

Original Research Article

Scientific Evaluation of the Fifteen Years of Turkish Journal of Family Practice

Spec. Dr. Murat Altuntaş¹, Spec. Dr. Tevfik Tanju Yılmaz², Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kurtuluş Öngel³¹Health Sciences University, Bağcılar Research and Training Hospital, Clinic of Family Medicine, İstanbul, Turkey²Health Sciences University, Tepecik Research and Training Hospital, Clinic of Family Medicine, İzmir, Turkey³Izmir Katip Celebi University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, Izmir, Turkey

*Corresponding author

Murat Altuntaş; MD

Email: murataaltuntas@yahoo.com

Abstract: Aim of the study was to evaluate academically all articles published at Turkish Journal of Family Practice which is official publishing of Turkish Association of Family Physicians. The evaluation was done on basis of various properties also regarding different points of views on especially the abstracts of articles published at last fifteen years starting from the first issue. All articles published at Turkish Journal of Family Practice from 1997 to 2010 have been evaluated. During this evaluation, majority of articles have been acquired from the official internet site. Articles which weren't available at internet media have been found as hardcovers. Since all of the articles were acquired, the ratio of participation at study is 100%. When the yearly distribution of articles was evaluated the highest number with 64 articles (14%) was published at 1997 which is the first year the Journal was published. It was observed that PDF forms of 185 articles (40.5 %) weren't available at internet web site. It was seen that research articles were the most published article type with 159 articles (34.8%) followed by 87 articles (19%) which were reviews. One author articles were seen most with 180 articles (39.4%). First author of 226 articles (49.5%) were found to be working at a university hospital. While most articles were sent from İstanbul with 182 (39.8%) articles, second was Ankara with 30 (6.6%). Most of the articles were accepted to be published at a time interval of one to four months. Two corner stones at improvement of a medical field is a journal and an association of that field. It is important and valuable for family medicine is that Turkish Journal of Family Practice should be improving. The whole family physician group must continue their support at improving both the field and the Turkish Journal of Family Practice with high quality articles.

Keywords: Family medicine, journal, publications.

INTRODUCTION

Family Medicine/General Practice has unique educational content, research, evidence-based and clinical practice. It is an academic and scientific discipline and primary level clinical expertise [1]. In particular the entire assembly has taken its first place as a new specialty, which has been recognized all over the world with the foreground of providing a more effective [2].

Scientific communication is very important for researchers working under the same medical discipline. Undoubtedly, the place of scientific articles and journals in that area is also great in this communication. Medical journals are the most effective sources of information for sharing. Journals are the sources of science that transcend national and language barriers in

science and provide literature to provide doctoral data, technical information and new information to all levels [3]. Among the major Turkish journals in the Family Medicine discipline, in alphabetical order these are; Ankara Medical Journal, Eurasian Journal of Family Medicine, Konuralp Medical Journal, Turkish Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, Turkish Family Physician, Turkish Family Medicine Journal, Nabiz Medical Journal, PRN Family Medicine Journal and Smyrna Medical Journal.

In terms of Family Medicine medical discipline experts; Since 1990, the Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD), a member of the Association of Family Physicians, has been working with representatives of the Family Physician in Turkey and international platforms [2]. TAHUD official publication

is Turkish Journal of Family Practice [4]. It has been publishing as a magical journal since 1997 [2]. The content of the journal constitutes all subjects that concern the Family Physician and primary health care services [4]. Critical review of the articles published in the Family Medicine Journal, especially the Turkish Family Medicine Journal, will provide a qualified measure of the research [5].

In this regard, quality benchmarks will be increased, especially in terms of primary health care services, and a common meeting will be held, as a result of efforts on the basis of achieving better scientific standards. In this article, fifteen years of the Turkish Family Medicine Journal were tried to be evaluated scientifically.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

457 articles published between 1997 and 2010 in the Turkish Journal of Family Physicians were evaluated as scientific observational descriptive research based on their different characteristics. Some of the articles were found on the official website of the journal; The volumes on which the articles were not obtained from the website were physically obtained with the support of the TAHUD staff, and as a result, the participation rate in the study was determined as 100%. When the years of publications are evaluated, relevant volumes

and numbers are taken into consideration. Main parameters taken into account when evaluating the articles are; publication title, number of authors, first author's name, author's specialty, academic title, academic name of the first name author, province where the first name author works, the field of medicine, number of article pages, number of article references, and the period of acceptance to journal.

During the study, data were entered into the SPSS 16.0 program and the percent analysis of the data was firstly extracted. Anova test was used for the statistical significance of the numerical values, and chi-square tests were used for the evaluation of the descriptive parameters. For statistical significance, $p < 0.05$ was considered.

RESULTS

According to the distributions of 457 articles published in the journal between 1997 and 2010, 64 articles (14.0%) were published with the most article published in the first publication year (1997). In the second case, it was found that the article published with 46 articles (10.1%) was published in the second year of publication of the magazine. Particularly after the year 2002, the number of articles published in the journal was found to be similar. Percent distribution of the articles by publication years is given in Figure 1.

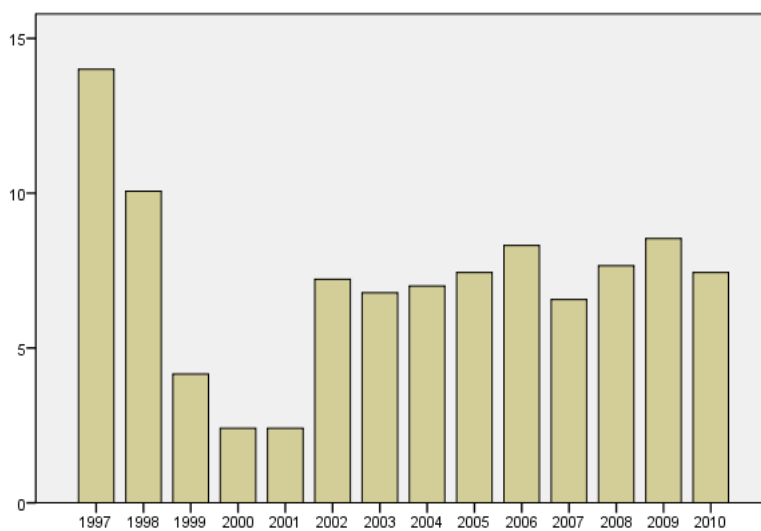


Fig-1: Percent distribution of articles by publication years

When the 457 articles were evaluated according to the publication types, it was determined that the research articles were the most published articles with 159 articles (34.8%). In the second place, 87 studies

(19%) were found to have compilation-type publications. The distribution of the articles according to the publication types is given in Table 1.

Table-1: Distribution of articles according to publication type

PUBLICATION TYPE	NUMBER OF ARTICLES
Aile Hekimliği Kitaplığı- The Library in Family Medicine	44 (%9.6)
Araştırma-Research	159 (%34.8)
Başlarken-While starting	1 (%0.2)
Derleme-Review	87 (%19)
Editöre Mektup-Editorial Letter	28 (%6.1)
Haberler-News	12 (%2.6)
Literatürden Özetler-Abstracts from the literature	27 (%5.9)
Olgu Sunumu-Case Reports	22 (%4.8)
Sağlık Mevzuatımız-Our Health Legislation	2 (%0.4)
Sürekli Tıp Eğitimi-Continuing Medical Education	42 (%9.2)
Tıp Sanatı-Medical Art	1 (%0.2)
Tıp Tarihi-History of Medicine	6 (%1.3)
Tıp Terimleri-Medical terms	8 (%1.8)
Tıpta Güncel Gelişmeler-Recent Developments in Medicine	2 (%0.4)
Türkiye’de Aile Hekimliği-Family Medicine in Turkey	16 (%3.5)
TOTAL	457 (%100)
PUBLICATION TYPE	NUMBER OF ARTICLES
Aile Hekimliği Kitaplığı- The Library in Family Medicine	44 (%9.6)
Araştırma-Research	159 (%34.8)
Başlarken-While starting	1 (%0.2)
Derleme-Review	87 (%19)
Editöre Mektup-Editorial Letter	28 (%6.1)
Haberler-News	12 (%2.6)
Literatürden Özetler-Abstracts from the literature	27 (%5.9)
Olgu Sunumu-Case Reports	22 (%4.8)
Sağlık Mevzuatımız-Our Health Legislation	2 (%0.4)
Sürekli Tıp Eğitimi-Continuing Medical Education	42 (%9.2)
Tıp Sanatı-Medical Art	1 (%0.2)
Tıp Tarihi-History of Medicine	6 (%1.3)
Tıp Terimleri-Medical terms	8 (%1.8)
Tıpta Güncel Gelişmeler-Recent Developments in Medicine	2 (%0.4)
Türkiye’de Aile Hekimliği-Family Medicine in Turkey	16 (%3.5)
TOTAL	457 (%100)

It was observed that single authored articles were the most published ones. The number of single authored article is 180 (39.4%). Secondly, 83 (18.2%) articles were found to be two-authored and 76 (16.6%) articles were third-authored. It was observed that there is an article, has eighteen authors.

When the expertise areas of first name authors of the articles were evaluated, it was seen that 252 (55.1%) people and most family medicine experts sent articles to the journal. Although the magazine publishes general medical publications, it is expected and should be expected that the journal should be sent by the Family Medicine Professionals most frequently because the journal is family medicine journal on the name.

As a result of evaluating academic titles of first name authors, 190 (41.6%) people and first place specialist doctors were found. 85 (18.6%) persons were found to be physicians with the academic title of assistant professor. Specialist doctors generally work in state hospitals and educational research hospitals in Turkey. Therefore, they have many patients and do not have difficulties in reaching patients, in terms of research. It is thought that the majority of the assistant professor physicians are preparing for the professorship exam and that the necessity of having a certain number of publications in the journals of certain characteristics at the beginning of the basic criteria of being an associate professor encourages and motivates this group to do research.

226 (49.5%) articles were found to be the first name writers, in the university hospitals. When the articles served by first name authors were evaluated, 182 (39.8%) articles were ranked first in Istanbul, while the second was found to be Ankara with 30 articles (6.6%). It is noteworthy that the numerical difference between these two provinces is so high. This result is thought to be parallel to the increase in the number of faculty members and assistants in Istanbul. The increase in the distribution of the articles in other years by these findings is a positive factor to be supported.

When the medical fields related to the subjects according to subject titles are evaluated; 187 (40.9%) were in the first rank with the article and the medical field was family medicine. This is already an expected result. However, as a result of our evaluation, it was determined that the number of publications related to the discipline of day-to-day family medicine discipline increased more and more in 1997, when publications started publishing life. About 10 years after the family medicine specialist education in Turkey entered the medicine specialist charter in 1983, family medicine polyclinics passed the activity. The first order in the publications may have taken other fields of

specialization due to late opening of family medicine outpatient clinics in the family medicine clinics and ministry of health in the universities, specialist family medicine training in the form of clinical rotations and clinics where these of family medicine residents are rotated [6]. Twenty five (5,5%) of the articles related to internal medicine, gynecology and obstetrics and psychiatry were found to be second most frequent. Twenty (4.4%) article headings were not associated with any medical field and were taken under the "other" heading.

When the articles are evaluated according to page numbers; It was determined that 110 (24.1%) of the articles consisted of 2 pages, and the second was 86 (18.8%) articles consisting of 5 pages. It has been observed that the articles of six and four pages have approximately similar proportions with articles of 70 (15.3%) and 69 (15.1%), respectively. Compilation work-Review article is a known fact because it contains more resources than the original works, since there are descriptive publications.

When publications are evaluated according to reference numbers, it is determined that the majority of the reference numbers of the articles are collected between ten and twenty reference numbers. It is noteworthy that there were articles with 87 and 89 references. It has been determined that the number of article pages and references has increased in the coming year 2010. The reason for this is thought to be the increase in the number of pages and references in parallel with the increase in knowledge circulation and the possibility of benefiting from more sources as a result of the day-to-day correctness of the articles written from 1997 to 2010.

When publications were evaluated according to the acceptance period of articles, it has been determined that most of the articles are accepted as articles in one and four month time period. Interestingly, it was observed that the three articles were accepted within only two days. In addition, the acceptance period of the two articles was 779 days, which is considered remarkable. Towards 2010, it was determined that the acceptance period of articles was shortened. This situation has been interpreted as the fact that the articles submitted to the Turkish Family Medicine Journal in parallel with the increase of the number of academicians within the discipline of Family Medicine Expert have been examined and the acceptance period has shortened.

These parameters were assessed by chi-square test in terms of their statistical significance and the results are summarized in Table 2.

Table-2: Assessment of intrinsic validity of parameters taken to evaluation

Statistical relation in terms of significance parameters		Year	Pdf +/-	Public. Type	Author Number	Author Expertise	Author Academic Titre	Author Working Place	Author Working Province	Paper Number	
	Year		p:0.000 d:-0.436								
	Pdf +/-										
	Public. Type		p:0.001 d:0.108								
	Author Number					p:0.000 d:0.210	p:0.000 d:0.214	p:0.000 d:0.158	p:0.007 d:0.127		
	Author Expertise		p:0.000 d:-0.103	p:0.000 d: 0.060							
	Author Academic Titre		p:0.000 d:-0.261	p:0.000 d:-0.157		p:0.000 d:0.325					
	Author Working Place		p:0.000 d:-0.285	p:0.000 d:0.030		p:0.000 d:0.490	p:0.000 d:0.471				
	Author Working Province		p:0.000 d:-0.229	p:0.016 d:-0.091		p:0.000 d:0.443	p:0.000 d:0.368	p:0.000 d:0.367			
	Topic in Medicine		p:0.000 d:-0.028	p:0.000 d:-0.048		p:0.000 d:0.237	p:0.000 d:0.019	p:0.018 d:0.034			
	Paper Number	p:0,000 d:0,189	p:0.001 d:-0.095	p:0.000 d:0.083	p:0.000 d:0.267	p:0.000 d:0.258	p:0.000 d:0.183	p:0.000 d:0.344	p:0.000 d:0.016		
	Reference Number	p:0.033 d:0.047	p:0.000 d:0.092	p:0.000 d:0.039	p:0.000 d:0.207	p:0.000 d:0.160	p:0.010 d:0.093			p:0.000 d:0.512	
	Duration of Article Acceptance	p:0.038 d:-0.71		p:0.005 d:-0.213		p:0.009 d:-0.051	p:0.011 d:0.079	p:0.025 d:-0.002			

DISCUSSION-CONCLUSION

It has been noticed that in the first two years of publication of the Turkish Family Medicine Journal, approximately 110 articles (24.1%) of the total number of articles published correspond to a quarter of all the articles published throughout the 15-year publication life. Between 1999 and 2001, the number of articles sent to the journal decreased and the numbers of the journal were combined. It may be for this reason that the academic criteria of the Council of Higher Education and universities point to international journals [7]. It has been seen that since 2002, the magazine has continued its publishing life in a fixed number of publications in the process up to 2010. In the light of this data; it can be said that the journal became an institutional identity after 2002 and started printing articles on a regular basis. According to a thesis study in which the articles published in national and international journals of medical physicians working in family medicine departments of Turkish medical faculties and family medicine specialists working in hospitals affiliated to Ministry of Health were evaluated qualitatively and a total of 100 articles of physicians performed between 1987-2008 were examined. It was determined that the Turkish Journal of Family Medicine is the most published journal with 10.3% among Turkish journals [6].

185 (40.5%) articles were found to have no PDF forms on the official website of the journal. From 1997 to 2010, it was observed that the existence of PDF forms of the articles published in the journal increased in the journal's website. We think that the technological developments have increased and TAHUD employees have more importance and attention for the journal and their efforts to develop in this direction are effective in the formation of this result. We also believe that the necessity of the existence of PDF forms of the articles has a role on this change in order to ensure that the Turkish Family Medicine Journal can be scanned and added to international indices. As a result; it is important that the PDF forms of the articles are found on the official website of the magazine and that it is both facilitated and accessible to all the researchers by this research.

Cases Journal editor Smith says 'Medicine can not be learned without case presentations' [8]. Case presentations are very important in this respect. The fact that 22 (4,8%) of the case presentations in the journal ranks 7th is a negative factor for the journal. The fact that the articles published in the editorial section of the letter are in the 6th place with 28 articles (6.1%) also shows a weak direction of the journal. Despite the fact that the investigated journal is not covered by the Science Citation Index (SCI), it has been interpreted as a supporting finding of the quality of the journal in

terms of article distribution, showing similar types of publications in the SCI.

The study found that the number of original works published in the journal ranked first among all the articles. By maintaining this feature of the journal, it has been determined that the publication of the article with a high level of scientific content is maintained, especially after 2002, the number of articles published in the journal has reached to a certain number and this number has been preserved. The institutional structure of the magazine must be preserved and the number of articles should be increased.

It was determined that the majority of publications sent to the magazine came from Istanbul. Priority should be given to publications sent from other sources to encourage researchers for new publications so that the journal can acquire a feature covering all of Turkey. Taking into account the fact that the Journal of Turkish Family Medicine is basically a journal of the Family Medicine discipline, it will be more appropriate to increase the number of publications, especially from Family Medicine experts.

Finally, considering the high quality of publications of universities, it is necessary to encourage the researches carried out with the university field in particular and to ensure its continuity.

REFERENCES

1. Europe WO. The European definition of general practice/family medicine. Barcelona: WONCA Europe. 2002.
2. Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD) web site, <http://www.tahud.org.tr/p/aile-hekimligi-nedir.html>, Internet Access time: 17.12.2016
3. Dannatt RJ. Primary Sources of Information. In: Information Sources in the Medical Sciences. Morton LT, Godbolt S eds. 4th ed. London, Bowker-Saur. 1992;21-41.
4. Turkish Journal of Family Practice official web site, <http://www.turkailehekderg.org>. Internet access time: 17.12.2016.
5. Merenstein J, Rao G, D Amico F. Clinical research in family medicine: quantity and quality of published articles. Family Medicine-Kansas City-. 2003 Apr 1;35(4):284-8.
6. Geroğlu B, Alanyali FM, Balci UG, Ateş AG, Yılmaz B, Mergen H, Öngel K. Evaluation of Training Needs of Family Physician Residents at Training and Research Hospitals in Izmir. 2013;3(3):28-32.
7. Karaoğlu MA, Karaoğlu N. Evaluation of the Turkish Journal of Family Practice: 1997-2009.

Turkish Journal of Family Practice. 2011 Nov
10;15(2):53-8.

8. Smith R. Why GPs should write case reports. Br J Gen Pract. 2009 May 1;59(562):383.