**Diabetologia**

**Spanner rules in tables**

We need to ensure that our typesetters are very clear about the extent/width of spanner rules (horizontal lines used to indicate shared column headings) in tables.

In order to make this clear, where necessary please insert a narrow column between the headers to show a break in the spanner rule, and merge the cells within the header (see **Example 1** below). (You may need to toggle between View Gridlines on/off.)

In some cases, it’s not possible to add the column without distorting the layout of the table. In this case, you can split the header cell into two and make a one-row column (see **Example 2** below).

**EXAMPLE 1**

**BEFORE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Diabetic patients | | | Control participants |
| All | Non-neuropathic | Neuropathic | All |
| Initial study (cm3) | 207 (68 to 334) | 219 (154 to 334) | 180 (68 to 250) | 250 (137 to 379) |
| Follow-up study (cm3) | 135 (34 to 263)c | 172 (111 to 263) | 74 (34 to 100)b ,d | 202 (133 to 285) |

**AFTER (column inserted, cells merged)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Diabetic patients | | |  | Control participants |
| All | Non-neuropathic | Neuropathic | All |
| Initial study (cm3) | 207 (68 to 334) | 219 (154 to 334) | 180 (68 to 250) |  | 250 (137 to 379) |
| Follow-up study (cm3) | 135 (34 to 263)c | 172 (111 to 263) | 74 (34 to 100)b ,d |  | 202 (133 to 285) |

**EXAMPLE 2**

**BEFORE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Age- and sex-adjusted | | Multivariate-adjusted | |
| HR | 95% CI | HR | (95% CI) |
| All cause mortality | | | | |
| FPG (mmol/l) |  |  |  |  |
| <5.1 | 2.1 | 1.4–3.3\* | 2.0 | 1.3–3.0\* |
| >5.1 | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2\* | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2\* |

**Inserting column distorts table**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | | Age- and sex-adjusted | |  | Multivariate-adjustedb | |
| HR | 95% CI | HR | (95% CI) |
|  | All cause mortality | | | | | |
| FPG (mmol/l) | |  |  |  |  |  |
| <5.1 | | 2.1 | 1.4–3.3 |  | 2.0 | 1.3–3.0 |
| >5.1 | | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 |  | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 |

**AFTER (header cell split into two, lower border deleted)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Age- and sex-adjusted | |  | Multivariate-adjusted | |
| HR | 95% CI | | HR | (95% CI) |
| All cause mortality | | | | | |
| FPG (mmol/l) |  |  | |  |  |
| <5.1 | 2.1 | 1.4–3.3 | | 2.0 | 1.3–3.0 |
| >5.1 | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 | | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 |