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Publication Outcomes for Oral Presentations at Congresses of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases of Turkey: Analysis of Twenty Years

Türkiye Endokrinoloji ve Metabolizma Hastalıkları Kongresi Sözlü Sunumlarının Yayına Dönüşüm Oranları: Yirmi Yılın Analizi

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Abstract

Objective: This study aimed to analyze the publication rate for oral presentations at Congresses of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases of Turkey (CEMDT), their contribution to the literature, and variations over twenty years. **Material and Methods:** Presentations from 1997–2017 were accessed through congress booklets. PubMed and Google Scholar were used for the relevant literature search. **Results:** A total of 456 oral presentations were identified as having a publication conversion rate of 45.4% (207). These manuscripts were published in journals with a median impact factor (IF) of 2.79 (interquartile range (IQR): 1.77-3.58) and were found to receive a median of 9 (IQR: 3-21) citations. The publication rate in SCI/SCI-E indexed journals was 80.2% (166). The publication duration was a median of 20.6 months (IQR: 6-41 months). The multinational abstract rate was 6.8% (31), whereas 19.3% (88) of the abstracts comprised of retrospective data. The most frequent variation during the conversion to articles was a change in the order of the authors, which was observed in 65.71% (136) of cases. When the two ten-year periods from 1997-2006 and 2007-2017 are compared, the publication rate increased from 37.1% to 54.3% ($p<0.01$). **Conclusion:** This is the first study to evaluate the publication rate of the CEMDT presentations. The conversion rate for oral presentations to publication is high compared to studies from other branches of medical science in Turkey. However, it remains lower than the international congresses. There is a promising enhancement in the last ten years.

Keywords: Congress; endocrinology; Turkey; meeting bbstract; publications

Özet

Amaç: Türkiye Endokrinoloji ve Metabolizma Hastalıkları Kongresi (TEMHK) sözlü bildirilerin yayına dönüşüm oranını, literatüre katkısını ve 20 yıl sürecindeki değişimlerini analiz etmektir. **Gereç ve Yöntemler:** 1997-2017 yılları bildirilerine kongre kitapçıklarından ulaşıldı. İlgili literatür taraması PubMed ve Google Scholar veri tabanlarından yapıldı. **Bulgular:** Toplam 456 sözlü bildirinin, yayına dönüşüm oranı %45,4 (207) olarak tespit edildi. Bu yayınların medyan IF 2,79 (IQR: 1,77-3,58) dergilerde yayınlandığı ve medyan 9 (IQR: 3-21) atıf aldığı gözlendi. SCI/SCI-E indeksli dergilerde yayınlanma oranı %80,2 (166) idi. Yayınlanma süresi medyan 20,6 ay (IQR: 6-41 ay) idi. Çok ülkeli bildiri oranı %6,8 (31), retrospektif verilerden oluşturulan bildirilerin oranı %19,3 (88) idi. Makaleye dönüşümde en sık değişiklik, yazar sırasında değişim %65,71 (136) olarak gözlendi. İki on yıllık dönem olan 1997-2006 ile 2007-2017 karşılaştırıldığında, yayına dönüşüm oranlarında %37,1'den %54,3'e artış tespit edildi ($p<0,01$). **Sonuç:** TEMHK sözlü bildirilerinin yayınlanma oranı ilk kez değerlendirilmiştir. Sözlü sunumların makaleye dönüşüm oranı, ülkemizdeki diğer tıp bilim dallarının çalışmalarına göre yüksektir. Ancak uluslararası kongrelerle kıyaslandığında bir miktar geride kalmaktadır. Son 10 yıl içindeki artış umut vadetmektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Kongre; endokrinoloji; Türkiye; toplantı özeti; yayınlar

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Introduction

The Congress of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases of Turkey (CEMDT) is one of the most important national endocrinology congresses. The 41st Congress was held in 2019. Congresses are environments providing the platform for researchers to share their studies and further nurture their research in accordance with constructive recommendations and criticisms. After presentations, researchers receive feedback and are, therefore, benefitted from the experts in the field and other colleagues; however, this is generally a less meticulous assessment than that of indexed journals (1). The reviewer assessment process in journals does not just eliminate low-quality studies but also increases the quality of studies through revisions before publication (2).

The value of a scientific conference and its impact on the scientific society can be estimated by the rate of conversion of presentations to journal publications (3). The Cochrane review reported the conversion-to-publication rate as 24.6% for posters and 43.1% for oral presentations (4). As depicted in Table 1, in Turkey, the publication rate for oral presentations of studies in different branches of medical science varies from 20.4-42.3% (5-14).

There is no previous study about the publication rate for CEMDT presentations in scientific journals. The aim of this research is to fill the gap in the literature, to research the contribution of oral presentations given at the CEMDT to the literature, and to analyze the variations over twenty years.

Material and Methods

The pdf versions of the congress booklets from recent years were accessed through the official website of The Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Turkey (SEMT). The pdf versions of congress booklets from previous years were obtained from the SEMT. Abstracts of the Congresses held from 1997-2017 were included in the study. Due to the European Endocrine Congress being held in Turkey in 2009, there was no CEMDT held that year, so that year was excluded from our study. Congresses in 2000 and 2001 were organized in cooperation with other foreign foundations. We also excluded a total of 4 oral presentations in 2000 and 20 oral presentations in 2001, which included only foreign authors.

The authors of abstracts were classified as a single education and research hospital (ERH), single university hospital, multicenter studies, and other (single state hospitals, pharmaceutical industry). The province of the first author's organization was also recorded from the abstracts. The number of authors was enlisted. Studies performed in cooperation with branches of science outside of endocrinology were recorded. Presentations were categorized as clinical studies, experimental studies, and case reports.

The first author/final author and relevant keywords were entered in English; if no results were found, searches were repeated in Turkish. The relevant abstract was displayed on the same screen with a search for authors and keywords in Google Scholar and PubMed via a web-interface (PHP & HTML coding and MySQL database). Research results were entered into the database via the web interface.

Only if an article significantly overlapped with the authors, title, and content of the presentation abstract at a high rate was it accepted as a full publication. Specifically, a full publication was required to have an author list, including at least the first and last authors of the presentation, a title, including the related keywords as the abstract title, and apparently reproduce the material and methods of the presentation. Publications with different sample sizes (compared to the abstract) were accepted as a match if the aim of the study and methods were the same as the abstract and the author criteria were compatible (15,16).

If publications could not be reached, the most appropriate keywords for the presentation were selected, and all publications by the first/final author between the congress date and 2020 were searched again. Literature and relevant citation screening were completed in January-February 2020.

According to the Web of Science (Clarifying Analytics, Philadelphia, PA, USA) directory, articles were divided into two groups- SCI (Science Citation Index)/SCI-Expanded and other (Emerging Sources Citation Index, Index Copernicus, TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM TR directory, EBSCOhost, Embase, Scopus, etc.).

Table 1. Publication rate for oral presentations from various science branches in Congresses in Turkey.

Authors	Publication Date	Congress Years	Science Branches	Congress Name	Number of Publications from Oral Presentation/ Total Oral Presentations	Presentation-To-Publication Rate
Civan Kahve et al.(9)	2020	2012-2016	Psychiatry	National Psychiatry Congress	64/187	34.2%
Evman et al.(14)	2017	2011	Thoracic Surgery	National Thoracic Surgery Congress	5/23	21.7%
Özyurt et al.(6)	2012	2004,2006, 2008	Dermatology	National Dermatology Congress	29/134	21.6%
Ersoy(7)	2016	2009	Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery	National Congress of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery	36/118	30.5%
Çekmecelioğlu et al.(12)	2019	2011-2014	Anesthesiology and Reanimation	Anesthesiology and Reanimation National Congresses	136/319	42.3%
Yüksel et al.(8)	2018	2012	Urology	Congress of the Society of Urological Surgery	34/103	33%
Aksüt et al.(11)	2019	2012, 2014, 2016	Cardiovascular Surgery	National Congresses of Turkish Society of Cardiovascular Surgery	279/675	41.3%
Kaya Mutlu et al.(5)	2013	2002,2004, 2006,2008	Physiotherapy	Physiotherapy Symposiums	37/181	20.44%
Bagatur et al.(10)	2019	2013,2014	Orthopedics and Traumatology	National Turkish Orthopedics and Traumatology Congresses	236/612	38.5%
Kalyoncu et al.(13)	2011	2005-2009	Rheumatology	National Rheumatology Congresses	28/87	32.1%

Five-year impact factors were noted from the InCites Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics). If the presentation was identified as published, the publication date, name of the journal, the duration from presentation to publication, the index site for the journal, the 5-year impact factor (IF), Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4 categories of the journal in SCI/SCI-E and changes during the conversion to an article were recorded. The total number of citations received by the article was divided by the duration between the year of publication and 2020 to calculate the citation/year value.

Our study did not require permission from an ethics committee as it used data open to public access.

Statistical Analysis

The descriptive data were represented as the median and interquartile range (IQR: difference between 25th and 75th percentiles) due to incompatibility with the normal distribution. Comparisons of numerical data used the Mann-Whitney U test. Categoric variables were assessed with the chi-square test. Multivariate analysis used binomial logistic regression to determine relationships between different variables. Inclusion criteria for the model were statistical significance in univariate analysis ($p<0.05$) and its potential relationship with publication. Statistical significance was accepted as $p<0.05$.

Results

Over 20 years, a total of 456 oral presentations were found to have a presentation-to-publication ratio of 45.4% (207). These publications were in journals with a median IF of 2.79 (IQR: 1.77-3.58) and received a total of 3697 (median: 9, IQR: 3-21) citations. The number of citations per year was computed as 1.26 citations/year per publication (IQR: 0.5-2.63). The publication rate in SCI/SCI-E indexed journals was 80.2% (166). The numbers of Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4 publications were 43/47/32/44, respectively. The median publication duration was 20.6 months (IQR: 6-41 months). The median number of presentation authors was 6 (IQR: 5-8).

There were 395 (86.6%), 41 (9%), and 20 (4.4%) presentations based on clinical studies, experimental studies, and case reports, respectively. Publication conversion rates were 170 (43%), 27 (65.9%), and 10 (50%) for clinical studies, experimental studies, and case reports, respectively (p=0.02) (Figure 1). Experimental studies had a significantly high rate of conversion to publication, in comparison to clinical studies (65.9% vs. 43%, p=0,005).

When classified according to presentation topics, the top three topics included thyroid at 25.2%, diabetes at 22.1%, and pituitary at 14.5%. However, no statistical difference was obtained in terms of the publication status according to the topic (Figure 2).

Universities gave 75.7% of the presentations (345), followed by education and research hospitals at 12% (55), multicenter reports at 10.9% (50), and other organizations at 1.3% (6). In terms of publication conversion rates for single universities and single ERB's has not shown any statistical significance. (42.9% vs. 40%; p=0.68). Multicenter studies manifested higher publication rates compared to single university-sourced studies (70% vs. 42.9%; p<0.01). Moreover, a higher rate of conversion to publication was identified for multicenter studies, compared to studies sourced in a single ERH (70% vs. 40%; p=0.02) (Figure 3).

As compared to presentations authored exclusively by endocrinology researchers, presentations made in cooperation with branches of science outside of endocrinology were observed to have a higher rate of conversion to publication (50.7% vs. 36.8%; p=0.001). Presentations conducted in cooperation with researchers from other countries comprised 6.8% (31). Multinational presentations also demonstrated a higher rate of conversion to publication than the presentations from single countries (74.2% vs. 43.3%; p=0.001). The presentations involving retrospective data were 19.3% (88). Studies encompass-

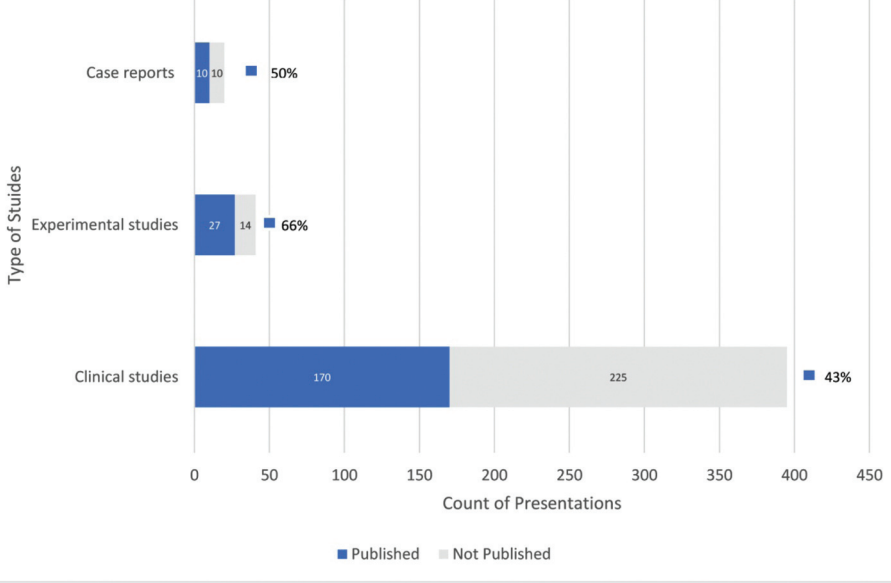

Figure 1. Presentation-to-publication rates vs. type of studies, Chi-square test (p=0.02).

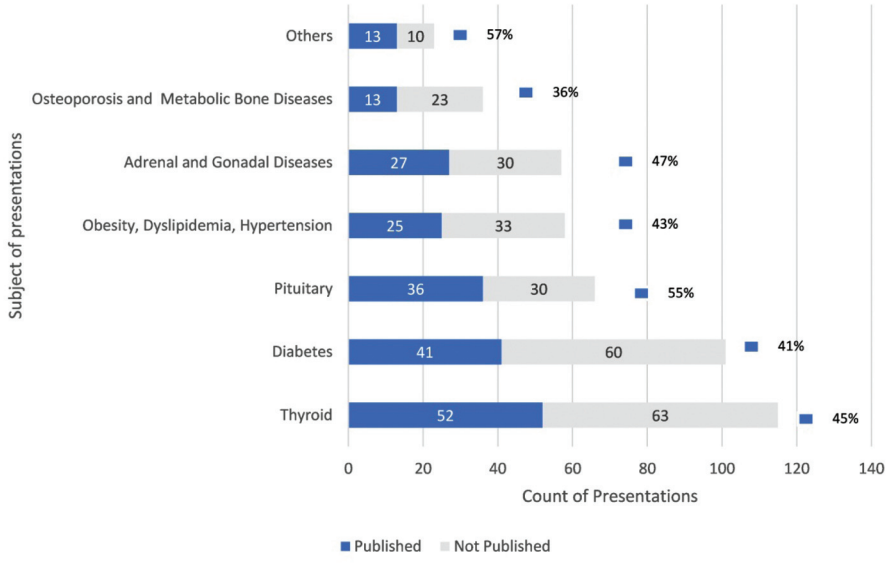

Figure 2. Classification of presentations based on topic and publication status, Chi-square test (p>0.05).

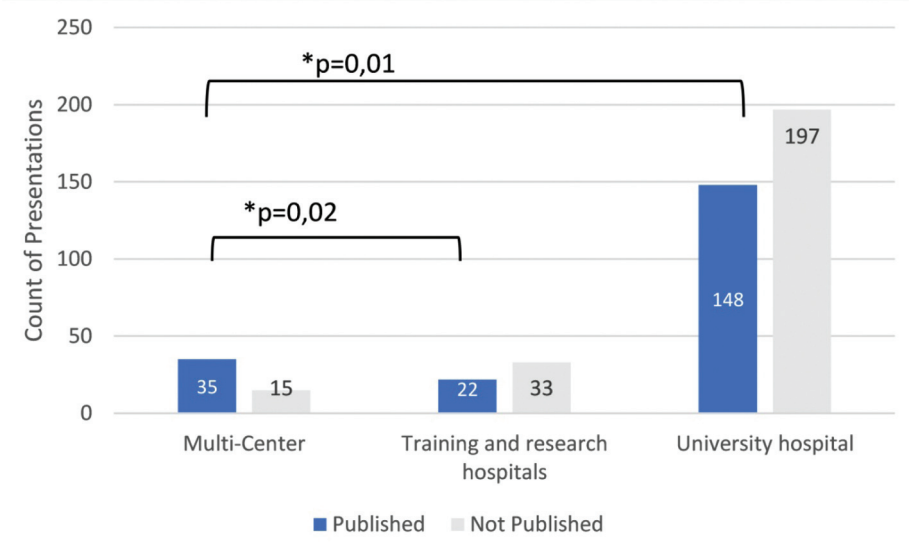

Figure 3. Presentation-to-publication rate according to the study center.

ing retrospective data were observed to be converted to publications at a lower rate when compared to studies produced from non-retrospective data (33% vs. 48.4%; p=0.009).

The multivariate logistic regression analysis for conversion to publication found that multicenter studies had twice the probability of being converted to publication as compared to single university research studies (Odds=2.161 [1.084-4.309]; p=0.029). The probability of publication for multi-unit studies was 1.6 times higher when compared to single unit research (Odds=1.6 [1.07-2.39]; p=0.02). The probability of publication for multinational studies was found to be 2.72 times compared to research from single countries (Odds=2.72 [1.07-6.86]; p=0.034). The publication probability of studies comprising retrospective data was reduced 1.7 times compared to research involving non-retrospective data (Odds=1/0.583 [0.352-0.295]; p=0.036).

The most frequent change during the con-

Table 2. Most frequently observed changes during conversion to articles (n=207).

Status of Change	% (n)
Change of the authors' order	65.7% (136)
Change in title	40.6% (84)
Increase in the number of authors	30.9% (64)
Increase in number of patients/data	29% (60)
Change in the last author	24.6% (51)
Decrease in the number of authors	23.7% (49)
Change in the first author	20.3% (42)
Decrease in the number of patients/data	5.8% (12)

version to articles were in the order of the authors at 65.71% (136). Other changes are detailed in Table 2. Fifteen articles (7.3%) were published a median of two months before being presented at the congress. The publication conversion numbers and rates based on provinces with the most presentations, according to the location of the organization of the first author, are illustrated in Figure 4.

When the two 10-year periods of 1997-2006 and 2007-2017 are compared, the publication conversion rates increased from 37.1% to 54.3% (p<0.01) (Table 3). While there was an increase in ERH presentations (6.4% vs. 18.5%; p<0.01), there was a decrease in university presentations (84.2% vs. 68.5%; p<0.01). There was a partial increase observed for multicenter studies (9.4% vs. 13%; p>0.05); however, this was statistically insignificant. There was no significant variation in terms of the province of the first author for the majority of provinces. However, a significant increase in presentations from the province of Kayseri (3.8% vs. 10%; p<0.05) was evident.

Discussion

The rate of conversion to publication for presentations at the CEMDT congresses was evaluated for the first time, and it was revealed that the conversion to publication rate was 45.4% for twenty years of oral presentations. Comparing the oral presentations for 1997-2006 and 2007-2017, an increase was observed in publication conversion rates from 37.1% to 54.3%. The 2018 Cochrane review explored 425 studies and reported the conversion to publication rates as 24.6% for posters and 43.1% for oral presentations, with an overall rate of 37.3% (4). The rates of conversion to publication for presentations manifest much variability according to the congress and the area of speciality, varying from 8.2-66% (17). When the 2007 Cochrane review (18) and the 2018 review were compared, a reduction in the overall rate from 44.5% to 37.3% was evident (4). In spite of the decrease in the general publication conversion

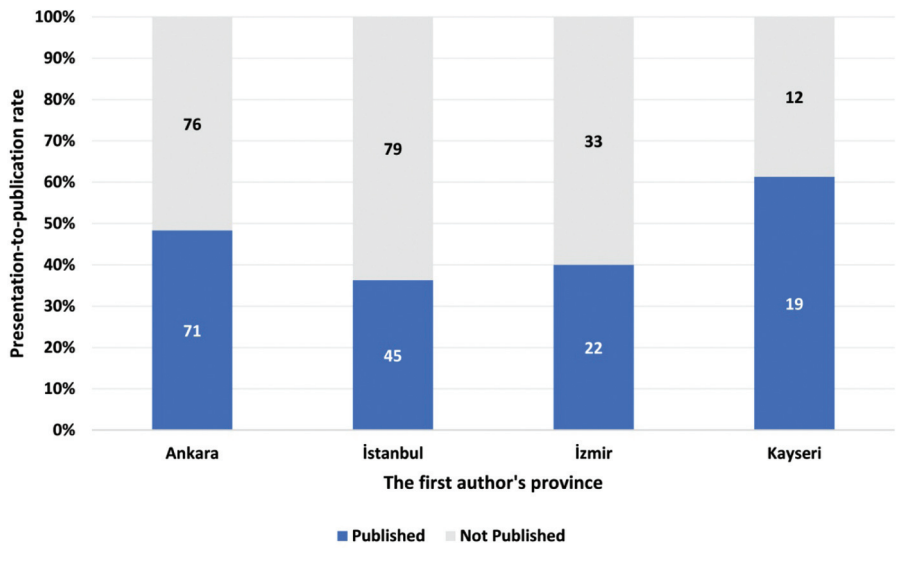

Figure 4. Presentation-to-publication rate based on the provinces with most presentations (Top four).

Table 3. Comparison of presentations for 1997–2006 and 2007–2017.

	1997-2006 n (%)	2007-2017 n (%)	p value
Total Number of Presentations	237 (52%)	219 (48%)	
Presentation-to-publication rate	37.1%	54.3%	P<0.001
Institution			p<0.01
University	197 (84.2%)	148 (68.5%)	*
Education and Research Hospitals	15 (6.4%)	40 (18.5%)	*
Multi-Center	22 (9.4%)	28 (13%)	
Institutional province of the first author			p=0.04
Ankara	80 (33.8%)	67 (30.6%)	
İstanbul	71 (30%)	53 (24.2%)	
İzmir	24 (10.1%)	31 (14.2%)	
Kayseri	9 (3.8%)	22 (10%)	*
Total of Other Provinces	53 (24.4%)	46 (21%)	
Publication duration (Median)	21 months (IQR: 6-47)	20 months (IQR: 6-37)	p>0.05
Index Category			P=0.38
SCI- (E)	68 (77.3%)	98 (82.4%)	
Non-SCI- (E)	20 (22.7%)	21 (17.6%)	
SCI-E Categories			P=0.14
Q1	24 (35.3%)	19 (19.4%)	
Q2	16 (23.5%)	31 (31.6%)	
Q3	16 (23.5%)	20 (20.4%)	
Q4	12 (17.6%)	28 (28.6%)	
Impact factors of journals published (Median)	2.79 (IQR: 1.90-5.54)	2.84 (IQR: 1.77-3.09)	p>0.05
Number of Citations per year of Articles Published (Median)**	1.28 (IQR: 0.59-3.30)	1.25 (IQR: 0.41-2.50)	p>0.05

*p<0.05.
** number of citations per year from the date of publication until February 2020.
SCI-E=Science Citation Index/Expanded; IQR= Interquartile range.

rates in the literature, an increase was observed for CEMDT. This increase between the two decades is an indirect indicator of the enhancement in the literature impact of the CEMDT.

The number of studies reviewing the publication conversion rates for international endocrinology congresses are limited compared to other branches of science and only include the analysis of international diabetes congresses (19,20). The first study to identify the publication rate for an international endocrine congress was completed with the participation of one of the current authors, and the publication conversion rate for oral presentations at the European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE 2014) was found to be 65% (21). It is promising that the conversion rate for oral presentations at the CEMDT has approached the level of international congresses in the last ten years. Furthermore, it may be regarded as an indicator that oral presentations are opted meticulously abiding by international selection standards.

When presentations are classified according to the type of organization, the multicenter studies reflected the highest publication rate, and studies in collaboration with departments outside of endocrinology also portrayed higher rates of publication conversion. This validated the importance of cooperation and interdisciplinary studies. The lack of observation of

a significant difference between publication conversion rates for single university and single ERH-related presentations may be a sign of objective assessment while choosing congress presentations.

Few studies are available regarding a bibliometric analysis of Turkish endocrinological research. In terms of metabolic bone disease, Turkey has a low publication output (22). Our study revealed that Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases had the lowest rate in the presentation subjects and also the lowest publication conversion rate.

For national and international congresses, the rate of presentations published in a journal before presentation at the congress varies from 8.7-20.5% (9,21,23,24). This rate was low in our study at 7.3%, where most studies were found to be published after the congress. This leads to a consideration of the contribution of post-presentation CEMDT feedback to the process of conversion to articles.

The publication rate for presentations at national congresses in SCI/SCI-E journals varies from 64.3-66.1%, with this rate at 80.6% for the 2014 ECE (12,21,25). With reference to the CEMDT, the rate was in agreement with the international congresses.

The order of the authors reflected the most frequent change (65.7%) during the article conversion process. For an orthopedics congress, this rate was identified as 61.2% (26). Changes to the name of the first author had rates of 5.7-20.7% in the literature (14,26), while this rate was 20.3% in our study. This may be affected by the inclusion or exclusion of authors during the process of conversion to an article. There was an increase in patient/data numbers of 29% and a reduction of 5.8% during publication conversion. This situation may have affected the change in author numbers. Changes to the titles was in accordance with the literature (27).

The reason for non-publication of nearly half of the oral presentations is a topic requires clarification. A survey conducted with the authors whose presentations had not been converted to publications five years after the congress summarized the following top 3 responses regarding lack of publication- insufficient time to publish, still continuing the publication process, and problems experienced with co-authors (28). Strategies should be developed to monitor the process of publication conversion for oral presentations at the CEMDT.

Our study has some limitations. Studies were not classified according to evidence levels, whereas the rate of studies based on retrospective data was investigated. Google Scholar and PubMed were employed as the search engine, so publications in other indexes or not identified by the search engines may have been missed. Besides screening until at least three years after the presentation, there may have been articles that were still under journal review during the literature screening. During literature screening, despite using a convenient interface program to record the search and for the database, human errors may not be eliminated. Another limitation in terms of assessing the contribution of the congress to the literature was that only oral presentations were assessed, and posters were not included.

Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate the publication rate of CEMDT oral presentations. The article conversion rate for oral presentations at the CEMDT is higher in comparison to studies in other branches of medical science in Turkey. However, it remains a little lower in comparison to international congresses. The increase in publication rate during the last ten years is promising.

Future perspectives and recommendations

Increasing the feedback received during the congress presentation, encouraging publication, and following the papers that are published after the congress will enhance academic production.

Using prospective data, collaboration with non-endocrine units, and multicenter, multinational design were determined as factors that increase the probability of publication as an article.

It will be useful to develop a website archiving all congress abstracts. This will help to track the abstracts that do not turn into a full-text article and also follow the differences between the abstract and the full text more clearly.

Publication outcome of posters needs to be evaluated in future research.

Source of Finance

During this study, no financial or spiritual support was received neither from any pharmaceutical company that has a direct connection with the research subject, nor from a company that provides or produces medical instruments and materials which may negatively affect the evaluation process of this study.

Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest between the authors and / or family members of the scientific and medical committee members or members of the potential conflicts of interest, counseling, expertise, working conditions, share holding and similar situations in any firm.

Authorship Contributions

Idea/Concept: Emre Sedar Saygılı; Design: Emre Sedar Saygılı; Control/Supervision: Emre Sedar Saygılı; Data Collection and/or Processing: Emre Sedar Saygılı, Ersen Karakılıç, Süleyman Nahit Şendur; Analysis and/or Interpretation: Emre Sedar Saygılı, Ersen Karakılıç, Süleyman Nahit Şendur; Literature Review: Emre Sedar Saygılı, Ersen Karakılıç, Süleyman Nahit Şendur; Writing the Article: Emre Sedar Saygılı, Ersen Karakılıç, Süleyman Nahit Şendur; Critical Review: Emre Sedar Saygılı, Ersen Karakılıç, Süleyman Nahit Şendur.

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