What Information Should Be Included in a Research Abstract?

Based on:

- **WRITING TIPS SERIES - Effective Writing and Publishing Scientific Papers, Part II: Title and Abstract** - *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 66 (2013) 585*
- **University of Southampton's "How to Conduct a Critical Review"**
  Link: University of Southampton

Before You Submit Your Abstract

You are about to submit an abstract for our annual meeting, and we warmly thank you for this. Please keep in mind the following elements when writing and submitting your work to the **EUSEM Annual Conference**:

• Our goals in the selection procedure are **impartiality, equity, and transparency**. At least two reviewers with experience in research and emergency medicine will fully assess abstracts. The evaluation will be based on **scientific quality and relevance to emergency medicine**.

• **"Clear, transparent, and sufficiently detailed abstracts for conferences and journal articles are important. Readers often base their assessment of a trial on the information provided in the abstract. (…) When a trial is reported at a conference, the abstract might provide the only permanent information accessible to most readers."**

• **Using reporting guidelines such as CARE, CONSORT, or STROBE Statements extensions is strongly recommended.** These guidelines provide essential items that authors should include when reporting research studies in a conference abstract. The different types of reporting guidelines can be accessed at: EQUATOR Network.

- All abstracts have to be written **in English**
- Ensure your abstract **does not exceed 300 words**.
- You may include **either one table or one image**.

What Information Should Be Included in an Abstract?

Introduction

The introduction should address the question: **"What is known, and why is this study needed?"** It should provide:

- A brief overview and background on the condition, intervention/control, and outcome.
- The study's relevance.
- A clear statement of the study's **objectives or aims**.

Methods
The methods section should answer: **"What did we do?"** and should include:

- **Study design** (e.g., cohort, cross-sectional, case-control, survey, case series, randomized controlled trial, or systematic review).
- **Study setting**: Describe the location (e.g., university hospital, rural hospital, prehospital setting, laboratory, educational institution, community, or online environment). Indicate whether it was a **single-center or multi-center study**, including geographic details.
- **Participants**:
    - Describe **eligibility criteria** (inclusion/exclusion).
    - Explain the **selection process** (e.g., random sample, convenience sample, volunteer sample, or consecutive patient sample).
    - If **matching** was used, state the key characteristics.
- **Interventions and comparators** (for clinical trials or observational studies).
- **Primary outcomes** and their **time points**.
- **Data collection process** and **study timelines**.

Results
This section should answer: **"What did we find?"** and should include:

- **Demographic data** relevant to the study.
- **Main outcomes** with the **final number of participants included and analyzed**.
- **Indicators of uncertainty**, such as confidence intervals (CIs), standard deviations (SDs), and interquartile ranges (IQRs).
- Use of **Number Needed to Treat (NNT)** or **Number Needed to Harm (NNH)** if applicable.
- **Diagnostic studies**: Include pre-test probability, prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, and likelihood ratios.
- **Tables and figures** should be **clear, well-labeled, and consistent** with reported results.

Discussion & Conclusions
This section should give an answer to the question: **"What does it mean?"** and should include:

- The **main study results** and their broader significance.
- If relevant, **implications for clinical practice and future research**.
- The final sentence should not be too broad, overly general, or make a statement that isn't well-supported by the results.

Other Relevant Information

Study Trial Registration
If the study is registered, provide the **name of the registry** and **registration number**. This also applies to systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Funding

Provide the name of the **funder(s)**. If no funding was received, state:
"This study did not receive any specific funding."

Ethical Approval and Informed Consent

For studies involving **human or animal participants**, indicate whether:

- The study **received review and approval** (or a waiver) from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or ethics committee.
- If **ethical approval was not required**, state this along with the reasons.

Potential Conflict of Interest (COI)

- Briefly state any **potential conflicts of interest** for each author.
- **Definition:** A conflict of interest exists when professional judgment regarding a primary interest (e.g., patient welfare, research validity) may be influenced by a secondary interest (e.g., financial gain). Perceptions of conflict are as important as actual conflicts.
- More information: ICMJE COI Guidelines
- If no conflicts exist, state: **"The authors declare no conflicts of interest."**