

## How to write a case report

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**Date of publication:** August 08, 2015

**Available from:** <http://www.ephysician.ir/2015/CaseReport.pdf>

Doi: 10.14661/2015.CaseReport

### About this document:

This document was prepared for authors who want to submit their case report articles for the peer review process in the journal Electronic Physician (ISSN: 2008-5842; Website: <http://www.ephysician.ir>). The readers may use the same format and structure when they prepare original articles for submission to other medical and health related journals; however, we advise them to read the section “instruction for authors” in the target journal before they submit their manuscript to any journal.

### Writing the abstract of case report

It is suggested that the author organize the abstract of case reports in one single paragraph, consisting of 150-200 words. The first 1-2 sentences refer to the topic in general and its importance. The next 1-2 sentences should present the case in brief, the summary of the main signs, symptoms, and laboratory and imaging findings. Then, the author is required to write 1-2 sentences about any treatment measures, follow ups (if applicable), and the final outcome of the case. Finally, one single sentence at the end of abstract should provide any relevant practical conclusion (for health or treatment policy makers).

**Keywords:** Add 3-5 keywords here. It is recommended to choose them from MESH.

### Writing the body of case report

Please organize the body of case report into the following four sections:

- 1) Introduction,
- 2) Case presentation,
- 3) Discussion,
- 4) Conclusions.

#### 1) Writing the introduction

This section should consist of one paragraph (maximum 2). The first 1-2 sentences should cover the background of the topic. Then address the importance of the topic (and the case, specifically) so that the readers clearly understand why this case is important enough to publish. For example, if your case is a rare case, you should mention it; if the case refers to a new occurrence of a disease or health problem in a population that has historically been free of that

disease, you should state that. If your case report accounts for a clinically important issue, a new medical or surgical process, a special side effect of medicine, or complications of disease, you should address it here because case reports can contain extremely important new pieces of knowledge that have the potential for expanding our current knowledge of clinical situations and medical treatment protocols. Finally, your case may have educational value for teaching medical students if it addresses a typical or classical medical or health situation.

## **2) Writing the case presentation**

Organize this section into several separate sub-sections using sub-headings, such as clinical presentation, history (personal and family history), laboratory and imaging findings, treatment and follow-up, outcome, or any additional sub-headings or sub-sections relevant to the case or nature of the disease. You may need to add one or two tables listing laboratory or other diagnostic findings, as well as 1-2 high quality photos of the patient, macroscopic and microscopic findings, or imaging (X-ray, CT scan, MRI, ECG, etc.).

## **3) Writing the discussion**

It is suggested that this section contain a discussion of any findings you already presented in the case presentation. If the clinical presentation had something new, rare or even typical, you should address it. You may also be interested in comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences in clinical presentation, laboratory and imaging findings, and its response to the treatment between this case and other cases.

## **4) Writing the conclusions**

Organize this section as one short paragraph consisting of 3-5 sentences. In the first 1-2 sentence you may present the essence of the case presentation, treatment, and follow ups. Next you can state the conclusions based on this specific case, and finally you may have some practical recommendations for health policy makers, etc. You may also want to recommend future research in the last sentence of this section.

### **End of Document**

August 08, 2015. Electronic physician. <http://www.ephysician.ir>

#### **About Electronic Physician:**

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