



How to write a case report suitable for publication

If you have an unusual case report that you'd like to write up, here are tips to help you get started:

1. The success of any good ultrasound-related case report is dependent on high quality anonymised **images**.
2. You will need permission from the patient or parent/guardian of the patient to use their anonymised details – images, demographics e.g. A 20 year old female presented to her GP with.... Image 1 shows a large cyst in the....

Don't let obtaining **consent** put you off. Ask politely and explain that if they give consent, they will be helping to educate healthcare professionals. Most people are keen to assist with learning if they know their details will be anonymised. It is likely there will be a simple form already in your department that you can ask your patient to sign. *Please check with your supervisor.*

3. Write a brief '**Introduction**' which describes the condition and how best to image it.
4. Write a brief '**Case Report**' section which states clearly how the patient presented, what imaging they had, what treatment, the outcome and finally a sentence describing how they are now.
5. Next is the '**Discussion**' briefly linking details of your case with the bigger picture. Include articles relating to the same pathology. Also discuss differential diagnoses and any diagnostic pitfalls to be avoided. Discuss if the outcome was typical or atypical and if anything could have been done differently. Include a sentence on future perspectives if appropriate.
6. Finally, write a short '**Conclusion**' of just a couple of sentences with a strong educational message. Summarise what you want readers to look for if they encounter the same situation but do not include any new information here, e.g. don't say an MRI should have been done if you haven't already talked about the value of MRI in your discussion.
7. Write only in the past tense.
8. Use only scientific words like transducer, woman, infant, radiograph, umbilicus, **NOT** lay terms like probe, lady, baby, x-ray, belly button!
9. Do not involve emotional words like 'sadly', 'suffering' or 'struggling' in your write-up, e.g. Do not say 'A 60 year old man suffering from Parkinson's disease presented...' Keep it objective. Simply say 'A 60 year old man with Parkinson's disease presented...'
10. Once you have written your report, reread it and remove all unnecessary words such as 'It can be seen that...' and 'Basically, the literature suggests...' Get a friend to proof read it.