**Is an abstract template of any use?**

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**Introduction:** Without a template, submitted abstracts (ABs) tend to vary in detail, like length, font type, layout, etc., creating more work for the organizing committee in terms of restructuring abstracts for an abstract booklet.

**Aims:** To standardize the format of submitted ABs.

**Methods:** A template was created to minimize the possibilities for AB heterogeneity. The maximum number of words allowed was 350 (excluding title, authors, and affiliations). The font used was Calibri or Times New Roman with font size 14 (title), 9 (affiliations), and 11 (authors and main text). Bold was used for the title, the presenting author, and the ‘headings’, and affiliations were denoted by superscripts (if all authors had the same affiliation, no superscript was used). Authors were separated by comma only (not ‘and’ before the last author), and no punctuation was used after the middle initial(s).

**Results:** Out of 100 submitted ABs, 90% did not need any post-processing before printing (95% confidence interval 82.4-95.1).

**Conclusions:** Using an abstract template clearly reduces the amount of work needed for creating an abstract booklet.

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