

Basic Outline of a Case Report

Title: Should be succinct and memorable.

I. Abstract:

- Introduction and objective.
- Case report.
- Discussion.
- Conclusion.

II. Introduction

- Describe the subject matter.
- State the purpose of the case report.
- Provide background information.
- Provide pertinent definitions.
- Describe the strategy of the literature review and provide search terms.
- Justify the merit of the case report by using the literature review.
- Introduce the patient case to the reader.
- Make the introduction brief and less than three paragraphs.

III. Patient Case Presentation

- Describe the case in a narrative form.
- Provide patient demographics (age, sex, height, weight, race, occupation).
- Avoid patient identifiers (date of birth, initials).
- Describe the patient's complaint.
- List the patient's present illness.
- List the patient's past medical history (including OTC meds), family history, and social history.
- Provide pertinent findings on physical examination.
- Provide pertinent laboratory values that support the case.
- Provide the reference range for laboratory values that are not widely known or established.
- List the completed diagnostic procedures that are pertinent and support the case.
- Paraphrase the salient results of the diagnostic procedures.
- Provide photographs of histopathology, roentgenograms, electrocardiograms, skin manifestations, or anatomy as they relate to the case.
- Ensure a temporal relationship.
- Ensure a causal relationship.
- Ensure that the patient case presentation provides enough detail for the reader to establish the case's validity.

IV. Discussion

- Compare and contrast the nuances of the case report with the literature review.
- Explain or justify the similarities and differences between the case report and the literature.
- List the limitations of the case report and describe their relevance.
- Establish a temporal relationship.
- Establish a causal relationship.
- Summarize the salient features of the case report.
- Justify the uniqueness of the case.
- Draw recommendations and conclusions.

V. Conclusion

- Provide a justified conclusion.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations.
- Describe how the information learned applies to one's own practice.
- List opportunities for research.
- *Ensure that this section is brief and does not exceed one paragraph.*