

# TIPS for Writing Case Studies

*Provided by the Abstracts Committee*



# BASIC FORMAT FOR WRITING CASE STUDIES:

**Abstract:** A brief statement of 150 words that summarized the content of the paper

**Key words:** three to five words that reflect the content of the article

**Introduction:** Explaining the significance of the case study

**Case Reports:** Relevant patient information, results of other diagnostic tests, sonographic equipment and technique used, a description of the sonographic findings and patient outcome

**Discussion:** Review the etiology, pathophysiology, and treatment for the case and summarize the sonographic criteria the case has demonstrated

**Conclusion:** Summary statement of sonographic characteristics and techniques related to pathology

**References:** Should be cited in the text in numerical order and listed on a separate page; once a reference is cited, all subsequent citations should be to the original number



# 6 ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF WRITING CASE STUDIES:

1. Organization

2. Content

3. Visuals

4. Mechanics

5. Style

6. Research



# ORGANIZATION

(CAN BE UTILIZED IN WRITING 'PATIENT DESCRIPTION')

- Paper should be well written in logical sequence, easy for reader to follow using *SOAP* format below
- *SOAP* format will aide the writer to include essential information
- *SOAP* format is:
  - S**: Subjective: Symptoms, risk factors, history
  - O**: Objective: Physical exam and ultrasound exam data
  - A**: Assessment: Analysis and conclusion of exam data relative to the patient's presentation
  - P**: Plan: Future imaging and/or treatment for the patient, actual or options

# CONTENT

( USE IN WRITING 'RESULTS')

- KNOWLEDGE is key!
- Written content demonstrates full knowledge and depth of concepts with explanations and elaborations
- Correct and appropriate presentation of knowledge to the subject
- Avoid distracting details
- Avoid inaccurate statements



# VISUALS

(EXPLANATION OF 'METHODS')

- Excellent images, pictures, or diagrams used with specific explanations relating to the discussion in the paper
- Use of appropriate, thorough but concise visuals (images, charts, diagrams)
- Use visuals that enhance ease of understanding for the reader/listener of the case
- Use visuals that are clear and easy to follow with labeling



# MECHANICS

(USE THROUGHOUT)

- No misspellings or grammatical errors
- Good sentence structure and syntax



# STYLE

(USE THROUGHOUT)

- Excellent writing technique
- Interesting final product that engages the reader
- Appealing to the reader or audience
- Keeps the attention of the reader / listener
- Moves smoothly through the different aspects of the case
- Use scientific and professional tone
- Avoid casual and conversational tone





# RESEARCH

(CAN BE PART OF 'RESULTS' AND/OR 'DISCUSSION')

- Evidence of research with appropriate citations within the body of the paper
- Appropriate number of references
- Use appropriate references/research to improve the understanding of the case

