

PUBLICATION POTENTIAL IN PEDIATRICS IN TURKEY^{*,+}

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In this article, the publication potential in pediatrics in Turkey was investigated. In this context, native pediatric journals, publication activities of medical faculties as the main source of scientific publication and certain data obtained from some of the international indexes' sources were analyzed. The Turkish Journal of Pediatrics (Turk J Pediatr) and Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi are two native pediatric journals which have been published without interruption for 36 and 37 years, respectively. Both are indexed in BIOSIS (Bioscience Information Service) and Excerpta Medica. In addition, Turk J Pediatr is indexed in Index Medicus and Current Contents, and is the only Turkish medical journal indexed in Index Medicus at present. Eighty percent of papers submitted to both journals are from medical faculties all over the country (60% of these from Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine), while 15% are from the teaching hospitals of the Ministry of Health and 5% from outside the country. In 1994, Hacettepe University School of Medicine was the leader with 244 (21%) of the 1165 articles published in the health sciences from 22 medical faculties in Turkey. In the same year, 32 percent of all international medical publications by Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine were in the field of pediatrics. In addition, of 353 papers by Turkish authors appearing in Current Contents during the three-month period July-September 1993, 70 (20%) were pediatric articles. All of these findings may indicate that publications in the field of pediatrics have increasing potential and an important impact on the scientific medical publication's platform in our country. *Key words: scientific publication potentials, pediatrics, Turkish Journal of Pediatrics, Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi, Turkey.*

The universities are the main source of the scientific publication potential in a given country. In the case of Turkey, medical faculties will be of great importance in assessing this potential in the field of pediatrics. In this respect, governmental teaching hospitals with a small impact on the publication potential will also be considered worthy of evaluation. During the last ten years, scientific publications in Turkey have steadily increased and reached a peak in 1994^{1,2}. The increment rate in this period was one-fold per year until 1993, but threefold in the last year,

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1981-1993

indicating rapid progress as compared with the uniform, slow rate per year in the previous seven years². This improvement has certainly been affected by the developments in medical faculties that have existed for more than 30 years and by the additional publication activities of newly established medical faculties. It is possible to evaluate the publication potential in pediatrics to a certain degree by noting pediatric papers published in international journals and also by reviewing the native journals in which all or the majority of the articles are in the field of pediatrics. In this article, I will introduce two native pediatric journals entitled, "The Turkish Journal of Pediatrics" and "Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi" for which I acted as a scientific and managing editor during the 12 year period from 1981 through 1993. I will also mention the experience of the managing team of these journals in terms of the publication potential in pediatrics. Finally, the summary of available data obtained from national and international documentation sources about this subject will be given¹⁻³.

As noted in Table I, under the list of "Current Pediatric Journals" there are approximately 10 native pediatric journals registered in Turkey's National Library¹. The native pediatrics periodicals occupying the first two ranks in the list and entitled The Turkish Journal of Pediatrics (Turk J Pediatr) and Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi (ÇSHD) were founded by Professor İhsan Doğramacı and have been published for 36 and 37 years, respectively. These two periodicals have been supported both scientifically and financially by him since their first appearance.

Table I: Current Pediatric Journals in Turkey*

Title	Volume (yrs)	Language	
		English	Turkish
Turkish Journal of Pediatrics	36	Full-text	—
Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi	37	Abstr.	Full-text
İstanbul Çocuk Kliniği Dergisi	29	Abstr.	Full-text
Yeni Tıp Dergisi	11	Abstr.	Full-text
Pediyatrik Cerrahi Dergisi	7	Full-text mixed	
Türkiye Klinikleri Pediyatri	3	Abstr.	Full-text
Jinekoloji Obstetrik Pediyatri	1	Abstr.	Full-text
Journal of Neonatology	1	Full-text	—
Pediyatriye Yönelişler	1	Abstr.	Full-text
Katkı Pediyatri Dergisi (Review in Ped.)	15	—	Full-text
Others			

* Registered periodicals in National Library, 1994.
All have editorial board.

The Turkish Journal of Pediatrics (Turk J Pediatr): Turk J Pediatr is an English-language quarterly journal which has been published since 1958 without interruption^{4,5}. Some specifications of this journal given in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory⁴ are seen in Table IIa. This periodical was published by the Turkish National Pediatric Society and the Turkish and International Children's Center (TICC) between 1981 and 1993. After September 1993, Hacettepe University Institute of Child Health replaced TICC. Turk J Pediatr has been indexed in Index Medicus since 1962 (32 years without interruption). It has also been indexed in Excerpta Medica and has been appearing in Current Contents since 1990⁴. Therefore, this journal with its English abstracts is readily seen in a Medline-DATABASE search. The medical journals indexed in Index Medicus in our country are shown in Table III. As seen here, Turk J Pediatr was the only medical journal listed in Index Medicus as of 1994⁶. As seen in Tables IV and V, Turk J Pediatr received several citations in the periodicals listed in the Science Citation Index (SCI) shortly after it was published in 1958. I should mention right here that these figures represent random and individual sampling. Similarly, Turk J Pediatr has also appeared as a cited reference in some international textbooks (Table VI). In summary, Turk J Pediatr is a continuously cited journal, even though the number of citations is limited. In this context, Figure 1 indicates the rising "impact factor" of The Turkish Journal of Pediatrics during the last four years of my editorship⁷.

Table IIa: Some Specifications of Turk Journal Pediatr Reported in
Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory

Reference: Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory 1994-1995, 33rd ed, Vol: 3,
618.92 TU ISSN 0041-4301

Turkish Journal of Pediatrics

(Text in English)

1958.q. Turkish and International

Children's Center, P.O. Box 66,

Samanpazarı, 06240 Ankara - Turkey.

(Co-sponsor: Turkish National

Pediatric Society).bk. rev.; abstr.;

bibl.; charts; illus.; index: circ. 1500.

Indexed: Biol. Abstr., Curr. Adv. Ecol. Sci.

Dent. Ind., Nutr. Abstr. (CAB), Abstr. Hygiene

Commun. Dis. Tropical Dis. Bull.,

Excerpta Medica,

Index Medicus, Current Contents.

Table III: Turkish Journals Included in Index Medicus*

Names of Journals	Years of Indexed	Duration
Türk Tıp Cemiyeti Bülteni	1960	1 yr
Türk Tıp Encümeni Arşivi	1963	1 yr
Tıp Fakültesi Mecmuası (İst.)	1962-1984	22 yrs
Türk Hijyen Tecrübi Biyoloji Der.	1974	1 yr
Mikrobiyoloji Bülteni	1976-1993	17 yrs
Turkish Journal of Pediatrics**	1962-1995	33 yrs
		Continuing

* Data were renewed in 1995⁴.

** Only Medical Journal present in Index Medicus List in 1995 from Turkey.

Table IV: Some Journals Citing Turkish Journal of Pediatrics
(Random and Individual Sampling) (Part I)

Turk J Pediatr 1958; 1: 173.

Cited in: British Journal of Urology 1960; 32: 269-272.

Turk J Pediatr 1959; 2: 60.

Cited in: Lancet 1961; i: 20-22., Arch Dis Child 1961; 36: 137.

Turk J Pediatr 1966; 8: 206-215.

Cited in: Ann NY Acad 1970; 174: 592, and multiple journals.

Turk J Pediatr 1973; 15: 82.

Cited in: Cancer 1977; 40: 1519.

Turk J Pediatr 1976; 18: 53.

Cited in: Am J Dis Child 1979; 133: 1160.

Turk J Pediatr 1966; 8: 216.

Cited in: Laryngoscope 1980; 90: 635.

Turk J Pediatr 1973; 15: 129.

Cited in: Int J Cancer 1981; 15: 129., Br J Cancer 1984; 49: 503.

Turk J Pediatr 1969; 11: 146.

Cited in: J Neurosurgery 1984; 61: 167.

Turk J Pediatr 1982; 24: 211.

Cited in: The Pediatric Clinics of North America 1987; 34: 626.

Table V: Some Journals Citing Turkish Journal of Pediatrics
(Random and Individual Sampling) (Part II)

Turk J Pediatr 1983; 25: 91.
Cited in: Ultrasound MR 1987; 9: 13.

Turk J Pediatr 1978; 20: 133.
Cited in: J Pediatr 1988; 133: 30.

Turk J Pediatr 1981; 23: 269.
Cited in: Arch Neurology 1989; 46: 510.

Turk J Pediatr 1981; 23: 37.
Cited in: N Engl J Med 1990; 323: 315.

Turk J Pediatr 1986; 28: 165.
Cited in: Am J Trop Pediatr 1991; 37: 240.

Turk J Pediatr 1987; 29: 187.
Cited in: Int J Cardiology 1992; 37: 329.

Turk J Pediatr 1981; 23: 269.
Cited in: J Neurosurgery 1992; 76: 696.

Turk J Pediatr 1987; 29: 171.
Cited in: Acta Paediatr 1993; 82: 327.

Turk J Pediatr 1986; 28: 219.
Cited in: Ped Hematol Oncol 1994; 11: 223.

Table VI: Some of the International Textbooks Citing Turkish Journal of Pediatrics
(Random Sampling)

Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation
Smith DW (ed). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co; 1976.

Otolaryngology
Paparella and Shumrick (eds). W.B. Saunders Co; 1980.

Current Pediatric Diagnosis and Treatment
Hathaway WE, Groothuis JR, Hay WW, Paisley JW (eds). New Jersey:
Appleton and Lange; 1991.

Effective Care of The Newborn Infant
Sinclair JC and Bracken MB (eds). Oxford University Press; 1992.

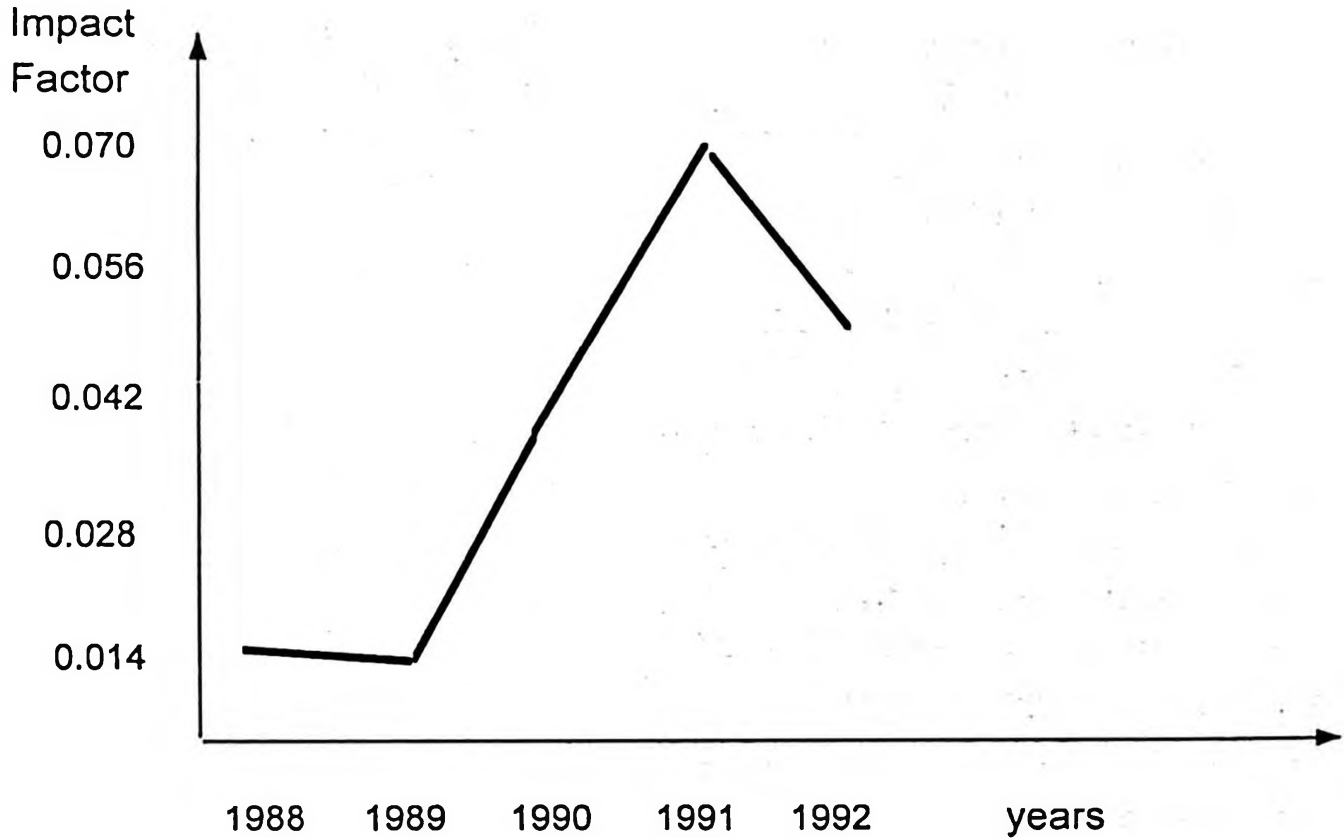


Fig. 1: The impact factor of Turkish Journal of Pediatrics between 1988-1992.

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi (ÇSHD): Çocuk Sağlığı ve hastalıkları Dergisi ranks second in our current pediatric journals' list. Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi* (text in Turkish with English abstracts) is a quarterly journal and has been published since 1957 without interruption⁴ (Table IIb). It was published by the Turkish National Pediatric Society and the Turkish and International Children's Center (TICC) between 1981 and 1993. After September 1993, Hacettepe University Institute of Child Health replaced TICC. In addition to BIOSIS (Bioscience Information Service), it has been covered in Excerpta Medica since 1992. Because it contains English abstracts, it is cited, though rarely, in the journals listed in SCI and in international conferences' proceedings, as seen in Table VII.

Back to Table I: Excluding Katkı Pediatri Dergisi** which fully consists of reviews in pediatrics, the majority of the journals published in our country are recent publications, and they have not yet been included in any of the international indexes. Although they have editorial boards, they need to improve by publishing peer-reviewed articles with representative abstracts in English⁸. When I reviewed some of their articles I noticed that they include certain phrases such as "discussed in the view of literature" which is not an accepted way of writing in scientific publications.

* Turkish title is translated as "Bulletin of Child Health and Diseases"

** Bimonthly Turkish-language journal, a joint publication of Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and Hacettepe University Institute of Child Health.

Table IIb: Some Specifications of Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi Reported in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory

Reference: Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory 1994-1995, 33rd ed, Vol: 3, 618.92 TU ISSN 0010-0161 Coden: CHSDAO

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi
(Text in Turkish; summaries in English)
1958.q. Turkish and International
Children's Center-Türkiye ve Uluslararası Çocuk
Sağlığı Merkezi, P.O. Box 66,
Samanpazarı, 06240 Ankara - Turkey.
(Co-sponsor: Turkish National
Pediatric Society).bk. rev.; abstr.;
bibl.; charts; illus.; index: circ. 1500.
Indexed: Biological Abstracts,
Excerpta Medica (1992-).

Table VII: Some of the Journals, International Registry Books and International Conferences' Proceedings Citing Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi* (Random Sampling)

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi 1979; 22: 52.

Cited in: Acta Haematol 1984; 71: 69.

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi 1982; 25: 365.

Cited in: Hemoglobin 1985; 9: 209.

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi 1972; 14: 155.

Cited in: Human and Experimental Toxicology 1990; 9: 273.

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi 1990; 33: 3-13.

Cited in: Register of Tetrahydrobiopterin Deficiencies. Dhont JL (Ed), 1991, p. 69.

Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi Special issue 1991; 34: 247-379.

Title: Anne sütü (Breast feeding) Copied and distributed for Proceedings of UNICEF/WHO/IPA International Conference 1992, Ankara.

* Quarterly Journal of Child Health and Diseases: Full-text in Turkish with English abstracts.

In order to establish an opinion about the scientific pediatric publication potential in our country, I will give three informative examples. In the first example, the contents of Turk J Pediatr and ÇSHD are evaluated. The sort and number of the articles submitted to Turk J Pediatr and ÇSHD in the period 1988-1993 are summarized in Tables VIII and IX (Figs. 2-4). In this five-year period, of 588 articles

submitted to both journals, 80 percent were accepted for publication, yielding an average of 95 articles published per year⁹. As shown in Table VIII, 60 percent of the articles were from Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, 20 percent from other native medical faculties, 15 percent from teaching hospitals of the Ministry of Health, and five percent from foreign authors. As seen from these figures, the majority of the articles were submitted by Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine. In this context, as an editorial board member I will describe the process of obtaining articles having scientific publication norms for both journals: The first step is evaluation of the submitted articles by at least two board advisors as well as one of the managing board members, who identify all of the necessary corrections in detail regarding the writing style and the scientific content of the articles, and then demanding the authors to make corrections in accordance with their critiques and topic-related references. The majority of the articles needed this type of process, and some of the articles were almost rewritten. This approach is, in fact, our policy of scientific writing education. By this effort, we believe that we promote the scientific publication potential especially in newly established faculties and governmental teaching hospitals. On the other hand, we must solve the new problem that developed in terms of the accumulation of accepted papers waiting for publication. Therefore, we planned to publish more scientific articles per year. In order to achieve this goal, the organization of appropriate secretarial functions, documentation and circulation team work had to be provided. Naturally, adequate financial support is necessary to accomplish this aim; thus, we were provided with more financial support. With the devoted efforts of each member of the managing board, the number of articles published per issue was increased by the year 1990 and the increment rate reached 50 percent per volume by the year 1995.

Table VIII: Types of Submitted/Accepted Papers to Turkish Journal of Pediatrics 1988-1993

Paper	Originals	Case Reports	Others**	Total
Submitted* (n)	187	113	15	315
Published (n)	131	105	12	248
Publication percentage	...70%	 93%.....	...80%	80%
Unpublished:	56	8	3	67
Rejected/Loss of communication	14/42	4/4	3/0	21/46

* Editorial board records. ** Invited topics and seminars.

1. Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine 60%
2. Medical Faculties all over the country 20%
3. Governmental teaching hospitals 15%
4. Outside contributions 5%

Table IX: Types of Submitted/Accepted Papers to Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi 1988-1993

Paper	Originals	Case Reports	Others**	Total
Submitted* (n)	166	75	32	273
Published (n)	126	73	29	228
Publication percentage	...76%	 97%.....	...90%	84%
Unpublished:	40	2	3	45%
Rejected/Loss of communication	10/30	1/1	3/0	14/31

* Editorial board records. ** Invited topics and seminars.

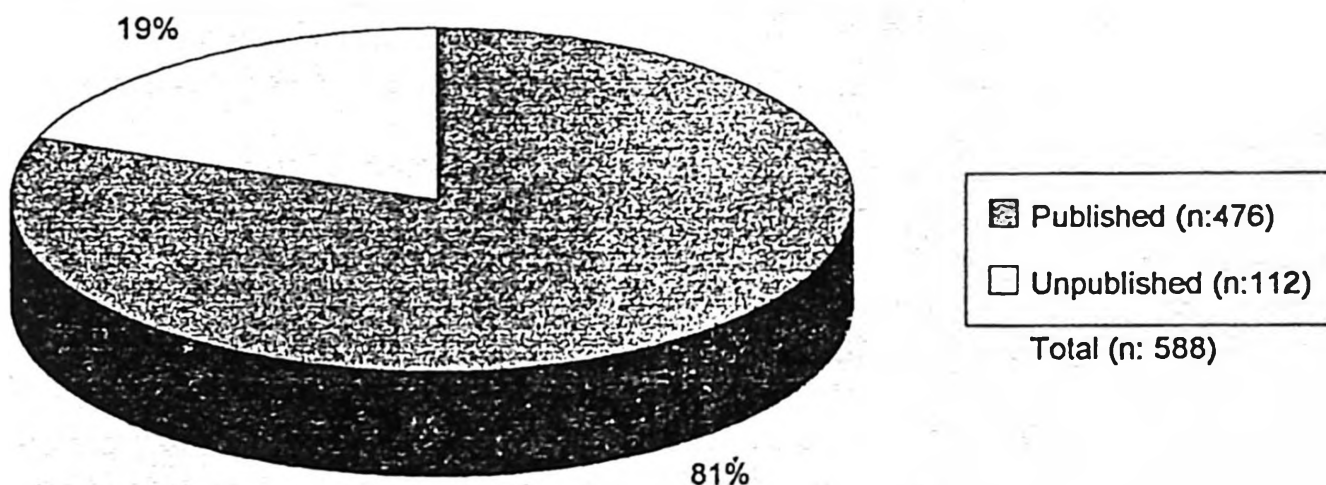


Fig. 2: Publication ratio of papers submitted to Türk J Pediatr and Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi.

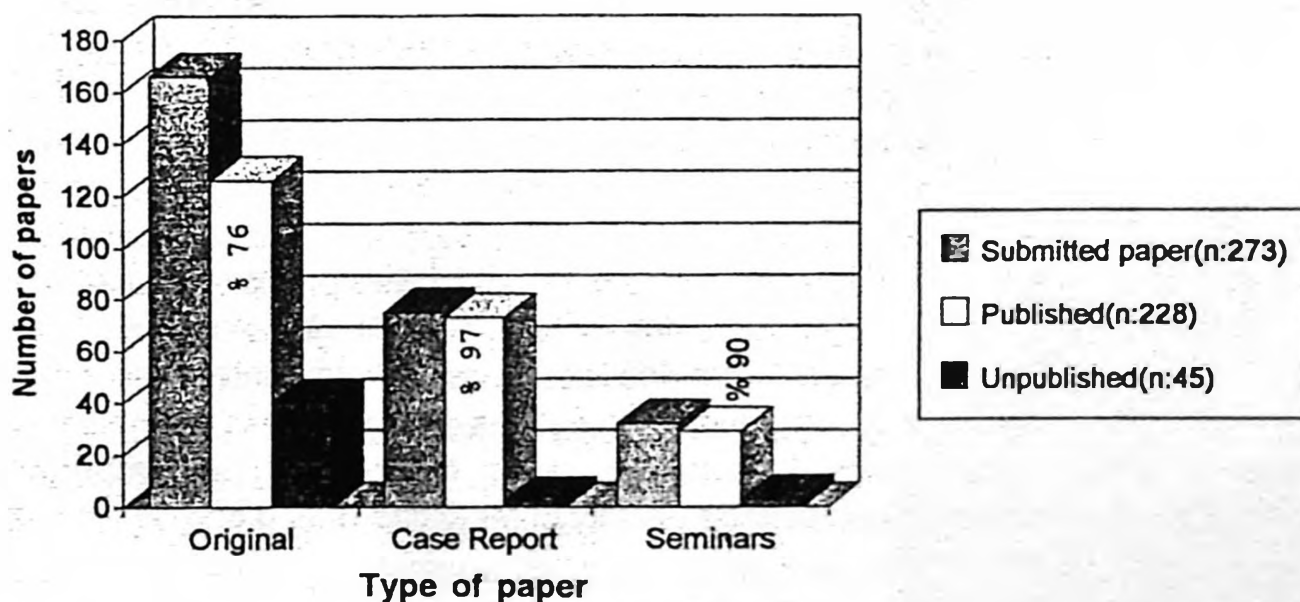


Fig. 3: Type and publication ratio of papers submitted to Çocuk Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları Dergisi.

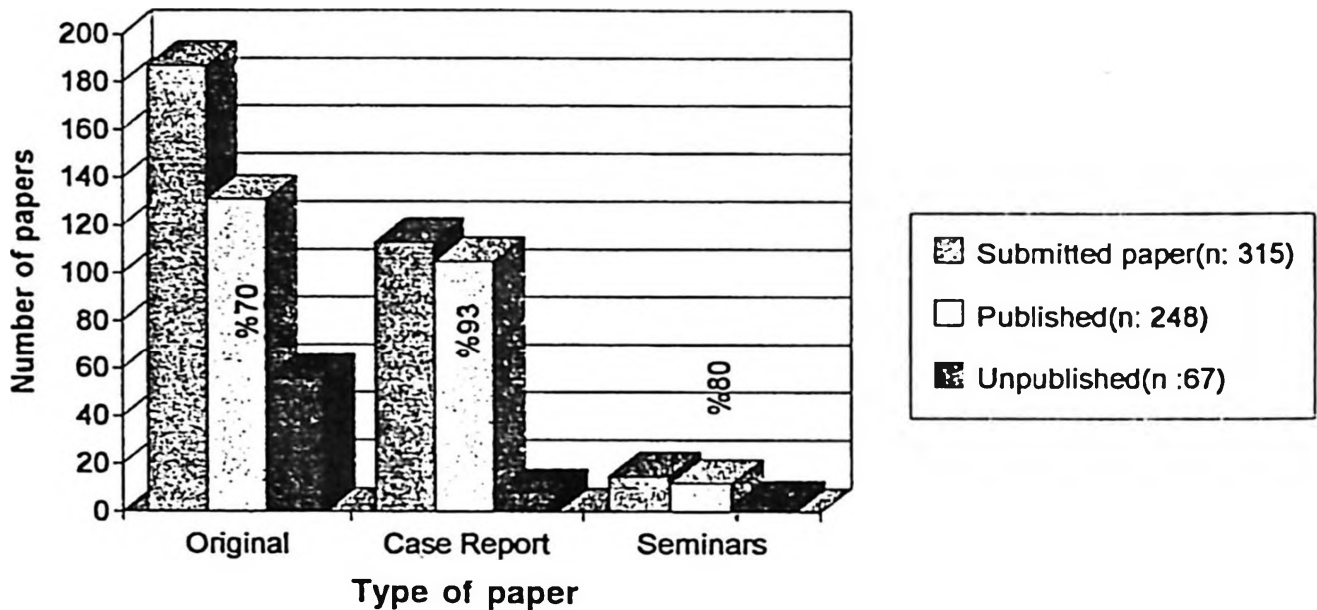


Fig. 4: Type and publication ratio of papers submitted to Turk J Pediatr (1988-1993).

In the second example, the archive documents of national and international scientific publications by Hacettepe School of Medicine were evaluated (Table Xa and Xb)¹⁰. By the way, I wish to refer to data reported in the article, "Üniversite'de bilimsel performans değerlendirilmesi"^{*1}. According to this data, Hacettepe University with 1,100 articles is the leader among 24 universities in terms of the number of publications in the Health Sciences in the period 1980-1992. (It is also in first place with a ratio of 2.24 papers per academic staff member). Beginning with this sampling, the distribution of scientific publications in all medical specialties of Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine in academic year 1993-1994 was examined. It was found that 935 articles were published in this one-year period, 26 percent of which were studies in the field of pediatrics. When the number of publications during the 12-year period 1980-1992 are considered, these figures clearly show a burst in scientific publications from Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine. However, as novel data, in calendar year 1994, 335 papers were published from Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine in the journals covered by international indexes (Table Xb). Of these, 118 (35%) were in the field of pediatrics. These data provide us with further evidence of the increased publication potential in the field of medicine. In recent years, the increment in the number of teaching staff members and improvement in the facilities in academic centers seems to have strengthened this burst in medical publications. This progress will naturally show its effects in pediatrics. In summary, when comparing the number of international publications by Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine during one academic

* English version: "Evaluation of scientific performance of the universities".

year (1993-1994) and one calendar year (1994) with the number of articles by each medical discipline, pediatrics accounts for the largest portion of all medical publications with one-to-four and one-to-three ratios, respectively.

Table Xa: Scientific Publications of Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine in Periodicals (199-1994)*

Specialty Fields	Publications in English**	Publications in Turkish	Total
Pediatrics	134 32%	111 23%	245 26%
Others	309 68%	381 77%	690 74%
Total	443	492	935

* Documents of Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, October 1994¹⁰.

** Publications in periodicals covered in international indexes.

Table Xb: The Number of International Publications Published from Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine in Calendar Year 1994

Specialty	No. of Publications	Percent
Pediatrics	118	35%
Others	227	65%
Total	335	100%

Table XI: Medical Publications of Turkish Authors Appearing in Current Contents in July, August, September 1993¹²

Specialty Field	Number of Article	Percentage
Pediatrics	70	20%
All medical disciplines excluding Pediatrics	283	80%
Total	353	100%

In the third example of the evaluation of the publication potential in pediatrics, medical publications of Turkish authors appearing in Current Contents were analyzed during the period July-September 1993¹¹. Of 353 articles, 70 (20%) were related to pediatrics, indicating that pediatrics also has a great publication potential in our country among all medical disciplines, resembling the Hacettepe sample. In conclusion, though publications concerning pediatrics seem to be dominating among the articles of all medical disciplines in our country according to our limited data, nationwide extensive studies are needed to obtain more reliable results. However, it is reasonable to accept that studies in the field of pediatrics have been showing an increasing dynamic effect on the medical publication potential in our country.

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