

# Case reports

Dear author,

Thank you very much for writing an article for a Springer journal. The following information and the attached checklist will help you draft your manuscript. In addition, you are invited to consult the relevant journal homepage online, which also includes a sample article by way of illustration

» Please submit your manuscript, including all attachments, to the relevant editor for evaluation, or use Editorial Manager if available for the journal in question

Further information on submitting a manuscript, as well as editors' addresses, can be found on the homepage of the relevant journal. Here you will also find contact details for the publisher's editorial staff, who will be happy to answer your questions.

**Case reports use specific, short examples to highlight special features of clinical practice, diagnostic pitfalls as well as unusual disease and treatment courses. The presentation and discussion of specific cases is designed to provide the reader with information that can be practically implemented in diagnosis and therapy.**

## Structure

Please arrange your article into the following sections: "Medical history", "Observations", "Diagnosis", "Therapy and its course" and "Discussion".

## Figures/video material

As an author, it is your responsibility to ensure that, on submission of your manuscript, all necessary permissions to use figures or video material have been provided.

- Figures (including those in modified form) from the publications of other publishers or taken from the Internet may only be included if the author submits a permission to publish without time limit (in print/online/offline) given by the rights owner (e.g. first publisher, homepage provider).

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- Images showing recognisable persons (possibly also due to distinguishing characteristics, e.g. tattoos or scars) must be authorised in writing by these persons or their legal representatives. The "Patient Photos" form can be found on the journal homepage (menu item "For Authors").

- To illustrate your subject, you may add video material to your manuscript. Please refer to it in your text (citation, fixed image with legend).

## Using the names of drugs and active ingredients

Please always use the names of active ingredients and not trade names. Within a group of active ingredients, make sure there is a balance in the use of the individual names of active ingredients. If your article makes reference to medicinal agents or drug products, we would ask you to check and update the compositions, dosages and spelling.

» **Important:**  
Prior to submission, please check that your article is complete by using the checklist on the following page

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We will send you a PDF file of your article by e-mail so that you can proofread it and authorise publication.

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## Helsinki Declaration

In the case of studies on humans, samples derived from humans and research with personal data, the Helsinki Declaration in its current version and the opinion issued by the regional or institutional ethical committee must be observed. You should state how these general rules have been observed in the "Methods" section of the manuscript.

# ➤ Manuscript checklist: Missed anything?

## General points

- Total length: max. 8.000 characters including spaces (please do not forget to count references, tables and legends to figures)
- Always send manuscripts as a file (doc, docx or rtf, no PDF files) or via Editorial Manager
- Please use the SI system for units of measurement
- Explain abbreviations in the text; if necessary, add a list of abbreviations
- Include a Declaration of Compliance with Ethics Guidelines and Conflict of Interest (for more information see the page „Compliance with Ethics Guidelines“)

## Manuscript structure

- Full address of the corresponding author including telephone number, e-mail and portrait photograph
- Short, meaningful title (approx. 50 characters), if necessary with explanatory subtitle
- Concise and meaningful sub-headings (max. 50 characters)
- Practical conclusion: a short enumeration of the main points and concrete guidelines (max. 500 characters incl. spaces)

## Figures

- Important: Permission to publish (print, online, offline) figures from other publications and from the Internet without time limit is compulsory. The relevant form can be found on the journal homepage (menu item "For Authors").
- At most 2 figures with short legends
- Refer to all figures in the text
- Number figures in the order of their appearance in the text and mark the different parts of the figure as: (a), (b), etc.
- Formats: tif, jpg, ppt, pptx, eps, PDF
- Resolution of at least 300 dpi
- Written consent of identifiable persons

## Video material

- MediaContainer: QuickTime (information under <http://www.apple.com/de/quicktime>). Recommended compression codecs: Video H.264; Audio AAC  
To maximise usability on mobile devices, please note that file size should not exceed 200 MB/file.

## Tables

- Short table legends with explanations in table footnotes
- Cite to all tables in the text
- Number tables according to the order of their appearance in the text

## References

- There should be a maximum of 10 numbered references in alphabetical order
- In the text, put reference numbers in square brackets
- Use Medline abbreviations for journals

### Citing journal articles

- Schuler M, Oster P (2005) Zunehmende Bedeutung der Opiode in der Geriatrie. *Schmerz* 19:302–307

### Citing books

- Bork K (2005) Arzneireaktionen. In: Braun-Falco O, Plewig G, Wolff HH, Burgdorf WHC, Landthaler M (Hrsg) *Dermatologie und Venerologie*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York, S 431–446

### Citing journal articles using the DOI

- Hum Genet* (in press). DOI 10.1007/s004399900092

### Citing websites/online documents

- <http://www.springer.com>. Accessed on 01/03/2012
- <http://www.examplewebsite.com/document.pdf>. Accessed on 01/03/2012

## ➤ Quality Criteria for Case Reports – Checklist

- Have the patient and their disease been described in sufficient detail (in tabular form where appropriate)?
  - Age and sex
  - Definition, stage, and severity of the underlying disease (prior to treatment)
  - Relevant comorbidities
  - Medication
- Do findings reliably support the diagnosis?
- Has treatment been described in sufficient detail? Has the application of other treatments or concomitant therapies been mentioned or explicitly ruled out?
- Have the course and outcome of the case been discussed in sufficient detail? What was the follow-up period of the case?
- Have side effects or complications of treatment been clearly described? If there were none, has this been explicitly mentioned?
- Are there any factors that limit the application of the obtained results to other patients or situations and have these been sufficiently discussed?
- Have differential diagnoses or alternative hypotheses for an observed therapy effect been sufficiently discussed?
- In the description of treatment, has mention been made of whether other patients not included in the case report have been treated (possibly unsuccessfully) with a comparable treatment?

### Literature

1. Richason TP, Paulson SM, Lowenstein SR, Heard KJ (2009) Case reports describing treatments in the emergency medicine literature: missing and misleading information. BMC Emerg Med 9:10

# Compliance with Ethics Guidelines

## Conflict of interest

Dear authors,

All articles for Springer specialist journals require a declaration on any conflict of interest relating to the present and the past five years.

Authors are formally requested to declare any financial and personal relationship to third parties whose interests could be positively or negatively influenced by the article's content, even if the author believes there to be no influence (see infobox).

This declaration is good publishing practice according to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and helps to establish scientific transparency. Naturally, a conflict of interest does not in itself detract from the scientific statements made in the article.

Even if there is no conflict of interest, this must be stated explicitly.

## Examples

*Conflict of interest: J. Q. Public, A. Smith and E. Example state that there are no conflicts of interest.*

*Conflict of interest: J. Q. Public is a consultant for the company X / receives a consultancy fee from the company Y. Until recently, A. Smith was in an employment relationship with the company Z. E. Example states that there are no conflicts of interest.*

» Please make this declaration when you submit your manuscript. The declaration will be published.

## Patients' rights and animal protection statements

Medical research is subject to ethical standards, which promote the respect of

all humans and protect their health and rights. Physicians should take into consideration the ethical, legal and regulatory norms and standards for research on humans and animals in their respective countries as well as the respective international norms and standards.

Statements concerning having received approval by the appropriate ethics commission and having obtained informed consent from the participating patients should already be made at the time of submission of your manuscript. In the case of use of laboratory animals, please confirm that all national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals have been complied with and approval has been obtained from the responsible authorities.

## Examples

*All procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (in its most recently amended version). Informed consent was obtained from all patients included in the study.*

*Additional informed consent was obtained from all patients for whom identifying information is included in this article.*

*All institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.*

*This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects.*

### Conflict of interest: Definition

A conflict of interest exists whenever an author has a financial or personal relationship with a third party whose interests could be positively or negatively influenced by the article's contents:

- Financial relationships with companies whose products are directly or indirectly involved in the article. Example: A pharmaceutical company making or distributing a drug mentioned in the article or making or distributing a competitive product
- Contracts of employment
- Consultancies
- Shareholdings
- Speaker's fees
- Reimbursements of travel expenses
- Study sponsorships or other types of third party funding
- Links to health insurance funds, politicians or other interest groups
- Personal conflicts of interest exist, for example, if the author has a close relationship with someone whose economic or non-material interests are affected by the article (partnership, family relations etc.)