

Case Reports and similar articles

Updated 09/16/2022

Case Reports

Case studies are reports of actual clinical events based on a single patient or a small group of individuals, related to use of nanomaterials, nanostructures, or nanomedicines in a real-life context. Length of case studies is usually about 3,500 words and 25 references. Typical sections are Abstract, Purpose and Rationale, Introduction, Experimental, Discussion, and Conclusions. Authors should observe high standards with respect to publication ethics as set out by the Committee on Publication Ethics <https://publicationethics.org/> and ICMJE recommendations <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/> for reporting about patients.

Informed Patient Consent

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without prior informed consent. Identifying information should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) has given written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires the patient to be shown the manuscript to be published. Identifying details should be omitted if they are not essential, but patient data should never be altered or falsified to attain anonymity. We understand that complete anonymity is difficult to achieve. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity.

A statement addressing informed patient consent must be included as part of the manuscript under the heading 'Consent.'

Patient Consent Form

The journal requires at the point of submission that a consent form has been completed for any case report or clinical image in which an individual or a group of individuals can be identified. The list below outlines potential patient identifiers to be aware of.

- Direct
- Name
- Initials
- Address, including full or partial postal code
- Telephone or fax numbers or contact information
- Electronic mail addresses
- Unique identifying numbers
- Vehicle identifiers
- Medical device identifiers
- Web or internet protocol addresses
- Biometric data
- Facial photograph or comparable image
- Audiotapes
- Names of relatives
- Dates related to an individual (including date of birth)
- Indirect—may present a risk if present in combination with others in the list
- Place of treatment or health professional responsible for care (may be inferred from investigator affiliations)

- Sex
- Rare disease or treatment
- Sensitive data, such as illicit drug use or “risky behavior.”
- Place of birth
- Socioeconomic data, such as occupation or place of work, income, or education (“rare” occupations only)
- Household and family composition
- Anthropometry measures
- Multiple pregnancies
- Ethnicity
- Small denominators—population size of <100
- Very small numerators—event counts of <3
- Year of birth or age (Age is potentially identifying if the recruitment period is short and is fully described)
- Verbatim responses or transcripts

Completed consent forms are not to be submitted to the journal. Completed forms should be held by the treating institution according to locally approved procedures. The consent form should be made available to the journal Editor if specifically requested.

Use of the Andover House, Inc. Patient Consent Form <https://andoverhouse.org/informed-consent-form> is recommended where a consent form is required for submission of a manuscript. If another consent form is to be used, for example, the standard consent form used by your institution, a blank copy of this form should be submitted to the journal so that the journal can verify that it meets best practice recommendations. If the patient or relatives of a deceased patient cannot be traced, and consent cannot be obtained, the case report can only be considered for publication if it is sufficiently anonymized.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject papers for which the ethical aspects are, in the Board’s opinion, open to doubt. Please contact the Editorial Office if you have any queries regarding consent at editor@precisionnanomedicine.com.

References:

1. Committee on Publication Ethics. Guidelines for managing the relationships between societies and publishers. <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Guidelines>
2. ICMJE Protection of Research Participants. <https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/protection-of-research-participants.html>