Editorial

S. M. Balaji

Published online: 11 January 2011

© Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India 2011

It is time for another conference. There are number of conferences being conducted all around the year. More and more research papers, clinical papers, technical notes, review articles are being presented by both faculties and students of craniofacial surgery. However, the ratio of transformation of such papers read out at maxillofacial and oral surgical meets to scientific literature is very low. I request all those presenting papers at international and national conferences to write their works and submit to surgical journals including our own journal.

Case reports, in the present scenario have become a casualty of pursuit to the journal impact factor and evidence based practice. As case reports often have low citation value they can negatively influence a journal's impact factor, and prevalence of these articles in high impact journals has been in decline. In spite of case reports being at the last step in scientific evidence, a well written case report provides important and detailed information about an individual situation, which is often lost in larger studies. Additionally, multiple case reports within the same period of time or at a same geographical area can serve as an early warning signal for the presentations of new or emerging diseases as well as variants of existing conditions. In some condition they may predict the interaction or adverse reaction to medications.

Case reports are often underrepresented in the literature; there are large number of case report submitted to JOMSI. We have a special supplementary issue devoted to these valuable reports. This issue provides a platform to publish high quality case reports, and aims to contribute to the

expansion of current maxillofacial surgical knowledge. The issue is to be released shortly.

Since inception of organized dentistry and maxillofacial surgery, surgeons have assimilated knowledge from their mentors as well as from their own practice. Accurate recounting and recording of this clinical experience is essential to the progress of surgery. When recorded and archived they have the potential to contribute to and change clinical practice.

Good quality case reports are of enormous educational value. They provide detailed accounts of what can go wrong, document the changes leading to adverse reaction and suggest how to recognize and deal with difficult problems encountered in surgical practice. While most of the learning is from personal experience of a complication or a diagnostic difficulty. It is valuable and certainly comfortable to read someone else's experience and implement it in our own clinical practice. One's experience becomes others knowledge.

S. M. Balaji (✉)

No. 30, Kavinagar Bharathi Dasan Road, Teynampet,
Chennai 600 018, Tamilnadu, India
e-mail: smbalaji@gmail.com