The Use and Misuse of Level IV and V Evidence

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“Chance favors the prepared mind” Louis Pasteur

Although many medical journals routinely reject publication of case reports, these communications can still play a major educational role. Unexpected signs and symptoms in patients, adverse reactions or events and new associations can shed light to new diseases. Although not as rigorous as placebo-controlled, double-blinded studies, case reports and their big sister, case series, do have a high degree of sensitivity for detecting novel issues and subsequently serve a useful purpose in directing future investigation.

1) Outline:
   a) Historical examples of Case Reports/Series and their pivotal role in disease recognition and treatment
   b) Prevalence of Foot and Ankle Case Reports and Case Series
      i) Potential Positive Roles of Case Reports and Case Series
      ii) Limitation and Pitfalls to Level IV and V evidence

References: