

CASE REPORT WRITING OUTLINE FOR AUTHORS

General Considerations. Please ensure that all patient data has been de-identified and that you obtained the necessary approval, if necessary, from an ethics commission or an institutional review board.

Title. Include the words “case report” in the title. Describe the phenomenon of greatest interest. This could be the presentation of the patient, the diagnosis, a test result, the intervention, or the outcome.

Abstract. In about 200 words summarize the following information if relevant: (1) Rationale for this case report, (2) Presenting concerns of the patient (such as chief complaints or symptoms, diagnoses), (3) Interventions (such as diagnostic, preventive, prognostic, therapeutic exchange), (3) Outcomes, and (4) Main lesson(s) to learn from this case report.

Key Words. Provide 2 to 5 key words that will help potential readers search for and find this case report.

Introduction. Briefly summarize the background and context of this case report.

Presenting Concerns. Describe the patient characteristics (such as the relevant demographics—age, gender, ethnicity, occupation) and their presenting concerns with relevant details of related past interventions.

Clinical Findings. Describe the (1) medical, family, and psychosocial history including lifestyle and genetic information; (2) other pertinent co-morbidities and interventions (other therapies including self-care); and (3) the physical examination (PE) focused on the important findings.

Timeline. Create a timeline that includes specific dates and times in a table, figure, or graphic.

Diagnostic Focus and Assessment. Provide an assessment of the (1) diagnostic methods (including laboratory testing, imaging results, questionnaires, referral diagnostic information); (2) diagnostic challenges (such as limited ability to complete an evaluation, patient availability, cultural); (3) diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered; and (4) prognostic characteristics (such as staging in oncology) where applicable.

Therapeutic Focus and Assessment. Describe the (1) types of interventions (such as pharmacologic, surgical, preventive, lifestyle, self-care) and (2) administration and intensity of the intervention (including dosage, strength, duration, frequency).

Follow-up and Outcomes. Please describe the clinical course of this case including all follow-up visits as well as (1) intervention modification, interruption, or discontinuation, and the reasons; (2) adherence to the intervention and how this was assessed; and (3) adverse effects or unanticipated events. Please describe (1) patient-reported outcomes, (2) clinician assessed and reported outcomes, and (3) important positive and negative test results.

Discussion. Please describe the strengths and limitations of this case report including case management, and the scientific and medical literature related to this case report. Discuss the rationale for your conclusions such as potential causation and the ways this case might be generalized to a larger population. Finally, what are the main findings of this case report and what are the 'take-away' messages?

Patient Perspective. Whenever appropriate the patient should share their experience of their care in a narrative published within this case report or accompanying this case report.

Informed Consent. Ensure that the patient provided their informed consent for the publication of this case report.