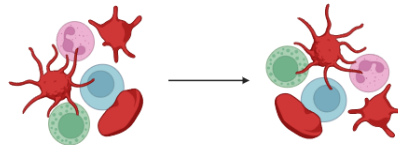

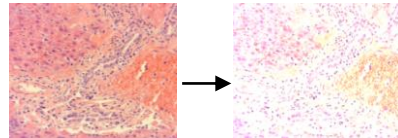
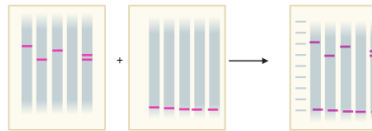
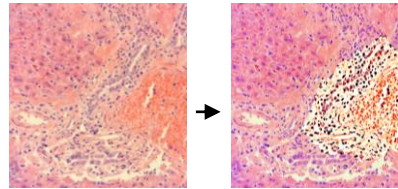


Type of error	Examples	Journal response
Level I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edits that are intended to highlight key points in the dataset but are not explained. These edits are not intended to mislead and have no impact on scientific conclusions. 	Rotation or duplication of the microscopy image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authors are asked to provide an explanation and revise the figure. The revised figure is considered for peer review. If this manipulation is discovered post-publication, a corrigendum is published.
	Splicing and merging of comparable data 	
Level II <p>Extreme edits that lead to suspicion of the intent to mislead.</p>	Extreme contrast adjustment that deletes background data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A formal investigation is initiated to rule out deliberate manipulations. All co-authors and the institute are notified. Revisions may be allowed depending on findings about the source data and severity of the manipulations.
	Reuse of control panels – this practice should be highly discouraged since it defeats the purpose of controls 	
Level III <p>Image manipulations that are clearly indicative of fabrication.</p>	Unequal application of processing to the same image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authors are asked to provide an explanation. In the event of an unsatisfactory explanation, the manuscript is rejected/withdrawn. An institutional investigation may be initiated. Authors are monitored for subsequent publication of the same data in other journals.
	Insertion/deletion of band to create new data (which never existed) 