

JEAMS

DIGITAL FIGURE GUIDELINES

The information provided in this document is subject to change without notice. Information may be changed or updated without notice.

IMAGE INTEGRITY

Figures (charts, graphs, illustrations, photographs, etc.) should not be manipulated. No specific detail within an image should be enhanced, introduced, obscured, removed or moved. When JEAMS detects any inappropriate image adjustments, authors will be asked to submit the original image prior to any adjustment, cropping, or labeling.

Selective adjustments applied to individual elements in a clinical image, radiographic image, photomicrograph, gel electrophoresis, etc. are not permissible. Individual elements must not be deleted, inserted from another image, or moved within an image field.

Adjustments of brightness, contrast, or color balance applied uniformly to an entire image are acceptable if information isn't eliminated, highlighted, misrepresented, or obscured. Nonlinear adjustments must be disclosed in the figure legend, e.g. changes to curves, gamma settings, input levels, etc..

Black bars across the eyes are insufficient to de-identify patients in images feature identifiable people. Cropping is allowed to de-identify patients or to display an image more efficiently. However, cropping may not either alter the interpretation of or misrepresent the image by selectively eliminating relevant visual information.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The minimum resolution requirement of a black and white image is 500 dpi. The minimum resolution requirement of a color image is 300 dpi, where the color image must be encoded as RGB. Electronically increasing the resolution of an image created digitally by digital camera or of an electronically created illustration will always result in a poor quality image. Instead, the figure should be created originally at a high resolution.

Figures with labels, arrows, or other markers must be accompanied by a file without the labels, arrows, or other markers. The figure legend must provide an explanation for all of the labels, arrows, or other markers.

Cropped gels / blots must be accompanied by a file that contains the entire unedited gel for all representative cropped gels in the submission. Authors should highlight which lanes of the unedited gel / blot correspond to those shown in the cropped images within the manuscript submission.

Juxtaposition of elements from different parts of a single image or from different images, as in a composite, must be made explicit in the text of the figure legend as well as clearly indicated by the arrangement of the figure by the addition of dividing lines, borders, and/or panel labels, e.g. groupings of images from different gels or fields or exposures, or from different parts of the same gel.

DATA

Data should be displayed in their raw form and not in a way that conceals their distribution. Instead of presenting data as columns with error bars, individual data should be presented as dot plots next to the average for the group with appropriate error bars.

Pie charts, stacked bar charts, and 3-D graphs are inappropriate statistical presentation of data, and a different figure type or table must be used instead.

Each axis on a statistical graph must have a label. Units of measure must be labeled.

Values for ratio data should not be log transformed. Values for ratio data (hazard ratios, odds ratios, or relative risks) should be plotted on a log scale.

Primary outcome data cannot be presented in figures alone. Exact values with a measure of variability should be reported in the text or table.

FIGURE TITLE AND FIGURE LEGEND

Each figure must be accompanied by a title that is a brief descriptive phrase, preferably no longer than approximately 15 words. A figure legend (caption) can be used for a brief explanation of the figure or markers if needed and expansion of abbreviations. For photomicrographs, include the type of specimen, original magnification or a scale bar, and stain in the legend. For gross pathology specimens, label any rulers with unit of measure. Digitally enhanced images must be clearly identified in the figure legends as enhanced or manipulated, e.g. computed tomographic scans, magnetic resonance images, photographs, photomicrographs, and x-ray films.

Figure titles and figure legends must use letters (A, a, etc.) instead of symbols (†, ‡, §, etc.). Abbreviations, colors, indicators (including error bars), line styles, and symbols must be defined in the figure legend.

OTHER FIGURE GUIDELINES

Unless justified, avoid complex composite or multipart figures with more than 4 panels.

Images and datasets should be presented only once in a manuscript.

Number all figures (graphs, charts, photographs, and illustrations) in the order of their citation in the text. Please recall that the number of figures is limited by article type.

FILES

Because JEAMS is unable to open file formats native to statistical software applications, authors must save or export files in digital vector formats when creating figures.

For final production, we prefer high resolution TIFF files. Otherwise, EPS, PSD, AI, and JPEG (use only the maximum quality compression setting) filetypes are also acceptable.

Black and white photographs (e.g. CT and MRI scans, electron micrographs, radiographs, and ultrasound images) can be submitted in either RGB or grayscale modes.

Color photographs should be submitted in RGB mode using profiles such as Adobe RGB or sRGB. Digital cameras should capture the images in RGB. Do not change any color settings once the file is on the computer.

When using layers, reduce to one layer before saving the image, e.g. Flatten Artwork.

Always include/embed fonts and only use standard fonts like Helvetica, Arial, Times, or Symbol.