in correct and simple English.

Style

Manuscripts should be formatted using **Arial, size 12 font, with double spacing.**

They should follow the style of the Vancouver agreement detailed in the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals as presented in J Pharmacol Pharmacother. 2010 Jan;1(1):42-58 [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3142758/>].

Measurements must be given in the International System of Units (SI). The preferred format for the text is doc or docx.

All abbreviations, except those obvious to non-specialists, must be defined when first used. Abbreviations used in tables and figures should be explained in the legends.

Latin terms and species names (e.g. *Escherichia coli*) should be italicized.

Title page

The title page should include a title, author names with affiliations, corresponding authors and contact details, word count for the main text, number of figures and the number of references.

Title

The title should not exceed **100 characters** including spaces.

Key Words

For indexing purposes, **3 – 5 key words** should be supplied. We advocate using terminology found in the MeSH Browser.

Tables and Figures

Tables and figures must supplement, not duplicate, the text. They should be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order they appear in the text. They should be sent as separate files. Tables must be submitted in Microsoft Word or an equivalent text editor file. Both figures and tables should be easily understandable without reference to the main body of the article (e.g. all abbreviations used in the tables and figures should be explained in the legends). Please remember to use decimal points (not decimal commas) and provide axis labels and units wherever needed.

Table and figure legends should be listed one after the other at the end of the main document, after the References. Please do not write a legend below each figure.

Figures

Figures must supplement, not duplicate, the text. They should be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order they appear in the text. They should be sent as separate files.

Figure legends should be listed one after the other at the end of the main document, after the References. Please do not write a legend below each figure.

Photographs (colored or black and white) must be of good quality, at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be submitted in tiff or jpg format. Figures and photographs will NOT be accepted if embedded into MS Office files. Each figure should include a magnification scale bar when appropriate; do NOT use magnification factors in the figure legends.

The figures must be professionally drawn or sent in photograph-quality digital format. The figures should be sent in publication-ready version and also as electronic files in JPEG, TIFF or GIF format electronic versions to provide high-resolution images and the authors should check the image quality on the computer screen before sending the files.

Symbols, arrows and letters should form a contrast with the background. The magnification and staining technique used should be specified in microscopic images.

If the photograph of a person is used, it should not be possible to identify the person from the photograph or written consent should be obtained (See the Ethics section). The text of the figures and images should be provided below using Arabic numbers. The text should be numbered according to the figure or image's order in the text. The location of the figures in the text should be specified. Every figure should be referred to in the text.

Acknowledgments

In this section, mention all people who contributed substantially to the study but cannot be regarded as co-authors, and acknowledge all sources of funding. Information should be brief, and should not include thanks to anonymous referees and editors, inessential words, or effusive comments. **Authors should obtain written permission to include the names of these individuals in the Acknowledgments section.**

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest exists when an author has financial or personal relationships or affiliations that could influence the author's decisions, work, or manuscript. **All authors must disclose their conflicts of interest that might possibly interfere with the**

submission. Otherwise the statement “The authors declare no conflicts of interest.” should be included. The corresponding author is responsible for sending this information on behalf of all authors.

References

The list of references cited in the text of the paper must be prepared according to the Vancouver system. Each reference should be numbered in the order of its appearance in the text, and marked with Arabic numerals in parentheses i.e. (1, 2, 3). The names of all authors should be listed if their number does not exceed six; for citations having seven or more authors, the names of the first three should be cited, followed by et al. Abbreviated titles of the journals cited should be consistent with their forms in Index Medicus (see also: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors: Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *N Engl J Med.* 1997; 336: 309–315).

Titles of sources published in a language other than English, should be cited in the original language unless the source has been indexed under an English translation. Titles and sources published in non-Latin script should be transliterated into the English alphabet. The English translation should be used if the reference has been indexed under a translated title. Literature unavailable to readers from other countries should be avoided if possible.

Examples:

Papers published in printed journals: Collins JW, Wiklund NP. A totally intracorporeal approach will improve patient choice. *Eur Urol.* 2013 Apr;63(4):644-5.

Papers published in online-only journals: Drewa T, Czerwiński M, Olkowska J. Stem cells within established cancer cell lines: an impact on in vitro experiments. *Stem Cell Studies.* 2011; 1: e7.

Papers in press: Deshmukh S, Sternberg K, Hernandez N, Eisner BH. Compliance with AUA guidelines for post-PCNL antibiotics does not appear to increase rates of infection. *J Urol.* 2015 Apr 29. pii: S0022-5347(15)03897-5. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2015.04.097.

Book chapters: Richie JP, Steele GS. Neoplasms of the testis. In Walsh PC, Retik AB, Vaughan ED Jr, Wein AJ eds, *Campbell's Urology*, 8th edn, Philadelphia: Saunders, 2002; Vol. IV, Chapt 81, pp. 2876–2919.

Plagiarism

Manuscripts are investigated for possible plagiarism once they are accepted for possible publication. The chief editor will decide on the publication of manuscripts following this evaluation.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

CASE REPORTS / CHALLENGING CASES / CASE SERIES

This section invites challenging case presentations with clinical and scientific value.

The word limit is **1500 words** (excluding the abstract but including the references and figures) as follows:

Title of the case report

- **Abstract:** maximum 100 words, unstructured
- **Introduction**
- **Case presentation**

- **Discussion**
- **Take home message:** up to 5 sentences
- **References:** maximum 10
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.
- **Up to 2 tables** can be included.

VIDEO SUBMISSION and accompanying POINT OF TECHNIQUE VIDEO-ARTICLES

This section invites edited videos of surgical techniques, point of techniques and challenging cases with clinical value.

A good quality video either with narration in the English language or with subtitles describing each surgical step in the English language **up to 30 minutes** duration is welcomed.

An accompanying presentation and description of the video as text (**Video-article**) **up to 2000 words** (excluding the abstract but including references and figures) are required as follows:

Title of the video

- **Abstract:** maximum 100 words, unstructured
- **Introduction**
- **Description of the surgery**
- **Discussion (optional)**
- **Take home message:** up to 5 sentences
- **References:** (maximum 5)
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.

Video File Requirements:

Preferred Settings:

Audio codec: AAC

Sample audio bit rate: 128 kbit/s

Video codec: H.264

Video resolution: 480 vertical lines or better

Format: MPEG-4 (mp4) container

Accepted formats: (mov, avi, mpg, mpeg, mp4, mkv, flv, wmv).

MINI-REVIEW

This section invites mini-reviews related with robotic and laparoscopic urology and surgery.

The word limit is **2500 words** (excluding the abstract but including the references, tables and figures) is required as follows:

Title of the case report

- **Abstract:** maximum 200 words, unstructured
- **Introduction**
- **Methods**
- **Discussion**
- **Take home message:** up to 10 sentences

- **References:** maximum 30
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.
- **Up to 4 tables** can be included.

ARTICLE SUMMARY WITH TAKE HOME MESSAGE and COMMENT

This section invites summary of a selected recently published article with clinical and scientific value.

The word limit is **800 words**

Title of the article with author names, author institutions and published journal (year, issue, pages)

- **Summary of the article**
- **Take home message with comment:** up to 10 sentences
- **References:** maximum 5 (Reference 1 should be the article that is summarized)

RESEARCH IN ROBOTICS, LAPAROSCOPY & ENDOSURGERY

This section invites research articles with clinical and scientific value.

The word limit is **3000 words** (excluding the abstract but including the references, tables and figures) is required as follows:

Title

- **Abstract:** maximum 250 words, structured (aim, methods, results, conclusions)
- **Introduction**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Discussion**
- **Take home message:** up to 5 sentences
- **References:** maximum 30
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.
- **Up to 4 tables** can be included.

INTERVIEW WITH THE EXPERT

This section is prepared by the author/authors who is/are invited by the editor.

- **Word limit:** 2000 words (excluding references, figures/pictures). The text can include subheadings.
- **References:** maximum 10
- **Up to 10 figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.

HOW I DO IT?

This section is prepared by the author/authors who is/are invited by the editor in order to explain a particular surgical or diagnostic technique.

- **Word limit:** 2500 words (excluding references, figures/pictures). The text can include subheadings.
- **References:** maximum 10
- **Up to 20 figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.

SPECIAL TOPIC ARTICLE

This section is prepared by the author/authors who is/are invited by the editor.

Special topics are related to robotic and laparoscopic urology. Examples include uro-radiology and radiologic imaging, nuclear medicine, uropathology, nursing, training and education etc.

The word limit is **3000 words** (excluding the abstract but including the references, tables and figures) as follows:

Title

- **Abstract:** maximum 200 words, unstructured
- **Introduction**
- **Methods**
- **Discussion**
- **Take home message:** up to 10 sentences
- **References:** maximum 30
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.
- **Up to 4 tables** can be included.

MEETING REPORT

This section is prepared by the author/authors who is/are invited by the editor in order to prepare a report about a meeting that is particularly related to robotic and laparoscopic urology and surgery.

- **Word limit:** 2000 words (excluding figures/pictures). The text can include subheadings.
- **Up to 20 descriptive figures/pictures** can be included with explanations in the text.

Proofs

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail alert to retrieve the proofs. Corrections should be returned to the editor within three days of receipt. Corrections should be kept to a minimum. Extensive changes will not be allowed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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Dear Colleagues,

As a urologist it is my great pleasure to express that developments in urology is far more ahead of the developments in other scientific disciplines. Especially, Endourology which currently takes place in the front line with it's surgical techniques. Developments started with percutaneous surgeries, then continued with Retrograde Intra Renal Surgery, Laparoscopy and Robotic Surgery.

Due to all these technological developments we have created a large editorial board for this journal consisting of expert scientists from different branches. We are planning to make this journal as a source of reference to apply, with your contribution.

We would like to invite you to share with us your Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery experiences and your articles, video and presentations and we expect you to visit our web page: www.robotictimes.org.

I believe this will be a great opportunity for all of us to share our knowledge, skills and experiences about surgical techniques and technological developments with other colleagues to contribute to scientific developments.

With my best regards,

Dr. I. Yasar Ozgok

Dr. I. Yasar Ozgok

Professor of Urology

Honorary Editor, Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery

Ankara, Turkey

October 2015



Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce you the new e-journal "Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery".

This journal is a peer-reviewed, open access and an international e-journal with an international editorial board that covers the subjects of robotic surgery, laparoscopic surgery and endosurgery. Although the majority of the articles included in the journal are related with urology, papers in the fields of general surgery, gynecology, E.N.T. and other surgical areas are also accepted. In addition, invited articles related with surgical pathology, radiology and imaging are included.

Type of articles includes research articles, case reports and case series, how I do it papers, mini-reviews, article summaries with take home message and meeting reports. In addition, video submission and accompanying point of technique video-articles are also welcomed. Edited videos could be up to 30 minutes of duration and authors have the chance of explaining the details of the presented video in the accompanying point of technique video-articles.

In the first issue, three video-articles related with robotic urology, robotic E.N.T and pure NOTES laparoscopic surgery are included. In addition, we have articles including case report, meeting report, article summary, visiting faculty experience and a special paper related with in memoriam of Professor Rolf Ackermann.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to submit your articles and videos to Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery and visit its website www.robotictimes.org. I hope this journal gives you all the opportunity of sharing experience and knowledge with published articles & videos in an international worldwide settings.

With kind regards,

Dr. A. Erdem Canda

Associate Professor of Urology
Editor, Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery
*Ankara, Turkey,
October 2015*



Dear Colleagues,

After a very hard work and fruitful cooperation with well-known centers and experts, we are introducing to you, your new e-journal "Robotics, Laparoscopy and Endosurgery".

You will be able to find in our journal all you need for updating you and practical and clear descriptions of the new and established techniques in Robotics, Laparoscopy and Endosurgery. Our first journals will be more focused on the urology but more articles in the other branches of the surgery as well as basic sciences will follow them.

We are inviting all our colleagues to submit their valued scientific work including case and teaching videos to the journal. In this way your scientific work will be able to reach the maximum number of colleagues and will be more cited. Sharing your knowledge will optimally impact the scientific level of the medical community.

One of our main issues is to improve the education in the fields of Robotics, Laparoscopy and Endoscopic surgery. Therefore, the educational papers, videos and point of technique repots are more than welcomed in our journal.

Now the word is yours and we welcome you cordially in our e-journal "Robotics, Laparoscopy and Endosurgery".

With kind regards,

Dr. Ali Serdar Gozen

Associate Professor of Urology

Associate Editor, Robotics, Laparoscopy & Endosurgery

Heilbronn, Germany

October 2015

