

Practice & Research Committee

Tips for Preparing Successful Case Report Abstracts

Case report abstracts should summarize the case and must demonstrate clinical significance to physical therapists. Abstracts should include purpose/background, methods, results, and conclusion sections. Study background should be supported with current references (up to 5) in AMA format. The quality and professionalism of the abstract will be considered in the scoring of submissions.

The abstract will be scored out of 50-points based on the following structure/criteria:

- **Purpose/Background** – include clinical relevance within the scope of physical therapy. Explicitly state the purpose of the case report (examples: education on rare conditions, highlighting clinical decision-making processes, or illustrating treatment approaches).
Background scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on above criteria.
- **Methods** – provide well-described patient history, clinical presentation, and exam findings. The diagnosis process should be described (consideration of differential diagnoses). Outline the treatment plan and interventions implemented.
Methods scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the thorough/concise description of the above criteria.
- **Results** – clear and well-described outcome measures with interpretation of changes within the context of the MDC and or MCID values when appropriate.
Results scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.
- **Conclusion** – discuss key clinical insights or observations gained from managing the case (clinical pearls, diagnostic/intervention considerations, or prognostic factors). Reflect on lessons learned from the case (examples: challenges encountered, unexpected outcomes, or changes in clinical practice). Assess the relevance of the case to clinical practice, education, future research, or healthcare policy.
Conclusion scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the appropriateness and relevance of the above criteria.
- **Quality and Presentation** – clarity, coherence, and grammar in writing style. Use of appropriate terminology (including person-first and inclusive terms) and technical language (avoid jargon). Overall presentation including adherence to formatting guidelines.
- **Citations and references – Required.** Must be provided in AMA format (up to 5 references within the last 10 years). *Abstract quality scored 1 to 10 (unacceptable to exceptional) based on the above criteria.*