

## **Submitting a Case Study to the TSMJ**

The TSMJ is looking for case studies that are unique, unusual/atypical, novel or educational. For example, you may consider a case write-up for a patient who presents atypically; unusual findings on examination/investigations; novel treatment options; etc. It may be helpful to consult your team (Consultant or SpR) for identification of an interesting case and for guidance to demonstrate the originality of the case – your teams are usually involved in research and can help you make the link between your case and what's in the literature.

You may find it useful to review previous editions of the TSMJ to familiarise yourself with the structure/content of a case study.

Also, consider writing up the case with a colleague!

**\*\* You must obtain informed consent from your patient to submit a case study. Patient confidentiality is essential and no identifiable information is to be used in any part of your case write-up.**

### **Text Format:**

Please download our [template](#)

### **Title:**

- The title should be clear, concise and informative – the reader should have an idea of what the case is about. No abbreviations are used in the title.
- You may wish to create a “catchy” title to capture the attention of the reader – the decision to read an article often rests on the appeal of its title. However, it should contain key words related to the case content.

### **Author:**

- Designation, degree, affiliation and address of all authors are to be clearly indicated, with additional details such as telephone number and/or email address of the corresponding author.

### **Presentation of Case:**

- Should take the form of coherent paragraph(s), which should include the relevant details of your case. This involves taking the positive findings and relevant negatives from your history and exam, and summarising this information to highlight the most important aspects of your case.

### **Investigations and Diagnosis:**

- An overview of the investigations performed and the relevant findings – blood results, lab findings, imaging, etc.
- Be clear on how a diagnosis was established/confirmed. Detailed results should be included as support.
- Images of investigation results are highly encouraged – Chest X-ray, MRI scan, neuroimaging, etc. Colour illustrations are welcome.
  - Send them clearly labelled, preferably as jpeg, in a separate PowerPoint file to the article.
  - Each image should have a corresponding legend.
  - Please remember that we need informed consent from the patient for any material you obtain even if it does not include identifiable information. This includes X-rays, histology slides, and so on.
  - Should be in high definition.
- Include references where applicable.

### **Management:**

- Provide an overview of how the patient was managed in hospital, in OPD and/or in the community. For example, medical versus surgical management. Describe in detail specific treatment regimens, effectiveness and patient adversity.
- Include references where applicable.

### **Outcome and Follow-Up:**

- Be sure to follow up with your patient to determine their responsiveness to management and clinical outcome.
- Discuss prognosis if applicable.

### **Discussion:**

- Discuss the findings of your case with an emphasis on what makes this case unique, unusual, etc. It is important to use current literature to support your points. However, do not use the literature to provide a general overview of the disease – be sure to relate the literature to your particular case.
- You may wish to discuss management, prognosis, etc in this section if applicable.

### **References:**

- The references are to be presented in the style used in *Nature* (see URL in email).
- Avoid using ‘abstracts’ as references. The references must be verified by the author against the original documents.

### **Image Legends:**

- Image legends are to be included in the Word document before the references section. They should describe in detail the image in question and state that patient consent was obtained.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- All help must be acknowledged and appropriately thanked.

### **Clinical Points Box:**

- A “Clinical Points” box should be included containing 4-6 key messages in the form of succinct, single-sentence bullet points. These should be the most important “take-home” messages from the article. Some “speed-readers” may read only this box and the introduction!