

## Editor-in-Chief should not neglect case reports

Young-Kyun Kim, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief of JKAOMS

*Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Section of Dentistry, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam, Korea*

Today's medicine emphasizes evidence-based medicine (EVM) and many authoritative medical journals prefer to publish papers based on evidence. On the other hand, it is necessary to keep in mind that EVM originates from one case. A case report may serve as the beginning of many research papers; a case report may develop into papers about case series analysis, retrospective clinical studies, prospective case observational studies, or randomized clinical trials, and finally bring out the publication of systematic review papers based on the most reliable scientific evidence. Some journals and editors-in-chief tend to disregard the value of case reports and frequently refuse or disallow the submission of case reports. In other words, many editors-in-chief tend to think that journals with case reports are inferior in quality. The condition of the publication of case reports in medical journals is that they belong to one of the following categories: rare and peculiar cases, those that involve a very peculiar diagnosis or treatment even if previously published, those with unexpected special complication or side effects, or those with surgery or diagnostic methods that contributed to the treatment. Many clinicians read and employ case reports rather than original articles as reference materials for their treatments. Therefore, what is the requirement for authoritative medical journals? Journals with higher impact factors are generally recognized as authoritative ones, but impact factors are only higher because many scholars who conduct academic research frequently cite articles from them. Is it possible to verify the

claim that many clinicians who are actually engaged in clinical practices read medical journals with high impact factors? Books and research papers should have readers who actually read them with care. The most valuable journals are those that clinicians actually read and make use of for their clinical practice. *Journal of the Korean Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons* (JKAOMS) will continue to have interest in good case reports that deal with rare or peculiar cases and make efforts to increase the frequency with which many clinicians download and read those papers by actively publishing case reports that meet the submission requirements of JKAOMS.

### Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

---

#### **Young-Kyun Kim**

*Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Section of Dentistry, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, 82 Gumi-ro 173beon-gil, Bundang-gu, Seongnam 13620, Korea*

TEL: +82-31-787-7541 FAX: +82-31-787-4068

E-mail: [kyk0505@snubh.org](mailto:kyk0505@snubh.org)

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7268-3870>

© This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Copyright © 2016 The Korean Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. All rights reserved.