

## Abstract Example: Well-written Abstract

**Introduction:** Partners of individuals with dementia often experience challenges with their ability to manage the daily issues that arise with being the primary caregiver. Personal stress, increased physical demands, personality changes in their partner and dealing with their own aging are common issues that partners may face. Occupational therapists are often consulted to work with the individual with dementia, however it is often the partner that is the primary recipient of services. Little is known about how male partners are able to cope with the daily challenges of being the primary caregiver.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore the lived experience of the male partners of individuals with dementia to develop an understanding of the strategies they use to support their partner at home.

**Methods:** Using purposive sampling, male partners of individuals with dementia were recruited for this study. Participants were individually interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire. Interviews were audio-taped, transcribed verbatim and reviewed to develop a coding scheme and definitions. Two researchers conducted line-by-line review of the transcripts to identify themes and sub-themes that emerged from the data. Additional notes were made throughout the analysis to document further ideas and assumptions. The summary of themes was sent to participants for member checking.

**Results:** Data saturation was achieved after analysis of the data from twelve participants. Three sets of primary coping strategies emerged from the data and were confirmed by participants. Longing for the Past, Day-to-day Survival, and A Predictable and Unwanted Future were themes that encapsulated the finding of this study.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study will assist occupational therapists to understand the coping strategies that the male caregivers of individuals with dementia use to maintain their partners at home. Identifying ways to support these primary caregivers is an important role for occupational therapists as our population ages.

### Quality of Presentation Content (23/25 points)

Introduction (5/5): The author provides justification for the study.

Objectives (5/5): Objective of project is specific

Methods (4/5): Methods used to conduct the study are clear. Partners are not necessarily the same as caregivers, although they appear to be synonymous in this study. This could be clarified.

Results (5/5): Results are identified

Conclusion (4/5): Some repetition in the conclusion that doesn't add to the abstract.

### Educational Value (13/15 points)

Interest and appeal to an occupational therapy audience (i.e. needs to be heard, describes historical perspective, current trends or new ideas) 4/5

- *May have a limited audience as it addresses a very specific population and area of practice.*

Important contribution to practice, research, theory or knowledge 5/5

- *An interesting topic and I am eager to hear more about the results and implications for occupational therapists working in this area, in particular I look forward to a discussion and more details on the strategies.*

Novel or innovative contribution, relevant to the conference theme 4/5

- *Although not a novel issue, the author suggests that limited work has been done to explore this issue and thus anticipate that the contribution is novel.*

### Quality of Written Abstract (9/10 points)

Self-contained (i.e., should not include abbreviations, acronyms, quotes or extensive reference citations) and concise/specific (i.e., each sentence is maximally informative, especially the lead sentence) 5/5

Coherent and readable (i.e., written in logical sequence, use of clear vigorous prose, use of the active not passive voice, avoids use of personal pronouns) 4/5

- *Abstract is clearly worded.*
- *Uses passive voice at times*

## Abstract Example: Poorly written abstract

**Introduction:** With the increasing number of older adults “aging in place”, older adults are at risk for falls in their home. Person and environment factors can contribute to a situation that may result in injury. The result of falling can be detrimental to one’s health and quality of life as it may result in prolonged hospitalization.

**Objectives:** To develop an in-home falls program to reduce the incidence of falls in the well elderly.

**Methods:** Participants met with an occupational therapist to learn about home safety techniques on a weekly basis over a three month period. They used the Falls-Reduction Inventory to educate seniors on possible home hazards.

**Results:** Twelve seniors participated in the project. Participants completed an initial evaluation of hazards in their home and then worked with the OT to develop solutions to reduce the risk of falls. A total of 88 home hazards were identified by the participants. Interviews with the older adult participants suggested that they felt more capable of identifying risks in their home environment.

**Conclusion:** The results of this project support the involvement of occupational therapists in working with seniors on falls prevention in their home.

### Quality of Presentation Content (13/25 points)

#### Introduction (3/5)

*The abstract highlights the issue of falls in older adults. However, clarification of the problem leading to the need to do this project would be helpful. Further background information on previous work and the gaps in that work would also assist to justify the need for this project.*

#### Objectives (4/5)

*The objective stated is clear, however, is this the true objective of the study? By reading the methods, it appears that the project was not about program development.*

#### Methods (2/5)

*The methods used to address the issue are not clearly linked to the objectives of the project. For example, how were interviews used and analyzed? More specific information on the methods used would be helpful for understanding how data was collected.*

*Could you describe the “Falls-Reduction Inventory” ? Further information on this inventory would assist the reader to understand how it was used in this project.*

#### Results (2/5)

*The statement “Participants completed an initial evaluation of hazards in their home and then worked with the OT to develop solutions to reduce the risk of falls” is better suited to the methods section as it addresses “what was done” in the study.*

*Results of the data collected are described, however, it is difficult to interpret the results as they do not clearly link to the methods section. Clearly linking methods and results would help the reader make this connection.*

#### Conclusion (2/5)

*The final statement of conclusion is not entirely consistent with objectives of the study, this makes it difficult to determine whether the project was successful.*

*It is not clear how the results will contribute to the knowledge base of occupational therapists’ understanding of this area of practice; a strong statement about this contribution would strengthen the abstract.*

### **Educational Value (8/15 points)**

Interest and appeal to an occupational therapy audience (i.e. needs to be heard, describes historical perspective) (5/5)

- *This is a topic of interest to occupational therapy clinicians and the topic area would have broad appeal to the conference delegates as it addresses a common area of OT practice.*

Important contribution to practice, research, theory or knowledge (1/5)

- *Unfortunately, limited information and lack of clarity on the methods used make it difficult to determine how this project can contribute to furthering OTs understanding of the problem.*

Novel or innovative contribution, relevant to the conference theme (2/5)

- *The author could clearly articulate the novel contribution of this project to the topic area; further development of a justification for the project in the introduction section would address this.*

### **Educational Value (8/15 points)**

Interest and appeal to an occupational therapy audience (i.e. needs to be heard, describes historical perspective) (5/5)

- *This is a topic of interest to occupational therapy clinicians and the topic area would have broad appeal to the conference delegates as it addresses a common area of OT practice.*

Important contribution to practice, research, theory or knowledge (1/5)

- *Unfortunately, limited information and lack of clarity on the methods used make it difficult to determine how this project can contribute to furthering OTs understanding of the problem.*

Novel or innovative contribution, relevant to the conference theme (2/5)

- *The author could clearly articulate the novel contribution of this project to the topic area; further development of a justification for the project in the introduction section would address this.*

### **Quality of Written Abstract (4/10 points)**

Self-contained (i.e., should not include abbreviations, acronyms, quotes or extensive reference citations) and concise/specific (i.e., each sentence is maximally informative, especially the lead sentence) (2/5)

- *The first sentence could provide more information as to how it links to the project; reversing the clauses would strengthen that sentence.*
- *The term "aging in place" should be elaborated on, or not used rather than put in direct quotes.*
- *Some sentences require further development (e.g. They used the Falls-Reduction Inventory to educate seniors on possible home hazards).*
- *OT is used as an acronym without defining it first.*
- *Each sentence should stand on its own as a complete sentence (e.g. see objectives).*

Coherent and readable (i.e., written in logical sequence, use of clear vigorous prose, use of the active not passive voice, avoids use of personal pronouns) (2/5)

- *The use of various terms to describe the participants (seniors, older adults, elderly) is somewhat confusing; I would suggest that the author use consistency in terms and ensure that person-first language is used.*
- *It would be beneficial to review the abstract for grammatical accuracy and clarity of writing.*
- *Use of personal pronouns is discouraged.*