

# Charting a New Horizon: The Launch of Orthopaedic SPOT Journal

## Traçando um Novo Horizonte: Lançamento da Orthopaedic SPOT

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The Portuguese Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (SPOT) has made a significant decision to launch a new, more modern scientific journal with an international scope, Orthopaedic SPOT. This initiative aims to enhance the visibility and recognition of the remarkable orthopaedic advancements taking place in Portugal.

The newly launched Orthopaedic SPOT aims to establish itself as a pivotal platform for the widespread dissemination of high-quality research, cutting-edge innovations, and best practices within the field of orthopaedics. To achieve these objectives, we defined a range of manuscript types. In addition to traditional Research Articles, Reviews, Systematic Reviews and Case Reports, we actively welcome Study Protocol, Commentary pieces, Letters to the Editor, Videos, Images in Orthopaedics, Perspectives, Educational Articles and Guidelines/Consensus. These diverse typologies not only expand the scope of our journal but also provide a platform for authors to express their viewpoints, share insights, and engage in meaningful dialogue. We believe that this diversity in content will contribute to the overall enrichment of our journal and further enhance its significance as a platform for scholarly discourse.

As language can be a limitation for the visibility of the journal and for indexing, the entire journal website with information about the journal, fact sheets, as well as instructions for authors, forms/declarations are available in Portuguese and English. It should be noted that Orthopaedic SPOT accepts articles in Portugal Portuguese but also in English, but the title and abstract are required in both languages. Publishing in English allows us to attract more authors and broaden the range of reviewers, but more than publishing in English, we need to publish quality articles, with correct language and grammar and in open access.

Once the first issue is published, we will request the assignment of an ISSN from the responsible national agency. Additionally, we will seek the allocation of a DOI (digital object identifier), and the journal will be included in the *Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal* (RCAAP).

Being indexed in the RCAAP offers a range of benefits, including increased visibility, wider accessibility, enhanced credibility, and alignment with open access initiatives, all of which contribute to the overall success and impact of the journal in the academic and scientific community.

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Certainly, we aim for the journal to be indexed in additional bibliographic databases of international significance, and we are well aware of the necessary steps that need to be taken.

We are actively seeking peer approval and international recognition, understanding that a reputable scientific medical journal must adhere to the highest standards in scientific rigor; transparency, ethics, diversity, and impact on the scientific community. Therefore, with all of this in mind, we have prepared the guidelines for authors of the journal. In line with these principles, SPOT Orthopaedics steadfastly adheres to best practices. SPOT Orthopaedics is aligned with the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in biomedical journals. Moreover, we strictly follow Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, ensuring the integrity and ethical soundness of our editorial processes.

For our journal, adherence to the EQUATOR Network checklists is also imperative. These comprehensive checklists serve as essential guidelines to ensure the robustness and transparency of our publications. Embracing the principles advocated by the EQUATOR Network, we strive to enhance the quality and reliability of the scientific content we publish, promoting precise methods and clear reporting practices.

Other steps have been taken such as:

- Definition of the responsibilities and competencies of the editor-in-chief, which encompass implementation of the editorial policy, publication ethics, integrity of scientific research, supervision of the editorial process and the journal's relations with authors, readers, indexers, research support agencies, the scientific community and the general public. In particular, transparency and quality control are essential aspects of the editorial process under the responsibility of the editor-in-chief.
- Drawing up regulations on the responsibilities of the editorial team.
- In the submission and peer review process, the editor-in-chief and deputy editors are concerned with and obliged to: ensure confidentiality; select articles for peer review; select reviewers; speed up the editorial process; make final editorial decisions based on relevance, originality and quality.
- Editorial freedom policy has been defined, as the quality of the editorial policy and the indication of the editorial freedom statement are criteria that are also used to assess the quality of the journal.
- Errata and retraction policies have been included in the formulation of the instructions to authors.

- Promoting responsible authorship by complying with the authorship criteria defined by the ICMJE.
- With regard to good practices for strengthening ethics in scientific publishing, the editorial process, after complying with the required formal aspects, guarantees that all authors have reviewed and accepted responsibility for the content and the contribution of each author is now published in all articles, as well as adherence to ethical precepts and declaration of conflicts of interest. This required the production of forms: Declaration of conflict of interest (COI Disclosures); Declaration of authorial contribution; Consent to publication.

We check for unethical practices such as double submission; redundant publication; inadequate authorship; failure to disclose conflicts of interest and the development of guidelines involving informed consent or patient privacy.

- We strive to improve editorial work: descriptive and clear titles and abstracts; titles that faithfully reflect the content of the articles; assignment of MeSH keywords; clear and precise figures and tables; timeliness and correctness of bibliographical references.
- To prove the existence of an external peer review, this information is now explicitly indicated in the articles that are subject to this external evaluation, as well as the article's processing dates (submission, acceptance, availability ahead of print and publication).
- We are committed to speeding up publication by optimizing editorial times and providing ahead of print access to articles.
- We have defined a copyright policy which is now included on the journal's website and on all articles. This deposit/copyright policy will be registered with Sherpa/Romeo.
- As soon as we publish the first issue we will start an "out-reach" process, promoting the visibility of the journal.

We know that there are several important databases where the Orthopaedic SPOT, should be indexed. But regardless of the database, the journal always has to submit a formal application for inclusion, and for this it is necessary to understand the database's selection process and requirements. Each database has its own objectives, target audience, geographical preference in the journal's origin and thematic areas of greatest interest. But the selection criteria for all of them are practically identical, with only the level of demand varying for each criterion: compliance with reporting standards, scientific and editorial quality (including the peer review process), editorial board, purpose and coverage, type of content, current and relevant references, credibility and

quality of content, production quality, regularity of publication, diversity in the origin of authors and standardization.

It is important to remember that getting indexed in international bibliographic databases takes time and requires significant efforts on the part of the journal, such as attracting more research articles and more authors of national and international renown, and thus significantly increasing the visibility and impact of the publication. Two factors are very important:

**Diversity:** Needs to invest in the pursuit of diversity in terms of topics, authors and reviewers to ensure a broader and more inclusive view of science.

**Impact:** Orthopaedic SPOT must have a significant impact on the scientific community, be cited and recognized as a reliable source of scientific information.

In addition to these criteria, other factors such as the frequency of publication, open access to articles and the presence of content on social media are also considered when assessing the quality of a scientific medical journal.

Our journal aligns with the principles of open science, responding to the increasing demands from funding agencies. SPOT Orthopaedics is fully compliant with Plan S, the open access publishing mandate established by Coalition S, a consortium of governmental and philanthropic funders. It is important to note that SPOT Orthopaedics is an open access journal that does not impose article processing charges, making it accessible to all contributors. This commitment ensures that authors supported by funding agencies adhering to Plan S are not faced with compromises when choosing open access journals for publishing their research. In summary, SPOT Orthopaedics stands as an open access journal that not only meets but exceeds the expectations set by international committees and funding agencies. Our unwavering commitment to excellence in research dissemination, ethical conduct, and open science places us at the forefront of advancing orthopaedic knowledge on a global scale.

But it is important to emphasize that getting indexed in bibliographic databases (DBs) of international reference is everyone's mission, which requires effort, tenacity and critical thinking.

We believe we are on the right track. However, we need the commitment of all national orthopaedists in this endeavor if we want Orthopaedic SPOT to have a promising future.

**Helena Donato**  
Technical Editor

**João Torres**  
Editor-in-Chief

## Responsabilidades Éticas

**Conflitos de Interesse:** Os autores declaram não possuir conflitos de interesse.

**Proveniência e Revisão por Pares:** Sem revisão externa por pares.

## Ethical Disclosures

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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