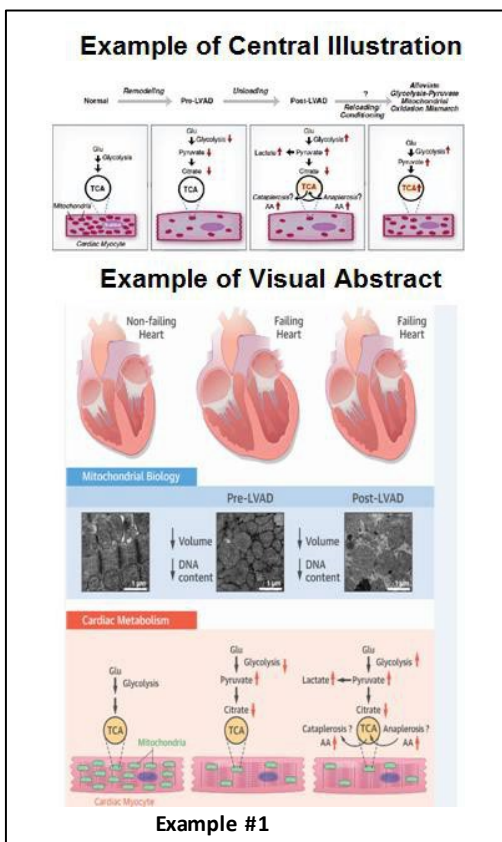


Guidelines for Creating Visual Abstracts for JACC: Basic to Translational Science

What is a Visual Abstract?

A visual abstract is a single, concise, pictorial summary of the methodology and the main findings of your article. The visual abstract should briefly summarize how you performed the studies and capture the major findings of your study. **Simply stated the visual abstract = methods + results.** The goal of the visual abstract is to make your research understandable for readers at a single glance. The visual abstract is specially designed to be placed at the beginning of your article and will be accompanied by 3-5 “bulleted highlights” that will be placed to the right of your article. The Visual Abstract will also be displayed online as a small thumbnail image to the left of the title of your article on the website (<https://www.jacc.org/journal/basic-translational>). All the visual abstracts for JACC: BTS will be downloadable and will contain the appropriate citation for your article.

How Does a Visual Abstract Differ from a Central Illustration?



A central illustration is typically located in the Discussion section of the manuscript and is intended to summarize the major findings and/or importance of your paper. The visual abstract appears at the beginning of the manuscript and should include some information about how the studies were performed. The simplest way to envision a visual abstract conceptually is that a visual abstract is a central illustration + general methods. An example of how a central illustration differs from a visual abstract is shown in the illustration to the left (Example #1). The central illustration at the top conveys the major scientific findings of the paper, whereas the visual abstract at the bottom lets the readers know that the studies were performed in human hearts, and that mitochondrial biology and metabolism is different in the failing hearts. For further information about the differences between central illustrations and visual abstracts please see this article by Drs. Fuster and Mann (<https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.jacc.2019.10.035>).

The visual abstract is intended to grab the interest of the reader and raise their level of interest in reading your work. In addition, your visual abstract will be shown at meetings and will display in social media platforms. The visual abstract is one of the best ways to share your research findings with a wide audience. Getting it right is important for you and for us!

Author instructions

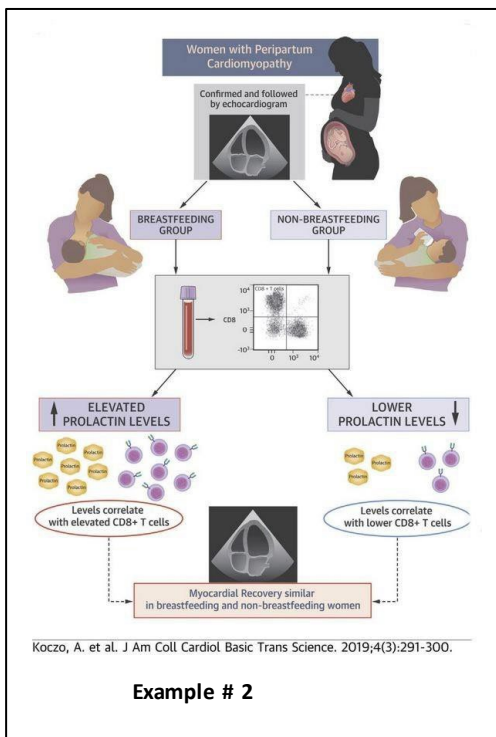
After the paper is accepted, you will be asked to provide an illustration that clearly represents the work (**methods + results**) described in your paper, and conforms to the concept of a visual abstract. The figure can be a line drawing or a computer drawing. There should be enough information on the initial drawing for the medical illustrator to begin to create a professional image that can be used as a visual abstract. Because the medical illustrators who create your visual abstract do not have a scientific background and cannot envision what you are thinking, the initial draft of your visual abstract must be in the form of a line drawing or a computer drawing for the medical illustrator to proceed. **A written description of the visual abstract is not sufficient for the medical illustrator to work with and will be sent back to you.**

Our experience is that some authors have difficulty in creating a visual abstract. In order to avoid going back and forth multiple times with the content of the visual abstract, we have developed a check list to help walk you through the do's and don'ts for creating an effective visual abstract. The check list is provided at the end of these instructions. If you ensure that all the items on the check list are completed, the first draft that you submit should be sufficient for the medical illustrator to begin working on your visual abstract. Please review and complete the check list and submit this completed checklist along with the first draft of your visual abstract. **If this form is not completed, the medical illustrator will return the draft of the visual abstract back to you.**

Once you have submitted a draft of your visual abstract, the medical illustrator will work closely with the Editor-in-Chief to create a clear and concise visual abstract that summarizes your work. Once a semi-final version of your visual abstract is complete, the image will be sent back to you for your final approval and/or to make any changes that are necessary for scientific accuracy. To avoid going back and forth multiple times with the visual abstract content, we strongly encourage the authors to spend time on the initial drawing that they submit to the medical illustrator.

Suggestions for creating an effective visual abstract

- A simple visual abstract is better than a complex visual abstract.
- Avoid using bar graphs or graphs to summarize the data – use up or down arrows, etc.
- Avoid using a great deal of text in the visual abstract – the idea is to convey your findings visually
- Complex signal transduction pathways in the visual abstract do not reproduce well in the thumb nail version of your visual abstract and should be avoided
- It is acceptable to incorporate a few photographs in your visual abstract (see example #1)



Another example of a simple visual abstract is given below in Example #2. The visual abstract conveys what was done in the study, and what the major findings were. Most importantly, the key methods and results of your visual abstract should be understood by somebody who does not know you work in 30 seconds.

We recognize that each article is different, and that the types of visual abstract that are best will vary from article to article. However, the more your scientific story that you can tell with images, rather than words, the easier it will be for readers to understand your science at a single glance.

You have spent a lot of time, energy and money on your research. The editors and editorial staff of *JACC: Basic to Translational Science* want to help you disseminate your important findings to as many people as possible.

An effective visual abstract takes time to create, but is the best way to attract people to read your paper and understand your important contributions to the field!

JACC: Basic to Translational Science Visual Abstract Checklist

Before submitting a draft of your visual abstract (VA) to the medical illustrator, please complete the checklist below and indicate with a check (✓) that the draft of the VA you are submitting conforms to the guidelines for VAs. Please include this form along with the draft of your VA. You can indicate in words what you are trying to convey with the images if you feel that will help the illustrator; however, this text will not appear in the final VA. Thank you!

- 1. The submitted draft of the VA includes the methods and the results of the study.
- 2. The methods are illustrated, and indicate whether the study was performed in silico, in animals (indicate the species), or in humans (indicate the numbers of subjects in the study and the medical condition being studied if appropriate).
- 3. For the methods, only simple text (1–3 words) is used to indicate what is being measured and/or the endpoint of the study.
- 4. The main results/findings of the study are presented simply (for example, using up and down arrows), avoid graphs or data tables, and do not contain excessive text.
- 5. The VA does not contain graphic images of complex signal transduction pathways or complex diagrams.
- 6. The VA does not contain information that goes beyond the methods and the results, such as the rationale for the study, background material, or what the findings of the paper suggest or imply (these topics should be mentioned in the text for the Highlights section that accompanies the VA).