

Case Reports: Add Value Beyond the Impact Factor

Darshana T. Shah, PhD¹

Author affiliations are listed at the end of this article.

Correspondence to:
Darshana Shah, PhD
Marshall University
Joan C. Edwards
School of Medicine
shah@marshall.edu

KEYWORDS

Case Report

In this issue of the *Marshall Journal of Medicine*, we have published four unique case reports, which include detailed descriptions of the symptoms, diagnoses, disease courses, and treatments of patients. Case reports are a prominent form of medical communication that can be traced back to ancient Egypt.¹ They promote scholarly communication and add value to the advancement of medicine as they share new discoveries and rare observations. Case reports may also introduce medical students, residents, and fellows to medical writing, offering them the opportunity to make scholarly contributions to medical literature. Good case reporting requires focus, and high-quality case reports are more likely to get accepted when authors follow reporting guidelines such as the CARE (Case Report) checklist.² They can reveal early signals of potential benefits and harm, educate on the use of resources, provide evidence for clinical research and clinical practice guidelines, and inform medical education.

In the publishing world, case reports still rank at the bottom of evidence-based literature. Since case reports do not receive nearly as many citations as

meta-analyses or randomized controlled trials², journals have ceased or significantly limited the number of case report publications.³ However, the *Marshall Journal of Medicine* values case reports that contribute to the clinical evidence base and stimulate further investigations. Therefore, the *Marshall Journal of Medicine* editorial board welcomes the submission of high-quality case reports, which may represent significant contributions to medical literature.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

1. Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Huntington, West Virginia

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