



EUPHEM

In less than few words

Writing an abstract

Key areas

1. Abstracts: Use and guiding principles
2. The abstract, section by section
3. The anatomy of a good abstract
4. Editing an abstract

Key areas

1. Abstracts: Use and guiding principles
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This is your mission,
should you wish to accept it:

- Document technical quality
- Produce of a self-sufficient abstract
- Respect the word limit (e.g., 275 words)

Technical reference

- Use the benchmark for the work you did
- Example: Outbreak investigation abstract
 - Documentation of the 10 steps

Technical reference for an outbreak investigation

1. Establish the existence of a real outbreak
2. Confirm the diagnosis
3. Define a case
4. Search for cases
5. Generate hypotheses using descriptive findings
6. Test hypotheses based using analytical epidemiology
7. Draw conclusions
8. Conduct additional investigations
9. Communicate findings
10. Execute prevention measures

Person

Title

Place

Time

Hepatitis A outbreak in Italy, 2013:
disentangling the role of risk factors associated
with the disease

Emphasis on results

Background

Rationale

- In January-May 2013, the Italian sentinel surveillance (SEIEVA) reported a 70% increase in hepatitis A compared to the same 2010-2012 period. In May 2013, Germany, Poland and The Netherlands reported hepatitis A cases among travellers returning from Northern Italy.
- We investigated to identify a common exposure.

Objective

Background

Step 1

In January-May 2013, the Italian sentinel surveillance (SEIEVA) reported a 70% increase in hepatitis A compared to the same 2010-2012 period. In May 2013, Germany, Poland and The Netherlands reported hepatitis A cases among travellers returning from Northern Italy.

We investigated to identify a common exposure.

Methods

Step 3: Case definition

We defined a case as a patient with onset between January 1st-May 31st, 2013 and an **IgM anti HAV positive test** among Trento, Bolzano, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Apulia residents. We compared each case with four age- and neighbourhood-matched controls to explore potential risk factors. We calculated adjusted odds ratios (AOR) using conditional logistic regression and attributable fraction in the population (PAF).

Step 2: Confirmation

Step 6: Analytical epidemiology □

Results

Step 4: Case search

Step 5: Time, place, person

The five regions reported to SEIEVA 119 cases (mean age 37.0, 44% female) in the period considered, mainly from Emilia-Romagna (57%) and Trento (26%). The number of cases increased progressively until a peak at the 20th week. Compared with the 419 controls, cases were more likely to eat berries (AOR 4.2; 95% confidence interval [CI], 2.5-7.0; PAF 26%), eat raw seafood (AOR, 3.8; 95% CI, 2.2-6.8; PAF 26%) and travel (AOR, 2.0; 95% CI, 1.2-3.4). Laboratories amplified sub-genotype 1A and genotype KF182323 from 32 cases and berries, identical to the Dutch, German and Polish cases.



2 causality
criteria

Step 6: Analytical epidemiology

Step 8: Additional investigations

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Last paragraph

Step 9: Communication

Step 10: Control measures

Clear and effective information exchange between countries allowed early alert and prompted investigations.

Epidemiological and laboratory evidence suggested that berries were the source of this outbreak, leading to tracing back and forward. In addition, raw seafood led to a number of cases, as reporting regularly in Italy.

Step 7: Conclusions