

How to write a laboratory-based case study for the Journal

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Abstract

Case studies are educational for the reader. They bring together laboratory results with the patient's clinical diagnosis. Case studies include description of an unusual disorder or aetiology, support for or disconfirmation of a clinical hypothesis, new insight into disease pathogenesis, unusual case presentation, and description of adverse drug or food-induced reactions. Case studies show what medical laboratory science is all about - as a diagnostic aid for the clinician. In this article I will briefly describe the characteristics of a case study for submission to the Journal.

Key words: case study, clinical diagnosis, laboratory results

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Introduction

Case studies published in the Journal brings together laboratory results with the patient's medical conditions and clinical diagnosis. They are educational for the reader and shows what medical laboratory science is all about - as a diagnostic aid for the clinician. Reasons for submitting case studies include: presentation of an unusual disorder or unusual aetiology; to support or disconfirm a clinical hypothesis; offer new insight into disease pathogenesis; to describe an unusual case presentation; or to describe adverse drug or food-induced reactions.

For the last two years there has been an annual prize awarded by the NZIMLS for the best case study published in the Journal during the calendar year (1,2). In this educational article I will briefly describe how to write up a case study and hope this will spur some from our profession to submit case studies to the Journal. Over the years many good case studies have been presented at StG or other scientific meetings yet only a very few have been published in the Journal, where a larger and an increasing international readership awaits. Case studies are important contributions to the medical laboratory science literature and evidence base, are educational for readers, and are often a way for authors to start their publication record.

Case studies typically are divided under the following headings: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Case Report, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgements, References.

Title

The title should be accurate description of the case study followed by the words - "a case study", or case studies if more than one patient is presented as in a retrospective analysis. Do not use a funny title, except maybe as a subtitle. The title should alert the reader to the main focus of the case study.

Abstract

Unlike a scientific article, the abstract for a case study is unstructured, i.e. no subheadings of background, methods, results and conclusions. The abstract should start with a very brief background generally outlining the clinical condition of the case study to be presented. This is followed by a paragraph briefly

outlining the case study with only the relevant clinical details and the main laboratory results. In the final paragraph state the overall conclusion arising from the case study. At the end include up to five key words, preferably medical subheading terms from Index Medicus. An excellent example is the case study published in the August 2008 issue of the Journal (1).

Introduction

Describe clearly the purpose of the case study and provide a brief review of the published literature pertaining to the topic. Do not write an in-depth review of the topic. The best type of articles to reference here are previously published review articles and, if relevant, the first described case in the literature. Do not discuss your case study in relation to the published literature here. This is for the Discussion section later.

Case report

This is the part where you describe the patient's medical presentation, outcomes, treatments if applicable, and laboratory results. The case study has to be presented in a chronological order with enough but succinct details. For the laboratory results include your laboratory's reference ranges and units of measurement. Often, if there is a lot of laboratory data, especially if the patient is followed over many days, it is better to present the data in tables and/or figures. Do not repeat data in text that is presented in the tables or figures. Only present data that is pertinent to the case study, do not add other laboratory data from tests ordered that do not add value to the case study.

An important consideration is patient privacy. Nowhere in the case study must the patient be able to be identified. If a photo of the patient is critical for the case study report, written informed consent is essential. Contact your local institution's ethical authority for guidance and approval. Another consideration is the clinician or medical team caring for the patient. They may have plans to write up the case study for possible publication in a medical journal. If published elsewhere, duplicate publication of the case in the Journal is not allowed. Contact the primary care physician in the first instance and explain that you wish to publish the case, focussing primarily on the laboratory data. Offering the clinician co-authorship, often leads to agreement in allowing you to write up the case study.

Discussion

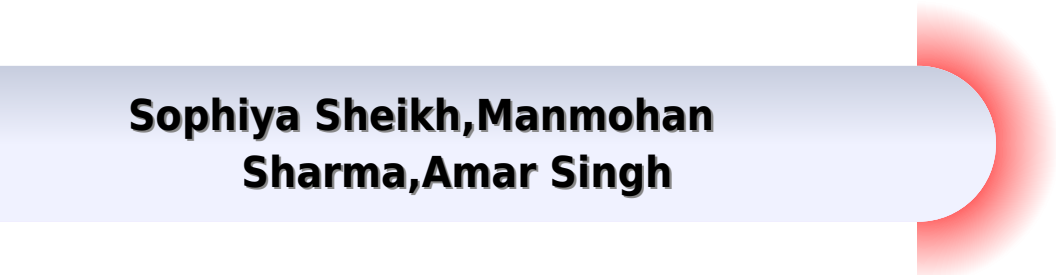
This is the part of the paper where the author discusses the case and the laboratory findings. Relate the case to what is already known from the published literature and if the results are different to what has been published, discuss possible reasons for this and what your opinion is. State any limitations to your case study. For instance, it may have been useful to have additional laboratory results for other tests, but these were not ordered at the time. You should also state, if so, what was unique about your case study.

Conclusion

The conclusion should briefly and succinctly be what was learned from the presented case study, it should not be a repeat of the case

Clinical Laboratory Science Journal

**Sophiya Sheikh, Manmohan
Sharma, Amar Singh**



Clinical Laboratory Science Journal:

Clinical Laboratory Science ,1988 List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus National Library of Medicine (U.S.),2004
Issues for 1977 1979 include also Special List journals being indexed in cooperation with other institutions Citations from these journals appear in other MEDLARS bibliographies and in MEDLING but not in Index medicus *List of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE* ,2005 *National Library of Medicine Current Catalog* National Library of Medicine (U.S.),1988

Science Journal ,1970 **Index of NLM Serial Titles** National Library of Medicine (U.S.), A keyword listing of serial titles currently received by the National Library of Medicine *EMBASE List of Journals Indexed* ,2004 *New Scientist and Science Journal* ,2002 **Current Catalog** ,1989 First multi year cumulation covers six years 1965 70 Clinical Laboratory Scientist Divine Ink,2020-12-10 UNIQUE JOURNAL TO WRITE IN FOR CLINICAL LAB SCIENTISTS This is a lined Journal Front side as well a back side with 20 lines on each page This is a perfect gift and can be used for daily journaling writing to do lists remember daily priorities noting you re your thoughts or events writing affirmations etc For more book specifications kindly scroll down your screen to Product Details section What You Will Receive Do It Yourself Table Of Content Machine Grade Binding Premium And Elegant Cover Pure White Pages Last 2 Sheets For Rough Work Quick Notes Smooth Glossy Finish Cover ROLL YOUR SCREEN UP AND CLICK BUY NOW List of Serials Indexed for Online Users ,2007 Each entry gives abbreviated title full title publication city NLM call number NLM title control number ISSN number special list indicator journal title code and sometimes a brief note 1983 ed 6037 titles *The Institution Quarterly* ,1917 *Source Publications for SciSearch* ,1989 Core List of Journals in the Life Sciences International Council of Scientific Unions. Abstracting Board,1979 **Fulltext Sources Online** ,2007 **Institution Quarterly** ,1925

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Powell,Barbara Van Brimmer,American Nurses Association,1998 Provides essential information on some 500 journals with notes on audience publication frequency manuscript acceptance rate and requirements for submissions as well as mail phone and electronic contact information Journals listed cover the spectrum of topics in nursing and allied health from advanced nursing and legislation to medical technology and trauma care Useful for researchers authors students and librarians Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR Medical and Health Information Directory, Vol. 2 Gale,Gale Group,2004-09

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This book delves into Clinical Laboratory Science Journal. Clinical Laboratory Science Journal is a vital topic that must be grasped by everyone, ranging from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Clinical Laboratory Science Journal, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. This book is structured into several chapters, namely:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Science Journal
 - Chapter 2: Essential Elements of Clinical Laboratory Science Journal
 - Chapter 3: Clinical Laboratory Science Journal in Everyday Life
 - Chapter 4: Clinical Laboratory Science Journal in Specific Contexts
 - Chapter 5: Conclusion
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 3. In chapter 2, the author will delve into the foundational concepts of Clinical Laboratory Science Journal. This chapter will elucidate the essential principles that must be understood to grasp Clinical Laboratory Science Journal in its entirety.
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 5. In chapter 4, this book will scrutinize the relevance of Clinical Laboratory Science Journal in specific contexts. The fourth chapter will explore how Clinical Laboratory Science Journal is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.
 6. In chapter 5, the author will draw a conclusion about Clinical Laboratory Science Journal. This chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.
- The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Clinical Laboratory Science Journal.

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