Dear Readers,

Case reports are a cornerstone in the development and dissemination of information in medicine; however, in recent years, there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of space available in journals to publish this type of manuscript. More space is being devoted to evidence-based articles and industry-driven data.

Wikipedia states:
“A case report is generally considered a type of anecdotal evidence. Given their intrinsic methodological limitations, including lack of statistical sampling, case reports are placed at the foot of the hierarchy of clinical evidence, together with case series. Nevertheless, case reports do have genuinely useful roles in medical research and evidence-based medicine. In particular, they have facilitated recognition of new diseases and adverse effects of treatments.”

Some examples of discoveries directly resulting from case reports:
- The first heart transplant
- Thalidomide and teratogenicity
- Hallmark findings in HIV/AIDS

Our specialty is fortunate to still recognize the utility and importance of case reporting in presenting new findings, communicating novel therapeutic approaches, and creating networks to bridge knowledge gaps for rare conditions. While the JAOCOD encourages review-based and practical-approach articles, there remains an unwavering commitment to reserve space for case reporting and literature review. We recognize their contributory role to the practice of medicine.

For more information, check out “A Practical Guide to Understanding a Case Report,” PMID: 18312868.

Sincerely,

Karthik Krishnamurthy, DO, FAOCD
Editor-in-Chief, JAOCD
First Vice President, AOCD