

Publication Incidence of Abstracts Presented at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Meeting: 2010 to 2014

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Purpose: The quality of national society conferences is often indirectly assessed by the full-text publication rate of the abstracts presented. The purpose of this study was to assess the full-text journal publication rate of abstracts presented at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons conferences from 2010 to 2014 and determine the publication plateau best suited for the analysis.

Materials and Methods: In this retrospective cohort study, all presented abstracts from 2010 to 2014 were compiled using the published educational summaries and outlines from the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* website. PubMed and Google Scholar searches were conducted to identify full-text journal publications. The predictor was abstract type (oral vs poster), and the outcome variable was time to publication. Descriptive, bivariate, and regression analyses were calculated; $P < .05$ was considered significant.

Results: A total of 1,053 abstracts were presented at the conferences. The full-text journal publication frequency was 34.6% (119 of 344) for oral abstracts and 26.2% (187 of 709) for posters. The incidence 24 months after presentation was 74% and 81%, respectively. A comparison of the proportions of published abstracts showed significantly higher conversion for oral presentations. The median time to publication was 12.5 months (mean, 15.7 months; range, 0 to 52 months) and 12 months (mean, 14 months; range, 0 to 53.5 months) for oral and poster abstracts, respectively. A Kaplan-Meier analysis showed no significant difference in time to publication between the presentation types (hazard ratio, 1.2; 95% confidence interval, 0.9 to 1.5; $P = .14$). Within 2 years of the respective conference, only 78.4% of published abstracts (240 of 306) successfully navigated the peer-review process compared with 93.1% (285 of 306) within 3 years of the conference.

Conclusions: The publication incidence of abstracts presented was higher for oral presentations; however, posters had a shorter time to publication. Of those published, a large proportion were published between 2 and 3 years after presentation, suggesting that a minimum 3-year publication plateau should be used for future analyses.

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113 In 2018 the American Association of Oral and Maxillo-
 114 facial Surgeons (AAOMS) will celebrate its centennial
 115 anniversary. Since the society's inception, AAOMS
 116 members have led and dynamically shaped the profes-
 117 sion through novel research, advanced techniques,
 118 and scientifically sound innovations. The AAOMS
 119 annual meeting has served as a venue to disseminate
 120 these advances through the presentation of oral and
 121 poster abstracts. Before acceptance for presentation,
 122 submitted abstracts undergo a peer-review process
 123 1) to ensure the abstract meets basic scientific-
 124 investigative criteria and 2) to be assessed for selection
 125 based on the quality and content of the abstract.¹ Not
 126 all accepted abstracts (oral, poster) eventually mature
 127 into full-text manuscripts and go on to successfully
 128 navigate the more rigorous peer-review process to
 129 achieve final full-text journal publication. As such,
 130 the quality of annual society meetings has been as-
 131 sessed indirectly by analyzing the full-text journal
 132 publication incidence of the abstracts presented.²⁻⁵
 133 Prior studies have reviewed the overall abstract to
 134 full-text journal publication rate for the AAOMS confer-
 135 ences, which was 34.8% (155 of 446) from 1997 to
 136 1999 and 27% (85 of 311) from 2006 to 2009.^{2,3} To
 137 our knowledge, no study has evaluated the AAOMS
 138 abstract publication rate since.

139 The primary objective of this retrospective cohort
 140 study was to assess the publication incidence of the
 141 abstracts presented at the AAOMS annual conference
 142 between 2010 and 2014. We hypothesized that there
 143 would be an increase in the journal publication pro-
 144 portion of abstracts presented at the AAOMS confer-
 145 ences compared with previous reports and that oral
 146 abstracts would be published significantly more often
 147 than posters. Specific aims of the study included a
 148 determination of the total number of abstracts
 149 presented at the AAOMS conferences from 2010 to
 150 2014, incidence of abstract publication, and median
 151 time to publication, as well as a comparison of the
 152 incidence of publication within 2 years and 3 years
 153 of the respective conference for both oral and poster
 154 abstracts, separately and collectively.

155 **Materials and Methods**

156 **STUDY DESIGN AND SAMPLE**

157 A retrospective cohort study was performed to
 158 assess the publication incidence of the abstracts
 159 presented at the AAOMS annual conference. Because
 160 no prior investigation had identified an acceptable
 161 publication plateau for the analysis of AAOMS ab-
 162 stracts, the temporal period of 2010 to 2014 was in-
 163 tentionally selected to allow for a minimum of 3 years
 164 from the most recent conference analyzed as other
 165 surgical specialties have determined a 3-year plateau
 166 effect after presentation.^{4,5} All oral and poster

167 abstracts presented at the AAOMS annual conference
 168 from 2010 to 2014 were compiled with help from
 169 the AAOMS head office, as well as the published
 170 educational summaries and outlines of each annual
 171 conference from the *Journal of Oral and*
 172 *Maxillofacial Surgery* (JOMS) website.⁶⁻¹⁰ Abstracts
 173 accepted and presented at the AAOMS annual
 174 conference met the inclusion criteria, whereas those
 175 accepted but withdrawn or not presented at the
 176 AAOMS annual conference for any reason were
 177 excluded. The titles, authors, and key terms from
 178 each original abstract were entered into a database
 179 and coded separately (oral vs poster) according to
 180 the year of conference presentation. Two
 181 investigators (D.C.R. and C.J.R.) then conducted
 182 PubMed and Google Scholar searches of all identified
 183 abstracts from 2010 to 2014, using July 1, 2017, as a
 184 cutoff date.

185 The title and key terms from the original abstracts
 186 were combined using a standard Boolean operator
 187 ("AND") and searched with each author individually
 188 beginning in PubMed. Consistency between the title,
 189 authors, key terms, abstract, and study design was
 190 required for the identification of a published match.
 191 If no corresponding publication match was identified
 192 via PubMed, the search was repeated using Google
 193 Scholar. If no publication match could be identified
 194 during the literature search, the abstract was deemed
 195 unpublished. The publications of the abstracts pre-
 196 sented in the AAOMS program guide were not deemed
 197 to be "published," as the abstract (oral, poster) had not
 198 matured into a full-text journal publication or suc-
 199 cessfully navigated the more rigorous journal peer-
 200 review process for publication. Similarly, publications
 201 outside of full-text, peer-reviewed journals were
 202 deemed "unpublished." The number of abstract pre-
 203 sentations from the AAOMS conferences between
 204 2010 and 2014 was recorded by year. For each publica-
 205 tion, the date of publication was recorded by month
 206 and year. The time to publication was recorded as
 207 the number of months from the initial presentation
 208 at the AAOMS conference to the month of publication
 209 (online ahead of print or in print, whichever occurred
 210 first). For abstracts published before presentation or
 211 those published within a week of the last day of the
 212 conference, the time to publication was assigned a
 213 value of 0. If a specific publication date was not
 214 provided, the first day of the publication month was
 215 used. The median time to publication was then deter-
 216 mined. The number of abstracts presented, publica-
 217 tion incidence, and publication incidence within
 218 2 years and 3 years of the respective conference
 219 were calculated for each AAOMS annual conference
 220 from 2010 to 2014, as well as collectively. Last, the
 221 numbers of abstracts from 2010 to 2014 that achieved
 222 journal publication within 2 years and 3 years after
 223

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