

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Version 1 Updated on 09/2026

This policy governs how AI tools may be used in the preparation of manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Saudi Heart Association (JSHA), and how such use must be disclosed.

1. Authorship

AI tools (including large language models, chatbots, and image generators) may not be listed as authors and do not meet JSHA's authorship criteria, as they cannot take responsibility for the content, give consent, or be held accountable for the accuracy and integrity of the work.

2. Disclosure Requirements

Any use of AI in the preparation of a manuscript, including drafting, editing, data analysis, or image/figure generation, must be transparently disclosed at the time of submission. Disclosure is required in three places:

1. The cover letter
2. A dedicated statement in the manuscript
3. The contributorship statement

3. Uses of AI Requiring Disclosure

The following uses of AI require explicit disclosure in the manuscript regardless of extent:

- Writing or rewriting any section of the manuscript (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion) — see 6.1
- Translating content between languages — see 6.1
- Summarizing or synthesizing literature for literature reviews — see 6.2
- Generating search strategies or analytical plans — see 6.2/6.3
- Writing or debugging statistical or programming code — see 6.3
- Generating, editing, or enhancing figures, images, or visual abstracts — see 6.4
- Generating or refining patient summarized or case descriptions.

4. Specifying the Purpose of AI Use

The disclosure statement must specify the purpose for which AI was used, matching it to the relevant use case(s) and rule(s) in Sections 3 and 6 above. A generic statement that AI was "used" without specifying its purpose is not sufficient.

5. Placement in the Manuscript

The AI disclosure statement, whether or not AI was used, must appear as a separate, clearly labeled section titled "AI Use Declaration" (or similar) at the end of the manuscript, immediately before the reference section.

6. Rules by AI Use Case

6.1 Language & Writing Assistance

AI may be used to improve the grammar, clarity, and flow of author-written text. The scientific content, conclusions, and interpretations must originate from the authors. AI must not write the core scientific narrative of the paper.

- Disclose in: Acknowledgements
- Required statement: tool name, version, and scope of edits
- Reviewer note: editors will assess whether AI use was appropriate

6.2 Literature Search & Summarization

AI tools may assist in identifying relevant literature, but all citations must be individually verified by the authors for accuracy and relevance. Fabricated or hallucinated references are a basis for immediate rejection and potential reporting to the author's institution.

- Disclose in: Methods (search strategy subsection)
- Authors must confirm each reference was independently accessed and verified
- ⚠️ AI-generated citations have been shown to be fabricated in up to 30% of cases. Every reference must be manually verified.

6.3 Data Analysis & Statistical Code

AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot) may be used to assist in writing code or analytical scripts. Authors must validate all outputs and are responsible for the accuracy of all statistical results.

- Disclose in: Statistical Analysis or Methods section
- All results must be reproducible and independently verifiable
- Raw data and code may be requested by reviewers

6.4 Image & Figure Generation

AI-generated images are not permitted as clinical data or diagnostic images. AI tools may be used only for illustrative or diagrammatic purposes (e.g., infographics, graphical abstracts), provided this is disclosed. All figures must be original and not reproduce copyrighted material.

- Disclose in: Figure Legend and Methods
- Prohibited: AI-generated ECGs, echocardiograms, angiograms, or pathology images presented as real patient data
- Required: explicit statement that images are AI-generated illustrations, not clinical data

6.5 Peer Reviewers

Peer reviewers must NOT upload submitted manuscripts or any portion thereof into AI tools or LLMs. Doing so breaches manuscript confidentiality. The JSHA reserves the right to terminate reviewer agreements if this occurs.

- Uploading a manuscript to ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar tools during peer review is a serious breach of confidentiality and author trust.

7. Integrity Screening & Enforcement

7.1 AI Content Detection

All submitted manuscripts are screened using AI-detection and plagiarism detection software. Detection of undisclosed AI-generated content will trigger an editorial review and may result in:

- Immediate rejection of the manuscript
- Notification to the corresponding author's institution
- A bar on future submissions to the JSHA
- Retraction if discovered post-publication

7.2 Fabricated Citations

Manuscripts containing references that cannot be verified as real publications will be rejected. Authors should report any suspected citation hallucination discovered after submission immediately to the editorial office.

7.3 Appeals

Authors who believe an AI-related decision was made in error may submit a written appeal to the Editor-in-Chief within 14 days of the editorial decision. Appeals must include a clear explanation and supporting evidence.

8. Disclosure Templates

Authors must select and adapt whichever of the following templates apply, combining more than one where multiple types of AI use occurred.

Template A — Language Editing Only

An AI language tool [Tool Name, Version X.X, Developer, Month Year] was used to improve the grammatical clarity and readability of the manuscript. No AI tool was used to generate scientific content, interpret data, or formulate conclusions. All text was reviewed and revised by the authors, who take full responsibility for the content.

Template B — Literature Summarization

[Tool Name, Version X.X, Developer] was used to assist in identifying relevant literature and summarizing search results for the background section. All references were independently accessed, verified, and confirmed by the authors. No AI-generated text appears verbatim in the manuscript.

Template C — No AI Used

No AI or AI-assisted tools were used in the preparation of this manuscript, including in writing, editing, translation, data analysis, figure generation, or literature search.

Template D — Figure/Image Generation

An AI tool [Tool Name, Version X.X, Developer, Month Year] was used to generate [Figure/Image X]. The authors verified that the generated content accurately represents the underlying data/concept and does not misrepresent, fabricate, or distort any results. [If applicable: The AI tool's terms of use permit this application for academic publication.]

9. Submission Portal Declaration

A mandatory self-declaration must also be completed through the submission portal, describing which AI tools were used and for what purpose. Editors will review this declaration to assess whether the disclosed use is appropriate and consistent with journal policy.

10. Author Responsibility

Regardless of any AI assistance used, the human authors retain full responsibility and accountability for all content in the manuscript, including the accuracy of the data, the validity of the analysis, and the originality of the text and figures. AI-generated content that is inaccurate, fabricated, or plagiarized remains the authors' responsibility to identify and correct.

11. Consequences of Non-Disclosure

Non-disclosure of AI use, discovered after submission or publication, will be treated as a violation of JSHA's authorship and research integrity policies and may result in rejection, correction, or retraction, as appropriate.