

An In-Depth Analysis of Publication Characteristics of Podium Presentations at the Arthroscopy Association of North America Annual Meetings, 2011-2014

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Purpose: To determine the publication rate of abstracts presented at the annual meetings of the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) from 2011 through 2014 and to compare the level of evidence (LoE) between published and unpublished studies. **Methods:** A comprehensive search was performed using PubMed and Google Scholar for all abstracts given as podium presentations at the 2011 through 2014 AANA Annual Meetings. A publication rate was calculated from all presented abstracts. Each abstract was reviewed to determine the study's LoE (I-V or nonclinical). Among published studies, the average time from presentation to publication was calculated. The journals in which these studies were published were also noted. **Results:** A total of 290 abstracts were given as podium presentations at AANA Annual Meetings from 2011 through 2014. Of the 290 studies presented, 195 (195/290, 67%) were published in peer-reviewed journals. Of the 195 published studies, 184 (184/195, 94%) were published within 3 years of the meeting date. Studies were most frequently published in *Arthroscopy* (n = 59) and the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (n = 48). The average time from presentation to publication was 12.2 months. Overall, there was no significant difference between published and unpublished studies in terms of LoE ($P = .24$). **Conclusions:** In recent years, studies presented at AANA Annual Meetings have achieved a high publication rate (67%). Based on other studies, this publication rate is comparable to recent American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) Annual Meetings and is higher than that of AANA Annual Meetings from previous years. The level of evidence of presented studies does not necessarily correlate with eventual publication. **Clinical Relevance:** The publication rate and level of evidence of podium presentations at AANA demonstrate the scientific impact the annual meeting has for peers pursuing orthopaedic research.

Podium presentations at scientific meetings distribute new medical research and information throughout the scientific community and allow for an opportunity to examine, debate, and possibly influence or change current clinical practice and future research.

However, not all abstracts are accepted for presentation at these scientific meetings.¹ For example, a recent study conducted by Frank et al.¹ found that the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) Annual Meeting only accepted 65% of submitted abstracts for presentation.

The publication rate of studies presented at scientific meetings is an effective method for determining the quality of the presented abstracts.¹ Eventual publication of these studies allows for further dissemination to a larger audience. Multiple studies have been conducted on publication rates of studies presented at national and international orthopaedic meetings, with publication rates ranging from 35% to 68%.¹⁻¹² Furthermore, studies have also assessed the level of evidence (LoE) of presented abstracts at a variety of scientific meetings to determine if there is a correlation with eventual publication.¹³⁻¹⁷

AANA is an organization that aims to advance both arthroscopic surgery and patient outcomes, and it also holds a meeting annually to further orthopaedic research. The purposes of this study were to determine

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Table 1. Most Common Journals Publishing Studies Presented at AANA, 2011 through 2014

Journal	Studies Published (195 Total), n (%)
<i>Arthroscopy</i>	59 (30.1)
<i>American Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	48 (24.6)
<i>Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery</i>	13 (6.7)
<i>Knee Surgery, Sports Traumatology, Arthroscopy</i>	12 (6.2)
<i>Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, American</i>	12 (6.2)
<i>Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	9 (4.6)
<i>Orthopedics</i>	6 (3.1)
<i>American Journal of Orthopedics (Belle Mead, NJ)</i>	4 (2.1)
<i>The Knee</i>	3 (1.5)
<i>Journal of Knee Surgery</i>	3 (1.5)
<i>Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research</i>	3 (1.5)
<i>Cartilage</i>	2 (1.0)
<i>Foot & Ankle International</i>	2 (1.0)
<i>International Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	2 (1.0)
<i>Journal of Hip Preservation Surgery</i>	2 (1.0)
<i>Bulletin of the Hospital for Joint Diseases</i>	2 (1.0)
13 other journals	1 (0.5) each

AANA, Arthroscopy Association of North America.

the publication rate of abstracts presented at the annual meetings of the Arthroscopy Association of North America from 2011 through 2014 and to compare the LoE between published and unpublished studies. Based on previous studies,^{1,3,11} the authors hypothesized that the publication rate of podium presentations at AANA has increased from previous years and that studies that were eventually published in peer-reviewed journals would demonstrate a higher LoE than unpublished studies.

Methods

A comprehensive search was performed in June 2017 using PubMed and Google Scholar to locate all abstracts given as podium presentations at the 2011 through 2014 AANA Annual Meetings. Search methods such as title, author, or key words were used to find abstracts with title changes and to ensure every abstract was accounted for. An overall publication rate was calculated from all abstracts included during the study period. The journals that published these studies were also noted, as well as the date and year of publication. Only peer-reviewed journals were included. The time (in months) from presentation to publication was noted for all studies that were eventually published. In addition, each abstract was reviewed to determine the study's LoE (I-V or nonclinical).

Statistical Analysis

Fisher exact tests were used to compare the LoE between published and unpublished studies. A 1-way analysis of variance was performed to compare average time from presentation to publication between

journals with at least 2 publications of AANA-presented studies.

Results

A total of 290 abstracts were given as podium presentations at AANA Annual Meetings from 2011 through 2014. Of the 290 studies presented, 195 (67%) were eventually published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Among the 195 published studies, 59 (30%) were published in *Arthroscopy* and 48 (24%) were published in the *American Journal of Sports Medicine (AJSM)* (Table 1). A significant difference in time from presentation to publication was observed between the different journals with at least 2 publications ($P < .001$) (Table 2).

Of the 195 published studies, 184 (94%) were published within 3 years of the meeting date (Fig 1). The most common duration between presentation and publication was between 0 and 6 months ($n = 46$), followed by publication between 12 and 18 months ($n = 35$). Sixteen studies were published prior to presentation at the AANA Annual Meeting. Overall, the average time from presentation to publication was 12.2 months (Table 3).

No significant difference was found between published and unpublished studies in terms of LoE ($P = .24$). In addition, no significant difference was found in the proportion of Level I studies between published and unpublished groups ($P = .47$) (Table 4).

Discussion

This study found that between 2011 through 2014, 195 of the 290 studies given as podium presentations at

Table 2. Average Journal Publication Time

Journal	Average (SD) Time from Presentation to Publication, Months
<i>Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	5.9 (12.7)
<i>Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research</i>	10.0 (5.6)
<i>Cartilage</i>	10.5 (10.6)
<i>Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, American</i>	11.0 (9.1)
<i>American Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	12.6 (9.8)
<i>Arthroscopy</i>	15.4 (13.2)
<i>Journal of Hip Preservation Surgery</i>	18.0 (7.1)
<i>Knee Surgery, Sports Traumatology, Arthroscopy</i>	21.8 (14.2)
<i>Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery</i>	22.2 (14.0)
<i>Orthopedics</i>	25.2 (12.4)
<i>American Journal of Orthopedics (Belle Mead, NJ)</i>	25.3 (10.0)
<i>Foot & Ankle International</i>	26.0 (32.5)
<i>Journal of Knee Surgery</i>	26.7 (14.8)
<i>The Knee</i>	33.0 (1.7)
<i>International Journal of Sports Medicine</i>	35.0 (11.3)
<i>Bulletin of the Hospital for Joint Diseases</i>	36.5 (17.7)

AANA, Arthroscopy Association of North America; SD, standard deviation.

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