WRITING CASE REPORTS: A Literature Review

Must Read articles on writing case reports:


Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, USA. laine-mccarthy@ouhsc.edu

BACKGROUND: Since before Hippocrates, case reports have provided a rich resource for teaching and research in medicine. Case reports are published by many prominent journals--more than 140,000 case reports are indexed in MEDLINE from 1996 to present--and a number of narrative guidelines for the preparation of case reports have appeared in the medical literature. To facilitate the preparation of case reports, we reviewed the existing guidelines and a random sampling of published case reports and created a fill-in-the-blanks worksheet for physicians to use to capture unique scientific observations. Although originally developed to assist family practice residents to write case reports, the case report worksheet can be used by physicians in any practice setting and any discipline to collect and report interesting, unusual, or newsworthy cases.

Publication Types:
• Case Reports
PMID: 10726220 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Free text at: www.ajhp.org

Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY 11203, USA. hcohenliu@aol.com

PURPOSE: Guidelines for writing patient case reports, with a focus on medication-related reports, are provided. SUMMARY: The format of a patient case report encompasses the following five sections: an abstract, an introduction and objective that contain a literature review, a description of the case report, a discussion that includes a detailed explanation of the literature review, a summary of the case, and a conclusion. The abstract of a patient case report should succinctly include the four sections of the main text of the report. The introduction section should provide the subject, purpose, and merit of the case report. It must explain why the case report is novel or merits review, and it should include a comprehensive literature review that corroborates the author's claims. The case presentation section should describe the case in chronological order and in enough detail for the reader to establish his or her own conclusions about the case's validity. The discussion section is the most important section of the case report. It ought to evaluate the patient case for accuracy, validity, and uniqueness; compare and contrast the case report with the published literature; derive new knowledge; summarize the essential features of the report; and draw recommendations. The conclusion section should be brief and provide a conclusion with evidence-based recommendations and applicability to practice. CONCLUSION: Patient case reports are valuable resources of
new and unusual information that may lead to vital research.

Publication Types:
• Guideline
PMID: 16990637 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Helpful links: http://student.bmj.com/back_issues/0204/education/60.html

Additional Literature Review on Writing Case Reports (listed by date):


Free text at: www.cmaj.com