Case reports formed the platform for sharing of knowledge and experience in the practice of medicine. Although many journals do not publish case reports due to the negative contribution to impact factor, SMJ believes that case reports are integral to the system of medical education. However, it is important that case reports must add value to the current understanding and management of the disease. The following serves as a guide on cases that are worth reporting:

1) Report on new diseases.
2) Report on unusual presentation of a known disease.
3) Report on a known disease in an unusual season.
4) Report on known disease found in a new geographical area.
5) Report on a known disease not previously found in a particular ethnic group.
6) Report on new diagnostic or therapeutic approaches to known diseases.
7) Report on new complications from disease or treatment which was never recognized before.

Before selecting a case for reporting, the authors must decide on the learning points for that report. The authors should then perform a literature search to see if others have reported on similar cases with similar learning points. If there is enough literature on the learning points, then the case is not worth reporting. It is understood that a case report will have to include a literature review of the subject. In the discussion, the authors have to highlight the value that this case adds to the current literature, the differences between this case and the known literature and how the readers can benefit from reading this case report.

Although case reports are the lowest in the hierarchy of evidence in medical literature, it sets a common platform for sharing of individual experiences. It is through a series of case reports that many diseases and their complications are recognized. Case reports do certainly have a place in medical education.