Bibliometric Analysis of the Dental Science Articles Published in *The Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences* (*IJMS*) from 2002 to 2015 over a 14-Year Period

Dear Editor,

There have been a rising trend in publishing dental science articles in medical journals.[1] Bibliometric and scientometric information regarding the trends in dental science articles in medical journals from India is evident in the literature.[1] More recently, the publication trends of oral pathology articles published in a pathology journal from Iran were reported.[2] This study aimed to audit the dental science articles published in 62 issues of *The Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences* (*IJMS*) from 2002 to 2015 over a 14-year period.

The articles published were analyzed for type of article (editorials, review articles, original articles, case reports, brief reports, commentaries, book reviews, photo clinics, and letters to the editor) and topic of individual dental specialties. The supplementary issue on conference proceedings (*IJMS* Vol. 40:3 Supplement May 2015) was excluded from the study. The contents of the published articles were grouped into 10 individual dental specialty articles namely oral pathology and microbiology, oral medicine and radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pedodontics, periodontics, conservative dentistry and endodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, community dentistry, and implantology. The topics pertaining to dental sciences were selected by scrutinizing the contents of the published articles without considering the specialty of the author (medical and dental). The articles which were interdisciplinary or multispecialty in approach were counted under all the dental sciences to which they belonged. The articles published were not only checked for authorship trends but also evaluated to identify whether or not the studies were a funded research project.

This study reported that case reports (n=17) took a major share of the published articles on dental sciences published in the *IJMS*, followed by original articles (n=14), review articles (n=9), brief reports (n=5), and letters to the editor (n=2). A study on the trends of dental specialty articles published in a medical journal from India found that original articles (n=55) and case reports (n=49) constituted the most frequent dental science articles.[1] Additionally, the majority of the published articles were related to oral medicine and radiology (n=35), followed by oral pathology and microbiology (n=31), oral and maxillofacial surgery (n=24), community dentistry (n=6), periodontics (n=5), pedodontics (n=4), conservative dentistry and endodontics (n=2), and orthodontics (n=1). Dental specialties such as prosthodontics and implantology were untouched over 14 years of publication. In *Medical Journal Armed Forces India*, the majority of the published articles on dental specialties were related to oral medicine and radiology (n=56), followed by oral and maxillofacial surgery (n=49), orthodontics (n=23), and prosthodontics (n=17).[1] Among the articles published in the *IJMS*, craniofacial deformities (n=4) followed by oral cancer (n=4) and oral manifestations of syndromes (n=4) accounted for the major interest of the contributors. Among the articles published in *Medical Journal Armed Forces India*, maxillofacial injuries (n=11) followed by orthodontic treatment (n=8) and craniofacial deformities (n=8) represented the principal interest of the contributors.[1]

The highest number of dental science articles (n=7) was published in 2010, followed by 2014 (n=6) and 2015 (n=6), while the lowest number of such articles (n=1) was published in 2004. Among 47 articles on dental sciences, there were 6 research project articles funded by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and 1 research project article funded by Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. The largest numbers of the published articles on dental sciences were received from Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz (n=17), followed by Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad (n=12), and Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran (n=3). Country wise, the majority of the articles on dental sciences were received from Iran (n=42), followed by India (n=3), Pakistan (n=1), and Australia (n=1). Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, ranked second in publishing oral pathology articles in a pathology journal from Iran.[2]

The main limitation of this study is that the topic related to individual dental science is made by the author himself after scrutinizing the contents of the published articles. Another weakness of note is that the data pertaining to dentistry articles in the *IJMS* may not reflect the overall dentistry-related research

output from Iran. To conclude, the dental science articles published in the *IJMS* are fewer than those published in a medical journal from India. This can be attributed to the fact that Shiraz University of Medical Sciences is at the same time the publisher of 2 other dedicated dental journals, which may attract dentistry articles.

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Thorakkal Shamim, BDS, MDS

Department of Dentistry, Government Taluk Head Quarters Hospital, Malappuram, 676519, India

Correspondence:
Thorakkal Shamim, BDS, MDS;
Department of Dentistry, Government Taluk Head Quarters Hospital, Shangrila, Parappanangadi, 676303, India
Tel: +919895447351
Email: shamu3duad@gmail.com

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