

**SAMPLE ABSTRACT**

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COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED ERRORS ON ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS. Ann E. Spolarich, RDH, PhD\* and Jane L. Forrest, RDH, EdD. University of Southern California, USA.

**Problem Statement:** Prospective presenters for research meetings often submit abstracts that do not conform with published guidelines. It is important for researchers to know how to correctly prepare and submit an abstract.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to assess the types of errors encountered by dental hygiene reviewers who evaluated submitted abstracts for a national dental hygiene research conference. **Methods:** This single-blinded study utilized a convenience sample of 20 reviewers who were selected to complete a survey about commonly encountered errors on abstract review forms while evaluating abstracts submitted to a national dental hygiene research conference. The reviewers evaluated 80 submitted abstracts prior to completing the survey. The instrument used in the study contained 30 items with closed-ended responses which was previously pilot-tested with 5 other reviewers to establish content validity. Survey information was obtained through the use of an electronic online tool, and all responses remained confidential. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. IRB approval was obtained from the USC School of Dentistry. **Results:** Failure to include all of the required elements was the most commonly reported error on submitted abstracts to a national dental hygiene research conference (35%). Other errors included typographical errors (23%), lack of information about statistical methods (20%), spacing errors (7%) and failure to include affiliation (3%). **Conclusions:** It is essential for prospective presenters to follow published recommendations to ensure that their abstracts conform to conference guidelines.

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**Key Words (from abstract)**

abstract submission; abstract errors; research abstracts

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