

The value of case reports

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Once more, welcome to the second online edition of the *Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics*. Our goal is to provide a forum for clinicians to follow current research and learn from shared clinical reports. We also hope this will encourage others to design and conduct research, publish their findings and clinical experiences to facilitate recognition of chiropractic protocols and the chiropractic adjustment as a viable option for both musculoskeletal and non musculoskeletal complaints for pregnant women and children.

We are grateful to the academic institutions, governmental and chiropractic organizations that support our researchers allowing them to conduct and publish research that adds to the foundation of evidence medicine. We are proud to be the journal of choice for some of those authors who feel that their information will reach the desired audience most involved with the care of the pregnant and pediatric patient.

Although many journals limit the number of case reports they publish so as to not reduce the public impact of the journal (the quality of a journal is often measured by the number of citations that result from any given publication¹), our goal is to support our field practitioners with case reports and case series as they may provide guidance in different aspects of patient care. This may include the components of taking a thorough history, the performance of a physical examination, description of advanced diagnostics employed, review of records, differential diagnosis, epigenetic factors, pharmacologic, psychosocial or socioeconomic influences on the chief presenting problems as well as chiropractic protocols and collaborative treatments, their effectiveness and reporting of possible adverse events and hypothesis of the mechanisms of the patient's complaint and their response to treatment (be the outcome positive or negative)².

Case reports are most easily undertaken by the field clinician who maintains complete and accurate records. Both remarkable and "unremarkable" cases need to be written and published because each can offer an intrinsic value ranging from orienting the new practitioner to the "daily traffic" of pediatric patients to supporting a practitioner who faces a more unusual presentation. Case reports that contain an extensive review of the relevant literature also serves as a springboard for the reader to readily access additional information pertinent to the case.

Case reports and case series have been deemed valuable in all of the healthcare professions for not only the purpose of educating the field clinician, but also in helping in research design and the formulation and ultimately, evaluation, of clinical guidelines. Internationally, there are organizations developing reporting guidelines to "facilitate greater transparency and completeness in the provision of the relevant information for individual cases."³

It behooves our profession to stay current with these guidelines and to write and publish in support of the chiropractic premise providing a firm foundation for generations of chiropractors and chiropractic patients to come. We invite you to participate!

1. Journal Citation Reports - 2014 Release http://wokinfo.com/products_tools/analytical/jcr/ accessed 9/20/2014.
2. Yitschaky O, Yitschaky M, Zadik Y (May 2011). "Case report on trial: Do you, Doctor, swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" (PDF). *J Med Case Reports* 5 (1): 179.
3. Gagnier JJ, Kienle G, Altman DG, Moher D, Sox H, Riley D (2013). "The CARE guidelines: consensus-based clinical case reporting guideline development." *Headache* 53 (10): 1541—7