
ORIGINAL RESEARCH—EDUCATION

Factors Predicting Publication of Sexual Medicine Abstracts Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association

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DOI: 10.1111/jsm.12118

ABSTRACT

Introduction. At sexual medicine meetings throughout the world, hundreds of scientific abstracts are presented each year. To our knowledge, no previous studies have looked at the rate of publication of these studies in a peer-reviewed journal.

Aim. To define the fate of abstracts presented at sexual medicine sessions at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association (AUA) and to describe the factors predicting ultimate publication in scientific journals.

Methods. All abstracts presented at the 2006 and 2007 AUA annual meeting were surveyed to find sexual medicine abstracts. Publication status as of October 2009 was assessed using the Medline database. Abstract parameters were recorded including number of authors, country of origin, clinical or basic research, and area of sexual research. Predictors of publication were analyzed using a multivariable model.

Main Outcome Measure. Publication status of all sexual medicine abstracts presented at the 2006 and 2007 AUA annual meetings.

Results. A total of 208 sexual medicine abstracts were presented in 2006 and 2007. Fifty-one percent of these were published by October 2009. On univariate analysis, the predictors of publication in a peer-reviewed journal included the number of authors ($r = 0.22$, $P < 0.01$), studies pertaining to erectile dysfunction (RR 1.3, CI 1–1.8, $P = 0.05$), and studies originating from academic centers (RR 2.7, CI 1.7–4.3, $P < 0.01$). On multivariate analysis, the predictors of publication included the number of authors (OR 1.3, CI 1–1.4, $P < 0.01$) and having a study originate from an academic center (OR 5.9, CI 2.8–12.7, $P < 0.01$).

Conclusions. Fifty-one percent of the sexual medicine abstracts presented at the 2006 and 2007 annual AUA meetings have been published within 2 to 3 years of the date of presentation. Studies originating from academic centers were six times more likely to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. **Berookhim BM, Kaya Y, Deveci S, Nelson CJ, and Mulhall JP. Factors predicting publication of sexual medicine abstracts presented at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association. J Sex Med 2013;10:2394–2398.**

Key Words. Sexual Medicine; Publication Rate; Abstracts; Annual Meeting; Meeting Abstracts

Introduction

The annual meeting of the American Urological Association (AUA) is the most attended conference in the field of urology, drawing thousands of attendees from throughout the world [1]. At this meeting, hundreds of abstracts are pre-

sented on a multitude of urologic topics and are selected for presentation by review teams from the scientific program committee for the meeting that year. Urologists attending the meeting often include data and information obtained from these abstracts in clinical decision making, although the articles are selected based only on the information

in the abstract, not having undergone a rigorous peer-review and extensive results analysis as is required for publication in a scientific journal. Aside from the lack of a peer-review process, evidence suggests that results are often dramatically different at the time of publication of a manuscript when compared with presentation as an abstract [2].

With growing interest in sexual medicine, over 100 abstracts are presented annually in this field at the AUA meeting. Multiple studies have investigated the rate of publication at a number of urologic society meetings, with an abstract to manuscript publication rate ranging from 30% to 62% [3–8]. To our knowledge, there has been no analysis of the publication fate of sexual medicine abstracts from scientific meetings, an important fact that should be considered among attendees of sexual medicine sessions who are considering integrating information from these conferences to their clinical practice, given the reasons cited above. Given the variability in the range of the manuscript publication rate in other subjects, we aimed to define the fate of abstracts presented at sexual medicine sessions at the annual meeting of the AUA and to describe the factors predicting ultimate publication in scientific journals.

Methods

Publication Review

All abstracts presented at the 2006 and 2007 annual meetings of the AUA were retrieved from the respective *Journal of Urology* supplement and were surveyed to find sexual medicine abstracts. Publication status was determined from the Medline database using the PubMed search engine, using the title of the abstract from the abstract book. When the title was not found, the names of the authors were searched, and if the names of the first or senior author, their institutions, and the study presented matched, this study was included as a published manuscript. Searches were completed using Boolean expression link terms (and, or) to control and expand the findings. Additionally, abstracts and publications were then categorized according to a variety of factors including (i) the number of authors, (ii) country of origin, (iii) academic vs. nonacademic institution, (iv) type of research—clinical or basic science, and (v) area of research, specifically erectile dysfunction (ED), Peyronie's disease (PD), ejaculatory dysfunction, hypogonadism, and female sexual dysfunction (FSD). The abstracts were classified as

basic science or clinical research according to the title and type of session at which they were presented (in particular looking specifically as to whether the session was a basic science or clinical research session), as well as through analysis of the title and text of the abstract. Academic vs. nonacademic institutions were defined according to the author's institutional affiliations and association with a university-based department. No case reports were presented as abstracts.

Statistics

Percentages were presented to describe the characteristics regarding publication. For univariate analysis, Pearson correlation coefficients for continuous variables and chi-square for binary variables were used when assessing the relationship with the binary variable of publication (yes/no). Logistic regression was used for multivariable analysis predicting publication (yes/no). Results with a $P \leq 0.05$ were considered significant. The statistics were run on SPSS v.19 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA).

Results

A total of 208 sexual medicine abstracts were presented in 2006 and 2007. Of all the abstracts, 66% pertained to clinical research and 34% to basic research. The majority of the abstracts (62%) represented work in the field of ED, with 14% in ejaculatory dysfunction, 10% in hypogonadism, 8% in PD, and 6% in FSD (Table 1). A total of 25 countries had sexual medicine abstracts presented, with 62% of these from the United States. Seventy-two percent of the studies were conducted at academic centers.

In looking at the data for those abstracts that were published as a manuscript, 107 (51%) were published by October 2009, approximately 2.5 years after publication in the abstract book.

Table 1 Manuscripts published as a percentage of abstracts submitted stratified by topic of interest

Topic of interest	Total number of abstracts	Manuscript publication rate (%)
Clinical research	137	52
Basic science research	71	47
Erectile dysfunction	129	55
Peyronie's disease	16	46
Ejaculatory dysfunction	29	52
Hypogonadism	21	45
Female sexual dysfunction	13	50

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