

## CASE REPORTS AS AN ARTICLE: A FORLORN CAUSE?

### YAYIN OLARAK OLGU SUNUMLARI: YETERİNCE DEĞER GÖRMÜYOR MU?

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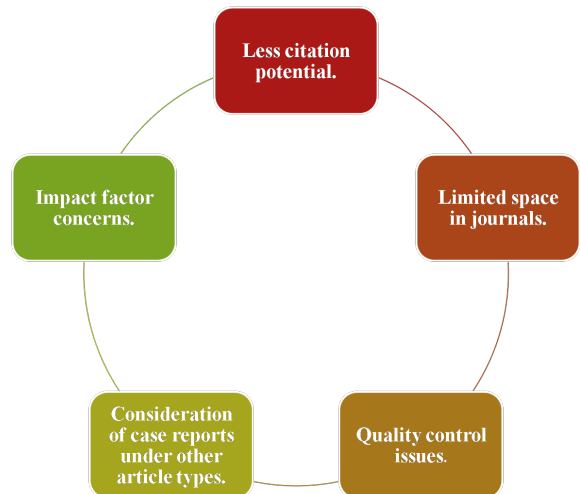
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Case reports are defined as brief reports that describe the unique aspects of a medical case and contribute significantly to the existing medical literature and medical education (1).

The academic landscape has long been shaped by the publication of case reports, which have traditionally played a vital role in advancing scientific knowledge and understanding (2). Case reports, which provide detailed accounts of individual patient experiences, have been lauded for their ability to shed light on rare diseases, novel interventions, and unique clinical presentations (1). However, in recent years, there has been a growing concern about the declining importance of case reports in academia (2, 3).

One of the primary reasons for this trend is the perception that case reports do not highly rank in the hierarchy of scientific evidence. In the context of evidence-based medicine, randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews are generally considered to be more robust and reliable sources of information (1, 2). As a result, many high-impact medical journals have become increasingly reluctant to publish case reports, as they are seen as less valuable contributions to the scientific literature. The impact factor is the average number of citations garnered by a journal, an indicator to assess the significance of a particular journal in the academic field. The citation probability of case reports is much lesser compared to the original researches, review articles and meta-analyses (3). The journals have limited spaces due to the limited issues per year/volume; most of the journals publish two or three

case reports in a single issue and with a rapid expansion of scientific community, journals receive huge number of submissions making the selection process significantly competitive. Some journals encourage authors to submit their case reports in a concise form under letter to editor, clinical/radiological/histopathological image and quiz. It is challenging for the editors to find a suitable reviewer for a case report, especially when it deals with a unique and rare case. The assessment of the quality and viability of such case reports becomes a challenge to the editor (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Few probable causes behind the decline of case reports in the scientific literature.

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Despite this shift, it is important to recognise the significant educational and practical value of case reports. They have long been used as a means of disseminating information on unusual clinical presentations, disease associations, and responses to treatment. Moreover, case reports can serve as a valuable learning experience for both authors and readers, as they provide insights into the practical application of medical knowledge.

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