CASE REPORT SLICING– A NEW MUTANT OF SALAMI SLICING

Slicing the research question into many parts and presenting it as different papers for publication is not an uncommon practice by authors. In original research, this is possible when multiple parameters are measured. Hereby we discuss a rarer version of salami slicing of ‘case reports’, bordering to duplicate publication. In disease entities that require many investigations for diagnosis and where some of these diagnostic modalities individually validate the diagnosis, reports can be sliced while publishing. Authors publish a single rare case with only one set of investigative (mostly radiological) images, which are enough to support the diagnosis, so that another set of these images can be sent as a separate case report.

We received a case on renal lesion which was backed by few axial sections of CECT and USG images. On searching the databases, it
was found that the same case has been published elsewhere with sagittal sections of CECT and photomicrographs. The manuscript per se was drafted very immaculately which did not raise any suspicion and cleared plagiarism check.

Another case was of multiple tumors in jaws. Although rare, we could find another such case from the same institute and by the same author, present in database. The similarities in both the cases could not be overlooked and thus we asked for the full plates of radiological images (CT/ MRI). When the author failed to comply, he was blacklisted. This case was simple as there was an added feature, that the draft was heavily plagiarized and had already raised a doubt within the editorial team.

Through this report we would like to advice the editors to maintain vigilante for case report which are otherwise rare and asking for full plate radiological images is not a bad idea. Further, screening of authors all other publication is advisable.