

Writing Chinese Medicine Case Reports: Guidelines for AJACM*

TABLE 1 A worksheet for section headings and contents for case reports

Title	
Author	
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clinical question/problem; • Concise summary of literature review; • Summary/conclusions/recommendations.
Case history description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the patient; • The presenting condition and history; • The examination; • Any relevant tests; • Initial tentative diagnosis/treatment/management; • Expected outcome/actual outcome.
Literature review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search terms; • Database(s) used; • Brief overview of results of the search, what you found.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is special about this report? • The clinical question and relationship to the experience; • The course of the illness: tables, graphs, charts, photos; • What happened? For instance, adverse reactions (Chinese herbs and/or acupuncture to pharmaceuticals, acupuncture adverse reactions); • Contradictions, dilemmas, observations, questions; • Reflexive considerations about: what happened, practitioner's role/engagement in the encounter, significance for the practitioner/colleagues.
Conclusions/summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central point of the case report; the lesson(s) to be learnt; recommendations.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver style.

* From: Ferrigno P, Ryan JD, Deare JC. Writing Chinese medicine case reports: guidelines for the *Australian Journal of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine*. Aust J Acupunct Chin Med 2006;1(1):25–30.