

Systematic Analysis of Theses in the Field of Emergency Medicine in Turkey

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SUMMARY

Objectives

The aim of this study is to systematically evaluate the theses in the field of emergency medicine in Turkey and to determine whether they were published as a scientific paper.

Methods

This is a retrospective observational study. Theses in the field of emergency medicine between 1998 and 2013 were browsed from the internet database of National Thesis Center (Council of Higher Education). Study type, both if it was in the field of emergency, or if it was published and the journal's scope of published studies were assessed and recorded in the study chart.

Results

579 theses were included in the study. 27.1% of them were published and 14.9% of them were published in SCI/SCI-E journals. Advisors of theses were emergency medicine specialists in 67.6% of theses and 493 (85.1%) of them were in the field of emergency medicine. 77.4% of theses were observational and 20.9% were experimental study. Most of the experimental studies (72.7%, n=88) were animal studies.

Conclusions

It was concluded that very few theses in the field of emergency medicine were published in journals that were indexed in SCI/SCI-E.

Key words: Emergency medicine; systematic analysis; theses.

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Introduction

In Turkey, the first Emergency Medicine (EM) residency was founded in Turkey by Department of Emergency Medicine of Dokuz Eylul University in 1994, and thenceforward many other departments started EM residency programs.^[1,2] EM residency programs were firstly established in Educational and Training Hospitals in 2006 and residents were enrolled to a program by a nationwide examination. Currently, 70 centers (43 University hospitals, 27 Education and Training Hospitals) have been providing EM residency programs.^[3]

In Turkey, residents must complete a thesis about their specialty before graduating according to applicable legislations.^[1] Studies on EM have been increasing gradually and many studies reported evaluating these studies by the means of qualification and quantity.^[4] The aim of a thesis is to learn all phases of conducting a scientific study but, to our knowledge, there is not any study evaluating the theses in the field of EM. Similar studies to ours have been reported in the field of Family Medicine.^[5,6,7]

The aim of this study is to evaluate systematically all the theses in the field of EM that were conducted from the beginning of EM residency programs in Turkey, and determine the publication status of these theses.

Materials and Methods

In this retrospective observational study, EM theses between 1998 and 2013 were reanalyzed.

Data were collected via browsing internet database of the National Thesis Center (Council of Higher Education) (<https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tarama.jsp>). While searching, "Emergency Medicine" was selected in the "Department" tab. Information on author, supervisor, institution, objectives, materials and methods, results, and conclusion were analyzed and recorded to the study chart for all theses.

Additionally, year, study design, whether the supervisor was an emergency medicine physician, whether the subject of the thesis was associated with EM topics, whether the power analysis was performed, financial support status, whether the thesis was reported as a publication, if yes, journal's index status and the year of publication were analyzed. While classifying the studies, a standard algorithm was used (Figure 1). For randomized controlled studies (RCT), the registration status was assessed by browsing the internet addresses of clinicaltrials.gov, clinicaltrialsregister.eu, isrctn.org.

The publication status of theses were assessed by entry of author's name, title of the thesis and keywords to the search engines of PubMed, Google scholar and Google search. If the study was published, it was assessed if the journal was

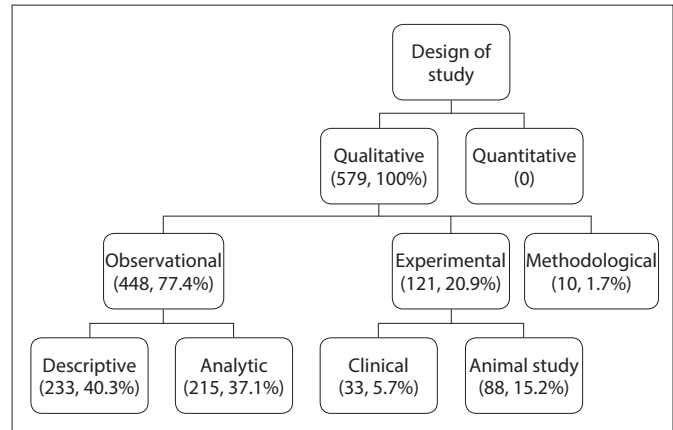


Figure 1. Algorithm for categorizing the studies.

indexed in SCI (Science citation Index) or SCI-E (Science Citation Index Expanded) by searching the lists of Thomson Reuters. The indexing status of the journal at the time that the thesis was published could not be analyzed.

Whether the subject of the thesis was associated with EM topics was determined by assessing the objectives, methods, results, and conclusion sections. For the final decision, two of three researchers' decision was accepted.

There are 1021 emergency physicians (EP) in Turkey as of January 2014. 17 of them are professors, 88 of them are associate professors, 88 of them are assistant professors, 20 of them are instructors and 808 of them are attending physicians. EM residency programs were established in Education and Training Hospitals in 2011 and 282 EP received their degrees from these institutions but in National Thesis Center database we could not find the theses of them. While assessing the publication status, the last two years were excluded because of time constraints for publication.

Frequency and percentage were given for categorical variables in descriptive statistics. Statistical analysis was performed by SPSS 15.0 (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL).

Results

A total of 579 theses were included in the study. Three theses were excluded because they lacked an abstract of full text, and one thesis was excluded because of an irrelevant text upload. 579 (56.7%) theses were reached from the target population of the study (theses of 1021 EPs). Demographics are shown in table 1. All of the theses were conducted in university hospitals and according to that, we reached only 78.4% of the target population of study (784 EPs graduated from university hospitals). A great majority of supervisors were EPs ($n=390$, 67.6%) and this proportion was increased significantly over time. 493 (58.1%) of the theses were clas-

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