

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) has circulated your four clinical trial documents for consultation among its experts.

Here is one general comment for the “Summary of Clinical Trial Results for Laypersons”:
Summary of Clinical Trial Results for Laypersons should contain recommendations aimed at accurate representation of the results to people. These should contain, among others:

- Outcomes that matter to the patient should be emphasized (e.g. all-cause mortality and not cause-specific mortality).
- A fair representation of both positive effects and harms of the tested intervention should be presented.
- The summary should say if the study results are applicable to one population (e.g. the intervention was tested only in healthy, young adults); or to specific regions (e.g. with low rates of resistance to antibiotics in an antibiotic trial); or other characteristics of the study that might limit its external validity.
- Results should be presented as absolute and not as relative measures.
- Limitations of the study should be explained.
- The study results should be put in context of the existing evidence and practice.

We hope that you may find this comment useful.