

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO WRITE AN ABSTRACT

The aim of the conference is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience within this community. Writing an abstract is an important way to share your scientific or clinical work with your peers.

Sometimes the appreciation of an abstract is impaired by the way it is presented, which can lead to strong scientific or clinical work not receiving appropriate recognition. To avoid this, the guidance below offers practical advice on how to write a good abstract and increase its chance of being selected for presentation.

A structure of an abstract should include:

Title

The title should give a precise idea of the abstract's content. It should convey, as far as possible, the aims of the study, scope of investigation, study design and objectives. Ideally, the title should have a maximum of 25 words, be easy to understand, and avoid unfamiliar acronyms or abbreviations.

Authors

The list of authors should be restricted to individuals who contributed to the conception and design, data acquisition/analysis, and writing of the study summary. The presenting author should be clearly indicated. All authors should read and approve the abstract before submission.

Body of the abstract

A good abstract should answer the five questions below:

1. "How/Why did it start?" - Introduction

This should summarise, preferably in one sentence, the actual knowledge or state of the art, specifically related to the work that will be presented.

2. "What are you trying to answer?" - Aims

Here you should define the aim of the study and ideally include a short statement of what is being studied.

A legitimate study is not carried out "to prove that any finding is true", but "to discover whether a given fact is true". The difference may seem small, but it is significant. The exposition of a formal hypothesis demonstrates objectivity.

3. "What did you do to answer your question?" - Methods

In an abstract, the description of methods should be concise and most details omitted. However, a short sentence should give the reader a good idea of the design of the study, the context in which it was carried out, and the type of patients/measurements/analyses included.

4. "What were your findings?" - Results

It is important to mention the main results of the study. You will need to make choices regarding the data you present in the abstract and the findings on which you base your conclusions. Do not include a table or figure.

5. "What is the meaning of this study?" - Conclusions

Space constraints generally limit conclusions to a single sentence explaining why you think your results are important and their potential implications. Make sure your conclusions are supported by your study results.