Guide to preparing and submitting figures





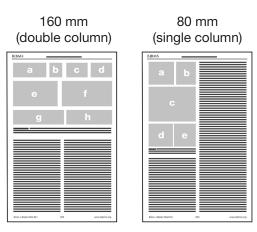
RGB

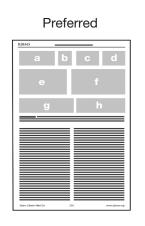
Your artwork will be converted to CMYK for printing in the journal, but the RGB color space will be

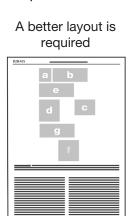
preserved in the online PDF.

when the resolution is lower.

CMYK







File format, resolution & color

All photographic images and figures can be supplied at a resolution of 300 dpi. Anything above that is too large, and may take additional time to load.

To upload files to the web, they must be resterized or flattened. Export and save each figure as a JPEG or PNG file. For clear visibility, files must be as small as possible and not exceed 5 MB.

Files must be saved in RGB for maximum saturation and small file size for optimal online viewing.

Fonts & text

All text should be written in a sans-serif font, preferably Arial. Seperate panels in multi-panelled figures should be labeled in 10pt bold, upright (not italic), and capitalized A, B, C, etc. The maximum font size for all other text is 12pt and the minimum font size is 8pt.

Figure sizing & panel arrangement

Supply the files in a size suitable for printing. The standard image sizes used by Biomolecules and Biomedicine are 80 mm (single column) and 160 mm (double column). Total page depth is 170 mm (approximate height to fit legend below). Minimize white space and ensure that the panels are properly aligned.

Biomolecules & Biomedicine

Copyright

Figures downloaded from the internet should never be submitted if their copyright status is unclear. Also, please be aware of any copyright concerns related to printed material and do not submit a photograph or scanned image if you are unsure of the copyright status of the original image. Please contact the appropriate editor to clarify copyright status.

Figure titles & legends (captions)

Include a title for each figure at the end of the manuscript. The title of each figure should be a concise sentence of no more than 10 to 15 words. A figure legend (caption) may include a brief explanation of the figure or its markers and an explanation of abbreviations, if needed. In the legend for photomicrographs, indicate the type of specimen, the original magnification or a scale bar, and the stain. Label all rulers used for gross pathology specimens with the unit of measurement. Digitally processed images such as computed tomography scans, magnetic resonance images, photographs, photomicrographs, and x-ray films must be labeled as processed or manipulated in the figure legends.

Figures with annotations

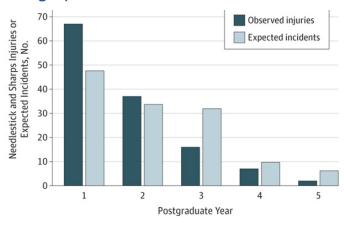
Photographs, clinical images, photomicrographs, gel electrophoreses, and other figures containing labels, arrows, or other markings must be submitted in two versions: one with and one without markings. Explain all labels, arrows, and other indicators in the figure legend.

General figures guidelines

- Primary outcome data should not be presented in figures alone. Exact values with measure of variability should be reported in the text or table as well as in the abstract.
- All symbols, indicators (including error bars), line styles, colors, and abbreviations should be defined in a legend.
- Each axis on a statistical graph must have a label and units of measure should be labeled.
- Do not use pie charts, 3-D graphs, and stacked bar charts as these are not appropriate for accurate statistical presentation of data and should be revised to another figure type or converted to a table.

- Error bars should be included in both directions, unless only 1-sided variability was calculated.
- Values for ratio data—odds ratios, relative risks, hazard ratios—should be plotted on a log scale. Values for ratio data should not be log transformed.

Bar graph



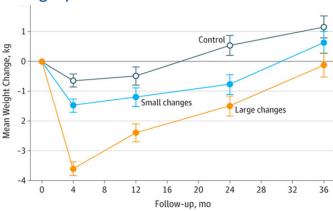
To present frequency data (numbers or percentages). Each bar represents a category.

Bar graphs are typically vertical but when categories have long titles or there are many of them, they may run horizontally.

The scale on the frequency axis should begin at 0, and the axis should not be broken.

If the data plotted are a percentage or rate, error bars may be used to show statistical variability.

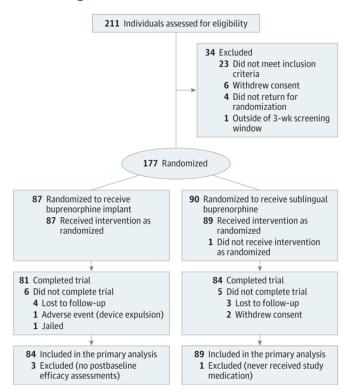
Line graph



To demonstrate the relationship between 2 or more quantitative variables, such as changes over time.

The dependent variable appears on the vertical axis (y) and the independent variable on the horizontal axis (x); the axes should be continuous, not broken.

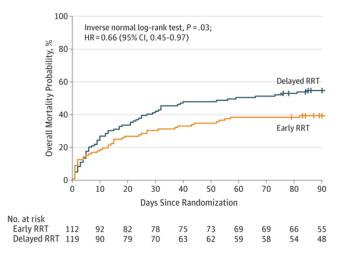
Flow diagram



To show participant recruitment and follow-up or inclusions and exclusions (such as in a systematic review).

Follow EQUATOR Reporting Guidelines

Survival plot

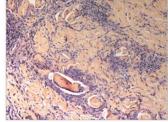


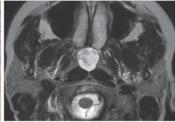
To display the proportion or percentage of individuals (represented on the y-axis) remaining free of or experiencing a specific outcome over time (represented on the x-axis).

The curve should be drawn as a step function (not smoothed).

The number of individuals followed up for each time interval (number at risk) should be shown underneath the x-axis.

Photographs and other clinical images





To display clinical findings, experimental results, or clinical procedures, including medical imaging, photomicrographs, clinical photographs, and photographs of biopsy specimens.

Legends for photomicrographs should include details about the type of stain used and magnification.

Required minimum resolution for publication: ≥300 ppi

Box-and-whisker plot (box plot)

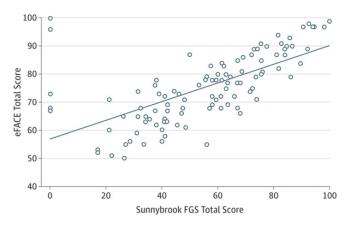
To show data distribution from 1 or more groups, particularly aggregate/summary data.

Each element should be described (the ends of the boxes, the middle line, and the whiskers). Data points that fall beyond the whiskers are typically shown as circles.

Dot plot

To display quantitative data other than counts or frequencies on a single scaled axis according to categories on a baseline (horizontal or vertical). Point estimates are represented by discrete data markers, preferably with error bars (in both directions) to designate variability.

Scatterplot



To show individual data points plotted according to coordinate values with continuous, quantitative x- and y-axis scales.