

BLOOD TRANSFUSION – AUTHOR GUIDELINES
OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS (OJS)

(rev. 0 – January 16, 2023)

1. INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS (including editorial standards for the preparation of manuscripts)

Blood Transfusion (BT) is a bimonthly, peer-reviewed Journal founded in 1956 by the Italian Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology (Società Italiana di Medicina Trasfusionale e Immunoematologia, [SIMTI](#)).

It is the official journal of [SIMTI](#), Italian Association of Hemophilia Centres (Associazione Italiana dei Centri Emofilia, [AICE](#)), Croatian Society of Transfusion Medicine (Hrvatsko Društvo za Transfuzijsku Medicinu, [HDTM](#)) and Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion and Cellular Therapy (Sociedad Española de Transfusión Sanguínea y Terapia Celular, [SETS](#)).

It publishes Original Articles, Reviews, Editorials, Commentaries, Guidelines/Recommendations, Position papers, Case reports and Letters on all topics related to Transfusion Medicine, Immunohematology, Hemostasis and Thrombosis.

The main fields of interest are:

- Transfusion medicine
- Immunohematology
- Blood donation and donor recruitment
- Cellular therapy and regenerative medicine
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and cord blood banking
- Hemostasis and thrombosis
- Patient Blood Management
- Hemovigilance
- Organization and quality systems in transfusion medicine
- Legal and ethical aspects of transfusion medicine
- Transfusion transmitted diseases
- Immunogenetics
- Hematology
- Therapeutic apheresis
- Collection, production and storage of blood components
- Other

BT follows the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([ICMJE](#)) Recommendations. It is published in English, though proceedings of Congresses and Meetings may be published in the original language.

Authors' opinions may not necessarily reflect those of SIMTI and the other Affiliated Societies or Editorial Board of Blood Transfusion.

Blood Transfusion is a **Free On-Line Access Publication**, as the Editorial Board and all the Affiliated Scientific Societies believe that papers reporting the results of scientific research should be openly and freely accessible by the entire scientific community.

Authors are also strongly recommended to read the following Guidelines and to download the [“Template”](#).

Authors need to register with the journal (<https://www.bloodtransfusion.it>) prior to submitting their article via the online submission platform (Open Journal Systems [OJS]) or, if already registered, can simply log in and begin the submission process which is guided by OJS. Authors will be required to fill in a checklist as a first step of the submission process.

- The official language of the journal is English.
- Texts must be original and should not be presented simultaneously to more than one journal.
- All scientific papers are published in English with title, abstract and key words. When needed the text of accepted articles will be submitted to English language review by the publisher at no costs to the Authors. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any article not written in an appropriate English style. Only papers strictly adhering to the editorial instructions outlined herein will be considered for publication. Acceptance is upon the critical assessment by experts in the field (Reviewers), the introduction of any changes requested and the final decision of the Editor-in-Chief.
- Submission implies that publication has been approved by all co-Authors, as well as by the Director of the Institute or Department where the work has been carried out.

TEMPLATE TO PREPARE THE MANUSCRIPT

Before you prepare your manuscript, download the "[Template](#)" and use it as a starting point for your manuscript. If you already have prepared your paper, please use "copy - paste special - unformatted text" to enter your text in the Template. Please prepare a complete manuscript in the Word Template and save it in .doc(x). Upload all figures and Online Supplementary content in separate files. Further instructions are available on the "template" and are also indicated below.

2. AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT FORM

The corresponding Author must fill in the Authorship Statement form during the submission process.

3. COMMUNICATION

Communication between the Journal and the corresponding Author is managed by the OJS system.

Corresponding Author should use **only** the discussion boxes to communicate with the Journal.

After submission, you will receive a confirmation of receipt of your manuscript via OJS. You can also check the status of your manuscript on the website. The Editorial Office will inform you via OJS once a decision has been reached.

4. PUBLICATION FEE

Blood Transfusion is a free access Journal with no manuscript submission fee.

For accepted manuscripts the publication fees are as follows:

- Invited articles (Editorials, Commentaries, Reviews): Free of charge.
- Original articles, uninvited articles (Guidelines, Reviews, Editorials, Brief report, Commentaries etc.): € 820 (plus VAT when applicable).
- Case reports: € 625 (plus VAT when applicable).
- Letters to the Editor: € 82 (plus VAT when applicable).

Publications from SIMTI members are free of charge: the corresponding Author must be a regular SIMTI member.

The Editorial Office will contact the corresponding Author before the stage of production to settle the payment.

The Editorial Office will contact the corresponding Author before the acceptance phase to settle the payment and then proceed with the copyediting.

Galley proofs will be sent via OJS to the corresponding Author for final approval. The Authors are required to carefully check the proofs and return them within 7 days of receipt. **Substantial changes in title, authorship, affiliations, content, corrected values and references are not allowed without the approval of the Editor-in Chief.** If the proofs are not received in time, the Authors will have to rely on the Editor's corrections only. The Authors are responsible for mistakes that have been overlooked. The date of receipt and the date of acceptance by the Section Editor – Editor-in-Chief will appear on each publication. The article is usually published online first after receipt of the corrected proof. A pdf of all articles published are

available in free access in the section [AHEAD-OF-PRINT](#). Paper reprints will be provided only if requested by the Authors and will be charged at extra cost.

5. MANUSCRIPT FORMAT

5.1 General instructions

Blood Transfusion publishes the types of articles defined below. When submitting your manuscript, please follow the instructions relevant to the applicable article category. Your manuscript will be returned to you if it does not meet these criteria.

Please prepare a complete manuscript in the Word “[Template](#)” and save it in .doc(x). Do not format the text in any way (avoid styles, borders, shading...); use only character styles such as italics, bold, underlined, super and subscript. Do not send the text in PDF.

Text should be arranged as follows:

- A concise and informative title not exceeding 120 characters including spaces.
- Running title not exceeding 60 characters including spaces.
- The Authors’ full first names and surnames.
- Name and address of the Institute or Institutes where the work was carried out; if the Authors are affiliated with different Institutes, the first Author and any others from the same Institute should be indicated with 1 (in superscript), the names of the Authors from another Institute with 2, and so on.
- Name (written in full), surname and address of the corresponding Author, including telephone and e-mail address, to whom galley proofs are to be addressed.
- Type of article: categorize the article in one of the following types: *Original Article/Review article (meta-analysis)/Commentary/Editorial/Brief Report/Case Report/Guideline-Recommendation/Letter to the Editor*.
- The abstract of original articles and reviews should be clear and concise and should not exceed 300 words. For all other manuscripts, a short description of the paper is necessary.
- Key words max 5. Please use terms listed in the Medical Subject Headings from Index Medicus (<https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/search>);
- Main body of manuscript: see specific instructions for article categories, below.
- Units of measurement should be expressed in the International System of Units.
- Mathematical terms and formulae and abbreviations should conform to the standards set out in <https://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>. Use only standard abbreviations. The spelled-out abbreviation followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis should be used on first mention unless the abbreviation is a standard unit of measurement. Drugs should be referred to by their chemical name; the commercial name should be used only when absolutely unavoidable (capitalizing the first letter of the product name and giving the name of the pharmaceutical firm manufacturing the drug, town and country).
- Acknowledgements and mention of any financial/conflict of interest and/or source of funding (grants or other forms of support) should appear at the end of the paper, before the list of references. Even in case of no financial/conflict of interest or source of funding, please specify it in this section.

5.2 Tables and figures

5.2.1 **Tables** should be typewritten and numbered consecutively with Roman numerals. The same data should not be presented twice, both in the text and tables. Each table should have above a brief title and be self-explanatory and be cited in the text (Table I, Table II, etc.). The table should supplement the information in the text rather than duplicate it. Insert any notes below. Explain all the abbreviations at the footer of the table.

5.2.2 **Figures** should be uploaded in separate files. Do not include the figures in the text file but only cite them, numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.) in the text file. Figure legends should be indicated at the end of the text file and allow the reader to understand the figures without reference to the text. All symbols used in figures should be explained. Remove any information that can identify a patient. Software and format: preferably send images in .TIFF or .JPEG

format, resolution at least 300 dpi (IMPORTANT: maximum dimension for each single file/image is 2 Mb). Insert an extension that identifies the file format (example: .TIFF; .JPEG).

5.3 References

DOI number must be included with each reference (when available). If DOI is not available, use PMID number.

Only strictly relevant references should be cited in the reference list, which should be placed at the end of the manuscript. The references should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text. A reference in the text is identified as a superscripted number (without parentheses) after the text that quotes the corresponding paper listed in the reference list (e.g., transfusion¹). Please do not use Zotero while compiling your list.

If more than one citation is required, the reference numbers in the text are separated by a comma with no space in between (e.g., transfusion^{1,3,7}).

If there are more than two consecutive reference numbers in the text, only the first and the last numbers, separated by a hyphen, should be cited (e.g., transfusion¹⁻⁴). In the reference list, Journal names should be abbreviated as described in [Index Medicus](#) and [PubMedCentral](#). Abbreviations can also be obtained from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals> website.

The names of up to six authors should be listed. If a reference has six or more authors, only the first six should be listed, followed by "et al".

Personal communications, unpublished observations, and manuscripts that have been "submitted" or are "in preparation" must be cited in the text, but not included in the reference list.

Only papers accepted for publication can be included in the reference list, even if they have not been published by the time of manuscript submission. In this case, add the DOI number.

Some examples are given below:

- **Citation from a Journal article** (with 6 or fewer than 6 authors: list all authors. If more, list the first 6 authors followed by et al.)
Lazarski CA [without punctuation marks after the initial(s) of the first name], Toner k, Keller MD, Luban N, Young PP, Bollard CM, et al. Flow-based analysis of cell division identifies highly active populations within plasma products during mixed lymphocyte cultures. *Blood Transfus* 2021; 19: 456-466. doi: 10.2450/2021.0096-21.
- **Citation from a Journal article published online ahead of print.** (with 6 or fewer than 6 authors: list all authors. If more, list the first 6 authors followed by et al.)
Bou-Fakhredin R [without punctuation marks after the initial(s) of the first name], Motta I, Cappellini MD. Advancing the care of β -thalassaemia patients with novel therapies. *Blood Transfus* 2021; doi: 10.2450/2021.0265-21. [Ahead of print]
- **Citation from a Book**
Issitt PD, Anstee DJ. (punctuation mark between authors and title) *Applied Blood Group Serology*. [title of the book in italics with the first letter of all words in capitals, except prepositions such as 'the', 'of', 'about' etc.] in capitals] 4th ed. Durham, NC: Montgomery Scientific Publications; 1998.
- **Citation of a Chapter in a book**
Beatty PG. The molecular revolution in histocompatibility testing: relevance to blood and marrow transplantation. In: Garratty G, editor. *Application of Molecular Biology to Blood Transfusion*. Bethesda, MD: American Association of Blood Banks (or AABB); 1997. p. 51-72. [If there are six or more Editors, list only the first six and add "et al."].
- **Citation of an Editorial**
Brando B. Viable lymphocytes in fresh frozen plasma as a potential source of graft-versus-host disease: risks and solutions [editorial]. *Blood Transfus* 2021; 19: 445-447. doi: 10.2450/2021.0186-21.
- **Citation of an Abstract**
Sevilla Navarro J. Aféresis en niños [abstract]. *Blood Transfus* 2021; 19 (Suppl 2): PE-1.
- **Citation of a Paper Conference**

Anderson JC. Current status of chorion villus biopsy. In: Tudenhope D, Chenoweth J, editors. Proceedings of the 4th Congress of the Australian Perinatal Society; 1986: Brisbane, Queensland: Australian Perinatal Society; 1987. p. 190-196.

- **Citation of a Letter** (with 6 or less than 6 authors: list all authors. If more, list the first 6 authors followed by et al.)
Trentino KM, Mace HS, Leahy MF, Sanfilippo FM, Farmer SL, Murray K. Appropriate red cell transfusions are often avoidable through Patient Blood Management [letter]. *Blood Transfus* 2021; 19: 177-178. doi: 10.2450/2020.0434-20.
- **Citation of Electronic material**
A concept paper on prestorage leukocyte reduction of transfusion blood components. Food and Drug Administration. Available at: <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/00/backgrd/3620b2.doc>, followed by "Accessed on dd/mm/yyyy" (the date when the paper was downloaded from the website).
- **Homepage/Web site**
[eatright.org](https://www.eatright.org) [Internet]. Chicago: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Available from: <https://www.eatright.org/>. Followed by "Accessed on dd/mm/yyyy".
- **Part of a homepage/Web site**
American Medical Association [Internet]. Chicago: The Association; c1995-2016 [cited 2016 Dec 27]. Office of International Medicine; [about 2 screens]. Available from: <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/office-international-medicine>. Followed by "Accessed on dd/mm/yyyy".
- **Database on the Internet**
Who's Certified [Internet]. Evanston (IL): The American Board of Medical Specialists. c2000. Available from: <https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/>. Followed by "Accessed on dd/mm/yyyy".
- **Part of a database on the Internet**
MeSH Browser [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2002 - . Meta-analysis; [about 1 p.]. Available from: <https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/record/ui?ui=D017418> MeSH Unique ID: D017418. Followed by "Accessed on dd/mm/yyyy".

6. TYPES OF ARTICLES - SUMMARY OF THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

CATEGORY	Cover letter	First page	Authors (Max)	Authors (Social media details: Twitter and LinkedIn)	Main text word limit	Abstract (words)	Graphical abstract (Social media: Twitter and LinkedIn)	Figures & tables (up to)	References (up to)	Online supplementary content (figures & tables)
ORIGINAL ARTICLE	M	M	NA	R	3,500	300	R	6	50	2
REVIEW	M	M	NA	R	4,500	300	R	8	100	2
COMMENTARY	M	M	NA	R	1,500	short description*	NA	3	20	NA
EDITORIAL	M	M	NA	R	1,500	short description*	NA	1	20	NA
BRIEF REPORT	M	M	NA	R	1,800	short description*	R	3	20	NA
CASE REPORT	M	M	NA	R	1,000	short description	R	2	12	NA
GUIDELINE/ RECOMMENDATION/ POSITION PAPER	M	M	NA	R	NA	R (max 300)	R	8	100	NA
LETTER	M	M	5	R	500	short description*	NA	1	5	NA

M: MANDATORY – R: RECOMMENDED – NA: NOT APPLICABLE
*to be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase

Manuscript requirements according to type of article

Original article

An original article must not exceed 3,500 words (excluding the abstract, references, tables, and illustrations).

The text must be ordered as follows:

- Abstract - Structured in four paragraphs (Background, Material and methods, Results and Discussion), not exceeding 300 words. The abstract should be sufficiently explanatory of the whole paper and should only include text, without any citations and, preferably, without any abbreviations.
- Introduction
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements (if any)
- Funding and resources (if any)
- Authorship contributions
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest
- References (maximum 50)
- Tables
- Figure legends.

No more than 6 tables/figures are allowed.

Long articles may need subheadings to clarify some sections, such as Materials and methods, Results and Discussion.

Supplementary data, to be published online only, may include additional information regarding methodology, supplementary figures or tables, or primary data sets. Supplementary material must be submitted with the original manuscript, in order to be peer-reviewed: tables collected at the end of the main text, figures uploaded online. Supplementary content must be cited in the main text as follows: *Online Supplementary Content Table S#/Figure S#*.

No more than two supplementary tables/figures are allowed.

Review

Review articles are welcomed by the Journal and are generally solicited by the Editor-in-Chief or the Section Editors.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses must be reported according to PRISMA guidelines.

Authors who wish to submit reviews to the Journal are requested to send a short synopsis of their chosen subject to the Editor-in-Chief, and to indicate the deadline by which they expect to submit their final manuscript. Review articles should focus on recent scientific or clinical advances in an area of broad interest to those in the field of Transfusion Medicine and Hemostasiology. These articles, besides summarising the state-of-the-art, should critically discuss the importance and novelty of the data, and how the findings of the papers reviewed are expected to influence diagnostic processes and treatments.

All Reviews, including those solicited by the Editors, are rigorously peer reviewed before a final publication decision is made.

Manuscripts must not exceed 4,500 words (excluding the abstract, references, tables, and illustrations). The paper must include an abstract of a maximum 300 words; it should be sufficiently explanatory of the whole manuscript and include text only, without any citations and, preferably, without any abbreviations. A maximum of 100 references is recommended.

No more than 8 tables/figures are allowed.

Supplementary data, to be published online only, may include additional information regarding methodology, supplementary figures or tables, or primary data sets. The supplementary material must be submitted with the manuscript, in order to be peer-reviewed: tables collected at the end of the main text, figures uploaded online. Supplementary content must be cited in the main text as follows: *Online Supplementary Content Table S#/Figure S#*.

No more than 2 supplementary tables/figures are allowed.

Commentary

Commentaries are opinions on papers recently published in Blood Transfusion, or on novel concepts and developments in Transfusion Medicine and Hemostasiology. Commentaries are usually invited articles, but proposals are welcome and should be addressed to the Editorial Office. They have a free structure and contain no more than 1,500 words (excluding references).

A maximum of 20 references is recommended. **No more than 3 tables/figures are allowed.**

A short description of the paper must be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase.

Editorial

Editorials that comment on articles published in Blood Transfusion are usually by invitation, and are published in the same issue as the commented paper. Submissions of Editorials by recognised experts on relevant topics will be considered.

These articles have a free structure and contain no more than 1,500 words (excluding references). A maximum of 20 references is recommended. **1 table/figure is recommended.**

A short description of the paper must be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase.

Please note

Editorials, Reviews and Commentaries are usually solicited by the Editorial Board and are subject to peer-review. Unsolicited Review Articles may be submitted. Authors who wish to submit reviews to the Journal are requested to submit a short synopsis of their chosen subject to the Editor-in-Chief, and to indicate the deadline by which they expect to submit their final manuscript, which, however, will be peer-reviewed after submission.

Brief report

Brief Reports are focused on new findings on a specific and limited topic. They should contain a maximum of 1,800 words (excluding references).

The text must be ordered as follows:

- Introduction
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements (if any)
- Authorship contributions
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest
- References (a maximum of 20 references is allowed)
- Tables
- Figure legends

No more than 3 tables/figures are allowed.

A short description of the paper must be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase.

Case report

The submission of case reports will be considered only if the report includes novel scientific material or is of extraordinary clinical interest.

A case report should not exceed 1,000 words (excluding references).

The text must be ordered as follows:

- Introduction
- Case report with results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements (if any)
- Authorship contributions
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest
- References (a maximum of 12 references is allowed)
- Tables
- Figure legends

No more than 2 tables/figures are allowed.

A short description of the paper must be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase.

Guideline/Recommendation/Position paper

Authors are invited to indicate the methodology used for the preparation of the guideline/recommendations, or explain why no standard methodology was used. Useful information on reporting guidelines can be found in the ICMJE recommendations and in the EQUATOR Network ([www.equator-network.org /home/](http://www.equator-network.org/home/)).

A maximum of 100 references is recommended.

Letter to the Editor

Letters are short, relevant comments that should further readers understanding of articles recently published in Blood Transfusion. Preferably, letters should not exceed 500 words of text, 1 table or figure, and 5 essential references: they should be signed by no more than five Authors.

A short description of the paper must be inserted in the abstract box during the submission phase.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE**Authorship statement form - Authorship responsibility**

(1) All Authors participated sufficiently in the intellectual content, analysis of data (if applicable) and writing of the article, as defined by the criteria for authorship by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org/>). (2) The corresponding Author certifies that the definitive version of the manuscript has been approved by all co-Authors, as well as, by the Director of the Institute or Department where the work has been carried out. (3) All persons who have made substantial contributions to the work reported in this manuscript (e.g., data collection, writing or editing assistance) but who do not fulfil the authorship criteria are named along with their specific contributions as an acknowledgement in the manuscript. The corresponding Author certifies that all persons named in the acknowledgement section have provided written permission to be named. (4) All Authors have reviewed the final version of the article and approve it for publication. (5) Authors must state that the article submitted has not been previously published, and is not under consideration or accepted for publication (in whole or in part) elsewhere nor have the Authors assigned any right or interest in the article to any third party. (6) Written permission from the Authors to reproduce any material with copyright elsewhere has been obtained prior to submission. (7) Authors must specify that consent has been obtained from patients taking part in the investigations or, in the case of paediatric patients, from the guardian/s and that they have obtained written releases from patients whose names or photographs are submitted as part of the article. (8) For reports containing original data, the corresponding Author should have full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of data analysis. (9) Any manuscript concerned with human subjects, medical records, or human tissue that is submitted to "Blood Transfusion" should comply with the principles stated in the Declaration of Helsinki "Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving 'Human Subjects'", adopted by the 18th World Medical Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, June 1964, and as amended most recently by the 64th World Medical Assembly, Fortaleza, Brazil, October 2013. If the study involves human or animal subjects or records of human patients ethical approval MUST have been obtained. The corresponding Author must state whether ethical approval was given, by whom and the relevant Judgement's reference number. The manuscript should contain a statement that the work has been approved by the appropriate Ethical Committee related to the institution(s) in which the work was performed, and that subjects gave informed consent to the work. "Blood Transfusion" requires institutional Ethics Committee approval for all human studies. For retrospective studies on patients' records either a statement of approval or a statement of exemption from the Committee is required. Ref N° of the Ethical Committee Approval must be indicated in the Authorship Statement Form. The study was approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee (the Name of the Institution must be indicated in the Authorship Statement Form) and this is clearly stated in the Methods section of the article. This statement should also be provided upon submission of the manuscript. Studies involving experiments with animals must state that their care was in accordance with institution guidelines and relevant national laws. (10) The article contains no libellous or unlawful statements, does not infringe the privacy of others, or contains material or instructions that might cause harm or injury. The corresponding Author shall indemnify and hold the Editors and its agents and licensees harmless from any damages, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees and costs of settlement) resulting by reason of any claim, action, or proceeding finally sustained or settled inconsistent with the foregoing warranties and representations. (11) Suspected plagiarism is handled in accordance with the COPE flowcharts (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts>).

Every Author or co-Author of any article published in this Journal is solely responsible for the contents of the article, for the statement made in their paper and for the material sent. Every Author or co-Author needs to fully comply with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation): «*Article 9. Processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation shall be prohibited*».

Privacy policy statement. Information pursuant to Article 13 of the European Data Protection Regulation no. 2016/679 (GDPR)

The personal data indicated above and provided by you will be processed as part of the registration operation on the site and publication of editorial content and will not be disclosed to third parties, with the exception of subjects who are responsible for managing the purpose.

The data will be kept according to the criterion of necessity or until request for cancellation.

The provision of data for this purpose is optional. However, in case of refusal to provide data or to allow their processing it will not be possible to pursue the purposes described. The legal basis of the processing is the consent of the interested party.

The data controller is SIMTIPRO Srl with registered office in Milan Via Desiderio n. 21 cap 20131 (Italy).

In relation to the processing of data concerning you, you may contact the Data Controller to exercise your rights pursuant to articles 15 to 22 of the GDPR by writing to privacy@simtipro.it.

A complaint may be lodged in relation to the processing with the competent Authority:

Garante sulla Protezione dei Dati personali

E-mail: garante@gpdp.it.

Financial disclosure. All Authors must state any information that may be perceived as potential *conflict of interest* as stated by the [ICMJE recommendations](#). All Authors must disclose all their affiliations including any relevant personal or institutional financial involvement (employment by an industrial concern, consultancies, honoraria, speakers bureau, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants received or pending, membership on a standing advisory council or committee, a seat on the board of directors, or being publicly associated with a company or its products, royalties, donation of medical equipment, etc.) with any organization that to any Author's knowledge has a direct interest, particularly a financial interest, in the subject matter or materials discussed. This declaration will be treated by the Editor as confidential while the paper is under review, and will not be made known to Reviewers. Please indicate on the **Authorship Statement Form** whether or not you have or may have such a conflict of interest regarding the content of this article its nature of it.

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