

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

2000-2004 Impact factor and immediacy index of Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences

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Received: August 23, 2005

Dear Editor,

The "impact factor" defined by Garfield and Sher is an important criterion in the journal evaluation of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) for coverage in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-e) (1). In this study it was aimed to determine the 2000-2004 impact factor and immediacy index of the Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences (TJMS) and to analyse the citation data of articles published between 1998-2004.

Citations to all articles printed between 1998-2004 were determined by searching SCI-e using the first author's names on March 11th 2005. Impact factor and immediacy index of the articles were calculated as described by Garfield (1). It was seen that articles published between 1998-2004 received a total of 75 citations. Of these citations were, 16% made by another foreign author while 20.5% were made by other Turkish authors. Other citations were self citations. The impact factor and immediacy index of TJMS between 2000-2004 is shown in Table 1. During the database search it was seen that the name of the journal was coded in 6 different types (TURK J MED SCI, T J MED SCI, TURKISH J MED SCI, TR J MED SCI, TURKEY J MED SCI, J MED SCI). When the database was searched with these keywords, it was seen that articles in the journal received a total of 318 citations between 1994 and March 2005.

Currently there are four Turkish journals covered in the SCI-e: Turkish Journal of Pediatrics, Turkish Journal of Chemistry, Turkish Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences. The 2001

impact factor of Turkish Journal of Pediatrics, Turkish Journal of Chemistry and Turkish Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences are 0.122, 0.196 and 0.043, respectively (2). These impact factor values may be considered low, but none of the 46 Indian journals covered in SCI-e had an impact factor greater than 0.6 in 1999 (3). Low impact factor values of journals of developing countries is speculated to be due to the tendency of American authors, who own more than 30% of global scientific article production, to cite American journals (3). The 2000-2003 impact factor of TJMS is higher than the 2000-2003 impact factor of Turkish Journal of Infection, Microbiology Bulletin, Turkish Journal of Hospital Infection, KLİMİK Journal, Turkish Journal of Viral Hepatitis and Ankem Journal (4). TJMS is indexed in Excerpta Medica but not in Index Medicus. Microbiology Bulletin is indexed in Index Medicus, but the impact factor of the Microbiology Bulletin between 2000-2003 was reported to be 0 (4).

Table 1. Impact factor and immediacy index of Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences between 2000-2004.

Year	Impact factor	Immediacy index
2000	0.025 (7/279)	0 (0/114)
2001	0.015 (4/252)	0.008 (1/118)
2002	0.017 (4/232)	0.010 (1/98)
2003	0.013 (3/216)	0.013 (1/73)
2004	0.094 (14/148)	0.013 (1/75)

In conclusion the 2004 impact factor of TJMS is more than the 2003 impact factor of many journals indexed in SCI-e (5). If this status continues, we hope that it will eventually be possible for us to see the journal covered in SCI-e. If Turkish authors try to cite Turkish articles published in the last 2-3 years, and articles published in Turkish journals are scored with higher points in academic promotion systems, we may see more Turkish journals in the SCIE. A statement about the correct coding of the name of the journal inserted in all articles may be useful in establishing a uniform journal name coding and finding the citations more easily.

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