

## CASE REPORTS

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### Change of editorial policy towards case reports

In line with changing practice in many clinical journals, the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Surgical Oncology* is reviewing its policy on the publication of case reports.

The Board recognizes the educational and interest value of case reports, and is keen to retain the form for the Journal. However, the generous publication of case reports can consume disproportionate space in any journal, and we are therefore keen to experiment with new formats. Publication of case reports is generally restricted to three per issue of *EJSO* at present, and there is now a substantial backlog of reports awaiting publication.

We intend to continue to offer to publish case reports in truncated form in the Journal. Reports should from now on be limited to 200 words, and should emphasize the key educational points. The report may be accompanied by one illustration and two key references. Case reports which justify an extended text will be considered additionally for publication on the Journal Web site, referenced to the printed issue of *EJSO* in which the shorter case report appears. Authors of case reports of particular merit or educational value may be encouraged to expand their report into a didactic article for the printed Journal.

Authors of case reports which have already been accepted for publication in the Journal will be offered the option of submitting a revised manuscript in this format in order to expedite publication and citation. The full manuscript will be published on the Web site. The Editorial Board will

honour all commitments to publish in full those case reports which have already been accepted, although this may result in later publication than would be possible using the Web site-short printed report combination.

We intend that this new arrangement will maintain and indeed increase our capacity to publish informative case reports, and thus be of interest and value to our readers. We also hope that by making imaginative use of our Web site and by encouraging interaction between the printed and electronic forms of the journal (the p-journal and the e-journal?), we will remain at the forefront of the Internet revolution. We have evidence that our electronic presence is already providing access to the Journal to Web browsers who currently lack access to the printed version in developing countries, and that it is creating a new audience for our authors which they would not otherwise be able to reach.

We invite your support for these developments. We hope to move gradually into new areas of opportunity in scientific communication on the Web with your help and support, while maintaining the integrity and utility of the printed Journal. We encourage you to visit our expanding Web site at <http://www.hbuk.co.uk/wbs/jso>, and invite feedback and comment both in the corresponding column of the printed Journal and through the Web site facility.

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