



How to Write a High- Quality Abstract

How to Write a Patient Advocacy Abstract

A Practical Guide

INTRODUCTION

Patient advocates have a growing voice in medical research and policy. Leading conferences such as ESGO, ASCO or ESMO recognize the importance of including patient advocacy work in their scientific programs. Writing and submitting an abstract is a **powerful way to:**

- Share your work
- Gain recognition
- Influence research and policy
- Connect with the academic and medical community

This guide will walk you through the steps of writing a patient advocacy or policy abstract and turning your work into a meaningful scientific contribution.

WHAT IS AN ABSTRACT FOR A CONGRESS?

- A short summary of your **work, experience, or project**
- Typically **200–300 words**, however, it is important to **review the specific rules** and guidelines for the conference
- Submitted to a conference (such as ESGO) for review
- If accepted, may lead to a presentation (oral, poster, e-poster)

Abstracts are also used in **academic publishing to:**

- Provide **context** for readers of the full article
- Help journals assign appropriate **peer reviewers**
- Used by abstracting and indexing services (for citation databases)
- Assist translation services in reaching non-English-speaking readers

WHY SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT AS A PATIENT ADVOCATE?

- **Share** your research, experience, and results
- Elevate your advocacy to an **academic level**
- Build trust with clinicians, researchers, and policymakers

THE STRUCTURE OF A SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT AND A POLICY / ADVOCACY ABSTRACT

The most common abstract format (used by ASCO, ESMO, ESGO, etc.) follows a four-part structure known as **IMRaD**:

1

Introduction / Background (Why)

- Define the purpose and scope
- What is the question, problem, or need?
- Why is it important?

2

Methods (How)

- What did you do?
- How did you do it?
- Who was involved?
- Describe the process.

3

Results (What)

- What did you find or achieve?
- What were the results or measurable outcomes?
- What changed (or not)?
- Use numbers where possible.

4

Discussion (So what?)

- What does this mean?
- Why is it important?
- What did you learn?



Remember:
a negative result is still a result.



POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR PATIENT ADVOCACY ABSTRACTS

Patient-Centred Research & Outcomes

- Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
- Real-world data collected based on patient needs

Equity & Access

- Addressing disparities in access (e.g. minority or rural communities)
- Patient navigator programmes

Partnership & Coalition Building

- Collaborations with pharma, academia, or government
- Patient involvement in clinical guidelines

Policy & Systems Change through Advocacy

- Advocacy campaigns that led to the inclusion of drugs in public funding
- Case studies on policy change
- Reducing diagnostic or treatment delays

Education & Awareness

- Awareness campaigns and their measured impact
- Patient-led educational interventions for medical staff

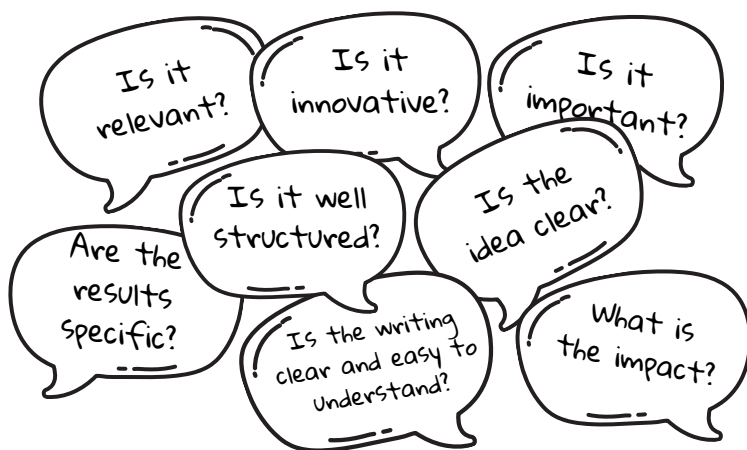
Measuring Advocacy Impact

- Metrics or frameworks to evaluate advocacy outcomes
- Long-term analysis of advocacy initiatives

TIPS FOR WRITING A STRONG ABSTRACT

- Use **simple**, **scientific**, and **precise language** – avoid overly technical terms unless necessary.
- Focus on **outcomes** – what changed as a result of your work?
- Quantify where possible – include **numbers**, **timelines**, and **measurable impact**.
- Be honest about challenges – these offer valuable learning for others.
- Follow the **abstract guidelines** carefully.

WHAT DO REVIEWERS LOOK FOR?



STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE: A REAL CASE

1 **Background** (The Need)

The treatment was not selected by the committee for reimbursement by the state.

2 **Methods** (The Process)

To influence the committee's selection process, epidemiological data and quality-of-life data were submitted, along with patient testimonials. Media and decision-makers were actively engaged.

3 **Results** (The Outcome)

The committee decided to reimburse the treatment.

4 **Conclusion** (Lessons Learned)

Identifying information gaps among decision-makers and providing credible data and compelling patient stories can successfully influence national policy. This approach may serve as a model for other advocacy efforts.

Example is taken as a paraphrase from:

Levy B. (2024). Patient Advocacy Group's Role in Representing Patients' Voice within Drug Reimbursement Process: A Case Study of Pembrolizumab and Lenvatinib for Endometrial Cancer Patients in Israel.

In Abstracts of the World Cancer Congress, Geneva, Switzerland, 17–19 September 2024 (Vol. 155, Suppl. S1, p. 73). International Journal of Cancer. [READ IT HERE](#)

If you'd like to watch a 30-minute **ENGAGE webinar** on the topic of abstract writing, you can view it [here](#) or just scan the QR code with your phone.

SCAN ME



ENGAGE would like to sincerely thank **Houssein El Hajj** and **Bar Levy** for their contributions to this leaflet and the accompanying webinar.



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