

FIGURE SUBMISSION STANDARDS

Figure Preparation

While words merely tell a reader what happened, figures *show* them what happened. That is why it is important to submit consistent, high-quality figures. This guide will give you a few rules that can insure that your figures are fit for reproduction. There are also examples of good and bad figures, illustrating how properly formatted figures can strengthen your message.

Basics

Figures can be submitted as traditional art (hard copy) or digital art (computer file) in black and white or color. Printing costs for color figures will be charged to the author (NOTE: There is no charge for color figures in *SKINmed*).

1. Clearly identify all lines, bars, and panels in the figure. Symbols, lines, and type should be consistent in size and density within each figure. Do not use hairline rules or more than one shade of gray.
2. Text and symbols should be a minimum of 9 point type to withstand reduction.

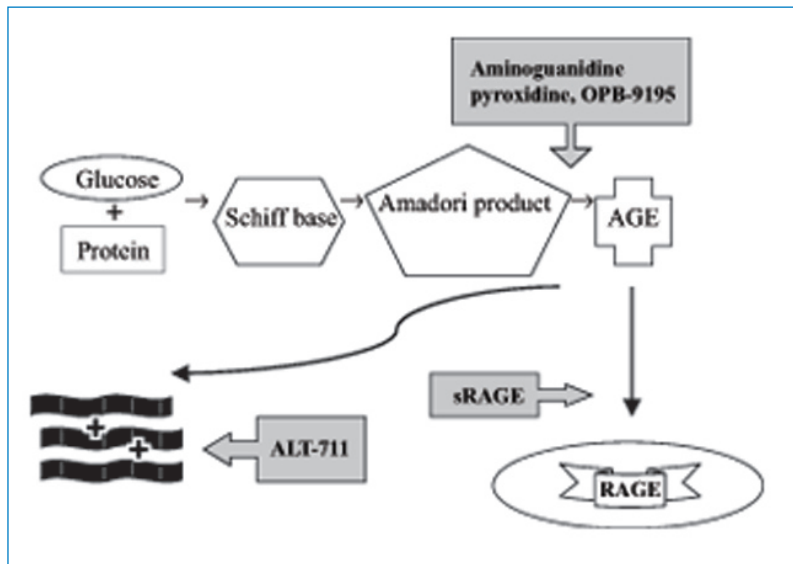
Traditional Art

1. This can consist of original drawings, photographs, laser prints, slides, or transparencies.
2. Do not crop or alter the front of photographs. Identify the figure and the top on the back of the photo using a sticker. Do not write directly on the photo.
3. Submit only original art, no photocopies.

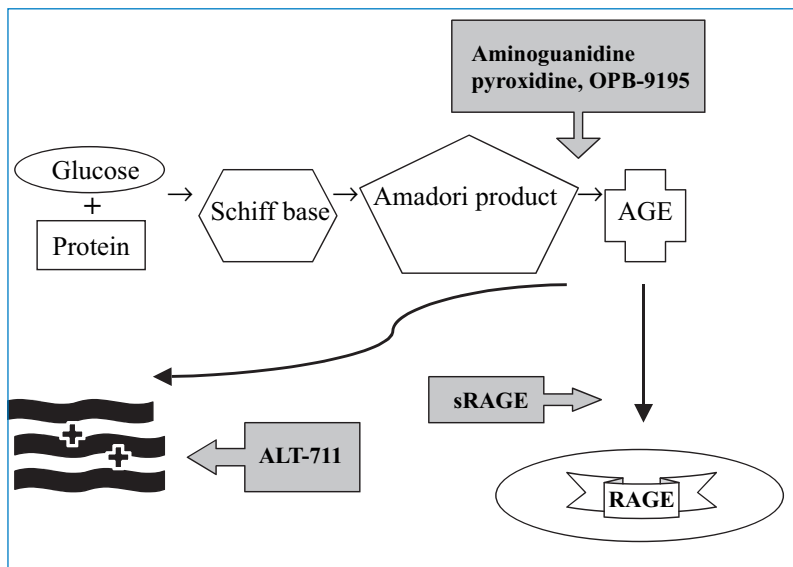
Digital Art

1. Acceptable formats are TIFF, high quality PDF (no image compression), and EPS. Resolution should be at least 300 dpi at final image size, and should be higher if the image will be enlarged. Black and white images should be saved in grayscale. Color images should be saved as CMYK, not indexed or RGB.
2. Line art can be created in Adobe Illustrator and saved as an EPS file. Scanned line art should have a resolution of 1200 dpi and saved as a TIFF.
3. Internet images (72 dpi) are not acceptable. Their resolution is too low for print reproduction.
4. Fonts in digital images should either be provided or converted to graphics.
5. Always send photographs rather than scan them.
6. Send original hard copies with digital art when available.

Halftone and Line Art



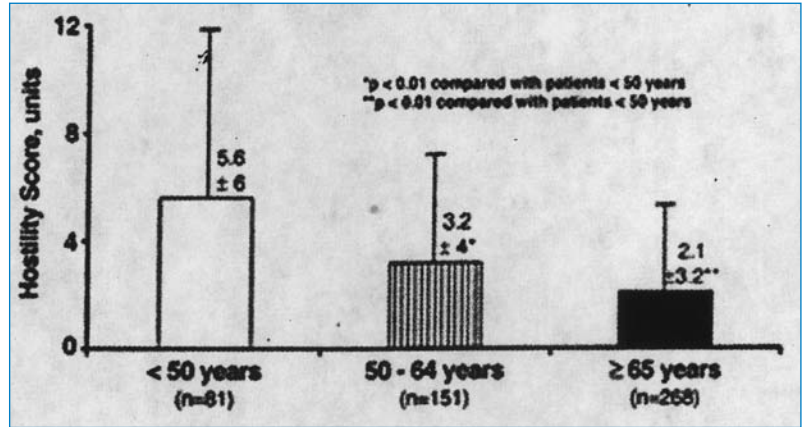
A. A halftone is an image made up of small dots that create the appearance of tone variation. Resolution is measured in lines per inch (lpi). Sixty-five lpi is coarse and 133 lpi is fine. For best results, use continuous-tone photos (not halftones) scanned at 300 dpi, produced in grayscale or CMYK, and saved as a TIFF.



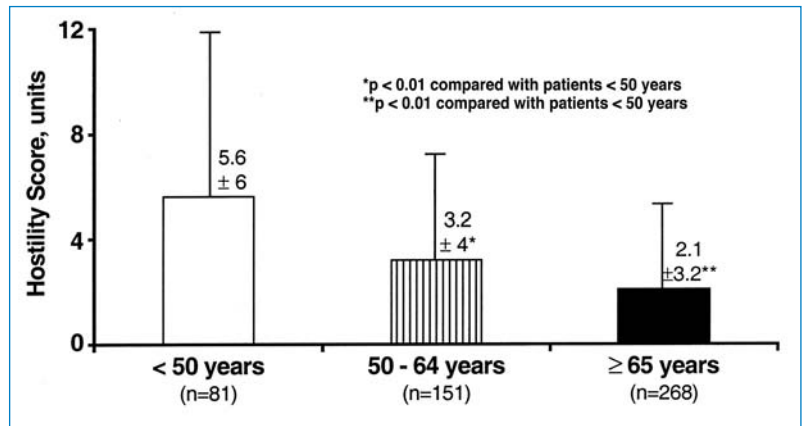
B. Line art requires sharp edges and high contrast between light and dark areas. This requires higher resolution. Scan at 1200 dpi to ensure the best quality. The best way is to create the figure in Adobe Illustrator and save it in EPS format.

Reproduction Quality

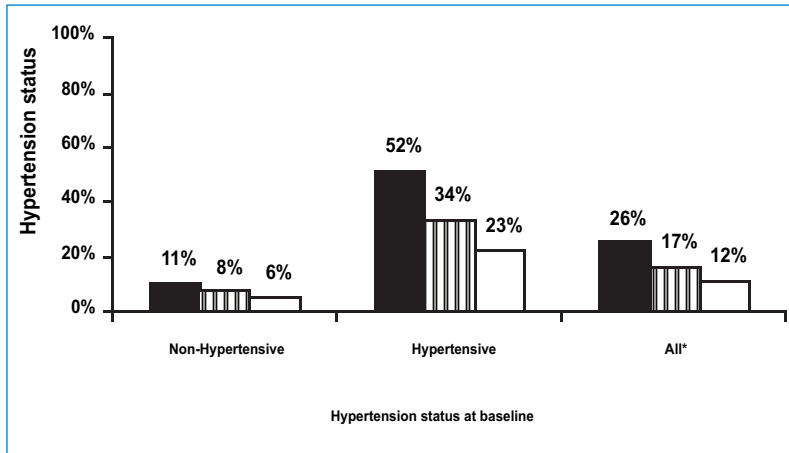
A. This poor quality art was caused by using a photocopy of the original art. Notice the graying and spots.



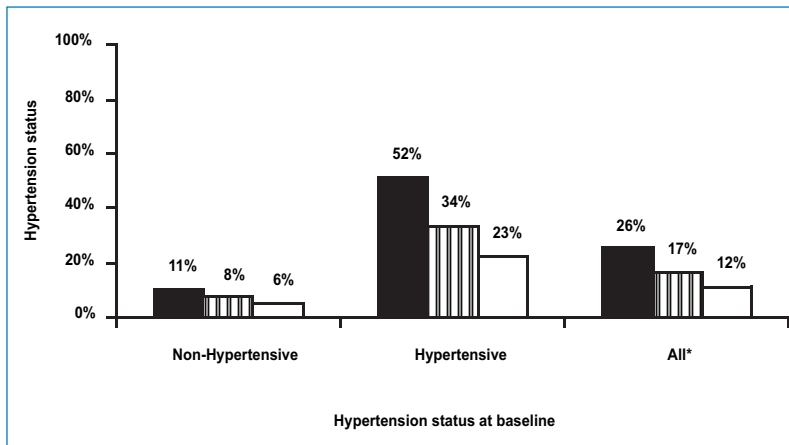
B. This good quality art is the product of using the original art in production. Notice the solid lines and good contrast.



Proportion



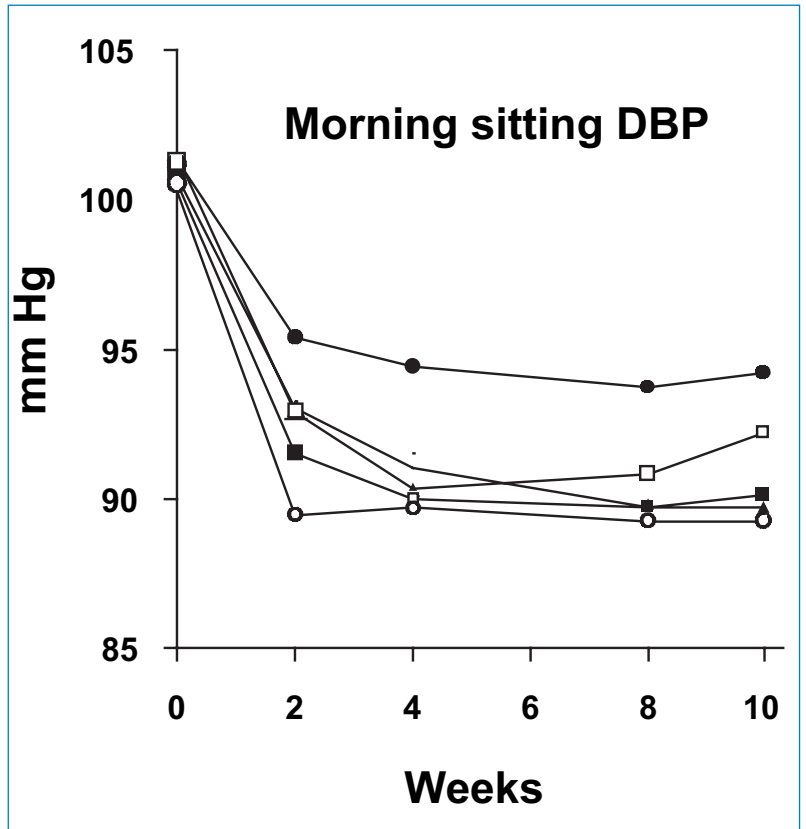
A. This is an example of bad proportions. Notice the different sizes of the labels on the axes and the bars. This figure will not allow for reduction, and its appearance is not appealing.



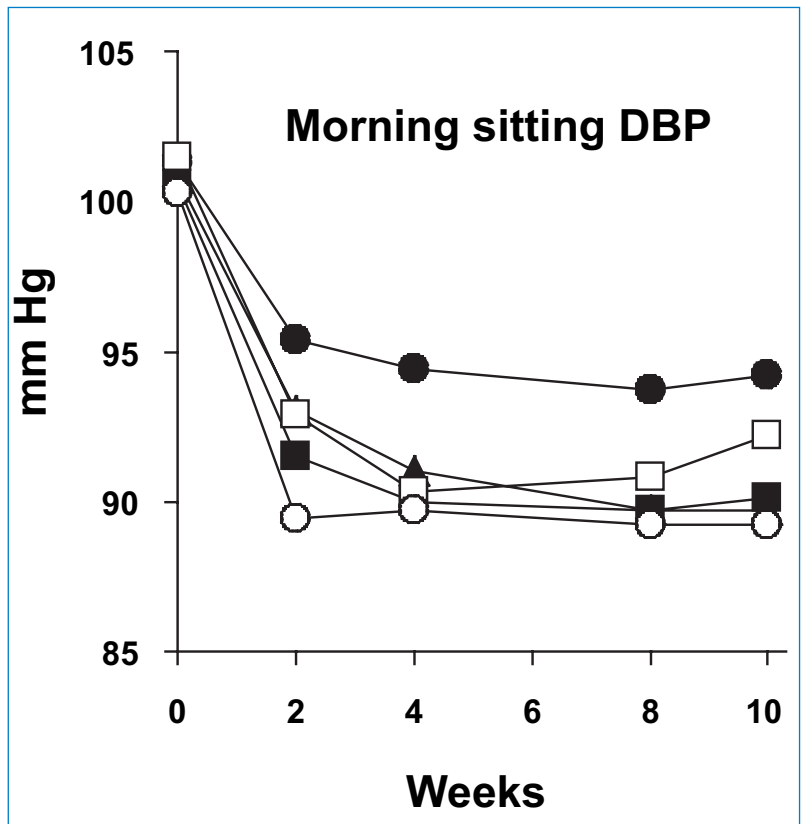
B. This is the same figure but with corrected proportions. All labels are the same size. This figure can be reduced and looks better to the reader.

Scale

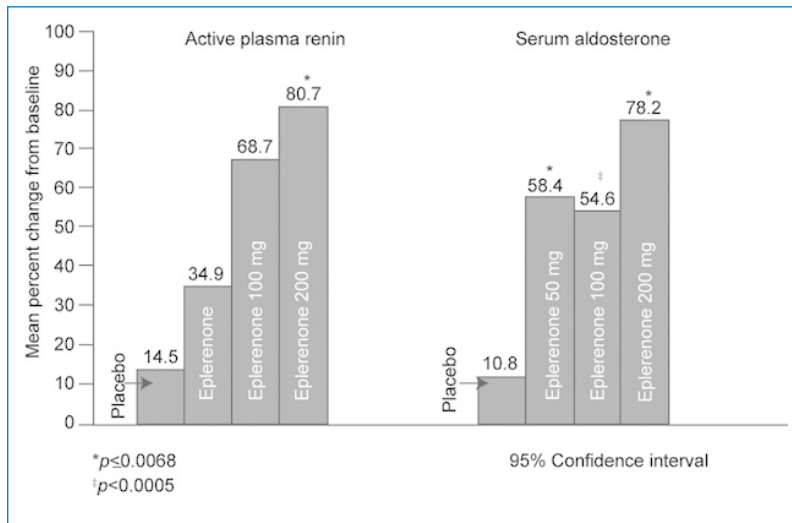
B. This figure shows poor scale. The symbols in the graph are too small. Their small size makes it difficult to interpret the figure.



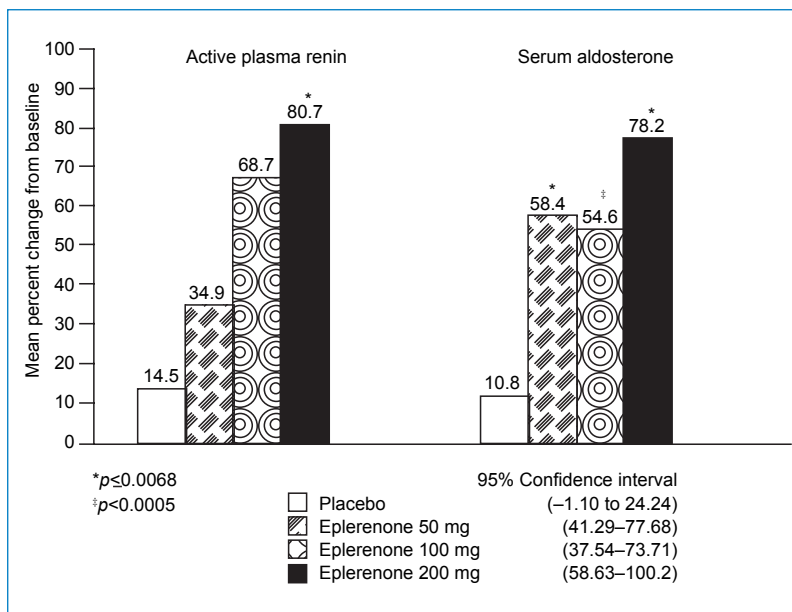
C. This figure shows excellent scale. The size of the symbols has been increased. It is much easier to read.



Shading



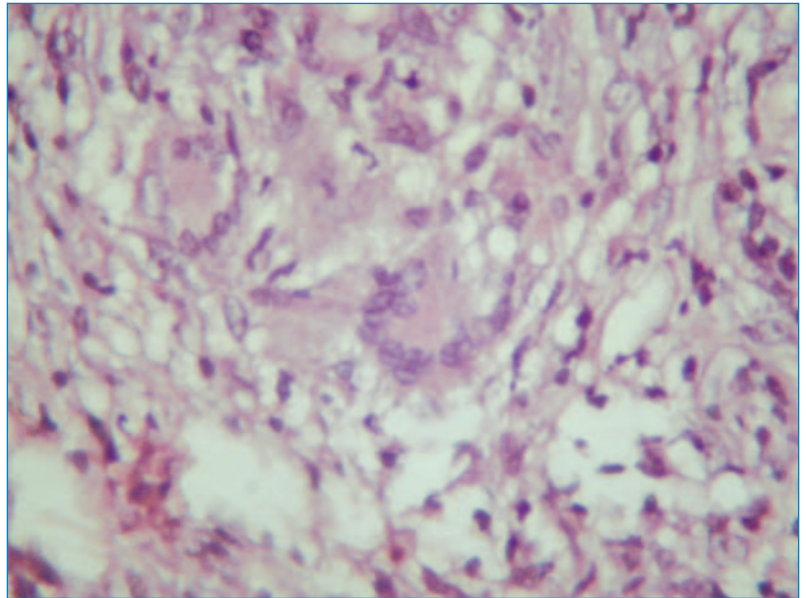
A. This is an example of poor line art. The shading of the bars makes it difficult to read the labels within. It is also difficult to differentiate one set of results from the other. Overall, the lack of contrast makes this figure hard to read.



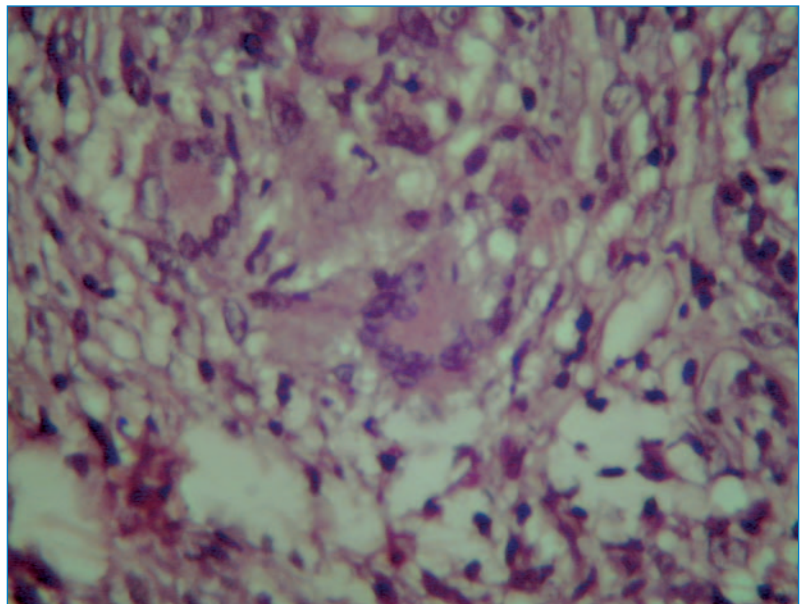
B. This is an example of good line art. The patterns within the bars make it easy to differentiate the data. The legend eliminates the need for labels within the bars.

Contrast

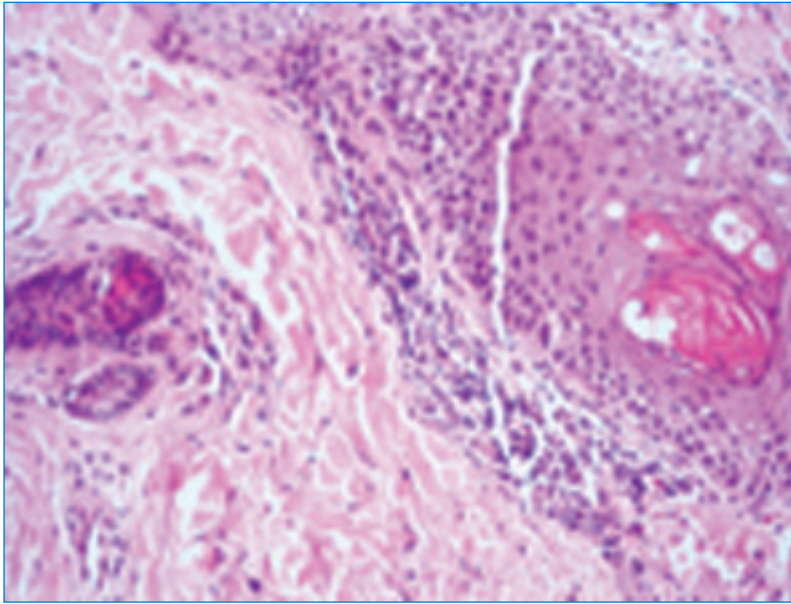
- A. This figure demonstrates poor reproduction of a micrograph. There is low contrast, causing much detail to be lost.



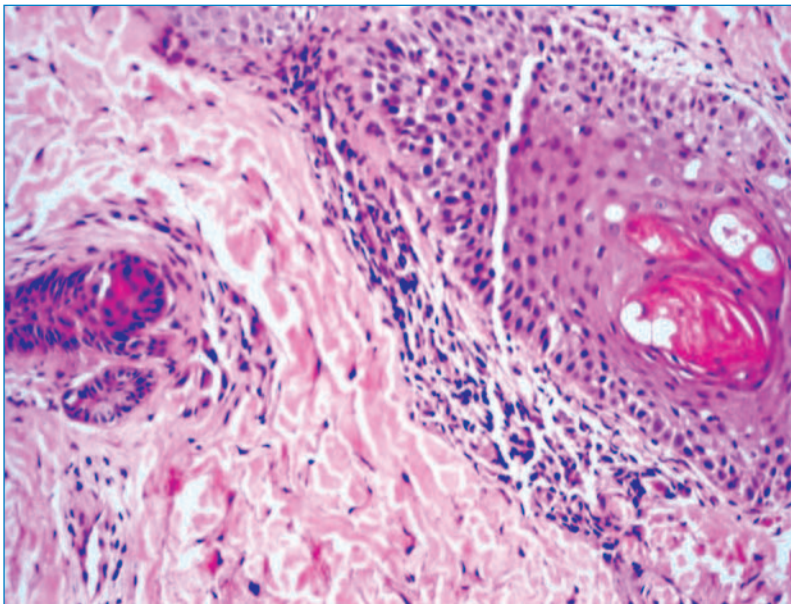
- B. This figure demonstrates good reproduction of a micrograph. There is high contrast, allowing the reader to examine fine details.



Resolution



A. This figure shows low resolution for its size. There are too few dots per inch, making it look pixelated or blurry. This is an example of a 72 dpi figure in a GIF or JPEG format.



B. This figure shows proper print resolution—300 dpi. The details are sharp and stand out.