Editorial team of SPM

How to present odds ratios in manuscripts submitted to SPM

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Lately, SPM has been very keen on working with authors on their tables, in order to improve the quality and the usability of the reports. We thought that it could be useful to show to our readership and to our potential authors some examples of this approach.
The aim of presenting the results of a study in tables is not only to show some estimated effects. It really should enable readers to better understand the method, evaluate the results and potentially integrate them in meta-analyses. Namely, our journal finds it more appropriate to publish papers that allow readers to compute the crude measures of associations. The following tables are examples that should naturally be adapted to single studies.

The following guidelines can also be found on SPM's website and at the end of every issue of our journal.

Table 1 Legend *(describe briefly populations, time & place)*

	Outcomes			
	+ (%)* **(n =)**	**– (%)*** **(n =)**	**OR****	**95 % CI*****
Exposure – (reference)	%****	%	1.00	–
Exposure +	%	%	……	……..– ……

* = *(definition(s)and, if applicable, categories of the outcomes)*
** = Odds ratios *(statistical technique used to compute the adjusted OR; use two decimals maximum)*
*** = Confidence Interval
**** = *(Percent with 1 decimal)*

Or alternatively:

Table 2 Legend *(describe briefly populations, time & place)*

	Outcomes		**OR****	**95 % CI*****
	+* **(n = …)**	**–*** **(n = …)**		
Exposure – (reference)	n	n	1.00	–
Exposure +	n	n	……	……..– ……

* = *(definition(s) of the outcomes)*
** = Odds ratios *(statistical technique used to compute the adjusted OR; use two decimals maximum)*
*** = Confidence Interval

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Examples:

Health problem (= exposure)	% Smoking cessation attempt YES* (n = 554)	% Smoking cessation attempt NO* (n = 222)	OR**	95% CI***
Cancer				
yes	11.3	9.3	1.67	0.60–4.60
no	88.7	90.7	1.00	
Circulatory problems				
yes	62.4	50.5	1.57	0.83–2.75
no	37.6	49.5	1.00	
Respiratory problems				
yes	22.7	11.3	2.58	1.13–5.89
no	77.3	88.7	1.00	
Allergy				
yes	6.4	9.3	0.54	0.18–1.62
no	93.6	90.7	1.00	
Chest pain				
yes	25.6	15.2	1.57	0.72–3.43
no	74.4	84.8	1.00	
Sex				
male	67.9	66.0	0.74	0.39–1.41
female	32.1	34.0	1.00	

* yes: mentioned at least one attempt to stop, no: never tried to quit
** Odds ratio from binomial logistic regression
*** Confidence Interval

Table 1 Odds ratios of smoking cessation attempts according to several health problems and social background variables in the age group of 65 and over (n = 3 408). Hungary, 2002 (Szanto et al. 2005)

Health problem (= exposure)	Smoking cessation attempt YES* (n = 554)	Smoking cessation attempt NO* (n = 222)	OR**	95% CI***
Cancer				
yes	63	21	1.67	0.60–4.60
no	491	201	1.00	
Circulatory problems				
yes	346	112	1.57	0.83–2.75
no	208	110	1.00	
Respiratory problems				
yes	126	25	2.58	1.13–5.89
no	428	197	1.00	
Allergy				
yes	35	21	0.54	0.18–1.62
no	519	201	1.00	
Chest pain				
yes	142	34	1.57	0.72–3.43
no	412	188	1.00	
Sex				
male	376	147	0.74	0.39–1.41
female	178	75	1.00	

* yes: mentioned at least one attempt to stop, no: never tried to quit
** Odds ratio from binomial logistic regression
*** Confidence Interval

Table 2 Odds ratios of smoking cessation attempts according to several health problems and social background variables in the age group of 65 and over (n = 3 408). Hungary, 2002 (Szanto et al. 2005)

Reference

Szanto Z, Susanszky E, Kopp M (2005). Relationships between unfavourable health status and smoking cessation attempts in Hungary. Soz Praventiv Med 50: 323–331.

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