

Publishing Outcomes of Abstracts Presented at the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology Congress in 2018: A Web-Based Analysis

ABSTRACT

Background: Clinicians and researchers share their projects in congresses, which are collaborative meetings that enhance the dissemination of information among scientists. Furthermore, critical evaluations of their colleagues help the progress of their research. However, the main focus of any research is publication. In this study, we assess the effect of the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology 2018 meeting on the publication rate of abstracts submitted. The aim of this study was to determine whether attending the ESPO 2018 congress had an impact on the publication rate of oral and poster presentations.

Methods: All abstracts submitted to the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology 2018 Congress catalog were searched in Google Scholar via corresponding title and author to identify the ones that were published. The date of publication, name, and impact factor of the journals of published articles was recorded.

Results: A total of 785 abstracts (217 oral, 568 posters) were accepted. Of all abstracts, 21.3% (n=167) were published. Out of all publications, 32% (n=53) were oral presentations and 68% (n=114) were poster presentations. There were 62 different journals with an average weighted 3-year impact factor of 2.06 (± 1.09 standard deviation). The 3 most common journals were *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol* (n=49, impact factor: 1.64), *Laryngoscope* (n=12, impact factor: 2.81), and *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol* (n=10, impact factor: 2.16).

Conclusion: Our publication rate of 21.27% is low when compared to oral-only meetings but is similar to others having both oral and poster presentations. We found out that poster presentations reduced the overall publication rate and were published in journals having lower impact factors when compared to oral presentations.

Keywords: Pediatric otorhinolaryngology, congresses, ESPO, publishing rate, journals

INTRODUCTION

Scientific meetings contribute to the dissemination of information by letting researchers interact and allowing them to present their ongoing research to each other. Yet, it is unknown if these congresses affect the publication rate of presented abstracts. Exposure of ongoing research to fellow clinicians may contribute to the development of literature and promote further research while introducing new approaches to other researchers, and thus, it is crucial for progress in health sciences. These interactions among scientists may help their abstracts to mature into full-length publications, further increasing the spread of information among clinicians and researchers. The aim of most of the research is to get published; therefore, naturally, the researcher expects congress to lead its research into publication.

The abstracts presented in congresses have the potential to affect other researchers, and thus, their quality should be a topic of concern when evaluating these meetings. Publication of an article indicates that the research presented enough to pass the barriers of peer-review examinations; therefore, the publication rate of abstracts presented in a congress can demonstrate the overall quality of the research among the success and efficiency of the congress. This is a retrospective research of the publication rate of abstracts presented at the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (ESPO) in the form



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of oral presentations and posters. Previous studies in the field of otorhinolaryngology showed a publication rate ranging from 19 to 50.¹⁻³ Standardized methods were used to search a total of 785 abstracts, 4 years after ESPO 2018. The impact factor (IF) of the journals that the articles are published in is used as a measure of the quality of publications.⁴ We hope that this study will help increase the quality and efficiency of scientific meetings or lead to the development of new strategies for a better spread of information among scientists.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All abstracts submitted to ESPO 2018 (Stockholm, 2-5 June 2018) were obtained from an official database.⁵ To detect whether the abstract was published after the date of the congress, the title of the abstract was searched in Google Scholar. If no results were found, the name of the authors was searched. Some abstracts had modifications in the title and so the content of their introductions was compared with the submitted abstracts. Also, all other publications were double-checked to see whether the contents matched. Furthermore, publications that were published before the congress were recorded. Data collection started on May 10, 2022, and ended on June 15, 2022. The journals of publications, their impact factors, the time of publication, the time to publication, and type of abstract (oral/poster) which was published were listed. Also, the subspecialties of published abstracts were recorded and 3-year journal impact factors were recorded. Additionally, 1 database was used to assess impact factors.⁶

The calculations of percentages, means, and standard deviations (SD) were made using Microsoft Excel.

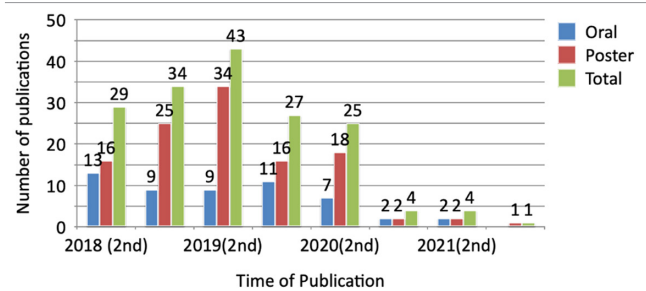
RESULTS

There were a total of 785 abstracts presented at ESPO 2018. Out of all submitted abstracts, 27.6% (n=217) were oral presentations, and 72.4% (n=568) were poster presentations. Around 167 of them were published in June 2022, making up 21.27% of all. A total of 24.42% (n=53) of the oral presentations and

MAIN POINTS

- The majority of the abstracts that are presented in congresses that involved a high number of abstracts are not turned into publications.
- Oral presentations have a greater chance of getting published when compared to poster presentations and also average impact factors of journals that orally presented abstracts are published in are higher relative to abstracts presented as posters. Therefore, we can see that the abstracts that are selected as oral presentations were selected among other abstracts as the more qualified and promising ones.
- Poster presentations can be assembled much easier than oral presentations therefore it can be thought that they relatively increase the dissemination of information between physicians. However, we show in our research that poster-presented studies are not improving enough to be published as much as oral presentations.

Figure 1. Time of Publication of Abstracts Submitted to ESPO 2018 Congress and the Relative Percentages



20.07% (n=114) of poster presentations were published. The mean time for publication was found to be 18.6 months (± 9.28 SD) and year-specific publication rates can be seen in Figure 1. Of the 785 presented, 57 (7.26%) of them were published before congress. The highest number of publications, being 43, was in the second half of 2019. The subspecialty with the greatest percentage of published abstracts was general (27.8%), followed by cochlear implant (25.3%), and airway (20.9%) as can be seen in Table 1. The average 3-year IF of journals was 2.06 (± 1.09 SD) and overall ranged from 0.02 to 10.49, with Journal of Clinical Investigation (JCI) insight having the highest IF (10.49). The mean IF of published oral papers was 2.32 (± 1.5 SD), while it was 1.94 (± 0.81 SD) for poster presentations. The majority of the presented abstracts were published in *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol* (29.3% of papers published), followed by *Laryngoscope* (7.2%) and *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol* (6%), and the rest of them are listed in Table 2.

DISCUSSION

The publication rate of abstracts presented at ESPO 2018 turned out to be 21.27%, which is comparable to other ENT meetings with a high number of poster presentations.^{1,7} However, compared to oral-only meetings, with a publication rate of around 60%, this publishing rate is significantly lower.^{2,8} On the other hand, 72% of submitted abstracts were published before the congress, which was omitted from the data, a factor lowering the publication rate. This value is particularly high, and Asimakopoulus et al² also found a value of 5.5% in their research, considered it as high when compared to the British Academic Conference (1%) and Otorhinolaryngological Research Society (4%).² The mean time to publication was 18.6 months, similar to other papers published.^{2,9,10} Also, other research indicates that more than 90% of papers are published within 3 years following the meeting.^{3,8} Thus, papers published after this research would not heavily impact our results. At ESPO 2018, 72.4% of abstracts were posters and 27.6% of them were oral presentations, with publication rates of 20.07% for posters and 24.4% for oral presentations. Oral presentations have a higher rate of publication after meetings, and the higher rate of posters has reduced the rate of publication, also seen in other meetings with high poster presentations.^{1,9} The IF of a journal is correlated with its credibility. The quality of poster and oral presentations can be deduced from the average impact scores of journals published.⁹ The average journal IF was 2.32 for oral presentations and 1.94 for posters, which shows that oral presentations were superior in content and quality when compared to poster presentations. Also, our average journal IF

Table 1. Subtype of Abstracts Submitted to ESPO 2018 and Their Relative Number and Rates of Publications

Subspecialty	Number of Abstracts, %	Number of Publication	Publication Rate, %	Percentage of All Publications
General	144 (18.3)	40	27.80	23.90
Airway	206 (26.2)	43	20.90	25.70
Otology	191 (24.3)	36	18.90	21.60
Cochlear implant	75 (9.5)	19	25.30	11.40
Head and neck	97 (12.3)	17	17.50	10.20
Rhinology	72 (9.1)	12	16.70	7.20

ESPO, European Society of Pediatric Otorhinology.

is 2.06, and this value is strongly influenced by the most popular journal, *Int J Pediatr Otorhinology*, which contains 29.3% of all papers published.

The submission of abstracts in the form of posters is becoming more widely accepted as they cost a lot less and can be assembled much easier when compared to oral presentations, which require more mature research.¹ This enables a greater number of abstracts to be submitted as a poster and thus increases the dissemination of information. However, this increase in the number

of submitted abstracts may also create concern about the quality of abstracts presented at a congress. An increased number of poster abstracts with a lower quality compared to oral presentations may result in a reduced publication rate if a congress accepts a large proportion of its abstracts in the form of posters.

Abstracts submitted to ESPO 2018 meeting were divided into 6 categories. Subspecialties had comparable publication rates; however, abstracts about general otorhinology and cochlear implant subtypes stand out from the rest as they have 5%-7% higher publication rates. This difference may indicate an increasing interest among otorhinologists in these subdivisions.

Table 2. Journals That the Abstracts Presented at ESPO 2018 Meeting Are Published in and Their 3-Year Impact Factors

Journal	Number of Publication	3-Year Impact Factor	Total, %
<i>International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinology</i>	49	1.64	29.30
<i>Laryngoscope</i>	12	2.81	7.20
<i>European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology</i>	10	2.16	6.00
<i>Otology & Neurotology</i>	8	2.06	4.80
<i>Clinical Otolaryngology</i>	7	1.55	4.20
<i>Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery</i>	4	2.62	2.40
<i>European Annals of Otorhinology, Head, and Neck Diseases</i>	4	1.76	2.40
<i>Cochlear Implants International</i>	3	1.71	1.80
<i>Annals of Otology, Rhinology, and Laryngology</i>	3	1.6	1.80
<i>Journal of Laryngology & Otology</i>	3	1.17	1.80
<i>Journal of Craniofacial Surgery</i>	3	0.88	1.80
<i>Trends in Hearing</i>	2	3.38	1.20
<i>Journal of Voice</i>	2	2.58	1.20
<i>JAMA Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery</i>	2	2.4	1.20
<i>ACTA Otorhinologica Italica</i>	2	2.39	1.20
Others	53	2.34	31.70

ESPO, European Society of Pediatric Otorhinology.

Journals that the abstracts are published in are prestigious journals known widely among ENT society; for example, *Ear and Hearing*, which is ranked first and *Laryngoscope* ranked sixth.¹¹ Presumably, the majority of the publications are seen in pediatric journals because ESPO meetings focus on pediatric otorhinology.

The European Society of Pediatric Otorhinology 2018 had a high number of abstracts submitted (n=785). The high number of abstracts may have influenced the publication rate, with the majority being posters. On the other hand, we believe that this also enhanced the collaborative environment and the diversity of the meeting.

The omission of the number of publications of submitted abstracts published before congress lowers the overall publication rate. However, as the purpose of this study was to see if attending the ESPO 2018 congress affected the rate of publishing of oral and poster presentations, we only considered the publications after the congress.

This study had several limitations. We used 1 database, Google Scholar, which has high overall coverage and recall. However, the search was limited to Google Scholar's databases and we were able to miss some of the abstracts that might be published. Moreover, some abstracts were modified, and we may have missed the ones that have undergone extensive modifications in the title, introduction, author, or keywords.

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