

Abstract Writing for Medical Research Papers

医学论著英语摘要写作

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译者序

本书是由福建医科大学文理艺术学院的齐晖、陈菲娜、郭海燕老师为主编，陈晶为学术秘书，交由复旦大学出版社出版，专供福医大学生使用的英语摘要写作教科书。我本人也是三位老师的学生，纵然课堂生动有趣、干货满满，但苦于同校前辈制作的扫描件观感不佳，笔记整理不便，译者决心要进行文字重排处理。其中自觉原书排版不善之处，皆进行重新编排，以符合译者审美。

原书通本以英文编写，编者似乎意图借此提升我等英语阅读水平，奈何文本中穿插语言学专有名词，初学时疲于翻译、苦不堪言。此外，期末复习期间，全英文本并不利于提升复习效率，故译者对主要文本进行翻译，对照复习。本套重置本将基于该译本进行整理，包含三种排版样式——原文重排版、双语对照版、译文版。以上三个版本请学弟学妹们按需取用，20届学长祝各位期末考试顺利。

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编译环境

- 操作系统: Windows
- 语言: \LaTeX
- 编译环境: \XeLaTeX
- **TeX Live**版本: TeX Live 2022

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第一章 Overview of Abstracts

1.1 Definition of an Abstract

The American Psychological Association (APA) Style (2010) states that an abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the content of an article. According to the American National Standards Institute (1979), an abstract is an abbreviated accurate representation of the content of a document, preferably prepared by its author(s) for publication with it. In general, an abstract is a concise, accurate and comprehensive statement of the content of an article. It is original rather than excerpted.

1.2 Importance and Functions of an Abstract

An abstract is a distinct genre, and to some extent plays a pivotal role in academic reading and writing. In the era of information explosion, an enormous number of new publications are produced in the academic community each day. There is no practical way for every reader to get access to every new article, or to read every new publication even if it is accessible. The abstracts published online, which are concise and comprehensive, can be obtained easily and quickly. Abstract reading, then, may be a useful starting point of any academic reading and writing. In this sense, an abstract is the most read part of an article.¹

An abstract has at least three functions (Huckin, 2001). First, it serves as a stand-alone mini text, giving readers a quick summary of a study's objectives, methodology, findings and conclusions, which are the major components of abstracts. Second, it serves as a screening device, and gives readers an adequate view on whether the full-length article is of great value to their needs and worth further reading. A good abstract, to some extent, increases the chance of being cited or referenced. Third, for those readers who do opt to read the article as a whole, the abstract serves as a preview, creating an interpretive frame that can guide reading.

¹ 劳伦衣普桑，认为将指点效
则机，最你更枝。想极整月正
进好志次回总般，段然取向使
张规军证回，世市总李率英茹
持伴。

1.3 Types of Abstracts

Generally, abstracts fall into two categories, indicative and informative, depending on the type of information they convey. A typical distinction between them is that the indicative abstract, viewed as the outline of the paper, is usually shorter and simpler, while the informative abstract, viewed as the summary of the paper is usually longer and more thorough.

These two types of abstracts also differ in the components they contain. Indicative abstracts often include the purpose, scope, and methods of the report or study, but seldom include the results or conclusions. Reading indicative abstracts could not substitute reading the paper, because not all the crucial components are covered. It is more widely used in social science papers. On the other hand, informative abstracts usually include all the crucial components of the study, such as the background, purpose, methods, results, and conclusions. It is the type of abstracts widely used in medical field. In this book, we focus on the writing of informative abstracts. The abstracts referred to in the following chapters are informative abstracts.

1.4 Types of Informative Abstracts

There are two types of informative abstracts, structured abstracts and unstructured abstracts.

Where a heading or label is used at the beginning of the text in each section, it is a structured abstract. Each section is usually written in a separate paragraph, but sometimes sections are written in a sole or continuous paragraph. Headings might be background, objectives, methods, results, conclusions, and so on. They vary according to the criteria set by different journals. Structured abstracts appear to be favored by medically-relevant publications.

Where no heading or label is used to indicate different parts of an abstract, it is an unstructured abstract. It is always a sole paragraph. The major difference between the two types of abstracts lies in whether there are headings or not. In an unstructured abstract the content and sequence of the items are written as it is in the structured one.

Journals mandate which style should be used, so check the author guidelines if you're not sure. If it is not mentioned, keep an eye out for the type of abstracts preferable in the journals where you are willing to have your paper submitted and published. Write your abstracts in the style which dominates.

Sample 1.4.1:**BACKGROUND**

In patients with acute heart failure, early intervention with an intravenous vasodilator has been proposed as a therapeutic goal to reduce cardiac-wall stress and, potentially, myocardial injury, thereby favorably affecting patients' long-term prognosis.

METHODS

In this double-blind trial, we randomly assigned 2,157 patients with acute heart failure to receive a continuous intravenous infusion of either ularitide at a dose of 15 ng per kilogram of body weight per minute or matching placebo for 48 hours, in addition to accepted therapy. Treatment was initiated a median of 6 hours after the initial clinical evaluation. The coprimary outcomes were death from cardiovascular causes during a median follow-up of 15 months and a hierarchical composite end point that evaluated the initial 48-hour clinical course.

RESULTS

Death from cardiovascular causes occurred in 236 patients in the ularitide group and 225 patients in the placebo group (21.7% vs. 21.0%; hazard ratio, 1.03; 96% confidence interval, 0.85 to 1.25; $P=0.75$). In the intention-to-treat analysis, there was no significant between-group difference with respect to the hierarchical composite outcome. The ularitide group had greater reductions in systolic blood pressure and in levels of N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide than the placebo group. However, changes in cardiac troponin T levels during the infusion did not differ between the two groups in the 55% of patients with paired data.

CONCLUSIONS

In patients with acute heart failure, ularitide exerted favorable physiological effects (without affecting cardiac troponin levels), but short-term treatment did not affect a clinical composite end point or reduce long-term cardiovascular mortality.

—Effect of Ularitide on Cardiovascular Mortality in Acute Heart Failure.

New England Journal of Medicine (2017)

第二章

第三章

第四章

第五章

第六章

