PURPOSE AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 'COMMENTS' SECTION IN CLINICAL CASE REPORTS

A "COMMENTS" section, highlighting the key points of an article, will be attached after each clinical case report published in the World series journals.

Clinical case reports provide clinicians with critical and innovative information by which they may learn from the successes and failures of their colleagues to improve their own skills in diagnosis and treatment. The purpose of the COMMENTS section provided that is included after each published clinical case report is to clearly and concisely summarize the core contents of the article so that readers will obtain the most important information in the least amount of time and quickly determine the relevance and practical value of your case description(s) and finding(s). The COMMENTS section is broken down into the following subsections: case characteristics, clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, laboratory diagnosis, imaging diagnosis, pathological diagnosis, treatment, related reports, term explanation, experience and lessons, and comments from peer reviewers. The specific requirements for each subsection are provided below.

Writing requirements for each subsection

(1) Case characteristics

To summarize the main symptoms in a single sentence.

(2) Clinical diagnosis

To summarize the main clinical findings in a single sentence.

(3) Differential diagnosis

To summarize the considerations of and methods used for differential diagnosis in a single sentence.

(4) Laboratory diagnosis

To summarize the laboratory testing methods used and their major findings in a single sentence.

(5) Imaging diagnosis

To summarize the imaging methods used and their major findings in a single sentence.

(6) Pathological diagnosis

To summarize the pathological methods used and their major findings in a single sentence.

(7) Treatment

To summarize the treatments and drugs used in a single sentence.

(8) Related reports

To provide relevant and important information from previously published cases or studies related to your case report that will help readers to better understand the present case and its significance for the field as a whole.

(9) Term explanation

To provide accurate and concise explanations of uncommon terms that are present in your case report.

(10) Experiences and lessons

To summarize the experiences and lessons learnt from the case in a single sentence.

(11) Peer review

To summarize the strengths and weaknesses of your article according to the peer reviewers' comments, which will allow the readers to obtain objective knowledge from your clinical case report.

Writing examples for each COMMENTS subsection

(1) Case characteristics

The two middle-aged male patients presented with dissimilar symptoms; one presented with abdominal pain and vomiting, and the other presented with abdominal distension, poor appetite and weight loss.

(2) Clinical diagnosis

The physical signs of the two cases were also dissimilar; upon physical examination, one case had a large palpable mass in the epigastrium, and the other had only a mild abdominal tenderness.

(3) Differential diagnosis

Malignant tumors (angiosarcoma, cystadenocarcinoma and metastatic tumors), benign neoplasms (focal nodular hyperplasia, hemangioma and adenoma), and abscesses.

(4) Laboratory diagnosis

The first patient had elevated hematological values for neutrophil count (6.7×10^9/L), C-reactive protein (27.9 mg/L), lactate dehydrogenase (383 U/L) and cancer antigen (CA)-125 (44.8 IU/mL), while the second patient had no remarkable findings for the laboratory tests.

(5) Imaging diagnosis

For both cases, computed tomography scan showed a large mass located in the abdominal cavity.

(6) Pathological diagnosis

For both cases, histological examination showed myofibroblastic proliferation and inflammatory cell infiltration, while immunohistochemical staining showed negativity for CD34, desmin and anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) but positivity for smooth muscle actin.

(7) Treatment

Neither patient received a curative resection or further treatment.

(8) Related reports

Very few cases of spontaneous regression of an intra-abdominal inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor have been reported in the literature. The clinical and pathological characteristics of inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor remain unclear and the treatment is controversial.

(9) Term explanation

Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, also called inflammatory pseudotumor, is a rare disease that primarily affects children and adolescents.

(10) Experiences and lessons

This case report presents the clinical characteristics of intra-abdominal inflammatory myofibroblastic tumors and also discusses the treatment of inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor. We recommend that conservative therapy should be considered when the tumor is unresectable, especially for middle-aged ALK-negative patients.

(11) Peer-review

The authors have described two cases of intra-abdominal inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor that showed spontaneous resolution without intervention. The article highlights the clinical characteristics of this tumor and provides insights into the therapeutic implications.