

How to Write a Case Report

Jeeson Unni¹, MKC Nair², Zafar Meenai², Samir Dalwai², Shabina Ahmed², Abraham Paul², S.S.Kamath², Kawaljit Multani², S.Sitaraman², Leena Shrivastav², Dr. Anjan Bhattacharya², Leena Deshpande², Shambhavi Seth², Monica Juneja³.

From: 1. Dept. of child & Adolescent health, Aster medicity, Kochi; 2. Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Neurodevelopment Paediatric Chapter; 3. Department of Pediatrics, Maulana Azad Medical College and associated Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi;

Correspondence: Dr. Zafar Mahmood Meenai, Editor in chief IJDBP

Indian Journal of Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrics (IJDBP) will accept for peer review case reports that highlight:

- Uncommon or unusual presentations of a disorder - Single case reports not preferred, unless it represents a hitherto unknown or rarely reported aspect of a disorder.
- Genetic syndromes with a major phenotypic reporting
- Major or clinically significant variations of rare but well-known disorders; rarity of a condition by itself may not be a criterion for acceptance
- An unusual or unexpected association between signs and symptoms of a disorder
- An unexpected event during management course of a patient
- Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications used in children with special needs
- New findings on pathogenesis of a disorder.
- Unusual presentation of a common condition which presented a diagnostic, treatment related or ethical challenge.
- Cases which highlight pitfalls in diagnosis or management will also be considered.

Case reports submitted to the IJDBP should be of educational value and/or suggest changes in the approach to clinical practice

The covering letter submitted by the authors along with case report must highlight its publication-worthiness including its educational and scientific merits.

For case reports, IJDBP will follow International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing and publication of scholarly work in medical journals. IJDBP utilizes an online manuscript management and processing system for manuscripts that is accessible from a dedicated website. No hard copies of the manuscripts will be entertained.

The case report can be authored by a maximum of 4 authors from a single department and 5 if more than one department is involved.

Authors should seek written and signed consent to publish the information from the patients or their guardians prior to submission. The submitted manuscript must include a statement to this effect in the consent section. The editorial office may request copies of the informed consent documentation upon submission of the manuscript.

Images should protect the child/adolescent's anonymity as far as possible. Photos or medical imaging should not show the name, medical record number, or date of birth. Images should be cropped only to show the key feature. If an image of a face must be published, this should be cropped so that only the affected area is shown. Number of tables/figures should be limited to 2.

Photographs should be in black and white only.

Manuscript preparation:

The text should not exceed 1000 words

Details of section headings and expected contents in each are detailed below –‘

Title page

- An appropriate title
- Full names with designation and email addresses of all authors
- Name of corresponding author

➤ **Abstract**

The Abstract should not exceed 50 words. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract. The abstract must include the following separate sections:

- Background: why the case should be reported and its novelty
- Case presentation: a brief description of the patient’s clinical and demographic details, the diagnosis, any interventions and the outcomes
- Conclusions: a brief summary of the clinical impact or potential implications of the case report

➤ **Keywords**

Three to Ten keywords representing the main content of the article.

➤ **Introduction**

Attempt to explain the background to the case report, its aims, a summary of the existing literature.

➤ **Case presentation**

This section should include a description of the patient’s relevant demographic details, medical history, symptoms and signs, treatment or intervention, outcomes and any other significant details.

➤ **Discussion and Conclusions**

This should discuss the relevant existing literature

and should state clearly the main conclusions, including an explanation of their relevance or importance to the field.

➤ **References**

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The Vancouver reference style is to be followed.

List of abbreviations

➤ Abbreviations, if used, should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations should be provided.

➤ **Declarations**

All manuscripts must contain the following sections under the heading ‘Declarations’:

- Ethics committee approval - include a statement on ethics approval and consent with name of the ethics committee
- Consent for publication must be obtained from the adolescent, or in the case of children, their parent or legal guardian. All presentations of case reports must have consent for publication.
- Competing interests - Financial and non-financial competing interests of all authors must be declared. If there are none, a statement saying “The authors declare that they have no competing interests” should be documented
- Funding if received should be mentioned.
- Authors’ contributions - The individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified
- Acknowledgements - Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials

If any of the sections are not relevant to the manuscript, please include the heading and write ‘Not applicable’ for that section.