

RESEARCH STUDY Abstract Format

Title - The title should reflect and concisely describe your research project.

Authors - Include authors name, degree and institutional affiliation

Introduction/Background - Why is the topic you have selected a problem that needs to be addressed? What is missing from the field of study that your study is going to address? Provide a one-sentence summary of the rationale for the study question.

Objective(s) - What does this study intend to resolve? Provide a one-sentence description (e.g., "To determine...", "To establish...") of the study's primary objective. Authors may choose to include key secondary objectives.

Methods - A short paragraph discussing the design, setting, patients, and interventions (Refer to the descriptions below). This section describes how the study was carried out.

- o **Design** - A statement of the study's basic design (e.g., randomized controlled trial, double-blind, cohort, survey, cost-effectiveness analysis). Note: Make sure you include in the design statement a notation that the research study was approved by the IRB (institutional review board)
- o **Setting** - A one-sentence description of the clinical circumstances of the setting (e.g., general community, primary care center, hospitalized care).
- o **Patients (or other participants)** - A brief description of the key eligibility criteria of the study's participants. The total number of the participants must be included and how many participants were included in each group of the study (i.e. study group(s), control group).
- o **Interventions**—A brief description of any interventions administered. (e.g. OMM, medications, etc.)
- o **Main Outcome Measure(s)** - A brief description of the study's outcome measurements. (e.g. blood pressure, symptom scores, patient satisfaction scales)

Results - A brief summary of the main results along with declarations and explanations of any important findings. Authors should include the study's relevant statistical information (e.g. confidence intervals, levels of statistical significance).

Conclusion - How does this study add to the body of knowledge on the topic? Provide a brief summary of the study's conclusions directly supported by the reported evidence. Authors may include clinical applications and any recommendations for additional study.

Sample RESEARCH STUDY Abstract – One Author

Title: **The Relationship between Degree of Malnutrition and the Staging of Sacral Decubitus Ulcers**

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Background: Decubitus ulcers, otherwise known as pressure ulcers or bedsores, are injuries to the skin and underlying tissue usually over bony prominences as a result of prolonged pressure to the affected area. One of the most common sites of decubitus ulcer formation is over the sacral area. Malnutrition has been linked as a predisposing risk factor for the development of decubitus ulcers. However, the relationship between the degree of malnutrition and the stage of sacral decubitus ulcers has not been well established.

Objective: The objective of this study is to determine the extent to which the stage of a patient's sacral decubitus ulcer and a patient's nutritional status are related.

Methods: This study was designed as a retrospective cross-sectional study using data previously gathered for patient care. The patient data used in this study was selected using the following criteria: 1) The patient must have been admitted to Larkin Community Hospital between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 with a sacral decubitus ulcer at the time of admission as documented by Larkin Community Hospital's Wound Care Team. 2) The patient must have had a serum Prealbumin Level drawn within 24 hours of admission to check their nutritional status. A total of seventy-six patients met these criteria. The research data was gathered using Larkin Community Hospital's electronic medical record system.

Results: Using the data gathered, a correlation coefficient of -0.65 was calculated indicating a strong inverse relationship between a patient's nutritional status and the stage of their sacral decubitus ulcer. Patients with lower Prealbumin Levels were more likely to have higher stages of Sacral Decubitus Ulcers.

Conclusion: The results of this study suggest that nutrition plays a crucial role in the development and progression of decubitus ulcers. Patients who were severely malnourished were much more likely to have Stage 4 Sacral Decubitus Ulcers while patients that were only mildly malnourished were much more likely to have Stage 1 Sacral Decubitus Ulcers. This study reaffirms the need to feed patients who have decubitus ulcers, or are at risk of developing decubitus ulcers, a diet rich in protein so as to help treat and/or prevent the formation of decubitus ulcers.