

World Journal of Clinical Cases

Publisher: Baishideng Publishing Group **Format:** Open Access, English-language **Frequency:** Three issues per month **Review Process:** Single-blind peer review **Scope:** Case reports, clinical research, reviews, guidelines

Impact and Metrics

- **Impact Factor (2023):** ≈ 1.0 (5-year IF ~ 1.1)
- **H-index:** ~ 30
- **SCIE-indexed:** Yes
- **Ranking:** Q3 (Medicine, General & Internal)
- **Average Citations per Article:** < 2
- **Article Volume (2021):** $\sim 1,300$ (up from ~ 70 in 2017)

Strengths

- ☐ Open access with rapid publication cycles (~ 1 month)
- ☐ Indexed in SCIE and PubMed Central
- ☐ Declared adherence to COPE ethical guidelines
- ☐ Useful for early-career authors needing visibility or academic credits

Weaknesses

- ⚠ **Quantity over Quality:** Rapid growth has diluted scientific value
- ⚠ **Minimal Peer Review Rigor:** Many articles accepted with superficial scrutiny
- ⚠ **Low Citability:** Most case reports have minimal academic influence
- ⚠ **Middling Prestige:** Q3 ranking limits institutional recognition
- ⚠ **Predatory Optics:** Expansion strategy and APC model raise concerns, despite technical indexing
- ⚠ **Lack of Editorial Selectivity:** Frequent publication of anecdotal, non-hypothesis-generating reports

Summary Table

Attribute	Evaluation
Visibility	★★★☆☆ (SCIE-indexed, PubMed Central)
Scientific Rigor	★★☆☆☆ (Single-blind, often superficial)
Citation Impact	★☆☆☆☆ (Low citations per article)
Ethical Standing	★★★★☆ (COPE-compliant, no major misconduct reported)
Ideal For	Rapid dissemination of low-impact clinical observations

Final Assessment

World Journal of Clinical Cases offers a fast-track, open-access outlet for case reports, but at the cost of academic rigor and long-term influence. Its role is primarily archival and descriptive rather than investigational or hypothesis-generating. It is best seen as a **platform for documentation**, not for advancing the scientific frontier.

Use cautiously. Suitable for descriptive cases, but inappropriate for research intended to shift clinical paradigms.

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