

# Publication rates in peer-reviewed journals of abstracts presented at the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Society of Turkey meetings 2007-2012

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to find out the rate of peer-reviewed publication of full papers of abstracts presented at the annual meeting of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Society of Turkey, and to identify the time taken for publication, subspecialty, and study design.

All abstracts accepted for presentation at the meetings in 2007-12 were identified from the books of abstracts, and evidence of publication was sought from PubMed and Google Scholar. The following variables were evaluated: publication rate, type of presentation (oral or poster), time to publication, subspecialty, study design, name of the journal in which the paper was published, impact factor of the journal, author affiliation, change in number of authors and origin of the study. A total of 1322 abstracts were presented between 2007 and 2012. Of these, 246 (19%) were subsequently published in peer-reviewed journals, including 110/390 oral presentations (28%) and 136/932 poster presentations (15%). Oral presentations were more likely to be published than poster presentations ( $p=0.000$ ). The mean (SD) time from presentation to publication was 17 (15) months. Anatomical presentations had the highest publication rate (8/11), whereas orthognathic surgery had the lowest (5/67, 7%). Technical notes (5/9) and animal studies (32/70, 46%) were the most common types of publication. Only 246 of the 1322 abstracts (19%) were subsequently published as full papers, which is lower than previously reported in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

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**Keywords:** Abstract; Presentation; Publication; Publication rate

## Introduction

Congresses organised by international surgical associations are an important way to disseminate research findings in all areas of medicine, and abstracts are presented orally or as posters. These presentations allow for informal exchange of ideas and immediate feedback from professional colleagues and peers.<sup>1,2</sup> Subsequent publication in a journal is

the required end point of scientific research and is also the main goal of most investigators, so the publication rate of presentations should be an indicator of the quality and content of scientific meetings.<sup>3</sup> However, not all abstracts presented at scientific meetings proceed to publication of a full paper in a peer-reviewed journal for various reasons, and presentations that never achieve full publication have been referred to as “lost information”.<sup>4</sup> It is known that the publication rate of presentations at scientific meetings ranges from 11% to 78%, the mean being 45%.<sup>5,6</sup> Although we identified a few studies about publication rates in oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS),<sup>7–9</sup> we know of no such studies in OMFS in Turkey.

Our aim, therefore, was to investigate the overall publication rate of abstracts presented at the Oral and Maxillofacial

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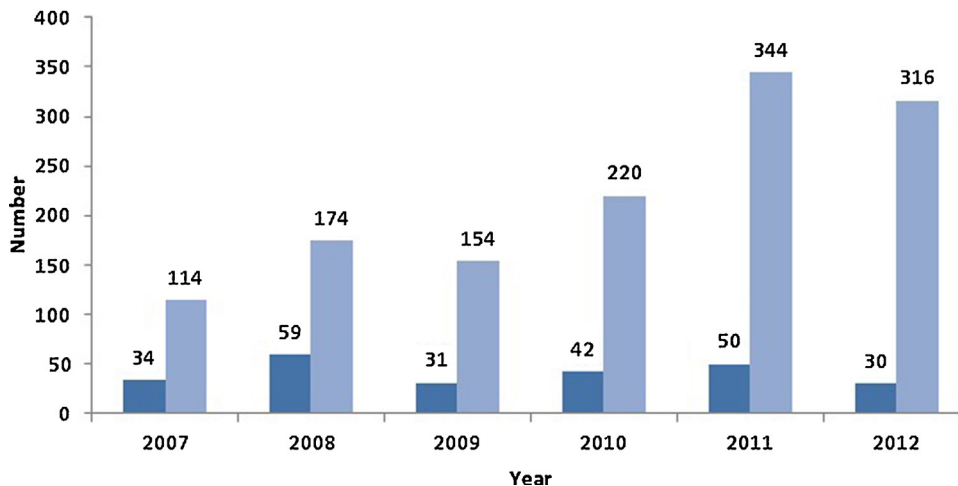


Fig. 1. Distribution of the presentations and publications according to year (2007-2012). Pale blue=number of presentations, and dark blue=number of publications.

Surgery Society's annual meetings (2007-12) and to identify the time to publication, subspecialty, and study design.

## Material and Methods

All abstracts accepted for presentation at the Society's annual international meetings between 2007 and 2012 were evaluated for type of presentation (oral or poster), affiliation of author, change in number of authors between presentation and publication, subspecialty, and origin of the study. For published papers we recorded the time to publication, the name of the journal in which it was published and the impact factor of the journal. Depending on the origin of the studies, abstracts were classified as either national or international. Subsequently the study design of the abstract was divided into categories including prospective, retrospective, case report, case series, technical note, animal study, and basic research (cell study, anatomical study, genetic studies, or imaging procedure). In addition, the abstracts were broken down further into 14 different subspecialties including congenital and craniofacial deformities, trauma, disorders of the temporomandibular joint, head and neck oncology, implantology, orthognathic surgery, anatomy, clinical pathology, dentoalveolar surgery, anaesthesia and analgesia, reconstructive surgery, research and emerging technologies, endodontic surgery, and biomaterials, according to their content. Those not fitting into any of the categories were listed as "other".

We made an exhaustive systematic search of the PubMed and Google Scholar databases for subsequent full publications. The searches began with the first, second, and last authors' names using the operator string "OR". If multiple corresponding publications were found, the search continued with the operator string "AND" to combine authors' names with keywords from the title of the abstract to lead us to the correct manuscript. When the full article was obtained or confirmed, the name, month, and year of publication of the

journal were recorded. If the abstracts were published before the meetings, a value of zero was given.

According to the year of publication, the impact factor of the journal (where available) was obtained from the Journal Citation Report. For citation analysis we used the Institute of Scientific Information's (ISI) electronic version of the Science Citation Index for each article. We searched the databases in November 2013. Any inconsistencies in results and variables were evaluated and resolved by both research workers.

Data were analysed with the aid of IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (version 22.0; IBM Corp, Armonk, NY, USA). Descriptive statistics were calculated for each variable. The chi square test was used to assess the significance of differences among categorical variables, and probabilities of less than 0.05 were accepted as significant.

## Results

The presentations at the congresses (2007-12) that were included in the study, and the number that were published, are shown in Fig. 1.

We reviewed a total of 1322 abstracts (390 oral and 932 poster presentations) presented at the 6 annual meetings of the Society from 2007 to 2012. Of these, 246 (19%) had been subsequently published in peer-reviewed journals by November 2013 (Fig. 2).

The published abstracts according to the type of presentation are shown in Table 1. Oral presentations were more likely to be published than posters ( $p=0.000$ ).

The published abstracts separated into subspecialty, and study design, are shown in Table 2.

Of the 1322 abstracts presented, 1070 (81%) were from Turkey and 252 (19%) were international. Of these, 246 abstracts (19%) were converted into full text in peer-reviewed journals, of which 190 were from Turkey (18% of all national

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