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