

Anecdote

An anecdote is a single, descriptive account of an event or case that lacks the methodological rigor, generalizability, or analytical depth required for scientific inference. In clinical literature, a report becomes mere anecdote when it:

Fails to contextualize the case within broader evidence or clinical guidelines

Does not generate hypotheses or advance diagnostic/therapeutic strategies

Lacks discussion of differential diagnosis, alternative approaches, or ethical implications

Avoids critical reflection, offering narrative over analysis

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