

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trend of Publications from Iran in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine

Dear Editor

Iran is a large country and is a home of one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It is the 17th largest and populous country in the world, with an estimated population of 86.8 million and is the 2nd largest country amongst all the Middle Eastern countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified Iran as a Low-Middle-Income-Country (LMIC).¹ Iran had gone through international sanctions for almost 3 decades, since 1979, leading to severe impact on its research and publications. However, it has been observed that, in recent years, the growth of Iran's scientific output is one of the fastest among all the global countries.² In a global research report on the Middle East of Thomson Reuter (in 2011),

Iran was ranked at 2nd position, after Turkey in scientific research output, with a global share of 1.3%.³

We investigated and analyzed the research output in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine from Iran, from the SCImago website, on 23rd October 2023.⁴ Publications from Iran saw significant growth in the field of Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine, with only 7 publications (in 1996) to 648 publications (in 2022). In the last 10 years, the number of publications rose from 245 (in 2013) to 648 (in 2022), with a percentage growth of 164.5% [Figure 1].

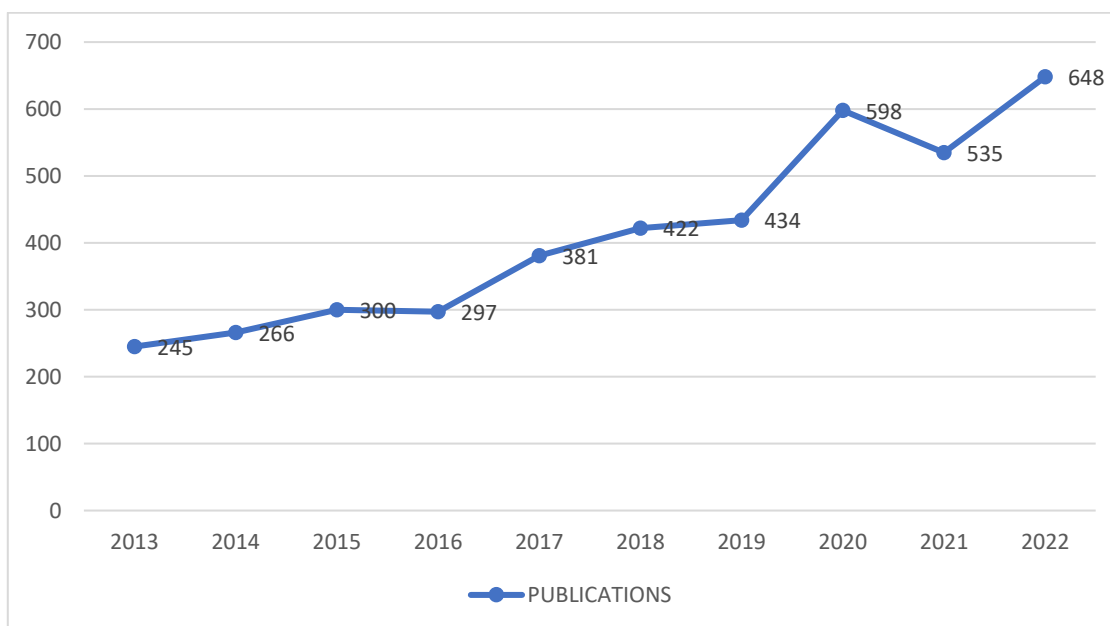


Figure 1. Trend of Iran's publications in the last 10 years in the field of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine (Sources: SCImago4)

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THE ONLINE VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE
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The global ranking of Iran in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine during a cumulative period from the year 1996 to 2022 was 24, with a total of 4847 publications during this period, with the global share of publications was 0.72 percent. The current global ranking on Iran has improved to 18 positions with 648 publications in 2022, with the global

publication share of 1.24 percent. Regionally, Iran is ranked at number 2, in 2022, among all the Middle Eastern Countries, after Turkey, and followed by Egypt, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. The important current metrics of all the Middle Eastern Countries is given in [Table 1].

Table 1. Important research metrics of Middle Eastern countries in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in 2022 (Source: SCImago4)

Rank	Country	Documents	Citations	Citations per document	H index
1	Turkey	860	474	0.55	96
2	Iran	648	476	0.73	73
3	Egypt	276	158	0.57	54
4	Israel	261	194	0.74	113
5	Saudi Arabia	207	147	0.71	57
6	Qatar	179	310	1.73	97
7	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	86	108	1.26	39
8	Jordan	62	72	1.16	29
9	Lebanon	60	28	0.47	43
10	Iraq	51	16	0.31	14
11	Kuwait	21	15	0.71	26
12	Oman	15	37	2.47	20
13	Palestine	9	5	0.56	10
14	Bahrain	7	4	0.57	14
15	Syrian Arab Republic	2	3	1.5	9
16	Yemen	2	0	0	2

Iran has witnessed a substantial increase in Orthopaedic related publications during the last decade, and its ranking has improved globally, with more scope for improvement. There are only a couple of journals in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, arising from Iran and hence the authors may face difficulty in publishing their research in other journals, due to lack of awareness, language barrier, and article processing charges.^{5,6} Therefore, more native journals are required to encourage and meet the demands of Iranian Orthopaedic Surgeons. There exists a dichotomy that most of the research is published from High-Income countries (HIC), where the population is relatively less, as compared to Low-Middle Income Countries (LMIC) like Iran

and most of the Middle Eastern countries. Therefore, the clinicians of LMIC are obliged to follow these clinical guidelines. We believe that this approach may not be entirely appropriate as the clinical problems, healthcare delivery challenges, and the financial constraints of the LMIC are quite different from HIC. Therefore, it is imperative that more research is done by the LMIC scientists and provide cost-effective solutions for the health-related problems of their population.⁷

Acknowledgement

Not applicable

Conflict of interest: None

Funding: None

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