

PAIN MEDICINE *Case Reports*

An Electronic Publication of **The American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians** and a Clinical Companion Journal to *Pain Physician*

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Alaa Abd-Elseyed, MD, MPH, FASA

Medical Director, UW Health Pain Services
Medical Director, UW Pain Clinic
Section Head, Chronic Pain Medicine,
Department of Anesthesiology
Chronic Pain Physician and
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
E-mail: abdelsayed@wisc.edu

DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James Giordano, PhD

Professor, Departments of Neurology and
Biochemistry and Chief, Neuroethics Studies
Program, Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics
Georgetown University Medical Center
Senior Research Fellow
Biosecurity, Technology, and Ethics
US Naval War College
E-mail: james.giordano@georgetown.edu

Mission

The mission of *Pain Medicine Case Reports* is to promote excellence in the practice of interventional pain management, pain medicine, and clinical research. *Pain Medicine Case Reports* is a peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary journal directed to an audience of pain physicians and other clinicians with an interest in interventional pain management and pain medicine.

Scope

Pain Medicine Case Reports is an official publication of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) and is a sister publication of *Pain Physician*, with a different perspective, and priorities of publication. Thus, *Pain Medicine Case Reports* publishes case reports, case series, and letters to the editor. It is a peer-reviewed journal written by and directed to an audience of pain physicians and other providers, policy makers, and clinicians with an interest in interventional pain management and pain medicine.

Pain Medicine Case Reports is an open access journal, available online with free full articles. It is listed in PubMed, CrossRef, WorldCat, ResearchBIB, and DRJI.

Publication Ethics

Pain Medicine Case Reports adheres to the guidelines and best practices as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Further, all processes of handling research and publication misconduct shall follow the applicable COPE flowchart (<https://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts>).

If there is suspicion of misbehavior or alleged fraud *Pain Medicine Case Reports* will carry out an investigation following COPE guidelines. If, after investigation, there are valid concerns, the author(s) concerned will be contacted under their given e-mail address and given an opportunity to address the issue. Depending on the situation, this may result in *Pain Medicine Case Reports'* implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author. If the article has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction: an erratum/correction may be placed with the article an editorial expression of concern may be placed with the article or in severe cases retraction of the article may occur

The reason will be given in the published erratum/correction, editorial expression of concern or retraction note. Please note that retraction means that the article is maintained on the platform, watermarked "retracted" and the explanation for the retraction is provided in a note linked to the watermarked article.

The author's institution may be informed. A notice of suspected transgression of ethical standards in the peer review system may be included as part of the author's and article's bibliographic record.

Author Guidelines

Categories of Articles

Pain Medicine Case Reports focuses solely on the publication of Case Reports, Case Series and Letters to the Editor.

Case Reports

For case reports, authors should follow the CARE guidelines and provide the CARE checklist (<https://www.care-statement.org/checklist>) upon submission. A case report is a detailed report of the symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of an individual patient. Case reports usually describe an unusual or novel occurrence and as such, remain one of the cornerstones of medical progress and provide many new ideas in medicine. Some reports contain an extensive review of the relevant literature on the topic. The case report is a rapid short communication between busy clinicians who may not have time or resources to conduct large scale research.

The most common reasons for publishing a case are the following: 1) an unexpected association between treatments or symptoms, 2) an unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient, 3) findings that shed new light on a possible new treatment or an adverse effect; 4) unique or rare features of a treatment or outcome, 5) unique therapeutic approaches, 6) variation of anatomical structures.

Most case reports deal with one or more of the following:

- Unusual observations
- Adverse response to therapies
- Unusual combination of conditions leading to controversy
- Illustration of a new theory
- Question regarding a current theory

Case Series

A group or series of case reports involving patients who were given similar treatment. Reports of case series usually contain detailed information about the individual patients. This includes demographic information (for example, age, gender, ethnic origin) and information on diagnosis, treatment, response to treatment, and follow-up after treatment.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are considered for publication (subject to editing and abridgment) provided they do not contain material that has been submitted or published elsewhere.

ARTICLE REQUIREMENTS

All Articles except Letters to the Editor

Word count should not exceed 2,500 words or be less than 1,000 words. Authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief if requesting a word count of more than 2,500 words.

Maximum of 60 references, unless approved prior to submission by the Editor-in-Chief.

4 tables and figures

Letters:

1,000 words

25 references

2 tables and figures

no abstract needed

Abstract

The abstract should summarize the case, the problem it addresses, and the message it conveys. Abstracts of case studies are usually very short, with a minimum of 100 words, not to exceed more than 250 words. Abstract MUST contain Background, Case Presentation, Conclusion.

Background

The background gives a brief overview of the problem that the case addresses, citing relevant literature where necessary. The background generally ends with a single sentence describing the patient and the basic condition that he or she is suffering from.

Case

This section provides the details of the case in the following order:

- Patient description
- Case history
- Physical examination results
- Results of pathological tests and other investigations
- Treatment plan
- Expected outcome of the treatment plan
- Actual outcome

Discussion

This section should start by expanding on what has been said in the background, focusing on why the case is noteworthy and the problem that it addresses. This is followed by a summary of the existing literature on the topic. Describe the existing theories and research findings on the key issue in the patient's condition.

Conclusion

This section should briefly give readers the key points covered in the case report. Here, the author can give suggestions and recommendations to clinicians, teachers, or researchers.

Author Contributions

Contributions made by each author should be included at the end of the article. Use author initials and include what part of the article the author contributed to including writing, editing, research, artwork, statistical analysis, etc.

Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our authorship criteria. Notably an attribution of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to LLMs. Use of an LLM should be properly documented in the disclaimer of the article.

Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest

Authors must identify all sources of funding from public and private sources such as pharmaceutical companies and commercial organizations that supported the study presented in the article. *Pain Medicine Case Reports* utilizes the ICMJE form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. This must be submitted by each author for every article submitted.

The Disclosure and Conflict of Interest section will be published with each article. This is a list of all contributions, disclosures, credits, and other information including authors' contributions; information on author access to data; disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, including financial interests, activities, relationships, and affiliations; sources of funding and support; an explanation of the role of sponsor(s); information on independent statistical analysis (if required); names and degrees; information on previous presentation of the information reported in the article.

Similarity Check

All articles submitted to *Pain Medicine Case Reports* are subject to screening using the Copyleaks similarity check platform (<https://copyleaks.com/plagiarism-checker>) for textual similarity to other previously published works or other platforms as deemed necessary.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Manuscripts

Pain Medicine Case Reports permits the responsible, transparent use of artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the preparation of manuscripts, subject to the requirements below. This is a living document and will be revised as technologies and community standards evolve. It aligns with the ICMJE Recommendations and the COPE position statement on Authorship and AI; where a situation is not addressed here, authors should follow ICMJE/COPE guidance and contact the editorial office.

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- 4. **Mandatory, specific disclosure.** Authors must disclose AI use in two places: (a) the cover letter at submission, and (b) the manuscript itself—in the Methods section when AI is part of the research, otherwise in the Acknowledgements. Disclosure must be specific and state the tool name, version, developer/manufacture, date(s) of use, and exactly how it was used. Vague statements such as “AI was used to assist writing” are not acceptable. Failure to disclose substantial AI use is a breach of publication policy and may result in rejection or other editorial action.
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References

References must be the most recent and up-to-date available. References from a single journal or a single author must be limited to 20% of total references which includes *Pain Medicine Case Reports* and primary author references.

Each journal reference should include the following, in this order:

1. Author(s) last name(s) and initials
2. Title of the article
3. Journal name (abbreviated according to Index Medicus)
4. Year of publication
5. Volume number
6. First and last pages

List all authors unless there are more than 6. If there are more than 6, list the first 3 then use “et al.”

Contributors are responsible for providing complete and accurate references. References are to be numbered in the order that they appear in the text. References should be cited in the text in their order of appearance and be listed by number in parentheses.

When data are from an unpublished source, give complete information, including name of the researcher and location. If the work is in progress, provide the journal or book publisher by which it will be published. Please check your references carefully.

Examples

Journal:

Gerdesmeyer L, Wagenpfeil S, Birkenmaier C, et al. Percutaneous epidural lysis of adhesions in chronic lumbar radicular pain: A prospective randomized controlled trial. *Pain Physician* 2013; 16:185-196.

Website:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: www.cms.hhs.gov.

Press Release:

AMA Press Release: *AMA Adopts New Policies During Final Day of Semi-Annual Meeting*. November 15, 2011.

News article:

Adamy J. Overlapping Health Plans Are Double Trouble for Taxpayers. *The Wall Street Journal*. June 27, 2011. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304453304576392194143220356.html>.

Book:

Manchikanti L, Navani A, Atluri S. *Essentials of Regenerative Medicine in Interventional Pain Management*. ASIPP Publishing, Paducah, KY 2019.

Book Chapter:

Navani A, Manchikanti L. Lumbar facet joints and regenerative medicine. In: Manchikanti L, Navani A, Atluri S (eds). *Essentials of Regenerative Medicine in Interventional Pain Management*. ASIPP Publishing, Paducah, KY 2019.

Brand Names

When citing a brand name, provide the manufacturers' name and address. Use generic names for all drugs.

Tables and Figures

The article should contain supportive tables and figures that are necessary, but not duplicative. Authors must secure permission for reproduction

of all previously published illustrations; figures or tables without accompanying permission will not be accepted. Tables and figures should each be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals. Any images or illustrations submitted must be a minimum of 300 dpi and saved in either a TIF or JPG format. Digital image files may be included as part of the article or downloaded separately.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are discouraged except for units of measurement. When first used, the abbreviation should be preceded by the words for which it stands.

Personal Communications and Unpublished Data

Any inclusion of personal communications and unpublished data in the article must be accompanied by a signed statement of permission from each individual identified as a source of information in a personal communication or as a source for unpublished data. Further, specific date of communication and the type of communication (written or oral) must be provided.

Citations

It is the policy of *Pain Medicine Case Reports* that no more than 20% of references may be from a single journal or primary author, including current and past 2 year references. Use current up-to-date citations whenever feasible. Special consideration is required if these limits have to be exceeded.

Ethical Considerations and Informed Consent

Authors should seek written and signed consent to publish the information from the patients or their guardians prior to submission. Authors will be asked to confirm whether informed consent was received as part of the submission process. The submitted manuscript must include a statement to this effect in the 'Consent' section, as follows: "Written informed consent was/was not obtained from the patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images". If consent was not obtained due to institutional ethics review board exemption, then the article can still be accepted if any and all HIPAA identifiers are eliminated. The editorial office may request copies of the informed consent documentation.

Patient anonymity is an important requirement. Remember not to disclose any information that might reveal the identity of the patient. You need to be particularly careful with pictures, and ensure that pictures of the affected area do not reveal the identity of the patient.

Appeals of an Editorial Decision

Appeals against rejection decisions are permitted only in a handful of cases when the authors can provide strong evidence of new data that can respond to and alleviate the concerns of the editor and reviewers. Appeals may be submitted to the editorial office of PMCR (editor@painmedicine-casereports.com). The corresponding author should describe the following in the appeal letter:

- Clarify why authors disagree with the decision and provide new information for the editor and reviewers to consider. This context should not be a repetition of the context in the original submission.
- Provide any evidence to support the authors' opinion when the authors believe reviewers have made technical errors in the peer review process or have been biased.

The editorial board members discuss appeals received by the editorial office, and the results are subsequently sent to the corresponding author. As appeals are matters of journal policy, they have a lower priority than new submissions and can take at least several weeks. Permissions Required to Reproduce or Adapt Material

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Editorial board members are welcome to submit articles to the journal. These submissions are not given any priority over other articles and Editorial Board Member status has no bearing on editorial consideration. The review process will be conducted in the same double-blind manner as any other submission. In the instance that the EIC is an author, the Deputy-EIC will make any necessary decisions.

Article Checklist

Please review article for accuracy and style to follow *Pain Medicine Case Reports* guidelines.

- ☐ Transmittal letter with information on authorship, level of funding and with author(s) signature, completed conflict of interest form (www.icjme.org).
- ☐ Disclosure information including any corporate sponsorship or AI usage.
- ☐ References checked for accuracy and duplication. Be sure all are cited within the text (**none in the abstract**) and are numbered as they appear in the text. Make sure that 20% or fewer of the references are from the same journal or author.
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