

Title of the study

Author(s)

Abstract

This section should contain all the main points of the study. It is unlikely to give you all you need to access its validity, trustworthiness and relevance.

A good abstract will contain objectives, design of study (methodology), people studied, outcome measures being observed, results and conclusions - ideally in a structured format.

It may also contain some key words for database searching, and research funder.

Introduction/background

This should contain an explanation of what the objectives of the study are, the background and context to the research, what has been done before and the reasons why the this study matters.

Methods

This section should describe how the research conducted.

For example:

What type of study was done?

If it was a **systematic review**:

- How were papers searched for?
- How were studies included/excluded?
- How was the quality of the studies assessed?

If it was an **randomised controlled trial**:

- What randomisation method was used?
- Was blinding used: to treatment/control, single or double?
- Was intention to treat analysis used?

Principal authors, an address for correspondence.

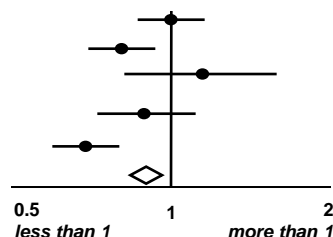
How to cite the research

Copyright permission if applicable

Rapid response/feedback button

Results

This section will contain the results of the study. They will be in the text but may also be in the form of tables, charts or diagrams, such as the odds ratio graph (or blobbogram) below:



Discussion

This section should discuss the results and explain any unusual findings. It may also explain the limitations of the research.

Conclusions

This section should pull together the main themes of the results and discuss how far they go towards answering the question originally asked.

References

This tells you the other related research that informed this study. Typically in the introduction, background and discussion sections.

In the main text of the report a reference (s) may follow a point being made.

References are usually cited in a standard format:

Authors names (surname and initials).

Title. *Journal* year;volume:page numbers.

For example:

Chalmers I, Enkin M, Keirse MJNC.

Establishing systems for creating and updating overviews of controlled trials of health care. *Milbank Q* 1993;71:411-437.