Instructions for reviewers
The journal Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS) aims to provide a service to authors and the research community by making as many researches available as possible, provided it meets VATS's high standards of research conduct and ethical procedure and is approved after peer review.

Single-blind peer review
VATS uses single-blind peer review, meaning that:
• the reviewer's name is NOT disclosed to the author
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The role of reviewers
If we need your help with appraising a manuscript we will email you and ask you to accept or decline the invitation through our submission site. We ask reviewers to help us to ensure that any studies published in VATS were conducted properly, are scientifically credible, reported according to the appropriate guidelines (e.g. CONSORT for clinical trials) and ethical.

The editorial team is responsible for the final decision to accept or reject a manuscript, based on the reviewers' comments.

We welcome feedback from our reviewers. If you have any comment you want to make, either on a manuscript you have reviewed and our decision on it or on our review process in general, we would be pleased to hear from you.

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VATS uses a blind form of peer review, meaning that authors will not know who has reviewed their work.

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All submitted manuscripts are reviewed initially by a VATS editor. Manuscripts are evaluated according to the following criteria: material is original and timely, writing is clear, study methods are appropriate, data are valid, conclusions are reasonable and supported by the data, information is important, and topic has general medical interest. From these basic criteria, the editors assess a paper's eligibility for publication. Other manuscripts are sent to expert consultants for peer review. Peer reviewer identities are kept confidential, but author identities are made known to reviewers. The existence of a manuscript under review is not revealed to anyone other than peer reviewers and editorial staff. Peer reviewers are required to maintain confidentiality about the manuscripts they review and must not divulge any information about a specific manuscript or its content to any third party without prior permission from the journal editors. Information from submitted manuscripts may be systematically collected and analyzed as part of research to improve the quality of the editorial or peer review process. Identifying information remains confidential. Final decisions regarding manuscript publication are made within the Editorial Team.

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