

Getting your Vignette Published in JGIM...or Other Journals: A Step-by- Step Approach

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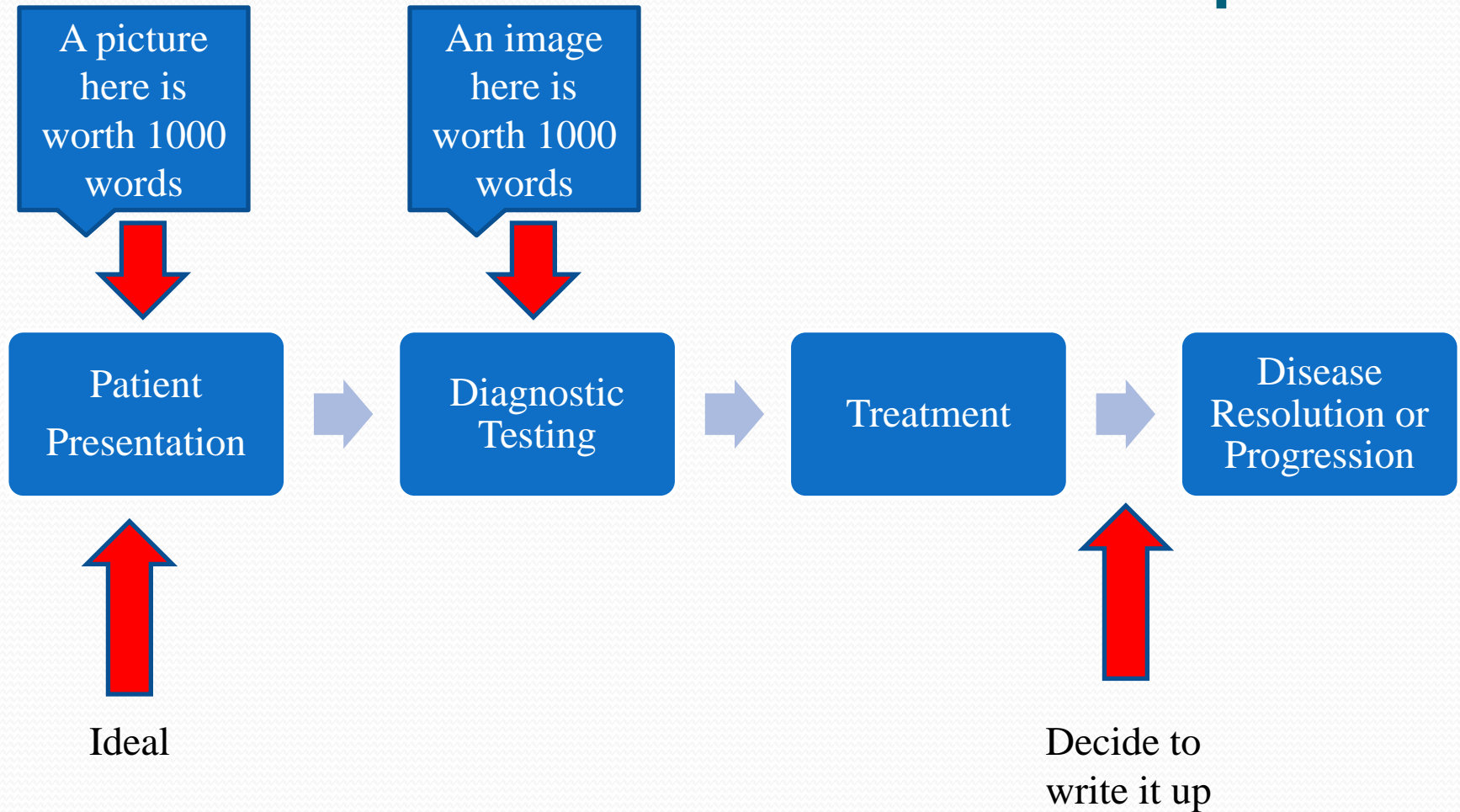
Today's Learning Objectives

- Recognize the scholarly potential of Case Reports/Clinical Vignettes
- List essential elements of Case Reports and Clinical Vignettes
- Discuss strategies to enhance the likelihood for publication
- List available resources

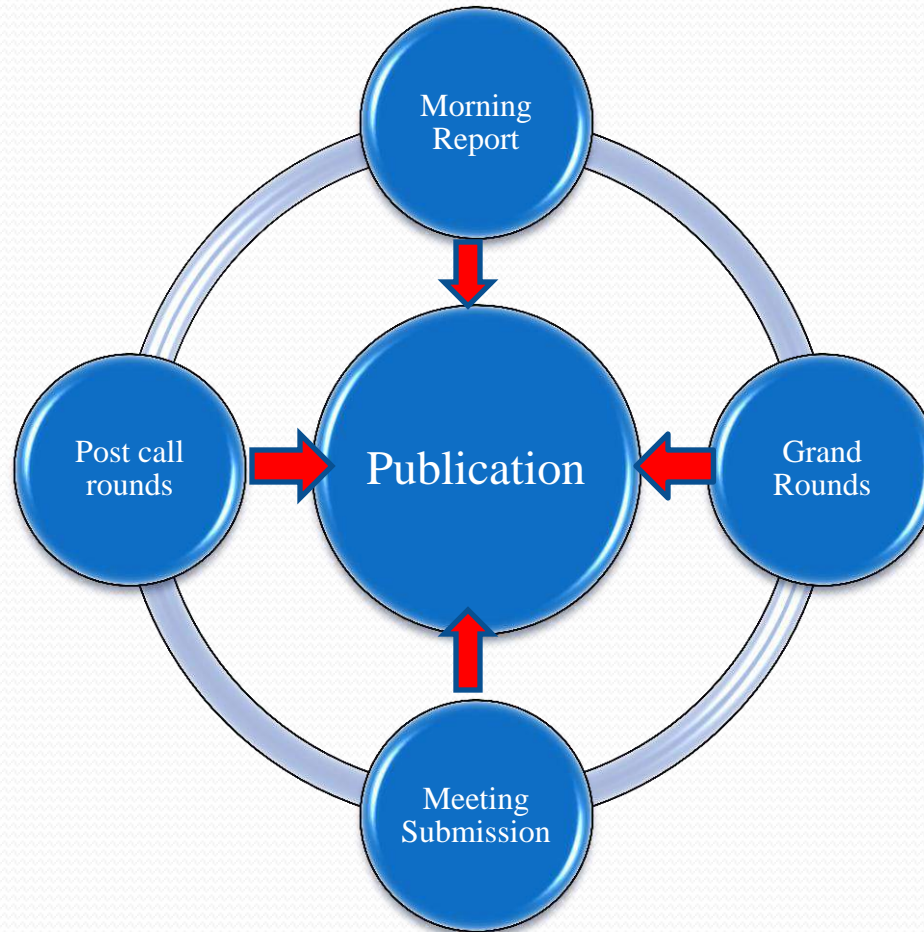
What could be a Case Report?

- If you need to research the clinical case
- If the specialist is excited
- If the clinical presentation is new or unique (higher burden of proof)
- A common disease with a unique presentation/twist
- A common disease that not been published lately

Evolution of a Case Report



Lifecycle of a Case Report



Anatomy of Case Reports

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction/Background
- Clinical case
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References
- Tables/Figures/Images

Anatomy of Case Reports

- Title
 - Informative and accurate
 - Should not be an unknown
 - Needs to be retrievable with electronic search
- Abstract
 - Brief summary of entire manuscript
 - Needs to include learning objectives

Anatomy of Case Reports

- Introduction/Background
 - Literature review for background
 - Learning objectives in context
 - Is case unique? 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 it worth reading?
 - Describe teaching points that add value to this case. Other Case reports: Uncommon features, atypical/ unusual, new adverse events,...

Anatomy of Case Report

- Clinical Case
 - Succinct history, physical and diagnostic studies
 - Appropriate hospital/clinical course
 - Pertinent positives and negatives
 - Diagnosis should not be in doubt

Anatomy of Case Report

- Discussion

- Literature review of similar cases. Describe how this case is 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?
- Develop the learning points.
- In the future, could things be done differently in a similar case? Implications for subsequent developments in clinical practice, teaching, or research (Key).

Anatomy of Case Report

- Conclusion
 - Summarize manuscript
 - Restate learning objectives/take home points
- References
 - Make sure they are up to date and formatted according to the journal requirements
 - Repeat literature review immediately prior to submission
- Tables/Figures/Images
 - Remove patient identifiers
 - Appropriate legends
 - Arrows to identify key points
 - Picture is worth 1000 words

Learning Objectives

- Crux of the submission
- Usually 2-3 key take home points
- Needs to be reflective of audience
- Should be step wise progressive
 1. How does the clinical case fit into the patient population of the audience – what they see everyday - general
 2. More specific learning objective targeted to the actual case
 3. The unknown or very specific learning point of the case – zebra learning point if appropriate

Small Group Sessions

- 30 minute period/Moderator directed
- Everyone spend 1 minute thinking of interesting case (presenting this year/last year or potential future submission)
- **Very brief** presentation 1 minute per case
- Choose most publishable case
- Develop learning objectives (3) and start write up
- Moderators and small group to provide feedback
- Short presentation (2-3 minutes maximum) of small groups back to large group

Publishing your Case Report

- Journal Review
 - Identify 3-5 target journals (know the audience)
 - Know the impact factor (general terms)
 - Likelihood for publication
 - Browse examples from journal
 - Search recent history
 - Review instruction for authors (familiarize yourself with these instructions and follow them)

Publishing your Case Report

- Getting started (first draft)
 - Pull your H&P, consultant reports, discharge summaries
 - Pull radiology studies, pathology slides
 - Pull any articles researched during case
 - Drop into word document
 - First draft complete!!!
- Perform literature review
 - General review
 - Targeted review (especially journals that publish case report)
 - Review again the journals that you intend to submit to (**very important**)

Revising your Case Report

- Revise your 1st to “n” draft (not ∞)
 - Order to work on: Case, Learning objectives, Introduction/Background, Discussion, Conclusion and Take home points, Abstract, Title
- Set a deadline for submission
- Save each draft
- Don't delete paragraphs (copy them at the end; you may need them later)
- Develop writing schedule that suits you best
 - 30–60 minutes daily
 - Blocks of time
 - Early vs. late

Revising your Case Report

- Tips for avoiding writer's block:
 - Get ideas down; free-write
 - Brainstorm with co-authors
 - Draw pictures/flow diagrams
 - Type with screen off
 - Type and don't read
 - Don't revise while you type initial drafts
 - Avoid perfection (initially)
 - Go back and read previously published case reports

Revising your Case Report

- Revise for (in this order):
 - Manuscript requirements
 - Essence, content
 - Order and flow
 - Consistency
 - Grammar, English
- Set deadlines for revisions

Improving Future Submissions

- Ask others to review your manuscript (variety of people with different strengths)
- Read other vignettes especially those from the journal you might submit to
- Serve as a reviewer for case reports/clinical vignettes
 - Journal submissions
 - Meeting submissions
- Benefits: make your case reports better, add to your CV, contribute to scientific community, fills big void

Barriers to Publication

- Distractions
 - Clinical responsibilities
 - Teaching responsibilities
 - Lack of support staff
 - Lack of training
 - Time management
-
- If barriers are time, money or resources, then negotiate with those that can assist (program director, chief, chair, dean)

Resources

- Mentors
- Faculty development
 - Workshops
 - Seminars
- University writing programs
 - English department
 - Public Health programs
- Support staff (e.g. grant writer)

Deputy Editor “Pearls”

- Good English is a must. Great cases poorly written make the editors work VERY difficult
- Make teaching points clear
- Avoid jargon and define abbreviations
- Use same tense verbs throughout, avoid misspellings, appropriate sentence and paragraph length etc
- Must have proof of diagnosis without a doubt
- Brainstorm/ Discuss with peers, authors, experts. Identify unique teaching points and determine if case worth publishing

Deputy Editor “Pearls”

- Type of cases
 - Great cases are **VERY PUBLISHABLE!** (assists clinicians make a diagnosis – patient does well). The “wow” factor
 - Interesting cases are OK (nice reminders for clinicians)
 - “The only case described of the most unusual manifestation of a rare disorder” (NO!)

Summary

Steps to publishing a case report

1. A patient with an interesting condition presents to your practice.
2. Identify a "take-home" message or teaching point from the case. Why is this case important?
3. Choose a journal appropriate for publishing the case report.
4. Obtain the journal's "guidelines for authors."
5. Enlist a medical student, resident, or colleague to help spread the work load.
6. Perform a literature search of journals, textbooks, and electronic media.
7. Compile all source articles in a file.
8. Assign a reference number to each source in the order obtained and write this number in the right upper corner of each article's front page.
9. Write up the case and discussion in the required format using assigned reference numbers to identify sources of information.
10. When the article is finalized, renumber sources in order as they appear in the paper.
11. Mail to the journal your manuscript with cover letter providing correspondence address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.
12. If the article is not accepted by the journal, obtain reviewers' comments.
13. Revise paper using reviewers' comments and the guidelines for authors of another appropriate journal.
14. Submit article to the second journal.

Where to publish

General Internal Medicine (Impact Factor)

- NEJM (47.050): <http://www.nejm.org>
“Images in Clinical Medicine”
Letters
- Lancet (30.758): <http://www.thelancet.com/>
“Short Communication”
- Annals of Internal Medicine (16.2): <http://www.annals.org/>
Letters
- Archives Internal Medicine (9.81): <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/>
“Clinical Observations”: case series
Sample: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/164/21/2383>
- BMJ (9.357)
“Clinical Review”: few case reports
Sample:
http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/330/7482/83?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFOR MAT=&fulltext=%22case+report%22&searchid=1106147536617_12152&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&volume=330&issue=7482
- American Journal of Medicine (4.47): <http://www.amjmed.org/>
Letters
- Journal of Internal Medicine (5.942):
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0954-6820>

Where to publish

General Internal Medicine (Impact Factor)

- Mayo Clinic Proceedings (4.97): <http://www.mayo.edu/proceedings/>
“Medical Images”
“Case Reports” sample: <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.com/inside.asp?AID=652&UID>
- Canadian Medical Association Journal (7.5): <http://www.cmaj.ca/>
“Clinical Vistas”: Images
“Auscultations”: short case reports
“Case Reports” : short case reports
- JGIM (3.013). <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=0884-8734>
- Am J Med Sci (0.924): <http://www.amjmedsci.com> (page charges apply)
- Southern Medical Journal (0.924): <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

Where to publish

General Internal Medicine (Impact Factor)

- Postgraduate Medicine (1.384): <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 (1.496), <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/111081937/ForAuthors.html>
“Clinical Conundrum”
- Journal of Medical Case Reports (N/A)
<http://jmedicalcasereports.com/info/instructions/>
- American Journal of Case Reports (Formerly known as “Case Reports and Clinical Practice Review”) (N/A) (Cost to publish)
<http://www.amjcaserep.com/page.php?IDpage=210&p=4>
- Consultant Peer Reviewed Consultations in Primary Care (N/A)
<http://www.consultantlive.com>
- Case Journals (N/A) <http://www.casesjournal.com/>
- Journal of Medical Case Reports (N/A) <http://www.jmedicalcasereports.com/home/>
- Check for a local state journal or electronic journal

Thank You