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Original article

An investigation of the emergency medicine journals published in Turkey



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ABSTRACT

Introduction: There are many academic journals in Turkey and the world. Medical journals have a significant place among those publications. The aim of this study is to examine qualitatively and categorize the scientific studies of the two journals in Turkey. It also aims to contribute the related literature in the area.

Material-Method: Academic journals of medical emergencies published in Turkey between January 1, 2003 and December 20, 2014 were investigated in detail. All the works in journals were categorized briefly as research articles, case presentations, review articles, and other works. Moreover, research articles were investigated as observational and experimental, and discussed according to the including topics.

Results: 943 scientific works in 86 issues were fully investigated. The total number was found to be 472 for research articles (50.1%), 242 for case presentations (25.7%), 108 for review articles (11.5%), and finally it was 12.8% for other works. Research articles included 450 observational (95.3%) and 22 experimental studies (4.7%). The key topics covered in research articles were the management and training of medical emergencies, trauma 96 (20.3%), toxicology 50 (10.6%), and gastrointestinal tract 36 (7.6%).

Conclusion: Despite its relatively short history, medical emergencies have improved progressively in Turkey. The number of domestic research articles has demonstrated an increase over the years. However, extra efforts are needed in order to improve the quality of articles. The most common contents encountered in research articles were the management and training of medical emergencies, trauma and toxicology.

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1. Introduction

There are many domestic and international studies which are conducted with scientific purposes. Medical journals have an important place in the literature.¹ The scientific researches in medical journals help to improve the quality of patients' medical care and the doctors' level of knowledge. Additionally, the scientific studies in the field of medical emergency promote researchers'

cooperation and help to decide the priorities of researches which will be conducted in the future.²

Two scientific journals of medicine are published in Turkey as Turkish Journal of Emergency Medicine and Journal of Academic Emergency Medicine. Even though the branch of emergency medicine has a short history, it demonstrates a rapid improvement. By means of this development, many scientific studies having a wide range of contents have been published. However, there has been no sufficient data related to quality of these studies.³ Additionally, it was stated that there was not adequate data about the quality of the international emergency medicine journals.⁴

Our aim is to categorize and examine qualitatively the scientific works of the two journals published in Turkey and contribute the related literature in the field.

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2. Material and methods

Study design and setting: All the works in the journals were classified primarily as research articles, case presentations, review articles and other works (letter to the editor, what I read today and visual diagnosis). Research articles were examined separately as observational and experimental. Furthermore, observational studies were categorized as descriptive and analytical (cohort, case-control, cross-sectional). On the other hand, experimental studies included randomized and non-randomized controlled trials. Our study is an observational (descriptive). In addition, the research articles in the journals were also categorized related to their content. Those topics involved the management and training of medical emergencies, trauma, toxicology, human gastrointestinal tract, neurology, etc. Under the heading of the management and training of medical emergencies, the studies included satisfaction surveys conducted on patients and their relatives, triage, disaster medicine, researches measuring emergency physicians' medical knowledge (e.g. EKG), the evaluation of emergency consultation, etc.

Sample size estimation: Because all the journals in the field were investigated, no tests measuring the sample size were administered.

Selection of participants: Turkish Journal of Emergency Medicine and Journal of Academic Emergency Medicine in Turkey were investigated retrospectively from December 20, 2014 to January 1, 2003. The archives of two journals were accessed from their official websites (Turkish Journal of Emergency Medicine: <http://www.trjemergmed.com> and Journal of Academic Emergency Medicine: <http://www.akademikaciltip.com>). Full papers of all studies in journals were obtained.

Interventions: Because of the observational-descriptive nature of the study, there was not subjectivity or any interventions from the researchers.

Methods and measurements: The researchers classified articles separately according to their scientific methods and contents by examining each one of them twice. The data gathered were compared by a third researcher who was neutral. And in case of inconsistency between the first two researchers, opinion of the third researcher was sought.

Outcomes: Scientific works in academic journals of medical emergencies were investigated methodologically and research articles were examined according to their contents.

Power of the study: The power analysis was not conducted as the study was observational-descriptive.

Analysis The statistical analysis of the data was performed by using IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) Version 22.0 with %95 reliability. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient was used in order to measure the gradual changes of the number of studies over the years. $p < 0.05$ was considered as a statistically significant value.

Ethics committee: The approval of Ethical Review Board of Balikesir University Faculty of Medicine was obtained for this study.

3. Results

A total of 86 issues and 943 scholarly publishing in two medical journals between 2003 and 2014 were extensively investigated. The exact number of research article was found to be 472 (50.1%) whereas it was 242 (25.7%) for case studies, 108 (11.5%) for review articles, and 121 (12.8%) for others (Table 1). 450 (95.3%) of the research articles were observational while 22 (4.7%) of them were experimental. In the observational studies, the number of descriptive studies was 249 (55.3%) whereas it was 201 (44.7%) for analytical works. In the analytical studies, the number of cross-

Table 1

The average distribution of the studies published in journals of emergency medicine in Turkey.

Year	Research article		Review		Case report		Other		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
2003	20	50.0	16	40.0	4	10.0	0	0.0	40	4.2
2004	26	43.3	16	26.7	10	16.7	8	13.3	60	6.4
2005	26	50.0	8	15.4	9	17.3	9	17.3	52	5.5
2006	35	51.5	10	14.7	19	27.9	4	5.9	68	7.2
2007	35	46.7	9	12.0	25	33.3	6	8.0	75	8.0
2008	40	48.2	9	10.8	23	27.7	11	13.3	83	8.8
2009	43	50.0	8	9.3	23	26.7	12	14.0	86	9.1
2010	43	50.0	9	10.5	25	29.1	9	10.5	86	9.1
2011	44	48.9	9	10.0	23	25.6	14	15.6	90	9.5
2012	56	54.9	6	5.9	32	31.4	8	7.8	102	10.8
2013	51	46.4	5	4.5	29	26.4	25	22.7	110	11.7
2014	53	58.2	3	3.3	20	22.0	15	16.5	91	9.7
Total	472	50.1	108	11.5	242	25.7	121	12.8	943	100.0

sectional studies was 181 (90%). On the other hand, it was 18 (8.9%) for case-control and 2 (0.9%) for cohort studies. 15 (68.2%) of 22 experimental trials were randomized, but 7 (31.8%) of them were non-randomized. In our study, it was discovered that there was a negative and statistically significant decrease in the rates of reviews over the years. Whereas, no statistically significant increase or decrease was found in the proportion of the other studies over the years ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2). When the methods of research articles were analyzed, no statistical difference was observed over the years ($p > 0.05$) (Table 3).

The number of contents provided within research articles was found to be 118 (25%) for the management and training of medical emergency, 96 (20.3%) for trauma, 50 (10.6%) for toxicology and 36 (7.6%) for gastrointestinal tract (Fig. 1). Moreover, statistically significant correlation was demonstrated among toxicology, the management and training of medical emergency, other studying topics, and the change of the number of contents over the years ($p < 0.05$).

Table 2

Correlation between the studies published in journals of emergency medicine in Turkey and the years.

	Year	
	r	p
Research article	0.490	0.106
Review	-0.854	0.001
Case report	0.544	0.068
Other	0.536	0.073

Table 3

The results of the correlation analysis of the relationship between the number of research articles and the years.

Methods used for research articles			Years	
			r	p
Research Article	Observational	Descriptive	-0.269	0.398
		Analytical	0.283	0.372
Experimental		Cross-sectional	-0.097	0.764
		Case-control	0.393	0.206
		Cohort	0.010	0.975
		Randomized controlled trial		
		Non-randomized controlled trial	-0.013	0.968

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