CovCo Writing Workshop

Session Two: The Results Section

Structured Manuscripts

Title and Abstract: Summarizes your work

Introduction
- Highlights gaps in current scientific knowledge
- Explains the focus of your manuscript

Methods: Describes what you did in enough detail that someone else could reproduce your study

Results: Objectively share your findings, often using tables or graphs

Discussion
- Interprets your findings in the context of the literature and limitations
- Suggests scientific, clinical, or operational next steps

Declarations: Provides transparency to support ethical conduct of researcher

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Content of results sections

✓ **Describe the main findings for each tables or figures**

✓ Include all results – not just those that support your hypotheses

✗ Do not include interpretations

✗ Do not repeat the methods

"On average, patients coming from Kirehe answered more questions correctly than those coming from Rwinkwavu (8.5 vs. 6.1, $p<0.001$). Men also answered more questions correctly compared to women (8.6 vs. 7.8, $p = 0.030$), and those who had completed primary school or could read answered more questions correctly than their peers (Table 1). There were no significant differences in pre-treatment knowledge by socioeconomic status or source of knowledge."

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"On average, patients coming from Kirehe answered more questions correctly than those coming from Rwinkwavu (8.5 vs. 6.1, $p<0.001$). Men also answered more questions correctly compared to women (8.6 vs. 7.8, $p = 0.030$), and those who had completed primary school or could read answered more questions correctly than their peers (Table 1). There were no significant differences in pre-treatment knowledge by socioeconomic status or source of knowledge."

Content of results sections

✓ Describe the main findings for each tables or figures

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✗ **Do not include your personal interpretations or commentary**

✗ Do not repeat the methods

"Girls had a 15% higher rate of malnutrition compared to boys (p=0.04), suggesting that girls nutritional needs are neglected at home."

Content of results sections

✓Describe the main findings for each tables or figures

✓Include all results – not just those that support your hypotheses

✗Do not include your personal interpretations or commentary

✗**Do not repeat the methods**

"Using a two-sample test of proportions, we found that girls had a 15% higher rate of malnutrition compared to boys (p=0.04)."

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Structure of a results section

- Follows a logical order
- Often….
  1. Describe the size of the study population (text or flowchart)
  2. Provide any key descriptive statistics
     a. Baseline demographics
     b. Outcomes
  3. Univariate or bivariate analyses
  4. Sensitivity or secondary analyses

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"A total of 340 patients were enrolled. However, due to a data upload error, data for only 333 patients with baseline questionnaire data were analyzed."

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"The majority (85.0%) of study participants were enrolled from Kirehe district; about two-thirds (64%) were female, and the median age among the participants was 63 years (IQR: 49–73 years). Only one in four of the study participants had completed primary school, but over half (55%) reported being able to read and write."

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"At baseline, the average number of correct responses out of 15 questions was 8.1 (95% CI: 7.8–8.5)."

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     b. Outcomes
  3. **Bivariate or multivariate analyses**
  4. Sensitivity or secondary analyses

"Compared to patients whose knowledge was reassessed during their first follow-up visit, patients whose knowledge was reassessed during the second follow-up visit reported 1.0 more correct responses (95% CI: 0.2, 1.7, $p < 0.001$) after adjusting for differences in sex, age, and education level (Table 3)."

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  4. **Sensitivity or secondary analyses**

"Our findings were not sensitive to assumptions about the timing of events among individuals who were missing data on dates (Table 4)."

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Style of results sections

- **Use short, specific sentences.**
- Put statistical results in ().
- Use past tense to describe what *you* did
- Use present tense for what tables and figures show
- Write out numbers ≤10 or numbers at the start of the sentence as text
- Do not use too many decimals

✗ "Rates of malnutrition were different between boys and girls."

✓ "Girls had a 15% higher rate of malnutrition compared to boys (p=0.04)"

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Style of results sections

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✓"Men also answered more questions correctly compared to women (8.6 vs. 7.8, $p = 0.030$)."

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✓ "Men also **answered** more questions correctly compared to women (8.6 vs. 7.8, $p = 0.030$)."

✓ "Figure one shows the average number of correct responses to each question."

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✓"**Three hundred forty** patients were enrolled. However, due to a data upload error for **seven** patients, data from only **333** patients data were analyzed."

Style of results sections

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✗ p=0.0000014

✓ p<0.001

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Results section overview

Content

- ✓ Describe the main findings for each tables or figures
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Structure

1. Describe the size of the study population (text or flowchart)
2. Provide any key descriptive statistics
3. Bivariate or multivariate analyses
4. Sensitivity or secondary analyses

Style

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