

## The Case Report II: Choosing your case report and preparing your oral presentation.

Today's objective is to choose a case report. This will be the basis of your 4-minute oral presentation.

### Finding a case report

Your case report must have been **published in 2020**. It must present **only one patient**.

Case reports are published in scientific journals. Sometimes a journal will include case studies as well as other study types, and there are even journals dedicated wholly to case reports.

You may already have an idea of the subject you wish to present, in which case the best angle of attack is to use one of the academic search engines, such as Web of Science, Ulysse, PubMed, Microsoft Academic, or Google Scholar and enter "case study" or "report" and your keywords, restricting your results to 2020 publications. Make sure you have full access to the case report, and then download the pdf.

If you know what medical speciality interests you, you can look up the name of the associated journal which publishes case reports. Many of them have titles of the type: "Case reports in..." and a considerable number are now available as open access journals.

### Task

Contact me for help, and send me an e-mail including your **name, group and proposed case study title**. **Attach the pdf file** for verification. I will reply individually. Acceptance will be on a first come first served basis, **no two students may present the same case report**.

Ideally by the end of the session you will know what case you need to prepare. In any case, you should have sent me your choice by the end of the week. It is important that you have made your choice, and that I have given you the green light, before you leave on your next hospital placement.

### Preparing and presenting your report

In the previous session we worked on simplifying a sample case report. You will need to do the same for your case report once you have obtained a positive answer for your proposition.

600 words are the equivalent of approximately 4 minutes, based on 150 words per minute, which is the speed at which many audiobooks are recorded.

**The main criterion on which you will be judged is how easy it is to understand the case.** Quality of spoken language and presentation technique will bring you extra points, but if the case is not simplified enough, you will fail the course. It is therefore extremely important to consider what is technical, and what is common English. For help with this look up "medical terminology (or terms) in plain English" and explore the resources available online.

**Don't waste time on the introduction.** You will only end up repeating something later because a non-scientist may not retain initial explanations. Remember that it is easier to understand if you introduce explanations if and when they are required. **Start with the case presentation**, and if necessary, you can use elements from the introduction as required.

You'll need to create a set of PowerPoint slides (or Keynote, or equivalent). Download the pdf file from my website to see what can be done for the sample case report.

Your title slide should contain the title of the case report and the author's name. This can either be done as two separate text fields, or you can generate a citation using one of the many online tools. You should also include the university logo and your name at the bottom of the slide.

The body of the slides should present the case (usually in chronological order), and at the risk of repeating myself again, remember there should be no introduction. You only have four minutes, and you should therefore plunge into the main content as soon as possible. No more than one introductory sentence should be required, and this can be delivered while the title slide is showing.

As far as the discussion (and review of the literature if present) is concerned, present what is most notable. This section can be overwhelming for a layman, so keep to the simple main points and most of all, **find a clear single conclusion which avoids multiple points.**

**Your slides should be as visual as possible.** Limit text, and illustrate (not decorate) when you can, so that additional non-verbal information can be added without lengthening the presentation.

## Evaluations

As soon as we know more about the conditions in January, we will make arrangements for the presentations during the final three sessions. You will, of course, be informed as soon as possible, but **make sure your presentation is ready by 10 January 2021.**

I will be contactable by mail up to the Christmas break, and will check my messages intermittently during the break, although only messages received before the holidays are guaranteed a reply before the end of December.