

Declaration of Competing Interest

To be completed by all authors on submission

Publication Title:	
Title of Paper:	

Introduction

A competing interest exists when professional judgement concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or the validity of the research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as a financial gain or personal rivalry). It may also arise when authors have a financial or other interest that may influence, probably without their knowledge, their interpretation of their own results or those of others.

We believe that to make the best decision on how to deal with a submission/manuscript, we should know about any competing interests that authors may have. We are not aiming to eradicate competing interests, since they are almost inevitable. We will not reject your paper simply because you and/or your co-authors may have a competing interest, but we will declare whether or not you have a competing interest.

You and your co-authors must answer questions 1 to 6, and then complete each section A or B.

	Yes	No
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2. Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study, or the conclusions of your review, editorial or letter?		
3. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study or the conclusions of your review, editorial or letter?		
4. Do you have any other competing financial interests?		
5. Although we restrict ourselves to asking directly about competing financial interests, you may wish to disclose another form of competing interest that would embarrass you if it became generally known after publication. Examples:		

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A deep personal or religious conviction that may have affected what you wrote, and of which readers should be aware when reading your paper

Do you have any such non-financial competing interests?

6. Have you used any generative AI or AI-assisted technologies (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.) in the writing or preparation of this manuscript?

If **yes**, please describe how these tools were used, and confirm that the authors have reviewed and approved the final content and that they take full responsibility for it.

A. If you have answered ‘yes’ to any of the questions 1 to 6, we consider that you may have a competing interest which, in the spirit of openness, should be declared along the following lines:

Declaration of Competing Interests: RS has been reimbursed by ‘X’ Products, the manufacturer of ‘Y’, for attending several conferences. TD has been paid by ‘X’ Products for running educational programmes, and this company has also paid her as a research registrar. JS has shares in ‘X’ Products. The authors confirm that generative AI/AI-assisted technologies were [used/not used] in the preparation of this manuscript. [If used: Specify tool and nature of assistance, e.g., “ChatGPT was used to rephrase sentences for clarity. Final content was reviewed and approved by all authors.”]

Please write your statement below and add it to the text of your manuscript immediately **BEFORE** the References.

B. If you did not answer ‘yes’ to any questions 1 to 6, please add the following statement to the text of your manuscript immediately before the references:

Declaration of competing interests: Nothing to declare.

ALL AUTHORS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION:

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