

Publication Rate of Abstracts Presented at the Psychiatry National Congresses Held by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey



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SUMMARY

Objective: In this study we aimed to investigate the frequency and the factors determining the conversion rate of the oral and poster presentations into articles. Five consecutive national psychiatry congresses held by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey (PAT) between 2012 and 2016 were evaluated.

Method: The manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals were identified using the Web of Knowledge, PubMed and Google Scholar databases. The identified manuscripts were classified according to the type of the publication, the duration until publication, the impact factor and the index of the journal.

Results: Out of the total 1372 reports presented at the five consecutive National Congress of Psychiatry events, a total of 297 abstracts (21.6%), comprising 201 of the 1104 posters and 96 of the 268 oral presentations, were converted into publications. A significantly higher percentage of the oral presentations ($p<0.001$) compared to the poster presentations were converted into publications; and more of the publications consisted of research reports as compared to case reports. The mean time taken from presentation at the congress to publication was 19.04 (± 12.47) months. The mean impact factor of the journals at the time of publication was 1.45 (± 1.49).

Conclusion: Although the publication percentage of the presentations made in National Congress of Psychiatry events held by the PAT is similar to that of other studies conducted in Turkey, they are below the percentage reported by similar research in the international literature. There is a need in the mental healthcare institutions of Turkey for time allocation to make research and for creating units that can support researchers in the difficult process of publishing research results. Also, a more selective approach should be adopted when evaluating the congress presentations, and research that is considered to be of high academic value should be encouraged for submission as oral presentations.

Keywords: Congresses, psychiatry, research report, publication

INTRODUCTION

Oral presentations and poster presentations constitute a significant part of the congresses in which professionals working in a specialty area come together and share their medical knowledge in the light of up-to-date information. At congresses, researchers share their knowledge and experience with the participants and receive feedback that contributes to the maturation of the studies presented. Subsequent publication of posters or oral presentations in scientific journals is considered as the natural result of the research

process. Congress presentations that are not published are generally considered as lost knowledge (Petticrew et al. 1999).

In order to be considered valid, reliable and useful in clinical practice, the scientific worth of studies presented at congresses must be proven. Publication of the presentations after being meticulously reviewed by the referees of scientific journals indicates that these studies have been conducted with scientific methods and have reliable results that increase scientific quality and knowledge (Balasubramanian et al. 2006). From this point of view, the percentage of the abstracts

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presented at a scientific congress that are later published in peer-reviewed journals reflects the scientific value of the congress (Autorino et al. 2007).

Despite the importance of the publication worthy qualities of these reports, the percentages of conversion to publication of congress reports in the various branches of medicine is observed to vary between 13% and 74% (Scherer et al. 2006, Özyurt and Kaptanoğlu 2012, Mutlu et al. 2015, Gürses et al. 2017, Gülçek et al. 2018). The 55th National Congress of Psychiatry (NCP), which annually brings together a significant number of mental health workers, is planned by the PAT to take place in October 2019. The presentations at the NCP are made under the headings of “poster reports”, “oral reports” and “award candidate reports”. The reports within the scope of the “Research Paper Award” program, which is organized to encourage contribution to the scientific field by psychiatry specialists or residents, are presented in a separate session of the congress, to be evaluated by the award jury, and prize money is awarded for the top three research papers. Case reports and reviews cannot be submitted in the category of award-nominated papers. Also, case reports are not accepted as oral presentations.

Any investigation on the conversion to publication of the NCP reports was not found in the literature. This study was aimed to investigate the publication of oral and poster reports of the NCP events in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, the time taken for publication after presentation and also the scientific merits of published works and the accepting journals.

METHOD

The award-nominated, posters and oral papers presented at the NPCs organized by PAT between 2012 and 2016, corresponding, respectively to the 48th, 49th, 50st, 51st and 52nd NPCs held by PAT, were evaluated within the scope of the study. The reports presented in 50, 51, 52nd NPCs were acquired from the congress supplement of the Turkish Journal of Psychiatry while those of the 48th and the 49th NPC were taken, respectively, from the abstracts published on the congress web page and from the congress CDs comprising the presented abstracts.

The Literature survey, commenced on October 25, 2018, using the PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>), Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>) and Web of Knowledge (<http://webofknowledge.com>) was completed on November 15, 2018.

The search was started by writing the titles of the papers into the search engine in Turkish and/or English; and if the publication could not be found, the search was continued with the keywords of the papers and the names of the first

three researchers put together. If the target was not reached, the names of the researchers were written separately and all their works as authors were scanned on the search engine. The reports presented in each congress were scanned by two researchers, and those converted to publication were recorded in an Excel file by using the Endnote citation management software (X7.7.1) in the same style. The Excel files of the separately scanned congress reports were then compared for verification.

In the process of conversion to publication, the articles with add-on or omitted author names, holding a similar but not the same title as the abstract and with the same research protocol or results as the abstract were accepted to have been published after presentation at the congress. Although more than one report presented in the same congress are rarely converted into a single publication, in such cases the combined presentations were considered to have been converted into publications. For those studies found to have been published before the congress date, the time taken before publication was expressed with a negative (-) value. The time taken between the congress date and the date of publication of the reports in a journal was calculated in months.

All articles published in refereed journals were included in the study. The identified publications were recorded according to the indexes of the journal such as the Science Citation Index (SCI), the Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE), the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and also the impact factor of the journals, the time taken for publication and the type of the study. Those not included within the SCI, SCIE, SSCI indexes but published in national or international refereed journals were evaluated together under the ‘other’ heading. The web resource at <http://www.bioxbio.com> was used to determine the impact factor of the journal at the time of publication.

In this study, case reports and case series were accepted under the heading of ‘case’ and other reports and the identified publications were accepted as ‘research’.

The period between 2012 and 2016 were taken for congress date selection, there being approximately two years until starting the study date after the NCP in 2016, which was found to be sufficient for conversion of congress reports to publications on grounds of the data of similar studies previously published in the literature (Post et al. 2013, Donegan et al. 2010). Therefore, the last congress evaluated was the 52nd NPC, and the first congress was the 48th NPC, considering that a five-year evaluation would comprise sufficient data.

Statistical Analysis of the Data

All statistical analyses were performed by using the SPSS-22.0 statistical software (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, ABD).

The data were expressed by the mean \pm standard deviation and in percentage values. Congress abstracts were grouped as ‘research’ or ‘case’ and as ‘oral presentation’ or ‘poster’ and the journal indeces were grouped as ‘SCI-SCIE-SSCI-other’ for statistical analysis. As the reports included under the heading of “award nominee reports” had been presented as oral reports, they were categorized as ‘oral presentations’ for statistical evaluation. The distribution of the data was checked by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The Chi-square test was used for comparison of the categorical variables, the Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis tests were used for comparison of the non-normally distributed continuous variables and the p value was taken as 0.005 after Bonferroni correction. Since the relationship between the variables was not normally distributed, the Spearman Correlation Analysis was used. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to evaluate the factors affecting the conversion of the reports to publication. A p-value <0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

RESULTS

A total of 1,372 papers presented at five consecutive congresses organized by the PAT between 2012 and 2016 were evaluated, including 1,104 poster presentations, 81 award-nominated presentations and 187 oral presentations. It was found that

297 (21.6%) of these reports were published as articles, 32 were nominated for awards, 64 were oral presentation and 201 were poster presentations.

Although the minimum number of submitted reports was 185 in 2013, it was found that the highest publication rate of 30.2% was also in the same year as compared to other years. The number of papers submitted by the years and those converted to publications are shown in Table 1. It was determined that 26 reports were published in full text before being presented at the congress. Of the reports turned into publications after being presented at the congress, 74.1% were published in 2 years, 91.8% in 3 years and 96.6% in 4 years. The data on conversion percentages per year are presented in Figure 1.

It was found that the average time taken between presentation at the congress and publication varied in the 1-65 month range with a mean of 19.04 (\pm 12.47) months. In progressing from 2012 to 2016, the average time taken for conversion to publication decreased from 25.5 months to 13.9 months, the change being statistically significant (χ^2 :28.096, p <0.001). The time taken for publication of the reports are presented by years in Figure 2.

The median impact factor of the journals at the time of publication was 1.03 (min: 0.04, max: 11.84). A correlation

Table 1. Publication Rate of Reports Presented at TPD Congresses

Dates of Congresses	Poster Presentations Published*/Presented**	Oral Presentations Published*/Presented**	Award-Nominated Presentations Published*/Presented**	TOTAL Published*/Presented**
2012	47/224	7/26	8/14	62/264 (23.4%)
2013	41/149	9/20	6/16	56/185 (30.2%)
2014	57/304	12/23	5/9	74/336 (22.0%)
2015	34/215	22/54	4/11	60/280 (21.4%)
2016	22/212	14/64	9/31	45/307 (14.6%)
Total	201/1104	64/187	32/81	297/1372 (21.6%)

*The number of reports presented at congresses and turned into publication, **Total number of reports presented at congresses

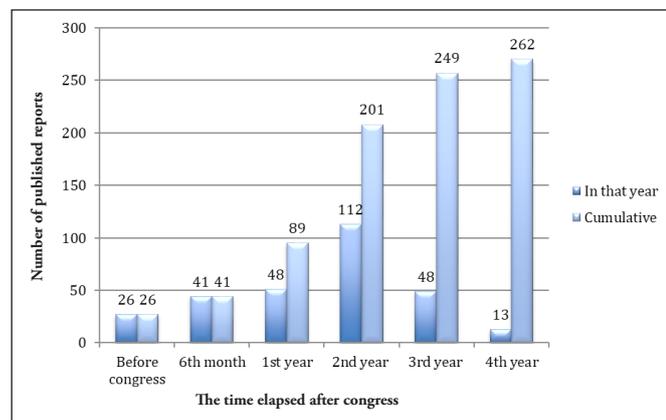


Figure 1. Number of Published Reports by Years



Figure 2. The Publication Period of the Reports Presented in National Psychiatry Congresses by Years. *Kruskal Wallis Test* was used (χ^2 : 28.096, p <0.001)

¹: Z :-4.343, p <0.001 between the years 2012-2015; ²: Z :-4.577, p <0.001 between the years 2012-2016

Table 2. The Impact Factors of the Journal at the Time of Publication (The data was taken from <https://www.bioxbio.com>)

Dates of congresses	Impact factor of the journal Mean (min-max)
2012	1.39 ± 1.49 (0.04-4.96)
2013	1.08 ± 0.92 (0.08-3.90)
2014	1.53 ± 1.38 (0.12-5.23)
2015	1.78 ± 2.07 (0.20-11.84)
2016	1.37 ± 1.32 (0.20-5.47)
Total	1.45 ± 1.49 (0.04-11.84)

min: minimum, max: maximum

was not determined between the publication period and the journal impact factor ($r(181) = -0.103, p=0.181$). The journal impact factor values according to years are presented in Table 2, and the list of the first ten articles, which were translated from the reports presented at the congresses and published in the highest impact journals, is presented in Table 3.

It was found that 218 (27.9%) of the 781 reports in the “research” group and 79 (13.4%) of the 591 reports in the “case” group were published in a peer-reviewed journal and the percentage of conversion of ‘research’ reports to

publication was significantly higher than that of the ‘case’ reports ($\chi^2:42.128, p<0.001$).

When the relationship between the characteristics of the presentations and the percentages of publication were examined, the papers were divided into two groups as “reports presented as posters” and “orally presented reports”. It was found that 96 (35.9%) of the 268 ‘orally presented reports’ and 201 (18.2%) of the 1104 ‘reports presented as posters’ were published in peer-reviewed journals and that the percentage of the oral presentations converted to publications were significantly higher ($\chi^2:64.738, p<0.001$). In binary logistic regression analysis using the presentation type (oral / poster) and the study type (research / case) of presentations at the congress as the variables, it was found that the probability of conversion to publication was 3.8 times higher for being in the oral presentation category than in the poster presentation category, and 3.1 times for being in the research category as compared to being in the case report category (Table 4).

Evaluating the indices of the journals in which the 297 reports were published showed that 14.5% (n=43) were in the SCI, 34% were in the SCIE (n=101), 10.8% were in the SSCI (n=32) and 3.4% (n=10) were in both SCIE and

Table 3. The Ranking of the Research Presented at the National Psychiatry Congresses (Npcs) Held Between 2012 And 2016 and Turned into Publication According to the Impact Factor of the Journal

Article Title	Impact factor of the journal	Dates of congresses
The effect of pre-transplant psychological well-being on hematological reconstitution following autologous stem cell transplantation in multiple myeloma patients. Blood (2015): 126:5619.	11.847	51. NPC – Oral Presentation
Integrated assessment of visual perception abnormalities in psychotic disorders and relationship with clinical characteristics. Psychological medicine 49.10 (2019): 1740-1748.	5.641	52. NPC – Award-Nominated Presentations
DSM outcomes of psychotic experiences and associated risk factors: 6-year follow-up study in a community-based sample. Psychological medicine 49.8 (2019): 1346-1356.	5.641	51. NPC – Award-Nominated Presentations
Abnormal white matter integrity as a structural endophenotype for bipolar disorder. Psychological medicine 46.7 (2016): 1547-1558.	5.230	50. NPC – Oral Presentation
Brain regions associated with risk and resistance for bipolar I disorder: a voxel-based MRI study of patients with bipolar disorder and their healthy siblings. Bipolar disorders, 16.3 (2014): 249-261	4.965	48. NPC – Award-Nominated Presentations
Response inhibition and interference control in patients with bipolar I disorder and first-degree relatives. Bipolar disorders, 17.7 (2015): 781-794.	4.882	48. NPC – Poster Presentation
History of childhood physical trauma is related to cognitive decline in individuals with ultra-high risk for psychosis. Schizophrenia research 169.1-3 (2015): 199-203	4.453	50. NPC – Award-Nominated Presentations
Correlates of clozapine use after a first episode of schizophrenia: Results from a long-term prospective study. CNS drugs 30.10 (2016):997-1006	4.394	51. NPC – Oral Presentation
Persistent negative symptoms after first episode schizophrenia: a 2-year follow up study. Schizophrenia research 158.1-3 (2014): 241-246.	3.923	49. NPC – Poster Presentation
Oxidatively-induced DNA damage and base excision repair in euthymic patients with bipolar disorder. DNA repair 65 (2018): 64-72	3.711	50. NPC – Poster Presentation

Table 4. Evaluation of the Factors Affecting the Conversion of the Papers Presented in the National Psychiatry Congresses to Publication by Binary Logistic Regression Analysis

Variable	B	S.E	Wald	df	Sig	Exp(B)	Confidence Interval %95	
Constant	-0.132	0.150	0.771	1	0.380	0.876	Lower	Higher
Type (Oral/Poster)	1.326	0.158	70.328	1	<0.001*	3.765	2.762	5.133
Type (Research/Case)	1.133	0.154	54.299	1	<0.001*	3.105	2.297	4.196

*p<0.001

Table 5. List of Journals and Their Indexes in Which Three and More of the Oral Presentations and Poster Presentations Presented in TPD UPKs Are Published (Web of Science)

Name of the journal	Number of published reports	Index of the journal
Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry	31	SCIE
Turkish Journal of Psychiatry	21	SSCI
Archives of Neuropsychiatry	20	SCIE
The Journal of Psychiatry and Neurological Sciences	14	Others
Turkish Journal of Clinical Psychiatry	12	Others
Psychiatry Research	10	SCI
Comprehensive Psychiatry	10	SCI
Journal of Mood Disorders	10	Others
Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology	13	SCIE
Journal of Dependence	7	Others
Nordic Journal of Psychiatry	5	SCIE&SSCI
Journal of Affective Disorders	5	SCI
Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology	4	SCI
Cukurova Medical Journal	4	Others
Psychiatria Danubina	3	SCIE&SSCI
International journal of Psychiatry in Clinical Practice	3	SCI
Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment	3	SCIE
Aging Clinical and Experimental research	3	SCIE
Psychological Medicine	3	SCIE
New Symposium	3	Others

*SCI: Science Citation Index, SCIE: Science Citation Index-Expanded, SSCI: Social Science Citation Index

SSCI. 37.3% (n=111) indeces; while 37.3% were placed in the 'other' category with 46% (n=51) of the journals in this category being indexed in ESCI.

The reports converted to publications were found to appear in 118 different journals with the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry (n=31), the Turkish Journal of Psychiatry (n=21) and the Neuropsychiatry Archive (n=20) ranking as the first three journals with the highest number of publications. The

journals in which the articles were published and the indexed directories are shown in Table 5.

DISCUSSION

This study is the first to investigate the percentage of conversion to publication, the time taken for publication, and the possible effects of the study type, report type and also the impact factor and the indexing of the journals publishing the reports in the field of mental health with a broad inclusion of adults, children and adolescents that were submitted to the PAT for National Psychiatry Congresses in 2012-2016.

A similar research, previously conducted on child and adolescent psychiatry within a national context, did not cover the field of adult mental health and evaluated only a limited number of the poster reports (Mutlu et al. 2015).

A comparative evaluation of the data could not be made since a similar study on the international congresses in the field of mental health was not found in the literature. There are significant differences in the percentage of conversion to publication of reports presented in medical congresses on fields outside mental health. In two studies conducted in our country, 13.2% and 75% of the reports presented in congresses in the fields of, respectively dermatology and anatomy were reported to have been converted to publication (Özyurt and Kaptanoğlu 2012, Gürses et al. 2017). In another study, also conducted in our country, evaluating presentations at otorhinolaryngology-head and neck surgery congresses, the percentage of conversion to publication was found to be 21.9% (Erdağ et al. 2014). An international meta-analysis study on 2391 abstracts presented in ophthalmology congresses reported a mean percentage of 51% for conversion to publications (Scherer et al. 1994); following which, a total of 29729 abstracts presented at congresses in the biomedical field were also evaluated by the same team and the Cochrane analysis conducted gave a conversion rate of 44.5% (Scherer et al. 2005). Although within the range of the national studies, the wide variation in the results on percentage conversions of reports to publications in congresses held in other fields in Turkey prevents a comparative evaluation of the result of our study, which are low compared to the internationally reported results.

There are studies in the literature showing the lack of any correlation between the type of presentation and the percentage of conversion to publication. A study evaluating the conversion to publication of 241 presentations in a congress in the field of surgery did not find a difference between oral and poster presentations (Balasubramanian et al. 2006). In the Cochrane analysis of the conversion to publication of congress presentations in the biomedical field, the oral presentation category was reported to an effective factor following the attainment positive results for the reported 44.5% conversion in a mean time of 18.4 months (Scherer et al. 2005). In most of the studies evaluating congresses outside the field of mental health in our country, the percentage of the conversion of oral presentations to publication was found to be significantly higher as compared to poster presentations (Ersoy 2016, Gürses et al. 2017, Gülçek et al. 2018). It is believed in the possibility of there being two reasons for the higher percentage of publication of the oral presentations in our study. Firstly, as also stated in many similar studies, the authors probably prefer to submit the studies of higher scientific quality as oral presentations rather than as poster reports (Erdağ et al. 2014). Secondly, the scientific committees of congresses give priority to original, well-planned studies with high academic value when allocating a limited number of presentations in the category of oral presentations. Hence, it can be said that the selection of oral presentations has been made carefully when evaluating the presentations for the NCP held by the PAT. It is also believed that during the sittings for oral presentations, the discussions on the study enable the researchers to see and complete the shortcomings of the study, thereby facilitating the acceptance for conversion to publication.

In our study, finding a mean period of 19 months between presentation and publication of the reports is similar to that by other studies in the literature (Peng et al. 2006, Erdağ et al. 2014, Gülçek et al. 2018).

Whereas in this study submitting reports in the research or the case report category or as oral or poster presentations were not found to be correlated with the time taken for publication, the observed shortening of the mean time taken for publication in successive years could be attributed to increased motivation on part of the researchers attaching importance to scientific studies. The acceleration in the review and acceptance / rejection processes by the referees of the journals was also thought to be effective in shortening this period.

When classifying the report types, differences are observed according to the area investigated. Just as there are national and international studies on congresses outside the mental health field stating that the type of reports do not have any effect on conversion to publication (Ng et al. 2004, Harris et al. 2007, Mutlu et al. 2015), there are also a few national studies reporting that presentations in the research report category have a higher percentage of conversion to publication

than the case report category (Özyurt and Kaptanoğlu 2012). It has been shown in a study evaluating the 235 abstracts presented at a congress conducted by the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery that laboratory based studies were more likely to be published than clinical studies (Ekşi and Özcan Ekşi 2018). In our study, determining that more research reports were converted to publications than the case reports suggested that the papers presented in the research category are given importance and the researchers are more motivated to publish these more labor-intensive studies in scientific journals.

Unlike in the previously made studies, finding more presentations in the research category as compared to the case reports in the NCP proceedings may be related to the congress support grant provided by the PAT. Whereas the condition of applying for the scholarship provided by the congress organization committee in 2012 and 2013 to young researchers, comprising specialist students or young experts who had not completed two years of practice, was to send an oral or a poster presentation; starting with 2014, this was limited to applications with a research report. This was thought to influence especially the young researchers with an increase in research presentations. However, the yearly analyses showed that, contrary to the expectations, the highest ratio of research reports were found in the 2012, the 48th NCP proceedings. On the basis of this result, it can be considered that stipulating the type of study to be submitted for the scholarship provided to the participants of the congress does not have any effect on the type of reports presented by the researchers.

It was reported in relation to a congress in Turkey held on otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery that 30.4% of the congress reports were published in the SCI and 33.9% were published in the SCIE indexed journals (Erdağ et al. 2014). A similar study on a congress in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry reported that 61.1% of the published poster presentations were reported in the SCI and/or the SCIE indexed journals (Mutlu et al. 2015). In our study, the percentage of the papers that were published in the SCI, SCIE, SSCI indexed journals was similar to those in the national studies.

It was demonstrated that the percentage of congress presentations were increasingly converted to publication, reaching a total of 63% within the first two years, but that this rate of conversion declined thereafter (Donegan et al. 2010). These results were supported by another study on a congress held on orthopedics after evaluation of 770 reports 88.5% of which had been converted to publication in the first three years after presentation (Yalcinkaya and Bagatur 2013). It was shown by meta-analysis that 74% of the reports were published within 2 years and 97% were published within 4 years after presentation at congresses; and that only 3% had been

published before being presented at congress (Scherer et al. 1994). It is noted in the literature that the percentages of the reports that were converted to publication before presentation in congresses were low, suggesting that submitting reports to congresses may be helpful in improving the presentation and facilitate their conversion to publications (Gürses et al. 2017).

There are a number of limitations to our study. Firstly, the congress reports were only searched using the PubMed, Google Scholar, Web of Knowledge databases; and national databases were not separately screened. Therefore, only some of the publications in the national indexes that have not been entered in the specified search engines may have been missed. The second limitation is the possibility of making search errors which may be attributed to human errors during the literature review and also the incorrect spelling of the authors' names in the congress proceedings booklet. In this study three different researchers worked independently on different databases to minimize such errors, and each congress was screened by comparing the data collected by two different researchers. Another limitation is the possibility of having missed some reports that may have remained in the editorial review process during the study period.

The data of our study were compared with those of other studies on national and international congresses held in fields outside that of mental health. In order to evaluate accurately the contribution to the literature of the National Psychiatry Congress organised by the PAT, there is need for data on the conversion to publication of the reports presented at other national and international congresses in the field of mental health.

CONCLUSION

The rate of conversion to publication of the reports presented in the NCPs organised by the PAT is lower than that reported in the international literature. In institutions giving mental healthcare service in Turkey, there is need for allocation of time to be spent on research and formation of units to support the researchers in the process of publishing the research.

Together with these ventures, a more selective approach should be adopted in the evaluation of congress proceedings and the researchers of academically high-value studies' should be encouraged to submit oral presentations so as to increase the percentage of conversion of the presentations to publications.

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