**AUTHORS’ CHECKLIST**

**Title**

[ ]  Does it really reflect the content of the manuscript?

[ ]  Does it avoid statements not supported by the data?

[ ]  If a ‘creative’ title is chosen, make sure that it is scientifically appropriate

**Abstract - Introduction and objectives**

[ ]  Start with a brief introduction of the subject of the study

[ ]  Make sure that the objectives of the study are clearly stated

**Abstract – Methods**

[ ]  Start with study design, context, and participants

[ ]  Check that the basic methodology used is mentioned

**Abstract – Results**

[ ]  Start with the results of the primary objectives

[ ]  Make sure you included the main results you wish to report

[ ]  Ensure that the section ends linking the results and conclusions

**Abstract – Conclusions**

[ ]  Ensure that ‘the message’ of the article has been explained

[ ]  Avoid repeating the results

[ ]  Ensure that you have not extrapolated beyond the available data

**Keywords**

[ ]  Have you chosen the most important keywords from the title?

[ ]  Has the main topic of the manuscript been included as one of the key words?

**Introduction**

[ ]  Make sure that the general subject has been raised

[ ]  Briefly mention the current literature and its gaps, if any

[ ]  Justify the need for this study

[ ]  Make sure the study hypothesis is mentioned

[ ]  Describe the main references

[ ]  Check that all abbreviations have been explained on first use

**Methods**

[ ]  Have you detailed the design of the study, the physical context and the time frame?

[ ]  Have you detailed the inclusion and exclusion criteria?

[ ]  Have you reported the outcome measures? Are the primary-secondary variables or objectives of the study defined?

[ ]  Have you defined the primary and secondary objectives?

[ ]  Have you detailed the basic methodology?

[ ]  Describe all special tests carried out initially and during follow-up

[ ] - Describe the follow-up, clinical or otherwise

[ ]  Include the brand, company and country of the material used

[ ]  Make sure that the relevant ethics committee approval has been obtained

[ ]  Has the statistical methodology been detailed?

**Results**

[ ]  Is the results section direct and concise?

[ ]  Does it include a flow chart of patients?

[ ]  Does it adequately describe the population included?

[ ]  Are the primary and secondary objectives explained?

[ ]  Have you explained the key results?

[ ]  Except for the most important results, avoid duplicating the results of the tables in the text

**Discussion**

[ ]  Does the first paragraph of the discussion summarize the main findings of the study?

[ ]  Have you compared and contrasted your work with the available literature?

[ ]  Include a paragraph with the limitations of the study

[ ]  Does the last paragraph elaborate on the conclusions drawn?

[ ]  Are the implications of the main conclusions mentioned?

[ ]  Check that your claims are supported by solid data

**Acknowledgements**

[ ]  Have you acknowledged the funding agencies, if any?

[ ]  Have you acknowledged people who have collaborated in the study but do not meet the authorship criteria?

**References**

[ ]  Make sure that the references fit the requirements of the journal

[ ]  Make sure that the main references are mentioned in the introduction

[ ]  Where appropriate, cite your previous works on the topic

**Figures and tables**

[ ]  Have the instructions of the journal been followed?

[ ]  Are the figures clear and of good quality?

[ ]  Are the tables clear, concise, and complete?

[ ]  Avoid duplication of data presented in the text

[ ]  Make sure all figures and tables are cited sequentially in the text

 **Ethics**

[ ]  Verify that the declaration of ethical approval is complete

[ ]  Provide the statement of contribution and authorship

[ ]  Include the declaration of conflict of interest, even if there are no conflicts

[ ]  Detail the sources of funding and their role in the study, if applicable

[ ]  Make sure to obtain the reproduction permits to reuse previously published figures or tables