

BMJ

BMJ Case Reports

Publishing, sharing and learning through experience

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Today's session

- Introduction to BMJ Case Reports
- How to browse and search for cases
- How to write a good case report
- How to submit a case report

Introduction to BMJ Case Reports

What is a Case Report?

- A case report tells a clinical story that has unique value to the field of practice
- Shared for the purpose of educating others or stimulating further scientific inquiry and the development of a new understanding or knowledge

BMJ Case Reports

- The largest single collection of medical cases in the world
- Over 20,000 case reports published from over 70 countries
- An invaluable educational resource for all healthcare professionals, providing clinically important information on common and rare conditions
- Covers all specialties and a wide range of case types
- Unlimited number of case submissions
- Simple submission steps
- All published cases are indexed on Medline/PubMed, CINAHL and Scopus
- Acceptance rate: 61% - cases submitted in 2018

Types of cases covered in BMJ Case Reports

- Global health
- Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect
- Learning from errors
- New disease
- Novel diagnostic procedure
- Novel treatment (new drug/intervention; established drug/procedure in new situation)
- Rare disease
- Reminder of important clinical lesson
- Unexpected outcome (positive or negative) including adverse drug reactions
- Unusual association of diseases/symptoms
- Unusual presentation of more common disease/injury
- Images In... / Video - 1 or 2 striking and/or clinically important images with a brief (less than 500 word) description of the educational message
- Medicine in the humanitarian sector
- Applied basic science
- Innovations in Treatment

Specialties covered - Clinical

Anaesthesia	Haematology (incl blood transfusion)	Pharmacology and therapeutics
Cardiovascular medicine	Immunology (including allergy)	Prison medicine
Complementary medicine	Infectious diseases	Psychiatry
Dentistry and oral medicine	Intensive care	Radiology
Dermatology	Neurology	Rehabilitation medicine
Diagnostics	Nursing	Renal medicine
Drugs and medicines	Nutrition and metabolism	Respiratory medicine
ENT/otolaryngology	Obstetrics and gynaecology	Rheumatology
Emergency medicine	Oncology	Sexual health
Endocrinology	Ophthalmology	Sports and exercise medicine
Gastroenterology	Orthopaedics	Surgery
General practice / family medicine	Paediatrics	Urology
Genetics	Palliative care	
Geriatric medicine	Pathology	

Specialties covered - Non-Clinical

Ethics

Ethnic studies

Health economics

Health informatics

Medical education

Medical management

Occupational and environmental medicine

Disease and health outcomes

Exposures

Occupational and environmental medicine

Public health

Medical consequences of conflict

Migration and health

Obesity (public health)

Smoking and tobacco

Sociology

Statistics and research methods

How to browse and search for cases

Search the world's largest collection of clinical case reports

Browse cases by: specialty, latest content, most read, responses, images, videos



Advanced search

Sharing and learning through experience

Browse case reports by: [Specialty](#) | [Latest content](#) | [Most read](#) | [Responses](#) | [Videos](#) | [Images](#)

Find a case using the search bar or click 'Advanced search' for more options



Publish in BMJ Case Reports

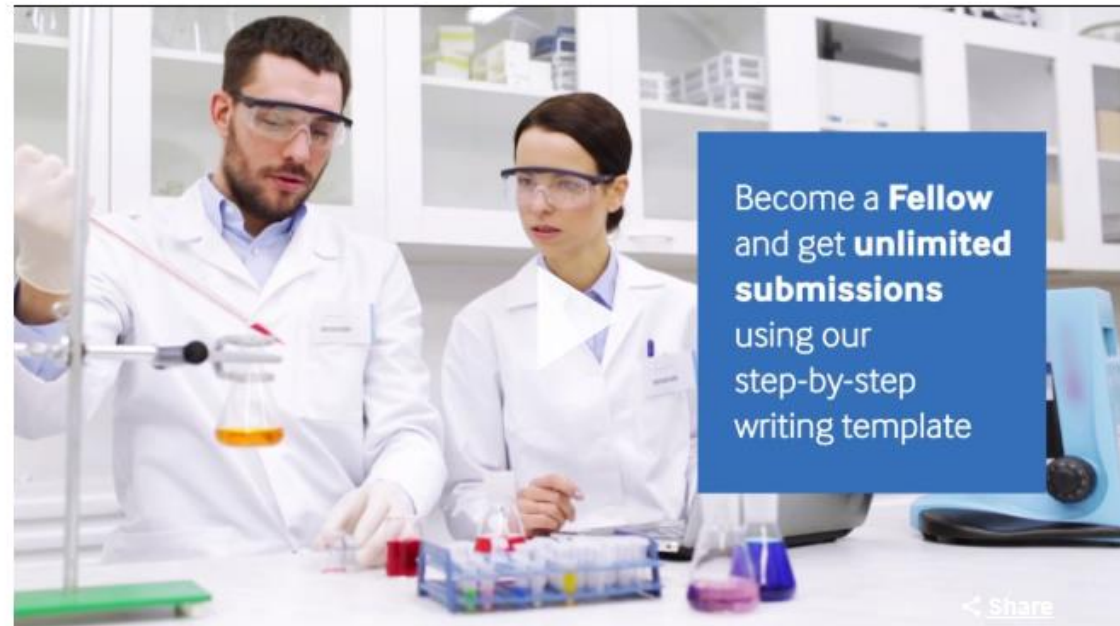
Instructions for authors

Submit a case report

Become a fellow



Spotlight

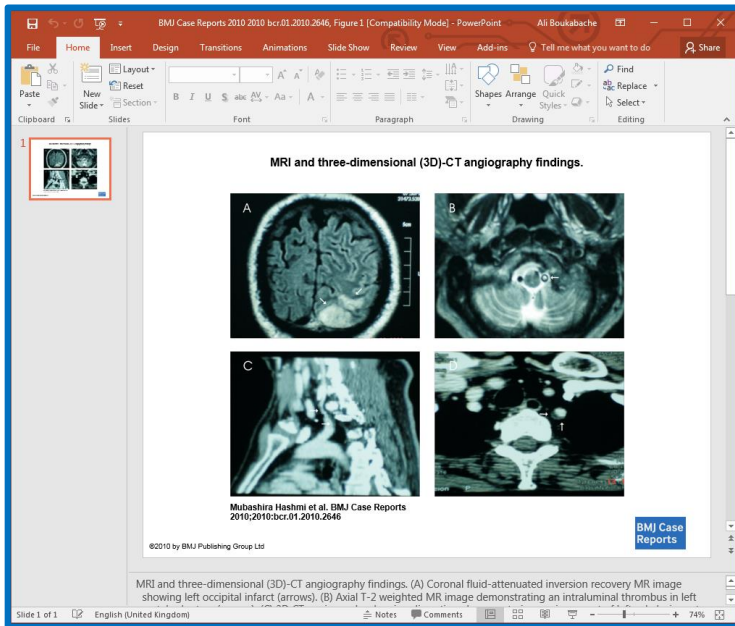


Become a **Fellow** and get **unlimited submissions** using our step-by-step writing template

Share

Example of “Images in” case report

Additional options for every article including alerts, usage statistics, submit a response, citing and social



Download images directly into a PowerPoint Slide

- Article Text
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- Share
- Responses
- Article metrics
- Alerts

Images in...

A twist of fate with a turn of neck FREE

Mubashira Hashmi¹, Shaista Siddiqi², Shahid Mustafa¹, Khurram Siddiqi³, Naveeduddin Ahmed², Naveed Ahmed⁴, Farrukh Shohab¹

Author affiliations +

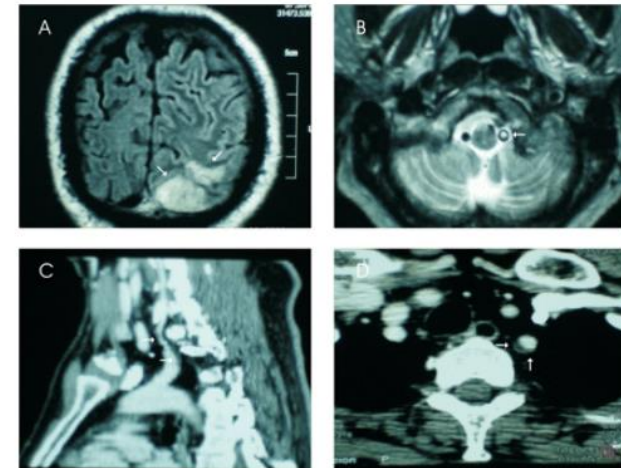
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bcr.01.2010.2646>

Request Permissions

Description

A 45-year-old man, presented with right-sided headache and neck pain, blurring of vision, vomiting, numbness and weakness of the right half of the body. On query, he gave a history of neck massage by professional masseurs, 2 weeks prior to the presentation, with an episode of brief loss of consciousness during the massage. On examination he was awake, alert, had symmetrical pulses and blood pressures with right hemi-paresis and hemi-anaesthesia.

Cranial MRI demonstrated ischaemic infarcts in the left cerebellar, the left occipital and the left thalamic region (figure 1A) and an intraluminal thrombus in the left vertebral artery (figure 1B). A subtracted three-dimensional CT angiography revealed dissection along postero-superior aspect of the left subclavian artery, involving the origin of vertebral artery (figure 1C,D). This most likely resulted in multiple emboli from intravertebral thrombus, which was evident by the presence of ischaemic lesions on the side of the affected vessel. He was started on anticoagulation and discharged with almost complete recovery.



Download figure

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How to write a good case report

Search the world's largest collection of clinical case reports



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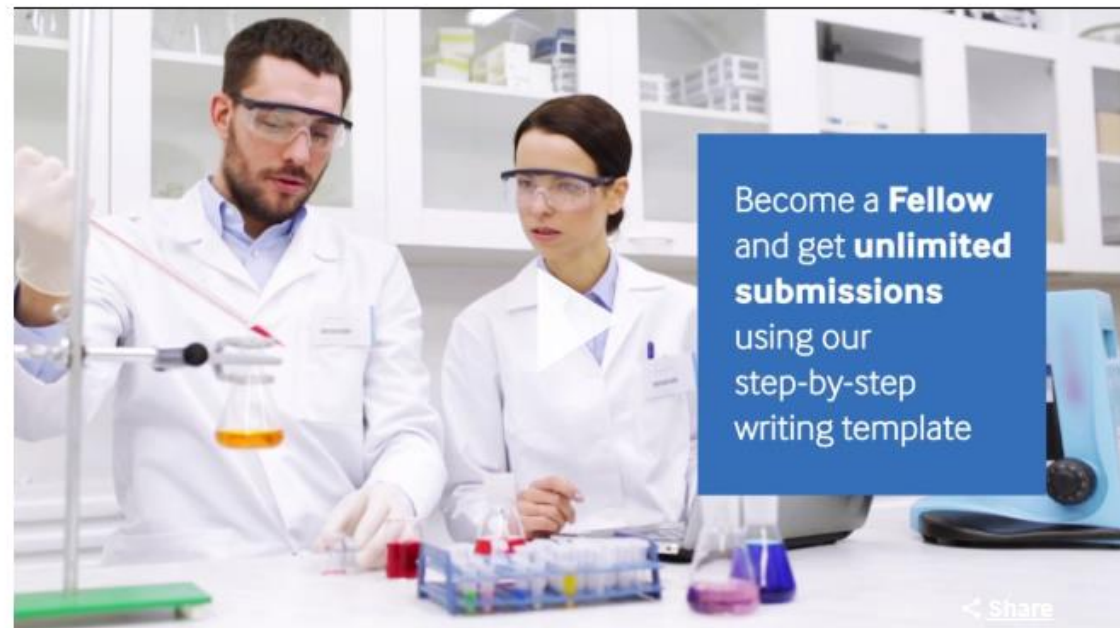
Instructions for authors

Instructions for authors

Become a fellow



Spotlight



← Share

Handy hints

- Know what the editors are looking for – view the “[Instructions for authors](#)” and “[Author FAQs](#)”
- Read some of the published cases – [special edition booklet](#)
- Read the guides provided – [Writing and publishing a Case Report](#)
- Follow the [templates provides](#) - Full case, Images in.../Video or Global health
- Use simple language and grammar
- Seek help from your senior colleagues

What are the editors looking for?

- Healthcare workers, including medical students and junior doctors, must find the cases to be relevant, engaging and a valuable learning resource
- Valuable clinical or ethical lessons
- Common cases that present a diagnostic, ethical or management challenge, or that highlight aspects of mechanisms of injury, pharmacology or histopathology

BMJ Case Reports – A typical structure

- Summary
- Background
- Case Presentation
- Investigations
- Differential diagnosis
- Treatment
- Outcome and follow-up
- Discussion
- Learning points/ take home messages
- References
- Figure/ Video captions
- Patient's perspective

Design Layout References Mailings Review View Help Acrobat Tell me what you want to do

Calibri 11 A A Aa Font Paragraph Styles

Normal No Spac... Heading 7 Subtle Em... Emphasis Intense E... Strong Quote Intense Q... Subtle Ref... Intense Re... Book Title List Para...

Find Replace Select Editing

BMJ Case Reports

Standard Case Report checklist and template for authors
 We cannot process your article until you can meet the following criteria:



I HAVE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

This important information presents details on preparing your submission and patient consent.



I AM USING THE CORRECT WORD TEMPLATE

All standard case reports must be submitted using this Word template. Here are the links to the other templates: [Images in...](#) | [Global health](#)



I HAVE SIGNED PATIENT CONSENT

You must have signed informed consent from patients (or relatives/guardians) before submitting to BMJ Case Reports.

For living patients this is a legal requirement under the UK's Data Protection legislation; we will not send your article for review without explicit consent from the patient or guardian.

Consent forms are available in several languages on the [BMJ Author Hub](#).



ALL AUTHORS (MAXIMUM 4 ALLOWED) HAVE APPROVED THE SUBMISSION

[Important information on authorship](#)



THE ARTICLE IS ORIGINAL

BMJ takes publication ethics very seriously and abides by the best practice guidance of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#). Every article is screened using [iThenticate](#) on submission and any that is deemed to overlap more than trivially with other publications will be rejected automatically with no right of appeal. Do not copy paragraphs from



I HAVE A VALID FELLOWSHIP

You or your institution must be a Fellow of BMJ Case Reports in order to submit. This does not however guarantee we will publish your case reports. [Further information](#) is available online on rates and how to purchase your Fellow Membership Subscription. Contact your librarian or head of department to see if your institution already has a Fellowship.



DO YOU HAVE THE AGREEMENT OF ALL AUTHORS (AND THEIR EMPLOYERS WHERE APPLICABLE) TO GRANT THE RIGHTS TO BMJ?

You must have the right to grant on behalf of all authors (and their employers – where any author is writing the case report in the course of their employment) the assignment of copyright and/or licence set out in the **Intellectual Property Rights Assignment or Licence Statement** and link documents in the template.



[FOR REVISIONS] I HAVE ANSWERED ALL THE REVIEWERS' COMMENTS

Please consider ALL the reviewers comments before submitting a revised article (**maximum 3 revisions permitted**). Please consider the help of a native English speaker to avoid your article being rejected on the basis of language.

PLEASE DELETE THESE PAGES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ARTICLE

BMJ Case Reports

Complete the template below.

Before starting each section delete the tip that is in the box

TITLE OF CASE

TIP: Do not include "a case report" in the title. Do not use cryptic or humorous titles. Keep the title clinical and straight forward - this way people are more likely to find your article.

SUMMARY

TIP: This is freely available online and is the equivalent of an abstract. Use a maximum of 150 words summarising the the case presentation and outcome. We need a good flavour of the case – emphasise the learning points

BACKGROUND

TIP: Why do you think this case is important – why did you write it up?

- *Is this a prevalent health problem?*
- *Is there a clear message?*

CASE PRESENTATION

TIP: Give a comprehensive account of the presenting features, including the medical/social/ family history.

- *This is the patient's story – please be sensitive to patient confidentiality*
- *How did they present?*
- *What is the relevant history? Why is this relevant?*
- *Explain your findings and how they influenced your decisions*
- *Do not use abbreviations for diseases or investigations*

INVESTIGATIONS *If relevant*

TIP:

- *All investigations that create a background (baseline) picture are relevant.*
- *All investigations that are crucial to management decisions should be discussed in full – include the limitations of investigations.*

Choose appropriate images and videos to illustrate your point (maintaining patient confidentiality)

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS *If relevant*

TIP: Please do not list diagnoses. We want to understand how the final diagnosis was teased out. This is often the most important section and needs to be substantially discussed.

All working diagnoses need to be substantiated.

TREATMENT *If relevant*

TIP: Include pharmacological and non-pharmacological, e.g. surgery, physiotherapy, supportive care.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

TIP:

- *Always include follow-up data where you can; this gives readers a clear understanding of outcome.*
- *The follow-up period should be defined.*
- *Please state whether the patient has died.*

DISCUSSION *Include a very brief review of similar published cases*

TIP: This is the opportunity to describe mechanisms of pathology/injury, guidelines and their relevance, diagnostic pathways (use diagrams if you like) and the points of interest of the case.

- *Include a very brief summary of similar published cases.*
- *A brief summary of relevant clinical guidelines is important.*
- *Did you have to make an exception?*
- *Did you have to adapt the guidelines?*

LEARNING POINTS/TAKE HOME MESSAGES *3-5 bullet points*

THIS IS A REQUIRED FIELD

TIP: This is the most crucial part of the case – what do you want readers to remember when seeing their own patients?

Research and Publishing Ethics

- You must have signed informed consent from patients (or relatives/guardians) before submitting to BMJ Case Reports.
- Please anonymise the patient's details as much as possible
- Consent forms are available in several languages:
<http://authors.bmj.com/submitting-your-paper/patient-consent-and-confidentiality/>
(link can be found on template)

How to submit a case report

Search the world's largest collection of clinical case reports



Advanced search

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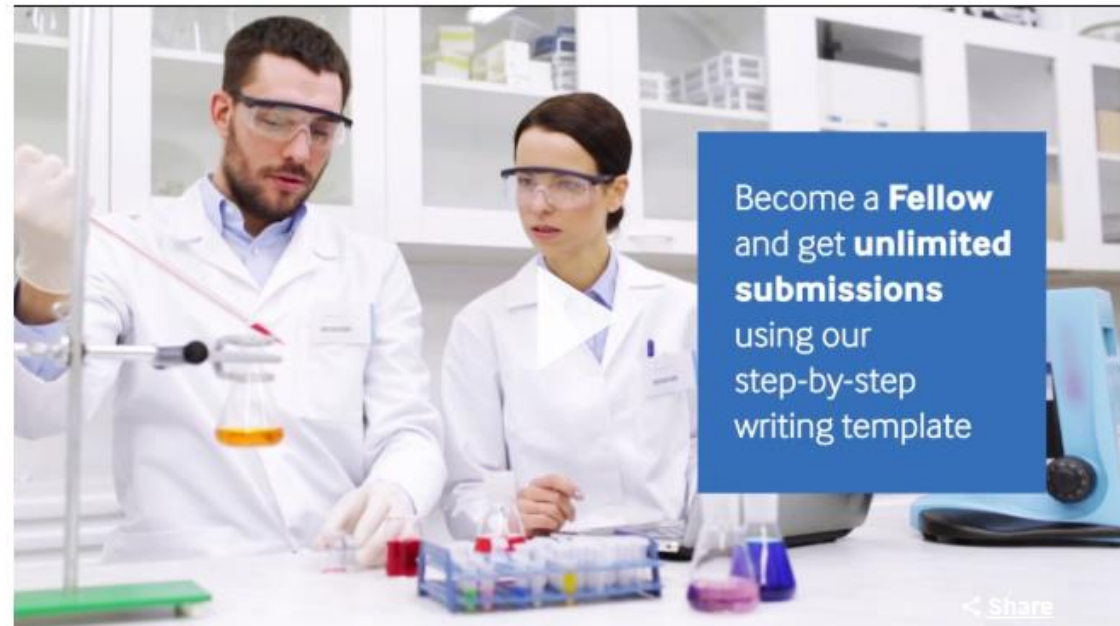
[Instructions for authors](#)

[Submit a case report](#)

Click 'Submit a case report'



Spotlight



Registering on the submission system

ScholarOne Manuscripts™ [Instructions & Forms](#) [Help](#)

BMJ Case Reports

[Log In](#) [Reset Password](#) [Create An Account](#)

Log In

User ID

Password

[Reset Password](#)

[Log In](#) [Create An Account](#)

Welcome to the submission site for
BMJ Case Reports

To begin, log in with your user ID and password.

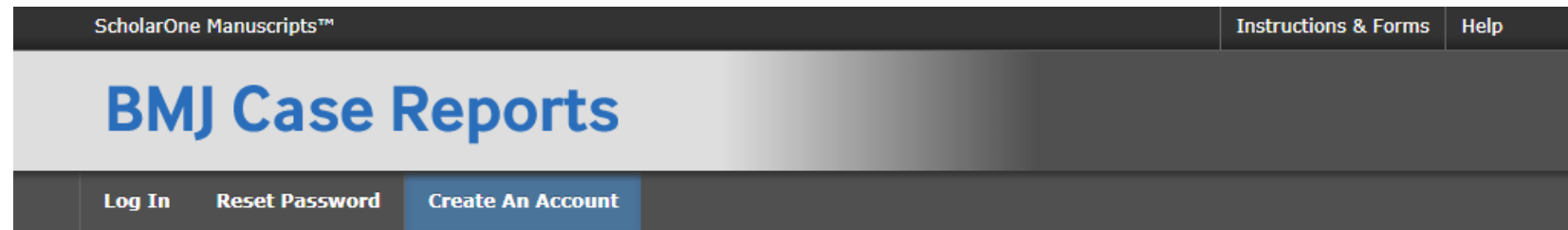
If you are unsure about whether or not you have an account, or have forgotten your password, go to the [Reset Password](#) screen.

Resources

- [User Tutorials](#)
- [Journal Home](#)
- [Instructions & Forms](#)
- [Help / Site Support](#)

All authors need to register once on the submission system (ScholarOne Manuscripts). Click 'Create An Account'

Registering on the submission system



Complete all 3 steps of the registration process; Ensuring all required fields are completed. At the end of Step 3, on the 'User ID & Password' page, click 'Finish' to complete your registration.

Create an Account

There are three screens to fill out in the Create Account process. In this first screen, enter your name and e-mail information into the boxes below. Required fields are marked with "req." When you are finished, click "Next."

E-mail Addresses

- E-mails will always be sent to the 'Primary E-mail Address'. If you would also like copies of the e-mails to go to a second address, please complete the 'Primary Cc E-mail Address' as well.
- 'Secondary E-mail Address' and 'Secondary Cc E-mail Address' are for the records only and will not receive correspondence generated from the system. The site administrator may use these if your primary e-mail is unable to receive messages.



ORCID®

Select the appropriate option below to associate an ORCID iD to your account.



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Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) is a non-profit organization dedicated to solving the long-standing name ambiguity problem in scholarly communication by creating a central registry of unique identifiers for individual researchers and an open, transparent linking mechanism between ORCID and other current author identifier schemes. To learn more about ORCID, please visit <http://orcid.org/content/initiative>.

Name

Special Characters

Prefix: req

First (Given) Name: req

Middle Name:

Last (Family) Name: req

Degree:

Primary E-Mail Address: req

Log In and navigate to Author Dashboard

ScholarOne Manuscripts™ [Instructions & Forms](#) [Help](#)

BMJ Case Reports

[Log In](#) [Reset Password](#) [Create An Account](#)

Log In

User ID

Password

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Welcome to the submission site for

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If you are unsure about whether or not you have an account, or have forgotten your password, go to the [Reset Password](#) screen.

Resources

- [User Tutorials](#)
- [Journal Home](#)
- [Instructions & Forms](#)
- [Help / Site Support](#)

Once you have registered, enter your User ID and Password then click 'Log In'.

Log In and navigate to Author Dashboard

Once logged in, click 'Author' in the navigation bar at the top of the page.

The screenshot shows the ScholarOne Manuscripts™ interface for BMJ Case Reports. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Author', and 'Review'. The 'Author' link is highlighted with a red box and a blue arrow pointing to it from the text box on the left. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Help' section with links to 'User Tutorials', 'Journal Home', and 'Help / Site Support'. The main content area is titled 'EDITORIAL OFFICE' and contains sections for 'AUTHORS', 'New submissions', 'Revised submissions', 'Correcting/updating submissions', 'Manuscript status', 'Open access', and 'ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR BMJ CASE REPORT AUTHORS'. The 'ESSENTIAL INFORMATION' section includes a 'Submission Templates' subsection with a list of templates: 'Full cases template', 'Images in... template', and 'Global health template'. This list is highlighted with a red box and a blue arrow pointing to it from the text box at the bottom left. The 'Patient Consent' section is partially visible at the bottom.

ScholarOne Manuscripts™

Ali Boukabache ▾ Instructions & Forms Help Log Out

BMJ Case Reports

Home Author Review

Help

- [User Tutorials](#)
- [Journal Home](#)
- [Help / Site Support](#)

EDITORIAL OFFICE
For assistance, please contact bmjcases@bmj.com

AUTHORS
Click on Author in the navigation bar above to access your Author Dashboard.

[BMJ Case Reports instructions for authors](#)
[BMJ privacy notice](#)

New submissions
To **start** the submission of a new manuscript, click on the 'Start new submission' link in the Author Dashboard. To **continue** with the submission of a manuscript already in progress, find the relevant manuscript in the 'Unsubmitted and Manuscripts in Draft' list and click on the 'Continue' link.

Revised submissions
To **start** the submission of a revised manuscript, click on 'Manuscripts Awaiting Revision' link or click 'Manuscripts with Decisions' to display a list of decided manuscripts. Find the submission you wish to start the revision process for and click on the 'Create a Revision' link for that manuscript.
To **continue** with a revised manuscript that has yet to be submitted, either click on the revision link as outlined above or click on the 'Unsubmitted and Manuscripts in Draft' queue. Find the submission you wish to continue with and then click on the 'Continue' link.

Correcting/updating submissions
To correct or update a submission that has been returned to you by the journal, find the relevant manuscript in the 'Unsubmitted and Manuscripts in Draft' list and click on the 'Continue' link.

Manuscript status
To check the status of a manuscript you have submitted, click on the 'Submitted Manuscripts' queue in the Author dashboard. All manuscripts you have submitted that are currently being evaluated will be listed in this area. The status of the manuscript can be found under the column heading Status.

Open access
All authors have the option to publish their manuscript [open access](#) for a fee, payable after acceptance. A number of [institutions](#) have taken out open access memberships with BMJ which cover part or the full cost of open access publishing for authors at those institutions.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR BMJ CASE REPORT AUTHORS

Submission Templates
Submissions must be submitted using the most recent version of the Word templates:

- [Full cases template](#)
- [Images in... template](#)
- [Global health template](#)

Please read these instructions before completing the template

Patient Consent

Useful information

Templates available here

Full cases template
Images in... template
Global health template

Complete the submission process

BMJ Case Reports

Home

Author

Review

Author Dashboard

Author Dashboard

- 4 Unsubmitted and Manuscripts in Draft
- Start New Submission**
- Legacy Instructions
- 5 Most Recent E-mails
- English Language Editing Service

Start New Submission

Traditional submission allows you to upload files that were created from many sources.

Begin Submission

Select 'Start New Submission'

Click on 'Begin Submission' to start the submission process.

BMJ Case Reports

[Home](#)[Author](#)[Review](#)[Author Dashboard](#) / [Submission](#)[Submission](#)[Step 1: Type, Title, & Summary >](#)

Select
manuscript
type

Step 1: Type, Title, & Summary

On the following pages we ask you to fill in details about yourself and your manuscript. You will then be asked to upload your manuscript files. Before you start please take a moment to read our [information for authors](#) - it will save time later.

All other data, such as article title, author names and addresses, abstract, funding (etc) statements will be taken from the fields you have filled in at submission, so you must ensure that these are up to date and accurate.

* = Required Fields

* Type:

CHOICE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
<input type="radio"/>	Global health	Global health case reports should focus on the causes of ill health & access to healthcare services whether economic, social or political – global health issues as they impact on individual patient's lives. These cases require a comprehensive review of the relevant literature & an in-depth understanding of the anthropological background of the case. There is no official word count but we recommend a limit of 4000 words excl abstract & references.
<input type="radio"/>	Acupuncture in Medicine case report	
<input type="radio"/>	Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect	
<input type="radio"/>	Learning from errors	

[Save](#)[Save & Continue >](#)

Submission

Step 1: Type, Title, & Summary >

Step 2: File Upload >

Step 3: Attributes >

Step 4: Authors & Institutions >

Step 5: Details & Comments >

Step 6: Review & Submit >

Enter Title &
Summary

Images In...

Very brief articles comprising 1 or 2 striking and/or clinically important images with a short description of the educational message. Images in ... articles should be no more than 500 words in length.

* Title

Preview

Ω Special Characters

* Summary/Abstract

Write or Paste Abstract

Preview

Ω Special Characters

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Do you want your article to be considered for the [Student Elective Competition](#)? (If you would like to be included in the competition then it is important you select YES)

Yes

Save

Save & Continue >

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Upload files for your manuscript (5 files maximum at a time). The *main document*, table and figure files will be combined into a single PDF and supplementary files for review will be made available for peer review. The main document should contain your main text, references and editable tables. For more information on manuscript preparation please click [here](#).

If you are submitting a revision, please review the files uploaded and include only the latest set of files. The main document should not be a marked up version. A version with tracked changes should be uploaded as 'Revised manuscript marked copy'.

If you have updated a file, please delete the original version and upload the revised file. To designate the order in which your files appear, use the dropdowns in the "order" column below. View your uploaded files by clicking on HTML or PDF.

Please note: Authors are encouraged to use the relevant research reporting guidelines for the study type provided by the EQUATOR Network. This will ensure that you provide enough information for editors, peer reviewers and readers to understand how the research was performed and to judge whether the findings are likely to be reliable

The key reporting guidelines are:

- Randomised controlled trials (RCTs): CONSORT guidelines
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: PRISMA guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
- Observational studies in epidemiology: STROBE guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
- Diagnostic accuracy studies: STARD guidelines
- Quality improvement studies: SQUIRE guidelines

Research checklists should be uploaded using the File Designation "Research Checklist".

* = Required Fields

Files

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* Patient Consent Form

 Select File 2 ...

Choose File Designation ... 

Upload files. Starting with the Patient Consent Form. You may download this here:
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Submission

- ✓ Step 1: Type, Title, & Summary >
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- ✓ Step 3: Attributes >
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- Step 5: Details & Comments >
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Manuscript Information

* Number of Figures:

* Number of Words:

* Has this manuscript been submitted to BMJ Case Reports previously?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the manuscript ID of the previous submission?

Confirm the following:

* Confirm that the manuscript has been submitted solely to this journal and is not published, in press, or submitted elsewhere.

* The Corresponding Author or their institution must be/become a Fellow to submit to BMJ Case Reports.

CURRENT FELLOWS: If you are already a Fellow, please enter your BMJ customer number when requested during the submission process. If you don't know your customer number please contact support@bmj.com

NON FELLOWS: Please purchase your Fellowship [here](#) and enter your Transaction ID from the email confirmation when requested during the submission process (we reserve the right to see the email for confirmation).

RCP MEMBERS: Certain members of the Royal College of Physicians are entitled to a 25% discount on Fellowship rates. To take advantage of this discount please purchase your Fellowship [here](#).

I or my institution is a Fellow of BMJ Case Reports and our BMJ Group customer number is listed below:

Patient Consent

* Does this manuscript contain personal medical information about an identifiable person? If so, has a BMJ patient consent form been signed by the patient or guardian, or if deceased, the next of kin? (Please click [here](#) for further guidance with regards to patient consent).

Yes

If yes, who signed it?

Patient

Complete 'Step 5: Details & Comments' section. This includes Cover letter, Funding, Open access, and Competing Interests

Enter your institution's Fellowship Code here. This can be obtained from your Librarian/Head of Department.

Submission

- ✔ Step 1: Type, Title, & Summary >
- ✔ Step 2: File Upload >
- ✔ Step 3: Attributes >
- ✔ Step 4: Authors & Institutions >
- ✔ Step 5: Details & Comments >
- Step 6: Review & Submit >

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you would like to link this to another case/cases by the same author(s) please provide the relevant paper numbers.

* Are you interested in following up the case to add to the published report?

No

✔ * I, the Corresponding Author, have read and understood the [Terms & Conditions](#) of submitting this article to BMJ Case Reports (which is in addition to my [Assignment of Intellectual Property Rights](#)).

Permission to use images

* If you are including any figures or tables from another publication, please confirm that you have obtained permission from the **rights holder** to include the image(s)/table(s) in this article. I have included the required acknowledgement(s) in the figure/table legend(s). ✔

BMJ reserves the right to request the permission form or similar supplied to you by the rights holder.

* Competing interests

The corresponding author must ask all authors to complete the [ICMJE form](#) for COI disclosure. The forms do not need to be uploaded to the journal, but the corresponding author should use the information provided to write a summary Competing Interests statement for all authors in the manuscript, which will be included in the published article. If there are no competing interests provided for any authors, the default statement on the published article will be 'None declared'.

No, there are no competing interests for any author

If you have selected "Yes" above, please include a statement of competing interests for publication:

* View Proof

You must view both the HTML and PDF proof before you can submit

✔ View HTML Proof

✔ View PDF Proof

✔ View MedLine Proof

< Previous Step

Submit >

Step 6: Review & Submit
Review your answers and view the proof

Then click 'Submit'