

8. Publication and authorship policy

All presentations and publications will be made on behalf of the IBRA-net Study Group. Three levels of authorship are proposed based on degree of study participation:

8.1 Named authors

Named authors will be required to meet the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria (www.icmje.org) for authorship based on the following four criteria:

1. Substantial contribution to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of the data for the work and
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content and
3. Final approval of the version to be published and
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

The ICMJE states 'when submitting a manuscript authored by a group, the corresponding author should specify the group name if one exists and clearly identify the group members who can take credit and responsibility for the work as authors. The byline of the article identifies who is directly responsible for the manuscript and MEDLINE lists authors whichever names appear on the byline. If the byline includes a group name, MEDLINE will list the names of individual group members who are authors or who are collaborators, sometimes called non-author contributors, if there is a note associated with the byline clearly stating that the individual names are elsewhere in the paper and whether those names are authors or collaborators.'

It is anticipated that between six and eight individuals will be named on each publication followed by the wording 'on behalf of the IBRA-net Study Group'. All citable collaborators will be listed at the end of the paper and their roles identified.

Collaborators may be invited to sit on the iBRA-net Writing Group which will be responsible for drafting manuscripts and preparing them for publication.

8.2 Citable collaborators

Citable collaborators will have made a considerable contribution to the study, but will not have met the ICMJE criteria for authorship (non-author contributors). These will include study leads at each centre and other team members (including consultant surgeons, clinical nurse specialists or research nurses) who have recruited at least 10 patients to the study. Recruitment in this context includes submission of at least 10 completed data sets. Judgement may be used to determine participation according to local centre practice. Study leads will be asked to provide details of their local team and whether individuals fulfil the criteria for citable or acknowledged collaborator status.

8.3 Acknowledged collaborators

Acknowledged collaborators will include consultant surgeons who contributed patients to the audit, but did not personally collect data and collaborators who have made a lesser contribution to patient recruitment and data collection than that required for citable collaborator status. Acknowledged contributors will also receive a certificate of participation for inclusion in their portfolios.

Local collaboratives and hospital Trusts will have ownership of their own data and will be able to present it locally if they wish.

The final reports will be prepared in accordance with the STROBE¹³ (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) guidelines.