

WB08

GETTING YOUR VIGNETTE PUBLISHED IN JGIM... OR OTHER JOURNALS: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

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Journals Publishing Case Reports/ Clinical Vignettes

General Internal Medicine (Impact Factor)

- NEJM (30): <http://www.nejm.org>
 - “Images in Clinical Medicine”
 - Letters
- Lancet (13.3): <http://www.thelancet.com/>
 - “Short Communication”
- Annals of Internal Medicine (11.1): <http://www.annals.org/>
 - Letters
- Arch Int Medicine (6.7): <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/>
 - “Clinical Observations”: case series
 - Sample: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/164/21/2383>
- BMJ (6.6)
 - “Clinical Review”: few case reports
 - http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/330/7482/83?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=%22case+report%22&searchid=1106147536617_12152&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&volume=330&issue=7482
- American Journal of Medicine (6.1): <http://www.amjmed.org/>
 - Letters
- Journal of Internal Medicine (2.9):
 - <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0954-6820>
- Mayo Clinic Proceedings (2.9): <http://www.mayo.edu/proceedings/>
 - “Medical Images”
 - “Case Reports” sample: <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.com/inside.asp?AID=652&UID>
- Canadian Medical Association Journal (2.8): <http://www.cmaj.ca/>
 - “Clinical Vistas”: Images
 - “Auscultations”: short case reports
 - “Case Reports” : short case reports
- JGIM (2.4). <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=0884-8734>
- Am J Med Sci (1.54): <http://www.amjmedsci.com> (page charges apply)
- Southern Medical Journal (0.7): <http://www.smajournalonline.com/>
- Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine (0.7): <http://www.jrsm.org/>
- Patient Care (NA): <http://www.patientcareonline.com/patcare> (and get paid for it!!)
 - Sample: <http://www.patientcareonline.com/patcare/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=138230>
- European Journal of Internal Medicine (NA): <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09536205>
 - “Brief Report”: case reports
- Postgraduate Medicine (NA): <http://www.postgradmed.com/index.htm>
 - “Puzzles in practice”, “Pearls in Dermatology”: short case reports/ pictures/ few/ year
 - Sample: http://www.postgradmed.com/issues/2004/11_04/puzzles_question.htm
- Journal of Hospital Medicine (NA), <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/111081937/ForAuthors.html>
 - “Clinical Conundrum”

- The Learning Curve at MedGenMed, (Medscape General Medicine)
 - <http://medgenmed.medscape.com/viewarticle/545497>

Specialty Journals (based on your case)

Outline for Case Reports

- Title
 - Informative
 - Facilitate retrieval with electronic searching
- Introduction/ Background
 - Is case unique? Not previously reported
 - Does case describe 2 disorders/ previously unsuspected causal relationship?
 - Does case represent a new pattern?
 - Does case have an unusual diagnosis, prognosis, therapy or harm?
 - Describe how case contributes to scientific knowledge, is worth reading
 - Describe teaching points that add value to this case. Learning points?
 - Other Case reports: Uncommon features, atypical/ unusual, new adverse events,...
- Methods and Results
 - Detailed description: history, exam, investigations.
 - Describe the treatments adequately. Have all available therapeutic options been considered? Are outcomes related to treatments?
- Discussion
 - Report a literature review of other similar cases. Describe how is this case different/ unique and adds to past published literature. Review of past published relevant cases
 - Explain the rationale for reporting the case. What is unusual about the case? Does it challenge prevailing wisdom?
 - Possible alternative explanations. Is the cause of the patient's illness clear-cut?
 - Learning points?
 - In the future, could things be done differently in a similar case? Implications for subsequent developments in clinical practice, teaching, or research.

Adapted from:

- **Huth, E. How to Write and Publish Papers in the Medical Sciences. 2nd Ed. Williams-Wilkins. 1990.**
- Sorinola O, Olufowobi O, Coomarasamy A, Khan KS. Instructions to authors for case reporting are limited: a review of a core journal list. BMC Med Educ. 2004 25;4(1):4.
 - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15043755

JGIM “Editor’s Pearl’s” – Audience: Academic General Internists

- Good English is a must. Great cases poorly written make the editors work VERY difficult
- Make teaching point clear
- Avoid jargon
- Must have proof of diagnosis without a doubt
- Brainstorm/ Discuss with peers, authors, experts. Helps identify unique teaching points and determine if case worth publishing
- Type of cases
 - Great cases are VERY GOOD !! (assists clinicians make a diagn – patient do well)
 - Interesting cases are Ok (nice reminders for clinicians)
 - “The only case described of the most unusual manifestation of a rare disorder” (NO!)