

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT FOR PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE STUDIES

SECTION	DESCRIPTION
Research Question	Clearly state the primary question addressed by the study, as well as any secondary question(s).
Background	Explain why the research questions are important.
Objectives	Clearly state the objectives of the study.
General Study Design	Describe the study design (eg - RCT, cohort, case-control, cross sectional survey, validation, etc) indicating if it is prospective or retrospective. Also expound on any strategies used such as blinding, allocation concealment, etc.
Participants	State the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and how patients were sampled and recruited.
Interventions (if any)	In treatment trials, this refers to a description of the treatments compared. In validation studies, it refers to the test being evaluated. In prognostic studies, this may refer to the risk factors being evaluated (in which case the term "exposure" may be more appropriate than "intervention"). This section may be excluded if the study is purely descriptive in nature.
Outcome measures	Explain the methods used to measure the study outcomes (i.e. - the treatment effect in a trial, the gold standard in a validation study, the disease outcome in a prognosis study, or the population trait in a descriptive study). If possible, give some indication of the validity and reliability of the instrument used.
Analysis	Describe statistical treatment of the data, indicating statistical tests, sample size calculation (if this was done), and software used (if any).
Results	Indicate how many subjects were recruited, and how many completed the study. Summarize the major findings, indicating point estimates, confidence intervals (if possible), and p values (when applicable).
Conclusions	Round up the study by clearly stating the answers to all the research questions raised. Be intellectually honest and point out study limitations. End by stating implications for clinical practice and further research.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT FOR META-ANALYSES

SECTION	DESCRIPTION
Research Question	Clearly state the primary question addressed by the study, as well as any secondary question(s), indicating the population of interest (P), the interventions assessed (I), the treatment they are compared with (C), and the outcomes of interest (O).
Background	Explain why the research questions are important.
Objectives	Clearly state the objectives of the meta-analysis.
Inclusion criteria	Describe the criteria used to decide if articles would be included or excluded (usually indicating P, I, C, O and M)
Search Strategy	Indicate the strategies used to make sure that all relevant articles are identified and retrieved.
Study Maneuvers	Indicate maneuvers used to assure reliability, eg - how authors decided on inclusion or exclusion of individual studies, how authors assessed quality of these studies, and how the results were extracted. Also describe how disagreement was resolved in each of these processes, eg - by a 3rd party or by discussion.
Statistical Analysis	Describe statistical treatment of the data, indicating statistical tests, sample size calculation (if this was done), and software used (if any).
Results	Indicate how many studies were found, how many were retrieved, how many were included and how many were excluded. Give some idea on the quality of these studies. Summarize the major findings, indicating point estimates, confidence intervals and p values. Don't forget to comment on whether you found heterogeneity. If so, comment briefly on how you managed it (eg - by changing the statistical approach, or through sensitivity analysis).
Conclusions	Round up the study by clearly stating the answers to all the research questions raised. Be intellectually honest and point out study limitations. End by stating implications for clinical practice and further research.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT FOR CASE REPORTS

SECTION	DESCRIPTION
Synopsis	Summarize the case and discuss its unique features.
Clinical Presentation	Describe major points in the patient's history
Physical Findings	Point out the major physical findings.
Laboratory Work-up	Explain the results of laboratory work-up.
Diagnosis	State the diagnosis or describe how it evolved through time.
Treatment	Describe how the patient was managed, indicating pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic or surgical approaches.
Outcome	Describe how the patient responded to treatment, indicating the status when last seen.
Significance	Explain why this case report is unique or why it is important. Review findings in the world literature.
Recommendations	Round up the case by suggesting how knowledge of it may be used to plan further research OR improve clinical practice.