

# Writing a Case report for publication and Conference Presentation

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- ◆ A case report (case study) is a method of descriptive research that documents a practitioner's experiences, thoughts, or observations related to the care of a single patient
- ◆ A case series combines the observations from a group of similar patients

## TYPES

- ◆ Education case report
- ◆ Diagnostic /Assessment case reports
- ◆ Treatment/Management case reports

## STEPS

### IDENTIFYING CASES IN PRACTICE

#### LITERATURE SEARCH

- Tells you what you need to know to design your study
- Tells you what you need to know to understand and interpret your study results/outcomes
- Helps you develop an unbiased, objective understanding of your topic

#### Search Engines

- ◆ Ebsco
- ◆ Ovid
- ◆ Pub med
- ◆ Index to Chiropractic literature
- ◆ MANTIS
- ◆ CINHAL

### CHOOSING YOUR AUDIENCE

### CHOOSE YOUR JOURNAL BEFORE YOU START WRITING

- ◆ This is very important because all journals have different requirements for case reports:
  - ◆ Some do not allow case reports to be published.
  - ◆ Others range from about 1,000 to 3,000 words allowed for a case report.
  - ◆ The number of references also ranges. Some limit to 5, other journals allow unlimited.
  - ◆ Finally, the sections of the manuscript may differ based on the journal instructions.

#### ACCESS THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

- ◆ The instructions are listed in every scientific journal and are different for every journal
- ◆ Check to see if they allow case reports
- ◆ Read them thoroughly

#### OBTAINING PATIENT CONSENT

#### OUTCOME MEASURES

- ◆ All the possible measurements of results that may stem from exposure to a causal factor, or from preventive or therapeutic interventions
- ◆ Qualitative
  - ◆ Anything that can be described in words (usually in quotes)
  - ◆ Examples: “I have not been able to sleep through the night in years!”
- ◆ Quantitative
  - ◆ Anything that can be described in numbers (subjective or objective)
  - ◆ Examples
    - ◆ Lab results
    - ◆ Height/weight
    - ◆ Pain levels on VAS
    - ◆ Quality of life on SF36

Which outcome measures should be used?

- ◆ Look at which measures are consistently used in the literature
- ◆ Check out texts on outcome measures
- ◆ Read articles on new outcome measures

#### STRUCTURE OF A CASE REPORT

- ◆ Title
- ◆ Abstract/Key words
- ◆ Introduction
  - ◆ Background information and overview of previous research (if any)
  - ◆ Gaps in previous research
  - ◆ Significance of topic area
  - ◆ Objective of your case report
- ◆ Case study section
  - ◆ Profile of patient
  - ◆ Treatment plan
  - ◆ Outcome measures
  - ◆ Results
- ◆ Discussion/Conclusions
  - ◆ Briefly restate the findings of the study, and then discuss how previous research findings correlate.
  - ◆ Provide a rationale for the treatment techniques and modalities selected.
  - ◆ Describe why the results may have occurred
  - ◆ Discuss any policy or practice implications
  - ◆ Limitation
  - ◆ Conclusion
- ◆ References