



BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)*

Original Articles

- *Staphylococcus aureus* and Panton-Valentine Leukocidin
Osman Sezer Cirit et al.; Samsun, Amasya, Turkey
- The Correlation of the Grip Strength and Interosseous Muscles/Intermetacarpal Fat Pad of the Hand
Selma Uysal Ramadan et al.; Ankara, Turkey
- Single Incision Laparoscopic Splenectomy
Umut Barbaros et al.; İstanbul, Antalya, Turkey
- The Impact of PET on Colorectal Cancer
Zafer Kılbaş et al.; Ankara, Turkey
- Breast Conserving Surgery and Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy in Locally Advanced Breast Cancer
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- Vasoactive Effects of Levobupivacaine and Ropivacaine
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- Total Knee Arthroplasty and Inflammatory Markers
Ahmet Ata Alturfan et al.; İstanbul, Turkey
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- Preemptive Analgesic Effect of Ketamine
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- Estimation of the Eyeball and Orbital Volume
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- Ligasure® Assited Hemorrhoidectomy
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- Analysis of Hip, Knee and Ankle Joints
Bülent Sabri Cıgali et al.; Edirne, Turkey



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Balkan Medical Journal is an international journal publishing clinical and experimental studies, interesting case reports, invited reviews, letters to the Editor, meeting abstracts, news and bulletin, clinical news and abstracts of interesting researches conducted in all fields of medicine. The language of the journal is English. The journal is based upon independent and unbiased double-blinded peer-review principles.

The journal is the scientific publication of Trakya University Faculty of Medicine and published four times per year; in March, June, September and December. The journal is financed by Trakya University Faculty of Medicine.

The aim of the journal is to publish original articles with highest clinical and scientific quality at the international level. Moreover, reviews covering main innovations in medical education, Editorials, case reports and original images are also accepted for publication.

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EDITORIAL

The impact factor of Balkan Medical Journal (formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi) is rising "Step by step, little by little"

The impact factors of the biomedical journals for the year 2010 have been announced recently by Thomson Reuters (1). For the year 2009, our journal ranked with an Impact Factor of 0.082 (2). Thankfully, it is risen to 0.093 for the year 2010 (1). No doubt, every editor wants his journal to have a high Impact Factor which is the most widely used bibliometric evaluation index. Although a hot debate on the validity of impact factor has been continuing (3,4), our academic promotion system is also partly based on impact factors. The impact factor is calculated as the total number of citations in a year divided by the number of published articles during the preceding two-year period. Thus, the impact factor in 2010 can be calculated as C/A, where C is the number of citations in 2010 to the articles (A) published in 2008 and 2009. Research articles, case reports, technical notes and reviews are among the citable items of a journal, whereas commentaries, editorials, letters to the editor are non-citable. Our journal showed 13% increase from 2009 to 2010, a positive yet small improvement that made us happy. As *The Alan Parsons Project*, a progressive rock band, in their song dated back in 1982 says "...I got to do something about it, step by step little by little". We have to do something more about it and certainly by larger steps. By the year 2011, journal's official language is English and we hope this will increase citations from other countries. For the records, our published papers are not behind the subscription barrier and are freely available online at journal's website www.balkanmedicaljournal.org, which enables authors to reach and read fulltexts in pdf form. Besides, we think the best way for improving citations is to improve the quality of published items. Despite several drawbacks, editorial peer review system is one of the important tools for evaluation and selection of high quality science. Nowadays, we are scrutinizing our peer-review system and planning some amendments, needless to say, by maintaining the balance between speed and quality.

The number of Turkey addressed journals risen from 31 in 2009 to 49 in 2010. Some of these journals with increasing impact factors are shown in Table 1. *Balkan Med J* is one of the two journals from Turkey in the field of general medicine, together with *Türk J Med Sci* listed in the Journal Citation Reports®. Among these, Balkan Medical Journal in the near future will take the advantage of its international vision and get better impact. I would like to once again thank to all contributors for their unstinted support which is essential for continued success of this journal.

Table 1. Some of the Turkish biomedical journals with rising impact factors listed in the Journal Citation Reports® by Thomson Reuters

Abbreviated Journal Title	Impact Factor Values		
	2009	2010	% change
TURKISH J PEDIATR	0.333	0.481	(44%)
EXP CLIN TRANSPLANT	0.595	0.832	(39%)
TURK J GASTROENTEROL	0.484	0.642	(32%)
TURK J MED SCI	0.163	0.210	(28%)
MIKROBIYOL BUL	0.286	0.338	(18%)
BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL (TRAK UNIV TIP FAK DE)	0.082	0.093	(13%)
ANADOLU KARDIYOL DER	0.378	0.407	(7%)

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Kind Regards,

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