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British medical journal case report format

Case reports in indexed medical journals are growing and expanding. Some medical journals specifically publish primarily case reports, such as the BMJ Case Reports from the British Medical Journal and the Journal of Medical Case Reports from BioMed Central. Journals accepting case reports typically will highlight areas of interest (such as surgical or oncology) and the criteria for case reports they will accept — which should be explicitly mentioned in case reports submitted to these journals. Here is a 2017 list of indexed journals that accept case reports. What do you do if a journal does not explicitly accept case reports? Before beginning to write your case report, it is important to consider the journals in which you wish to publish. You should consider the audience you wish to target and consider the readership of journals to whom your case report will be most applicable. We recommend initially considering at least 3 journals – one first choice, and two backups in the event your first choice does not accept your case report. When considering different journals, the “author guidelines section” is often helpful. Not all medical journals explicitly accept case reports; however, case reports may appear within another publication type, including a brief report, a letter to the editor, or a hypothesis article. For example, The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) does not accept free-standing case reports; however, other articles in this journal may contain case reports. Driggers et al. in 2016 published a brief report on the Zika virus in the NEJM, including a detailed case report with an excellent timeline documenting maternal viremia and its effect on the fetus. Léoulet-Labryze et al presented infant cases of hemangioma treated with propranolol in a letter to the editor in the NEJM. The Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) provided early reports of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) in five patients presenting with Pneumocystis carinii. Depending on your goals, the message you wish to share, and the audience with which you wish to communicate, there are a number of strategies for publication of a case report. Some freely available journal finder tools that may be helpful include: David Riley MD co-authored this post COVID-19: a message from BMJ >> BMJ Case Reports does not accept case series. However, if we feel that an article makes a point better by including more than one case, we will consider the article. If your case report involves more than three patients, please contact the editorial office so that we can assess your case. Each case will be peer reviewed by at least two external referees as well as the Editor, Deputy Editor or Associate Editor. Accepted cases will be copy edited and you will be provided with an edited version to approve before publication. What cases do we wish to publish? We want to publish cases with valuable clinical lessons. Common cases that present a diagnostic, ethical or management challenge, or that highlight aspects of mechanisms of injury, pharmacology or histopathology are deemed of particular educational value. It is essential that the learning outcomes of the articles are important and novel. In addition, we encourage reports of global health cases and medicine practiced in unusual settings, eg, expedition medicine, humanitarian work, refugee health, conflict, violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, humanitarian aid, telemedicine and e-health and health innovations. Global health case reports should focus on the causes of ill health and access to healthcare services, whether economic, social or political – global health issues as they impact on individual patient’s lives. These cases require a comprehensive review of the relevant global health literature and an in depth understanding of the anthropological background of the case you present. We want to publish cases worthy of discussion, particularly around aspects of differential diagnosis, decision making, management, clinical guidelines and pathology. The advantage is that we learn from real cases. An example of the kind of cases we want to publish can be found in our 10th anniversary cases special edition booklet. How to write for BMJ Case Reports There is no official word count for full cases and global health articles. For full case reports we recommend a maximum of 2000 words and for global health articles we recommend a maximum of 4000 words (excluding abstract and references). Images in ... articles should be no more than 500 words. Images in ... articles may include videos as well as still images. Please see below for further information on how to submit your videos. Please anonymise the patient’s details as much as possible, eg, specific ages, ethnicity, occupations. Please see the author hub for BMJ’s standard on anonymisation. On submission you will be asked to upload one Word template, any figures and accompanying files and a patient consent form. BMJ has prepared a guide that explains how to write a useful case report. For further support when making your submission please refer to the resources available on the BMJ Author Hub. Here you can also find general formatting guidelines across BMJ and a formatting checklist. You may also wish to use the language editing and translation services provided by BMJ Author Services. Authors wishing to submit a case report reporting adverse drug reactions and complications, novel treatment including a new drug/ lifestyle/treatment intervention or the use of an established drug or procedure in a new situation should contact the Editor in Chief with a presubmission enquiry at eic.bmjcases@bmj.com prior to taking out a fellowship. Editorial policy We take seriously all possible misconduct. If an Editor, author or reader has concerns that a submitted article describes something that might be considered to constitute misconduct in research, publication or professional behaviour they should forward their concerns to the journal. The publisher will deal with allegations appropriately following ICMJE and COPE guidelines. If your submission is a modification of a conference poster or abstract please ensure that you mention it in your cover letter. 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You must have signed informed consent from patients (or guardians) before submitting to BMJ Case Reports. Please anonymise the patient’s details as much as possible, eg, specific ages, ethnicity, occupations. For living patients this is a legal requirement and we will not send your article for review without explicit consent from the patient or guardian. Please visit the Author Hub for further information on Patient Consent and Confidentiality and BMJ’s standard on anonymisation. If the patient is dead the UK Data Protection Act does not apply, but the authors must seek permission from a relative (ideally the next of kin). If you don’t have signed consent from a deceased patient, guardian or family, the head of your medical team/hospital or legal team must take responsibility that exhaustive attempts have been made to contact the family and that the paper has been sufficiently anonymised not to cause harm to the patient’s family. 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All authors must have made an individual contribution to the writing of the article and not just been involved with the patient’s care. The uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to medical journals state that authorship credit should be based only on a substantial contribution to the following: Conception and design, acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content. Final approval of the version published. Agreement to be accountable for the article and to ensure that all questions regarding the accuracy or integrity of the article are investigated and resolved. All of these conditions must be met to be listed as an author. Further information on authorship is available online. Individuals only involved in the patient’s care (including diagnosis and management) should be listed in the acknowledgements. Please note, the corresponding author must have an active Fellowship. 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