

Author Guidelines for the Sri Lanka Dental Journal (SLDJ)

1. Scope and Focus

The Sri Lanka Dental Journal (SLDJ) publishes original research, reviews, clinical updates, case reports and short reports in the field of dentistry and related sciences. Submissions should contribute to advancing dental knowledge, improving clinical practice, addressing educational needs, or exploring emerging trends in oral health. Articles from interdisciplinary perspectives and allied sciences that influence dentistry are also welcomed. All submissions must adhere to ethical research standards.

2. Article Types

2.1 Leading Articles:

Maximum 2,500 words, excluding abstract and references, and up to 20 references. These articles provide expert perspectives, critical analysis, or commentary on current topics in dentistry and allied sciences. They may include discussions on policy, education, or significant advancements in the field. Leading articles are typically commissioned, but unsolicited submissions may be considered at the discretion of the editors.

2.2 Review Articles / Clinical Updates:

These articles provide systematic and substantial coverage of a research or clinical area of wide interest. They may present a critical assessment of a specific topic or compile recent insights in dentistry and related fields. The article must focus on recent research, be timely and relevant and provide comprehensive analysis. No word or reference limits.

2.3 Research Articles:

These articles report original research that contributes new knowledge to the field of dentistry and oral health sciences. Studies may include clinical trials, epidemiological research, in-vitro studies, health economics and applied basic science research. Results from routine clinical examinations or laboratory investigations without a clear research hypothesis or significant findings will not be considered. No word or reference limits.

2.4 Short Reports:

These include reports on current topics, modified techniques, new materials and practice management. Interesting results from routine clinical work or laboratory investigations may also

be accepted. They should not exceed 1,500 words (excluding the abstract and references) and 10 references.

2.5 Case Reports:

These reports highlight rare diseases, conditions, novel treatment modifications, or innovative management methods. They should contribute to existing knowledge, provide educational value, or emphasize necessary changes in clinical practice, diagnosis, or prognosis. Maximum 2,000 words, excluding abstract and references, and up to 15 references.

2.6 Letters to the Editor:

These letters provide a platform for scholarly discussion, critique of published papers, or professional commentary on issues relevant to dentistry. Subjects are unlimited but must maintain academic rigor. Maximum 1,000 words, no references.

2.7 Proceedings of Annual Sessions:

This section publishes abstracts from annual sessions of SLDA, other dental colleges and professional associations related to dentistry. Abstracts must be submitted upon request by the respective associations and follow the standard format set by SLDJ.

3. Manuscript Submission Process

- Access the SLDA website on <https://journal.slda.lk/>. Open the Manuscript submission tab.
- Fill the details and attach the files accordingly.
- Please make sure the Tables/Figures/supplementary documents are submitted separately.
- All tables and figures should be numbered consecutively and must be quoted in the main manuscript where appropriate.
- Submission implies that no part has been published before, nor is it under consideration elsewhere.
- Authors agree to assign copyright to SLDJ upon acceptance.

4. Manuscript Preparation Guidelines

- Manuscripts that are not submitted in proper format may be returned without review.

4.1 General Formatting:

- **Language:** Manuscripts must be written in English (British spellings).
- **File Format:** Submit manuscripts in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx).
- **Font and Layout:** Use Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, in single column
- **Size:** on A4 (212x297 mm) paper
- **Margins:** 1-inch on all sides.
- All measurements must be given in SI units. Correct unit abbreviations should be used.
- All abbreviations should be defined in the text at first use.

4.2 Manuscript Structure:

The manuscript should be prepared in the form of a single file containing the following items arranged in the order shown: Title page, Abstract, Main text, Acknowledgements, References, Figures & legends, Tables & legends.

4.2.1 Title Page:

- Title (concise and descriptive).
- Authors' full names and institutional affiliations.
- Corresponding author's email address and the phone number.
- ORCID IDs for all authors if available

4.2.2 Abstract:

- The abstract should be a structured summary of the manuscript, providing a concise overview of the study.
- It must not exceed 300 words and should be clear and informative, allowing readers to quickly grasp the key findings.
- Avoid using abbreviations and references.
- The abstracts for research articles should be prepared under the following specified subtitles:
 - **Objective:** Clearly state the purpose of the study, including the research question or hypothesis.
 - **Materials and Methods:** Summarize the study design, population/sample, procedures and statistical analysis used.
 - **Results:** Provide a concise summary of key findings, ensuring statistical significance where applicable.
 - **Conclusion:** Highlight the study's main conclusion and its implications for dental practice, research, or policy.

4.2.3 Keywords:

- Provide 3-5 relevant keywords.

4.2.4 Main Text (structured as per article type):

- **Original Research:** Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion.
- **Case Reports:** Introduction, Case Presentation, Discussion, Conclusion.
- **Review Articles:** Introduction, Subheadings as necessary, Conclusion.

Introduction

- Provide adequate background information on the study's subject area.
- Clearly state the research problem, objectives and significance of the study.
- Avoid an extensive literature review; focus on relevant references that justify the study.

Materials and Methods

- Describe the study design, data collection and analytical methods in sufficient detail for reproducibility.
- Use subheadings where necessary to enhance clarity.
- Ethical considerations must be explicitly stated, including ethical clearance details and adherence to guidelines such as the Declaration of Helsinki (latest version).
- For clinical trials, registration details should be provided.

Results

- Present findings clearly and concisely without interpretation.
- Use appropriate tables, figures and statistical analyses to support the data.
- Use subheadings where necessary for clarity.

Statistical Analysis

- Ensure all statistical methods are described adequately.
- If applicable, statistical consultation is recommended.
- Include confidence intervals and p-values where appropriate.

Discussion

- Interpret and contextualize findings with relevant literature.
- Highlight the study's contributions, limitations and future research directions.
- Avoid excessive repetition of results.

Conclusion

- Clearly state the key findings and their implications for research, clinical practice, or policy.

- Keep conclusions concise and evidence-based.

Acknowledgments:

- Recognize funding sources and contributions that do not meet authorship criteria.
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to the study.

References:

- Vancouver style, numbered consecutively in the text.
- Ensure that all cited works are included in the reference list.
- The references are numbered consecutively in order of appearance in the text.
- In-text citations are presented as superscripts. E.g. The theory was first put forward in 1987.¹

Tables and Figures:

- May include tables and figures as separate files and submit with the supplementary files.
- Indicate placement in the manuscript (e.g., “Insert Table 1 here”).

Tables

- Tables must be only in word format.
- Title/Caption placement:
 - Top of the table (above the data).
- Format Tips:
 - Begin with “Table X.” (e.g., Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants).
 - Use a brief but descriptive title; avoid abbreviations if possible.
 - Any explanatory notes (definitions of abbreviations, statistical tests, etc.) go below the table as footnotes.

Figures (including charts, photographs, graphs, and illustrations)

- Title/Legend placement:
 - i) Bottom of the figure (as a legend or caption).
- Format tips:
 - i) Begin with “Figure X.” (e.g., Figure 2. Root Canal Morphology in Maxillary Premolars).
 - ii) Provide a concise descriptive sentence or two explaining what the figure shows.
 - iii) Define abbreviations and symbols in the legend, not on the image itself unless essential.

- iv) Figures/charts must be in JPEG or TIFF format with figures in a resolution of 300 dpi.

5. Ethical Requirements

- All research involving human participants must include a statement of ethical approval from an accredited ethics review committee. Where applicable, a copy of the ethical clearance certificate should be attached.
- Clinical trials must include the trial registration number.
- A signed informed consent form must be obtained from all participants or their guardians.

6. Peer Review Process

- All manuscripts will undergo a double-blind peer review process.
- The initial decision on the manuscript will be communicated to the corresponding author within 2-6 weeks.
- The Editorial Board may suggest revisions to authors, according to the recommendations made by the reviewers and ask for a new evaluation of the revised paper in order to make the final decision on its publication.
- Authors are fully responsible for the contents in published manuscripts.

7. Plagiarism Policy

- All submissions are subject to plagiarism checks. Manuscripts with significant overlap with previously published work will be rejected.

8. Copyright and Licensing

- Upon acceptance, authors must sign a copyright transfer agreement.
- Articles are published under a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), allowing for sharing and adaptation with proper attribution.

9. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest.
- Include a statement on funding and sponsorship.

10. Contact Information

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11. Checklist prior to submission

Section	Checklist Item	✓
Author & Contact Information	Corresponding author's full name, email address, and phone number provided	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ORCID iDs for all authors included (if available)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All authors' full names and institutional affiliations listed correctly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript Structure & Formatting	Manuscript in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx), Times New Roman 12 pt, double-spaced, single column, A4, 1-inch margins	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All abbreviations spelled out at first mention; SI units and correct unit abbreviations used	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Page numbers are included	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract & Keywords	Abstract \leq 300 words and structured as required for article type (e.g., Objective / Materials and Methods / Results / Conclusion for research articles)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3–5 relevant keywords provided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics & Declarations	Statement of ethical approval and name of ethics committee included (attach certificate if required)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trial registration number provided for clinical trials	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Informed consent statement included where applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Conflict of interest and funding statements included	<input type="checkbox"/>

References	References follow Vancouver style; numbered consecutively in text as superscripts	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All in-text citations match the reference list	<input type="checkbox"/>
Figures, Charts, and Tables	All figures/charts/tables numbered consecutively and cited in the text	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tables in Word format; Figures/Charts in JPEG/TIFF, 300 dpi minimum	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Each figure/table has a descriptive title and legend	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tables: Title placed above the table; footnotes/explanatory notes below (if available)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Figures/charts: Title and legend placed below the figure, defining all abbreviations and symbols	<input type="checkbox"/>