Scope

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* (E-ISSN: 2385-0868) is a **Scopus-indexed** three-monthly peer-reviewed publication, which provides a robust platform for clinical and surgical articles as well as basic and translational research about gynecology and obstetrics. As official Journal of the "Società Italiana di Ginecologia e Ostetricia" (SIGO), it publishes original articles (including retrospective/prospective observational studies and randomized controlled trials), narrative and systematic reviews (with or without meta-analysis), protocols for studies and systematic reviews, case reports, description of techniques, video articles, letters to the Editor unrelated to published articles, commentaries to published articles, Position Statements from National and International Societies, and conference proceedings (published as Supplements). Articles will be considered only if they may add significantly novelty compared to what was already published and available in literature. For conference proceedings, abstracts are evaluated and accepted by the Organizing Committee (clearly indicated in the Supplement, with name, surname, role and affiliation of each member), without formal external peer review by the Journal's Editor/Reviewers.

The Journal is published in open access, without any article processing charge for the authors in case of acceptance.

Editorial Policy

Duplicate submission or publication

A manuscript is considered on the understanding that it has been submitted exclusively to the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics*, the data presented have not been published elsewhere and that no additional submission will be made elsewhere unless the paper is rejected.

If there is any overlap with a previous publication, this should be clearly disclosed in the cover letter. If the work has been previously submitted in abstract form at a conference, this should be also detailed. If you are unsure whether a planned dissemination constitutes publication, please include the details.

Consent for the manuscript to be submitted to the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* should be gained by the corresponding author from all co-authors. This avoids two authors submitting the same paper to different journals without each other's knowledge. Not gaining consent from each author for submission to the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* could lead to inadvertent misconduct in the form of duplicate submission.

Data sharing and data availability

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* expects that data supporting the results in the paper will be archived in an appropriate public repository. Authors are required to provide a data availability statement to describe the availability or the absence of shared data. When data have been shared, authors are required to include in their data availability statement a link to the repository they have used, and to cite the data they have shared. Whenever possible, the scripts and other artefacts used to generate the analyses presented in the paper should also be publicly archived. If sharing data compromises ethical standards or legal requirements then authors are not expected to share it.

See the Standard Templates here: Template for data availability statement.

Clinical trial registration

Relying on published trials alone can provide a biased view of effectiveness and safety when assessing medical interventions. Therefore, all trials should be deposited in a public Clinical Trials Registry such as:

- **http://www.anzctr.org.au**
- **http://www.clinicaltrials.gov**
- **http://isrctn.org**
- **http://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr**
- One of the WHO primary registries, **https://www.who.int/clinical-trials-registry-platform/**

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* does not consider the posting of trial results in the above registries as prior publication, if the results are limited to a brief (500 word) structured abstract. This is in accordance with guidance from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* supports the AllTrials (https://www.alltrials.net/) initiative, which calls for all clinical trials to be registered and reported. However, for a trial to be published in the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* it must be prospectively registered, as detailed above.

Systematic review and meta-analysis registration

PROSPERO, the online international register for systematic reviews aims to reduce unplanned duplication and promote efficient use of resources. We recommend registration with PROSPERO for all systematic reviews to improve the transparency and rigour of secondary research but at present it is not a requirement. Please note that retrospective registration is not possible. Further information can be found here: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/

Disclosure of interests

Authors must include financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership or options, honoraria, patents, and paid expert testimony), personal, political, intellectual (organizing education) or religious interests, according to the ICMJE recommendations (http://www.icmje.org/disclosure-of-interest/).

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Authorship is a way of making explicit both credit and responsibility for the contents of published articles. Please note that to qualify for authorship an individual should meet all of the following criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
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Contributors who do not qualify for authorship should be included in the 'Acknowledgements' section.

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Each author should be clearly identified in the section "Authors contribution" with at least one role, according to the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy):

Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

For more information, refer to: https://credit.niso.org/

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The authors themselves should decide the order in which authors are listed in an article. Many different criteria are used to decide order of authorship. Among these are relative contributions to the work and, in situations where all authors have contributed equally, alphabetical or random order. Readers cannot know, and should not assume, the meaning of order of authorship unless the approach to assigning order has been described by the authors. Authors may want to include in the 'Contribution to authorship' section, a description of how order was decided.

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If the list of authors needs to be amended after submission, a letter explanation should be prepared, hand-signed (print-sign-scan procedure) by **all authors** including the author that is to be added/removed, and sent: editorialoffice@gynaecology-obstetrics-journal.com.

Ethical approval

Manuscripts that report the results of research conducted on human subjects should include a declaration that the study protocol was approved by the competent Ethics Committee, that the study was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards established in the Declaration of Helsinki of 1946, and that informed consent was obtained from all participants before enrolment in the study. All details that could reveal the identity of a patient (including initials of the patient name and unnecessary reference to personal data such as occupation and residence) must be omitted from the text and illustrative materials. The patients must provide written informed consent to the publication.

If experiments have been conducted on animals, the study must have been conducted in accordance with the International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the use of laboratory animals, and such adherence must be explicitly stated in the manuscript.

If a paper has been submitted from a country where there is no ethics committee, institutional review board, or similar review and approval, authors should explain how the study adhered to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/

Patient consent and confidentiality

A case report submitted to the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* should always have consent from the patient before publication. If consent cannot be obtained, then the author should provide evidence that steps have been taken to obtain consent and the case report should be sufficiently anonymized. If the patient is deceased, then the Data Protection Act does not apply. However, authors should seek permission from the patient's next of kin where possible.

In case reports where it has not been possible to obtain patient consent the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* Ethics Committee will assess that all necessary steps to obtain consent have been taken and that the case has been sufficiently anonymized.

Declaration of transparency

Articles will not be considered unless the lead author has affirmed in the cover letter, on behalf of the co-authors, that their manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; that no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

Core Outcomes in Women's and Newborn Health (CROWN)

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* supports the CROWN initiative (https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/handle/10044/1/48234), aimed to facilitate the embedding of core outcome sets in research practice. We therefore ask authors to consider the following:

- The importance of outcomes reported should be covered in the manuscript.
- The methods section should include whether a core outcome set (COS) was used when designing the trial
- If a COS has been used this should be stated
- If a COS has not been used, the CROWN database should be checked to comment on whether a relevant COS exists or is in development
- If a COS has not been used, this should be analyzed in the discussion section of the paper.

Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR)

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* supports the EQUATOR (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research) Network is an international initiative that seeks to improve the reliability and value of published health research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting and wider use of robust reporting guidelines.

Authors are requested to follow the EQUATOR guidelines and their extensions (https://www.equator-network.org/), for each type of study:

- Randomised trials: CONSORT (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/consort/)
- Observational studies: STROBE (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/strobe/)
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- Quality improvement studies: SQUIRE (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/squire/)
- Economic evaluations: CHEERS (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/cheers/)
- Survey studies: CROSS (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/a-consensus-based-checklist-for-reporting-of-survey-studies-cross/)

Authors must upload a checklist, available through the EQUATOR website (https://www.equator-network.org/), according to the type of the study. This step is mandatory during the submission.

Patient and Public Involvement

The *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* encourages active patient and public involvement (PPI) in research.

We request authors of papers describing any study, including but not limited to randomized controlled trials and systematic reviews, to provide a statement in the methods section if and how patients were involved in the research. Please state if patients were not involved. Please be assured that the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics* will consider papers that have not engaged with patients in the development of the trial; we are simply looking for transparency and standardization in reporting.

If there has been patient involvement authors may include 'Patient involvement' as a subheading within the Methods section in the same way as 'Statistical methods' can be reported under a subheading.

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If the submitted manuscript receives major or minor revisions after the external peer review and editorial evaluation, the authors must submit a letter with point-to-point answers to all the comments by the Editor and external reviewers (see template for this purpose: Answer to Editor and Reviewers) when they will submit the revised version of the manuscript, with changes clearly highlighted (use red color or track changes function of Word).

Submitted contributions are accepted for publication on the basis of scientific interest and relevance for the *Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics*, at the final discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. All the peer review system is single blind, at least two external anonymous reviewers are involved, and their evaluations are blinded to the authors. External reviewers will be selected based on their expertise and publication track (i.e. number of articles published on the topic), bibliometric parameters (total citation count and h-index) and Country (i.e. the handling editor will select preferably potential reviewers of Countries different from the ones of the authors).

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