

Guidelines for VSC Online Symposium Abstracts

We suggest that conference abstracts should generally be structured as shown below, be about **150-250** words, **and include references**. Any extra description can be included as an appendix. Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum and defined at first use. This document outlines the abstract guidelines for:

- 1) *Literature Reviews (Narrative, Critical, Scoping, etc.)*
- 2) *Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis*
- 3) *Theoretical Papers*
- 4) *Empirical Study*



1. Literature Reviews:

Title of Manuscript

Clear, concise, and accurately reflects the topic and focus of the literature review.

Names and affiliations of authors

- Provide full names and affiliations (name of organisation, city, state if applicable, and country) for all authors
- Indicate full professors
- Provide one degree or qualification for all authors

Background

Objectives

Clearly state the main objectives or research questions the literature review addresses

The research question

Define the research question, specifying its key components such as the population, concept and context that is being examined.

Methods

Eligibility criteria

Describe the criteria used to include or exclude studies

Information sources

List the key databases that were searched, including the dates of the searches

Search strategy

Explain the search terms, strings, and methodology used to find relevant literature

Study Selection and Data Extraction

Describe the process for selecting studies and how the key information was extracted from them.

Results

Synthesis of findings

Summarise the key themes, patterns, or conclusions that emerged from the literature analysis.

Discussion

Summary of evidence

Briefly summarise the strengths and limitations of the body of evidence reviewed.

Interpretation and implications

Provide an overall interpretation of the results and discuss the important implications of the findings. Explain how these insights could inform future research or practice.

Funding

Source of funding (If none, say so).

2. Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis:

Title of Manuscript

- Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.

Names and affiliations of authors

- Provide full names and affiliations (name of organisation, city, state if applicable, and country) for all authors
- Indicate full professors
- Provide one degree or qualification for all authors

Background

Objectives

The research question, including components such as participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes.

Methods

Eligibility criteria

Study and report characteristics used as criteria for inclusion.

Information sources

Key databases searched and search dates.

Risk of bias

Methods of assessing risk of bias.

Results

Included studies

Number and type of included studies and participants and relevant characteristics of studies.

Synthesis of results

Results for main outcomes (benefits and harms), preferably indicating the number of studies and participants for each. If meta-analysis was done, include summary measures and confidence intervals.

Description of effect

Direction of the effect (i.e., which group is favoured) and size of the effect in terms meaningful to clinicians and patients.

Discussion

Brief summary of strengths and limitations of evidence (e.g., inconsistency, imprecision, indirectness, or risk of bias, other supporting or conflicting evidence). General interpretation of the results and important implications.

Funding

Source of funding (If none, say so).

3. Theoretical Papers

Title of Manuscript

- The title should be concise and clearly reflect the paper's theoretical nature.

Names and Affiliations of Authors

- Provide full names and affiliations (name of organisation, city, state if applicable, and country) for all authors
- Indicate full professors
- Provide one degree or qualification for all authors

Background

- This section should concisely introduce the theoretical problem or the gap in existing thought that your paper aims to address.
- Briefly summarise the current state of theory or understanding on the topic, highlighting its limitations or inconsistencies.

Objectives

Clearly state the central thesis or argument of the paper, which should include participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes.

Results

Included studies

Number and type of included studies and participants and relevant characteristics of studies.

Synthesis of results

Present the findings for your main outcomes (both benefits and harms). Mention the number of studies and participants for each outcome.

Description of effect

Direction of the effect (i.e., which group is favoured) and size of the effect in terms meaningful to clinicians and patients.

Discussion

Brief summary of strengths and limitations of evidence (e.g., inconsistency, imprecision, indirectness, or risk of bias, other supporting or conflicting evidence). Discuss implications of the new theory for research and practice in the field.

Funding

Source of funding (If none, say so).

4. Empirical Study

Title of Manuscript

- Should be descriptive and include the type of study— eg, a cross-sectional survey, a randomised controlled trial.

Names and affiliations of authors

- Provide full names and affiliations (name of organisation, city, state if applicable, and country) for all authors
- Indicate full professors
- Provide one degree or qualification for all authors

Background

Objectives:

- Context
- Why the study was done, in one or two sentences
- Aim
- State specific aim/s or hypothesis, if appropriate

Methods

Study design

Indicate where the study was conducted— countries and how many centres. What was the study design— eg, randomised control. If appropriate, provide information about randomisation, masking and stratification (how were the participants allocated to groups? Were participants, investigators, and those assessing outcomes masked to group assignment?).

Participants

Who were they? How were they recruited? How many were studied? Were they male or female, children or adults? What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria?

Interventions

If appropriate. For example, for drugs please provide rINN, doses, route and schedule of administration

Analysis

- What were the primary outcomes; how did you decide on or calculate the number of individuals to be included in the study; what statistical tests did you use? If a randomised controlled trial, was the analysis per protocol or intention to treat, or something else?
- Details of ethics approval and patient consent. Was informed consent (written or verbal) obtained from the participants or their guardians? Who approved the study?
- If applicable, please provide registration number and name of trial register

Findings:

- Provide number of participants assigned and analysed in each group
- Describe outcomes, data, and statistical tests if appropriate. For example, for randomised controlled trials, the actual number and percentages for the primary outcome/s, and estimated effect size (eg, odds ratio) and its precision (eg, 95% CI). Please report SD for mean values and IQR for medians, and give exact p values unless $p < 0.0001$
- Any important adverse events/side-effects

Interpretation

- General interpretation of the results and their significance
- Outline limitations and strengths of the study

Funding

Source of funding (if none, say so)