

## How to make a Case Report

*For this recipe you will need;*

- ❖ *A Case (this can be defined in many ways)*
- ❖ *A journal you wish to publish in or a conference you wish to attend*
- ❖ *The directions for a case report from the location to which you wish to submit it*

**Step 1:** Find a clinical case that shows a novel therapy for an old disease, a previously unpublished complication of a common therapy, an exception to a clinical rule, an unusual combination of disease, or something that will inspire a scholarly question or clinical inquiry.

**Step 2:** Obtain formal consent (your hospital or the journal/conference will have a form) from the patient

**Step 3:** Confirm that your diagnosis is correct

**Step 4:** Perform a literature search to confirm that it is unique. A medical librarian can be very helpful here. A basic search is outlined in chapter 3.

**Step 5:** Pick where you want to publish or present

**Step 6:** Write it up. Look up the guidelines specific to your venue. Common requirements are listed below. For a specific examples, look at the Journal of the American Medical Association's Clinical Challenge guidelines at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/instructions-for-authors/#SecClinicalChallenge>, or the British Medical Journal's instructions for case report authors at: <http://casereports.bmj.com/site/about/guidelines.xhtml>.

- 1. Introduction/Objective** - This is your HOOK. You need to get them interested, snare their attention. SELL IT.
- 2. Case Presentation** - This is your HPI. It is where you are going to have the most trouble with your 300 word count. This is where you put data that makes your case stand out.
- 3. Discussion** – This is where you prove that you have done a literature search and explain why your case adds to our current research or stands out from it.
- 4. Scholarly Question** – “What question(s) does our case report raise?” For example, what future research questions, policy questions, ethical questions etc. are raised by your case? When this section is required you need to have at least one question.
- 5. Conclusion** - What are the implications of your case? It is best to avoid concepts like “increasing physician’s knowledge.” Show how this may change patient care, change how you practice, change how you look for an illness etc.