Editorial

On impact of articles published in Heart, Vessels and Transplantation and on responding to reviewers` comments

Dear Readers,

In this last issue for year 2019, we are glad to announce that our journal now is being read in 163 countries and 3353 cities around the world. Total downloads of articles has reached 130178. You may find the most read and downloaded articles for years 2017, 2018 and 2019 in Table 1 (With special thanks to our web editor Pavel Tiumkin for preparation of statistics and table).

Heart, Vessels and Transplantation is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal, which means manuscripts undergo review by editors and external reviewers, experts in the field of the topics, presented in manuscripts. We implement a double-blind peer-review process (1), when neither authors nor reviewers are aware of each other’s identities. Reviewers` role is very important in reviewing of articles, based on their theoretical and practical expertise they provide comments that improve clarity and quality of reviewed manuscripts (1-5). Their work is volunteer and without monetary compensation. Authors should understand and acknowledge significance of peer-review process, reviewers` and editors` comments when receive the decision letters from editors: accept, accept with minor revision, accept with major revision (often revise and resubmit), reject. When receive a letter with query of revision, authors have a chance to revise manuscript according with comments of reviewers and editors and increase the likelihood of their manuscript to be accepted for publication. Evidence showed that when revision was experienced as difficult and complex by authors, they were also more satisfied with improvements in their article because of peer-review (6).

However, due to lack of experience (5, 7) it is not uncommon also when editors receive only revised version of manuscript with or without cover letter, but often without list of changes and responses to reviewers` comments. Many editors addressed issues of dealing with decision on articles and creating response to reviewers` and editors` comments (2-5, 7-11), thus guiding authors how to participate in peer-review by responding to comments, revising and improving quality of their work.

There are several main rules of responding to reviewers` comments: respond completely, politely and with evidence (9) and as soon as possible without delays (11).

Read carefully editors` decision letter and reviewers` comments, instructions for authors. The letter from editor might contain additional instructions how to submit revision. Read and revise your manuscript in view of proposed changes and comments.

Address for Correspondence: Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Heart, Vessels and Transplantation
Email: editor@hvt-journal.com
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Reviewers’ comments generally include major general comments on the study and specific comments. Prioritize comments, as they may include recommendations and requests regarding clarification of text, providing additional methodological details of study; data interpretation; request to re-analyze data or to conduct new additional experiments. It is advised to thank reviewers first, then respond to each comment completely, and politely, provide the changes in manuscript done according with reviewer’s recommendation/comment. Remember reviewers’ work is volunteer and is aimed to improve your study presentation. In case of requests to re-analyze data, consider your options if necessary seek statistician advice; if there is recommendation to conduct additional experiments – set the new protocol and start work. In both circumstances, if you feel it will take longer time (>21 days for our journal) to revise, notify editors and ask for extension of revision time. If the requests of reviewers cannot be met, for example conducting new experiments in the absence of necessary equipment is not possible; you should politely explain why it cannot be done and inform also editor. If you disagree with reviewers’ comments, do it respectfully and politely, supporting with evidence (available literature).

Although reviewers are the experts in the field of your study, their expertise might cover different aspects and there might be sometimes diverse opinions of reviewers. You should respond politely why you prefer one opinion to another, supporting by evidence.

Often, shortening of manuscript is requested, you should follow the recommendation to do so. As the submission of manuscript, its evaluation and responding to reviewers’ and editors’ comments take time, it is advised to re-check available literature on the topic before submitting revision.

Arrange your responses to reviewers’ and editors’ comments document in the following order: copy and paste comments of reviewers and place your answer below each comment in different font, style, include specific changes (additions, deletions) in document denoting page, paragraph and lines. Enumerate reviewers’ comments (Reviewer 1, Comment 1, Reviewer 2, Comment 1). Submit your Responses to reviewers’ and editors’ comments document along with cover letter to the editor and revised manuscript. Avoid unnecessary delays in submitting revision.

In this issue of the journal, we published research articles on structure of chronic heart failure referrals and hospitalizations in tertiary centers, outcomes of combined surgery, review article on advanced methods of left ventricular function assessment, very rare case report on complication of valve replacement surgeries, two interesting quizzes on ICD therapy and electrocardiogram, news from arrhythmia school and papers from two conferences.

The journal now has online manuscript submission system – www.hvt-journal.com/submission/login, one should first register to obtain an account (www.hvt-journal.com/submission/register) and start uploading manuscript and submitting it. All manuscripts should be submitted using online submission system, though we continue to receive by email as well for some period of time.

With best wishes in 2020 and we look forward for manuscripts submissions.

Gulmira Kudaiberdieva
Editor-in-Chief
Heart, Vessels and Transplantation

Peer-review: Internal

Conflict of interest: None to declare

Authorship: G.K.

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References


Table 1. The Most Downloaded Articles – Heart, Vessels and Transplantation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Volume/Issue</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>DOI</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
<th>Views</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017; Vol 1: Issue 1</td>
<td>Atria: A comprehensive evaluation with echocardiography</td>
<td>10.24969/hvt.2017.8</td>
<td>2397</td>
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<td>2017; Vol 1: Issue 1</td>
<td>Interpretation of uncommon ECG findings in patients with atrial flutter</td>
<td>10.24969/hvt.2017.6</td>
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<td>Ahead of print publication</td>
<td>On sweet undeniable feeling of power of international intellectual feudalism, bias, discrimination, censoring, theft, and yet cloud of rumors again – Part 1</td>
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<td>2018; Vol 2: Issue 2</td>
<td>Echocardiographic evaluation of heart valve prosthetic dysfunction</td>
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<td>Answer to Quiz Electrocardiogram on page 65 and case discussion</td>
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<td>Technological advances in cardiac pacing and defibrillation</td>
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<td>The experience of teacher’s academic mobility of the University of Girona (Spain) and I.K. Akhunbaev Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (Kyrgyzstan) in the framework of the international program Erasmus+</td>
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