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Publication Outcomes of Oral Presentations at Turkish Endodontic Scientific Meetings: A Descriptive Analysis

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Abstract

Background: To investigate the publication outcomes and content characteristics of oral presentations delivered at international meetings of a national endodontic society between 2014 and 2019.

Methods: This retrospective descriptive study evaluated 316 oral presentations from 6 international scientific meetings held during the study period. Full-text publication status was determined through systematic searches in PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and institutional websites (cut-off: June 2025). Presentations were classified by study design and topic. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were used to summarize publication rates and to describe temporal patterns across the study period.

Results: Of the 316 presentations, 166 (52.5%) were subsequently published as full-text articles. In vitro studies were predominant (63.3%), while clinical studies were limited (10.4%). Most articles (60.3%) appeared in journals indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded or Emerging Sources Citation Index. Instrumentation (24.1%) and irrigation (20.6%) were the most commonly addressed topics.

Conclusion: Although a moderate proportion of presentations progressed to publication, the noticeable decrease in publication rates across the study period raises concerns. The findings highlight the importance of fostering clinically oriented research and providing structured post-conference support to improve publication efficiency and scientific dissemination.

Keywords: Congress, endodontics, meeting abstract, publications

What is already known on this topic?

- *The conversion of conference presentations into full-text articles is considered an important indicator of scientific productivity and research dissemination.*
- *Previous studies in various medical and dental specialties have reported highly variable publication rates, generally ranging from 20% to 50%.*
- *Several structural, methodological, and motivational factors influence whether a presented abstract is ultimately published in a peer-reviewed journal.*

What this study adds on this topic?

- *This is the first study to systematically examine the full-text publication outcomes of oral presentations delivered at international congresses and symposia organized by a national endodontic society.*
- *Despite a moderate-to-high overall publication rate (52.5%), a clear downward pattern in publication proportions was observed across the study period, raising concerns about long-term research dissemination.*
- *The findings highlight the dominance of in vitro studies and the underrepresentation of clinical research, emphasizing the need for strategies that support clinically relevant and publishable work.*

INTRODUCTION

International scientific conferences serve as essential platforms for researchers to disseminate academic knowledge, engage in discussions on recent advancements, and establish effective communication with experts in their respective fields.[1] Scientific research is typically presented at congresses and symposia in the form of oral or poster presentations. These abstracts function as a means of rapidly and effectively communicating the latest findings and emerging trends across various fields to the academic community.[2] However, abstracts presented at such scientific meetings often reflect preliminary findings of ongoing or incomplete studies, and therefore contain limited data. This limitation may restrict the direct applicability and reliability of the reported results in clinical practice.[3]

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The publication of conference presentations as full-length articles in peer-reviewed journals represents an important measure of scientific productivity and research dissemination.[4-6] Publishing abstracts as complete articles enhances researchers' visibility, contributes to professional advancement, and increases the international accessibility of scientific knowledge. Unlike conference abstracts—which often provide brief and preliminary findings—journal publications undergo a rigorous peer-review process and include detailed methodological descriptions, ensuring higher scientific credibility. However, due to the condensed timeframe of conference organization, abstracts may sometimes represent ongoing work with methodological limitations.[6,7]

One of the key indicators of effective scientific dissemination is the publication conversion rate, referring to the frequency with which abstracts presented at scientific meetings are subsequently published as full-text articles in peer-reviewed journals.[8,9] This rate reflects not only the scientific quality of the research but also various structural and contextual factors independent of the study itself.[10] A Cochrane review reported that less than half of abstracts presented at scientific meetings were published as full-text articles within 10 years, with an overall conversion rate of 37.3%.[11] In Türkiye, studies across medical specialties such as radiology, dermatology, anesthesiology, rheumatology, and thoracic surgery have reported publication rates ranging from 9.4% to 42.3%.[12-14] In dentistry, reported rates vary between 19% and 54% across different specialties.[1,3,5,8] Studies have shown that research with non-significant findings is less likely to be published, whereas studies reporting significant results tend to be published more frequently.[15,16] Consequently, many investigations addressing publication bias have systematically evaluated full-text publication rates of abstracts presented at international scientific meetings.

To date, no study has systematically examined the publication rates of oral presentations delivered at international congresses and symposia organized by a national endodontic society. The Society plays a key role in promoting academic exchange and sharing endodontic research at the international level. This study aimed to analyze the full-text publication rates of oral presentations presented at international scientific meetings held by the organizing society between 2014 and 2019.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

As this study did not involve human participants or the collection of personal or sensitive data and was conducted solely using publicly available conference abstracts, neither ethical approval nor informed consent was required. This retrospective descriptive study evaluated oral presentations delivered at international scientific events organized by a national endodontic society between 2014 and 2019. Bibliographic information for each presentation—including title, authors, year of presentation, and institutional affiliations—was retrieved from official abstract booklets. These booklets were obtained by the researcher via the official website of the Society and directly from its headquarters. A total of 6 scientific events were included in the study: 3 congresses and 3 symposia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no events were held in 2020 and 2021; thus, these years were excluded from the analysis. Data collection was carried out between March and June 2025. To minimize bias related to insufficient follow-up time, only meetings held up to 2019 were included, ensuring at least approximately 5 years of potential publication time for each abstract by the end of the search period (June 2025).

Oral presentations were evaluated based on the year of presentation, study type, institutional affiliation of the first author, the number of authors in both the presentation and the subsequent publication, publication status, the journal in which the study was published, and the indexing status of the journal. The names of the presenting authors and the titles of the presentations were searched in both Turkish and English across PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science databases. These databases were selected due to their extensive coverage of the health sciences literature and inclusion of internationally indexed journals. In addition to international databases, all accessible local and Turkish-language journals indexed in TR Dizin, as well as institutional repositories of the authors' affiliated universities, were systematically searched to ensure that locally published non-English articles were fully captured and not underrepresented in the analysis.

In addition, the official websites of the authors' affiliated institutions were examined to identify and verify potentially published articles that might not be listed in the selected databases. This step was undertaken to enhance the completeness of the publication search. If a corresponding full-text publication was identified, the presentation was classified as "published." In cases where no results were found in the initial search, a secondary search was conducted using keywords from the title and co-author names. Presentations for which no corresponding publication could be identified were categorized as "unpublished." All presentations were independently reviewed by 2 researchers (MG and İO), and the consistency between the conference abstracts and full-text publications was verified. A match was confirmed when there was concordance in the title, author order, and study content.

The abstracts were first stratified into 7 methodological categories—in vitro experimental studies, clinical studies (prospective or interventional human research), observational studies (retrospective or prospective), questionnaire-based research, case reports and case series, reviews, and an "Other" category reserved for designs that did not fit any predefined group, including a small number of animal studies. Subsequently, each abstract was mapped to one of 5

thematic subtopics—irrigation, obturation, instrumentation, bioceramic-based materials/biocompatibility, and post-endodontic restorations. Abstracts whose focus could not be unambiguously assigned to these domains were categorized as "Other." Although additional areas such as radiography, biology, and regeneration were encountered, they were represented by very few studies and therefore included within the "Other" theme or the most relevant main category. For instance, regenerative studies involving the use of bioceramic materials (e.g., MTA-based protocols) were classified under the "bioceramic-based materials/biocompatibility" theme. In cases where thematic overlap occurred (e.g., a study addressing both irrigation and instrumentation), classification was based on the primary methodological focus described in the abstract. All thematic assignments were independently verified by 2 endodontists, and in instances of disagreement, a third senior endodontist was consulted to reach consensus.

Statistical Analysis

All data were entered into Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA). Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were calculated to determine the publication rates of oral presentations and their associated characteristics. Temporal changes in publication rates were evaluated descriptively to illustrate general patterns across the study period.

RESULTS

Between 2014 and 2019, a total of 316 oral presentations were delivered at 6 international endodontic congresses and symposia, of which 166 were subsequently published as full-text articles, corresponding to a publication rate of 52.5%. The annual distribution is presented in Table 1. The highest publication rate was observed at the 2015 International Endodontic Meeting (71.4%), while the lowest was recorded at the 2019 International Endodontic Meeting (34.1%).

In 118 of the 166 publications (71.1%), the number of authors listed in the published article matched the number of presenters in the original oral presentation.

Of the 166 full-text articles, 42.2% were published in journals indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), 18.1% in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), 22.3% in the Turkish Citation Index (TR Dizin), and 17.5% in other international databases (e.g., Scopus, EMBASE, PubMed) (Table 2). The highest proportion of SCIE-indexed publications was observed following the 2016 International Endodontic Meeting (54.1%).

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of the 166 oral presentations that were subsequently published as full-text articles. The highest number of conversions was observed in the *Journal of Endodontics* (n=22; 13.3%), followed by the *International Endodontic Journal* (n=7; 4.2%) and the *Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice* (n=7; 4.2%).

Over the 6-year period, the majority of presented studies were in vitro investigations (n=200, 63.3%). Clinical studies (10.4%) and retrospective-observational analyses (7.9%) were less frequently presented, while reviews, surveys, case reports, and other designs comprised smaller proportions of the total (Table 3).

The presentations most frequently focused on instrumentation (24.1%) and irrigation/disinfection (20.6%) (Table 4). Topics related to biomaterials/biocompatibility accounted for 9.5%, and post-endodontic restorations for 8.9% of the abstracts, whereas 26.9% of presentations were classified under the "Other" category, reflecting heterogeneous or overlapping subjects (e.g., radiography, biology, regeneration).

As summarized in Table 5, most full-text publications occurred within the first 2 years following presentation, whereas a smaller proportion required a longer time to publication.

DISCUSSION

In this study, the publication outcomes of oral presentations delivered at internationally recognized congresses and symposia of a national endodontic society were systematically assessed. To date, no research has specifically examined the publication performance of these meetings; therefore, the present investigation fills a notable gap by providing the first structured evaluation in this context.

Table 1. The Full-Text Conversion Rates of Oral Presentations Delivered at International Endodontic Congresses and Symposia Conducted Between 2014 and 2019

Year and Location of the Scientific Meeting	Number of Oral Presentations	Number of Oral Presentations Published as Full-Text Articles (%)
2014 - İstanbul	45	32 (71.1)
2015 - Erzurum	14	10 (71.4)
2016 - Kapadokya	61	37 (60.7)
2017 - Girne	26	14 (53.8)
2018 - Adana	82	43 (52.4)
2019 - İstanbul	88	30 (34.1)
Total (2014-2019)	316	166 (52.5)

Table 2. Index-Based Distribution of Full-Text Articles Derived from International Endodontic Congresses and Symposia (2014-2019)

Year and Location of the Scientific Meeting	Number of Publications	Number of Publications in SCIE-Indexed Journals (%)	Number of Publications in ESCI-Indexed Journals (%)	Number of Publications in TR Index Journals (%)	Other Indexes (e.g., Scopus, EMBASE, PubMed) (%)
2014 - İstanbul	32	13 (40.6)	7 (21.9)	8 (25.0)	4 (12.5)
2015 - Erzurum	10	4 (40.0)	3 (30.0)	1 (10.0)	2 (20.0)
2016 - Kapadokya	37	20 (54.1)	9 (24.3)	3 (8.1)	5 (13.5)
2017 - Girne	14	5 (35.7)	1 (7.1)	6 (42.9)	2 (14.3)
2018 - Adana	43	14 (32.6)	5 (11.6)	16 (37.2)	8 (18.6)
2019 - İstanbul	30	14 (46.7)	5 (16.7)	3 (10.0)	8 (26.7)
Total (2014-2019)	166	70 (42.2)	30 (18.1)	37 (22.3)	29 (17.5)

ESCI, Emerging Sources Citation Index; SCIE, Science Citation Index Expanded.

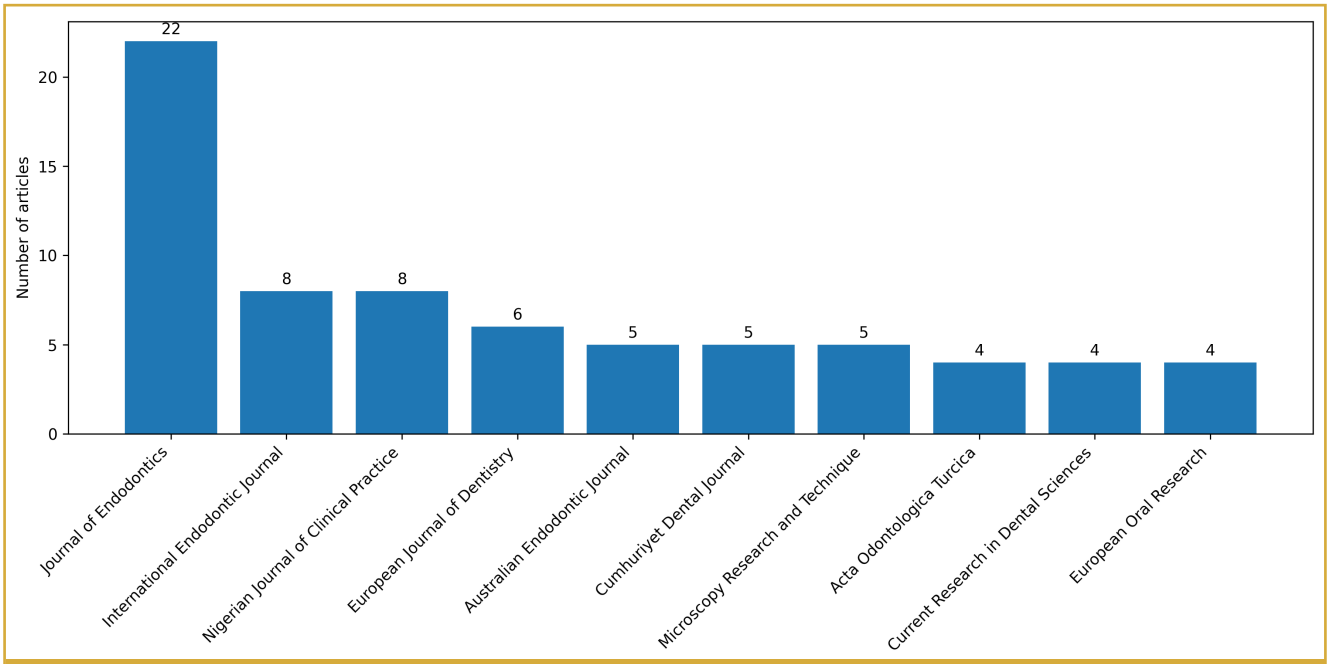

Figure 1. Top 10 journals receiving full-text conversions of oral presentations delivered at international meetings of a national endodontic society (2014-2019).

The publication of scientific work constitutes a fundamental component of knowledge dissemination and scholarly progress. Nevertheless, a considerable proportion of completed studies remains unpublished, resulting in the loss or delay of valuable scientific information. Systematic reviews have demonstrated that a substantial number of clinical trials involving human participants are not fully reported, raising important scientific and ethical concerns.[17,18,19] The non-publication of abstracts is influenced not only by the quality of research but also by practical and organizational

Table 3. Distribution of Study Types in Oral Presentations (2014-2019)

Year - Location	Total (n)	In Vitro (%)	Clinical (%)	Review (%)	Survey (%)	Observational/ Retrospective (%)	Case Report (%)	Other (%)
2014 - İstanbul	45	35 (77.8)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.2)	1 (2.2)	4 (8.9)	0 (0.0)	4 (8.9)
2015 - Erzurum	14	12 (85.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2016 - Kapadokya	61	42 (68.9)	11 (18.0)	3 (4.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (3.3)	3 (4.9)	0 (0.0)
2017 - Girne	26	15 (57.7)	2 (7.7)	1 (3.8)	2 (7.7)	2 (7.7)	2 (7.7)	2 (7.7)
2018 - Adana	82	43 (52.4)	7 (8.5)	12 (14.6)	3 (3.7)	10 (12.2)	6 (7.3)	1 (1.2)
2019 - İstanbul	88	53 (60.2)	13 (14.8)	2 (2.3)	6 (6.8)	7 (8.0)	3 (3.4)	4 (4.5)
Total	316	200 (63.3)	33 (10.4)	21 (6.6)	12(3.8)	25 (7.9)	14(4.4)	11 (3.5)

Table 4. Distribution of Research Topics in Oral Presentations (2014-2019)

Year - Location	Total (n)	Irrigation/ Disinfection (%)	Obturation (%)	Instrumentation (%)	Post-Endodontic Restoration (%)	Biomaterials/ Biocompatibility (%)	Other (%)
2014 - İstanbul	45	7 (15.6)	1 (2.2)	13 (28.9)	5 (11.1)	10 (22.2)	9 (20.0)
2015 - Erzurum	14	5 (35.7)	0 (0.0)	5 (35.7)	1 (7.1)	2 (14.3)	1 (7.1)
2016 - Kapadokya	61	15 (24.6)	9 (14.8)	14 (23.0)	2 (3.3)	5 (8.2)	16 (26.2)
2017 - Girne	26	5 (19.2)	3 (11.5)	7 (26.9)	2 (7.7)	2 (7.7)	7 (26.9)
2018 - Adana	82	11 (13.4)	12 (14.6)	19 (23.2)	10 (12.2)	4 (4.9)	26 (31.7)
2019 - İstanbul	88	22 (25.0)	7 (8.0)	18 (20.5)	8 (9.1)	7 (8.0)	26 (29.5)
Total (2014-2019)	316	65 (20.6)	32 (10.1)	76 (24.1)	28 (8.9)	30 (9.5)	85 (26.9)

constraints, including time limitations, difficulties in coordinating co-authors, ongoing project status, and concerns about the relevance of findings over time.[10,20] Moreover, methodological weaknesses, suboptimal study design, inappropriate statistical approaches, and limited originality represent additional barriers to successful full-text publication.[10,21]

Previous research shows that a substantial proportion of conference abstracts remain unpublished, with reported conversion rates ranging from 11% to 78% and an overall mean of about 45%.[9,22] The meta-analysis by Scherer et al. reported a 37.3% conversion rate,[11] indicating that the 52.5% rate observed in the present study falls above commonly cited benchmarks. Comparable or lower rates have been documented for European Society of Endodontology (ESE) congresses (34.4%; 32% for Turkish-origin abstracts),[5] the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry (40%),[1] national oral and maxillofacial surgery meetings (38.2%),[23] and the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) Prosthodontic Research Section (40.7%).[24] Overall, these findings suggest that publication outcomes observed in this study are consistent with, or higher than, rates reported in related fields.

A decline in publication proportions was observed across the study period, with rates exceeding 70% in 2014-2015 and falling to 34.1% in 2019. Similar downward trends have been reported in other disciplines, including National Anatomy Congresses.[25] This pattern may be attributable to variations in research quality, authors' motivation, or evolving editorial expectations. The lower conversion rates in later years may also reflect the well-documented need for a follow-up period of at least 5 years to adequately assess publication outcomes.[26] Multiple factors beyond statistical significance—including study design, institutional support, and collaboration structures—have been shown to influence whether an abstract progresses to full publication, and studies with non-significant findings are known to experience delays or remain unpublished.[15,16]

Table 5. Time Interval Between Oral Presentation and Full-Text Publication According to Year of Presentation

Presentation Year	≤1 Year (%)	2 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	≥4 Years (%)	Total
2014	18 (56.3)	7 (21.9)	4 (12.5)	3 (9.4)	32
2015	7 (70.0)	2 (20.0)	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	10
2016	26 (70.3)	7 (18.9)	3 (8.1)	1 (2.7)	37
2017	10 (71.4)	3 (21.4)	1 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	14
2018	27 (62.8)	9 (20.9)	5 (11.6)	2 (4.7)	43
2019	17 (56.7)	5 (16.7)	3 (10.0)	5 (16.7)	30
Total	105 (63.3)	33 (19.9)	17 (10.2)	11 (6.6)	166

In this study, 71.1% of published articles (118/166) retained the same number of authors as the corresponding oral presentations, while authorship changes occurred in 28.9% of cases. Reported modification rates in the literature range from 30% to 46%, placing the findings at the lower end of this spectrum.[1,27,28] Such discrepancies are likely related to the early stage at which abstracts are typically prepared, as well as the greater academic weight associated with full-text publications, which may prompt additions or removals of authors.[29]

Among the 166 published articles identified in this study, the most frequently selected journals were the *Journal of Endodontics, International Endodontic Journal,* and *Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice*. Comparable patterns have been reported in studies of other dental and medical meetings. For instance, analyses of ConsEuro conferences showed that *Clinical Oral Investigations, Journal of Dentistry*, and *Journal of Endodontics* were most commonly chosen, with 77.1% of publications appearing in SCIE-indexed journals.[30] Similarly, for national anatomy congresses, SCIE indexing accounted for 58.8% of published articles, increasing to 70.3% when ESCI journals were included.[25] In contrast, the present study found that 42.2% of publications were indexed in SCIE, rising to 60.3% with the inclusion of ESCI journals. These variations likely reflect differences in conference scope, participant profiles, and research focus. Consistent with prior evidence from ESE congresses—where *International Endodontic Journal* and *Journal of Endodontics* together represented 58.6% of publications—the findings suggest that researchers in endodontics tend to submit their work to internationally visible, field-leading journals.[5]

International congresses commonly encompass a wide range of study designs. In the present analysis, 63.3% (n=200) of the 316 oral presentations were in vitro studies, whereas clinical studies accounted for only 10.4% and

retrospective–observational investigations for 7.9%. This pattern reflects a predominance of laboratory-based research, likely driven by advantages such as lower cost, fewer ethical constraints, and shorter completion timelines.[31] The underrepresentation of clinical research is consistent with prior reports highlighting challenges in patient recruitment, ethical approval, and logistical feasibility.[5,32] These considerations align with the current findings, in which clinical studies constituted a comparatively small proportion of the presentations.

An analysis of presentation topics from 2014 to 2019 showed that most abstracts focused on instrumentation (24.1%) and irrigation/disinfection (20.6%). This highlights the continued prominence of mechanical and chemical preparation—2 fundamental components of endodontic success—as key research areas. Due to the complex anatomy of the root canal system, eliminating microorganisms and preventing apical leakage remain central challenges in endodontic research.[33] In this context, studies on irrigation techniques and shaping systems not only inform clinical practice but also support the development of new technologies.

The time-to-publication analysis indicates that most studies progressed to full-text publication within the first 2 years after presentation, suggesting that a substantial proportion of scientific meeting outputs mature rapidly into peer-reviewed manuscripts. Conversely, a smaller subset required longer follow-up (≥4 years), which may reflect extended data collection, additional analyses, or iterative revisions during the peer-review process. Reporting this temporal pattern provides a clearer understanding of dissemination dynamics beyond the overall conversion rate.

Limitations

This study has several limitations. The reliance on international databases may have led to the omission of publications indexed locally. Articles published prior to the corresponding presentations were excluded, and some abstracts may still be under review, potentially affecting current publication rates. The study did not investigate factors influencing abstract-to-publication conversion, which merits future research. In addition, advanced statistical modeling techniques (e.g., logistic regression or random forest analysis) were not employed, as the study was designed to be descriptive rather than predictive; however, such approaches may be valuable in future studies aiming to identify predictors of publication likelihood. Additionally, as publications emerging after the study period were not included, the overall rate may increase over time. Thus, findings represent the current state and may evolve with longitudinal follow-up.

Furthermore, the present analysis was limited to descriptive methods based on tabulation of publication rates over time, due to the absence of citation or reference metadata within conference abstracts. Consequently, more advanced bibliometric analyses—such as co-authorship mapping, citation trajectory tracking, or collaboration network visualization—could not be applied. Future studies integrating bibliometric tools may provide deeper insights into the intellectual and collaborative structure of endodontic research dissemination.

This study was restricted to oral presentations because oral sessions represent the highest level of scientific visibility at congresses, typically undergo a more rigorous selection process than poster sessions, and provide more standardized and complete methodological information within abstract booklets. Additionally, poster presentations exhibited substantial heterogeneity in format and availability across the examined years, preventing consistent and reliable data extraction. Therefore, limiting the analysis to oral presentations ensured methodological uniformity and comparability across the study period.

Moreover, only meetings held up to 2019 were analyzed, ensuring a follow-up period of approximately 5 years or longer for all abstracts, in line with previous recommendations on the minimum time required to assess abstract-to-publication conversion.

CONCLUSION

This descriptive study showed that 166 of 316 oral presentations delivered at international scientific meetings of a national endodontic society between 2014 and 2019 were subsequently published as full-text articles (52.5%). Limiting the analysis to meetings held up to 2019 ensured a follow-up period of at least 5 years, providing an adequate window for assessing abstract-to-publication conversion. Most presentations were in vitro studies, and more than half of the resulting publications (60.3%) appeared in SCIE- or ESCI-indexed journals. As no analytical modeling was performed, the study does not draw conclusions about factors influencing publication success. These findings offer a benchmark for publication outcomes in endodontic scientific meetings and highlight the need for future research incorporating longer follow-up and analytical approaches to better understand determinants of publication.

Data Availability Statement: The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

Artificial Intelligence Usage Statement: This study used ChatGPT (OpenAI, San Francisco, CA, USA) for language editing and translation during the preparation of the manuscript.

Ethics Committee Approval: Ethical approval and informed consent were not required for this study, as no human participants, human data, or animal subjects were involved.

Informed Consent: Ethical approval and informed consent were not required for this study, as no human participants, human data, or animal subjects were involved.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

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