

Barriers to academic publishing in journals perceived by Turkish physicians**

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** The results are from the same online survey of the abstract titled as 'What are the problems physicians encounter in writing scientific manuscripts?'

Introduction: Conducting a clinical study and publishing are critical to optimize patient management, for science to progress, and better academic positions. We aimed to determine the barriers affecting publishing. Also, we searched for the reasons of publishing scientific manuscripts.

Methods: This cross-sectional observational study included physicians from multiple departments. We conducted an online survey. To prepare the questionnaire, we modified questions to a questionnaire from literature by using Google documents. Residents, faculty with academic degree and physicians were invited to participate through whatsapp groups consisting of medical doctors from all over Turkey. We searched the answers for the questions 'How do physicians overcome the difficulties they encounter in the process of publishing scientific manuscripts?' and 'What is your purpose in publishing scientific articles?' At the end of each question, an option was present with a separate space to state freely their additional opinions.

Results: A total of 17.8% (155 of 871) of physicians completed the questionnaire from 24 different speciality. About the difficulties in the process of publishing; 85 (60.7%) tried to work-out by themselves from internet; 66 (47.1%) got help from experienced colleagues; 47 (33.6%) needed professional help for English translation and editing (Figure 1). Obtaining an academic title was the most frequently cited goal (59.6%). Obtaining a better understanding of scientific data/disease was the second most frequently cited benefit (41.7%) (Figure 2).

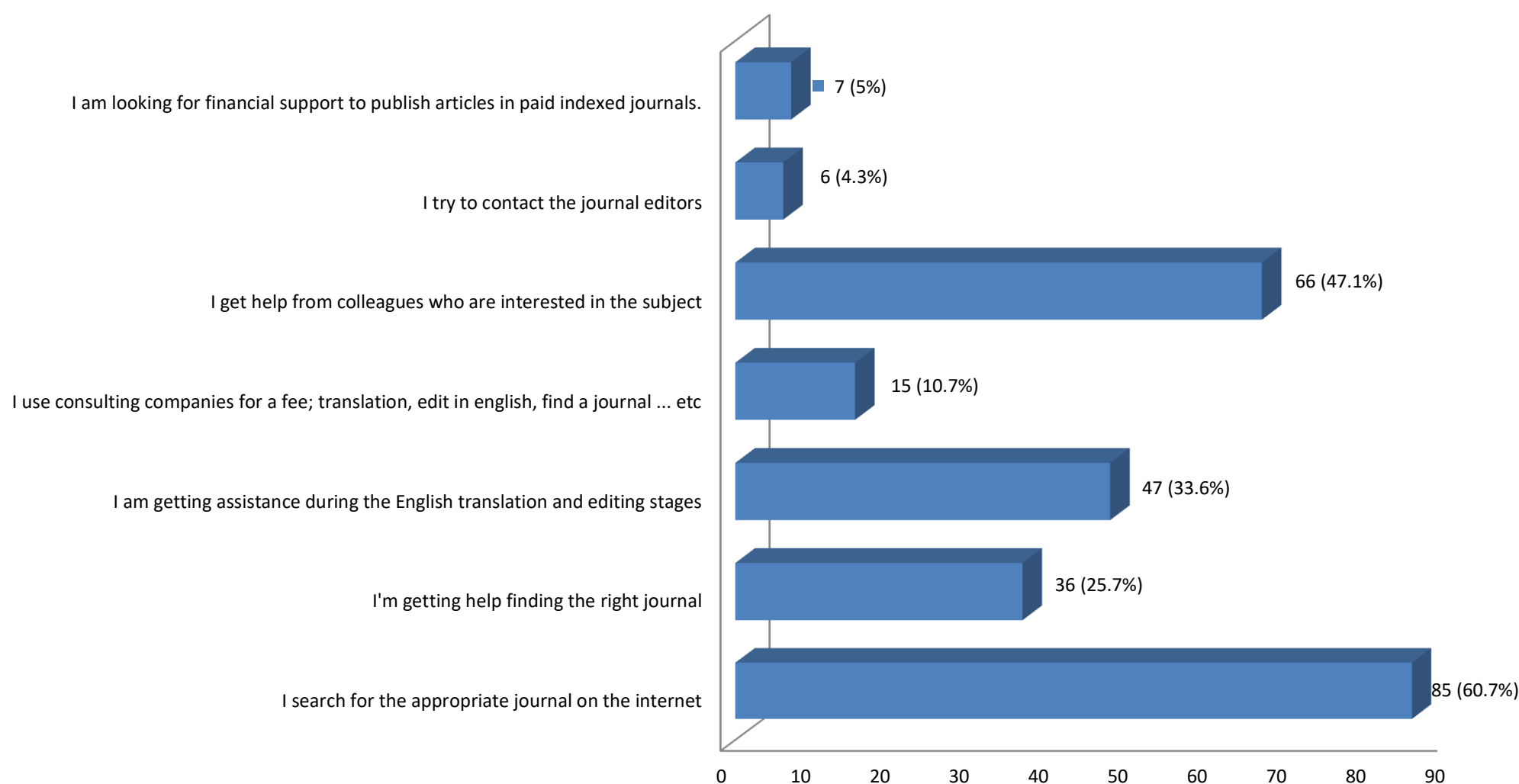


Figure 1: How do physicians overcome the difficulties they encounter in the process of publishing scientific manuscripts? (n:140)

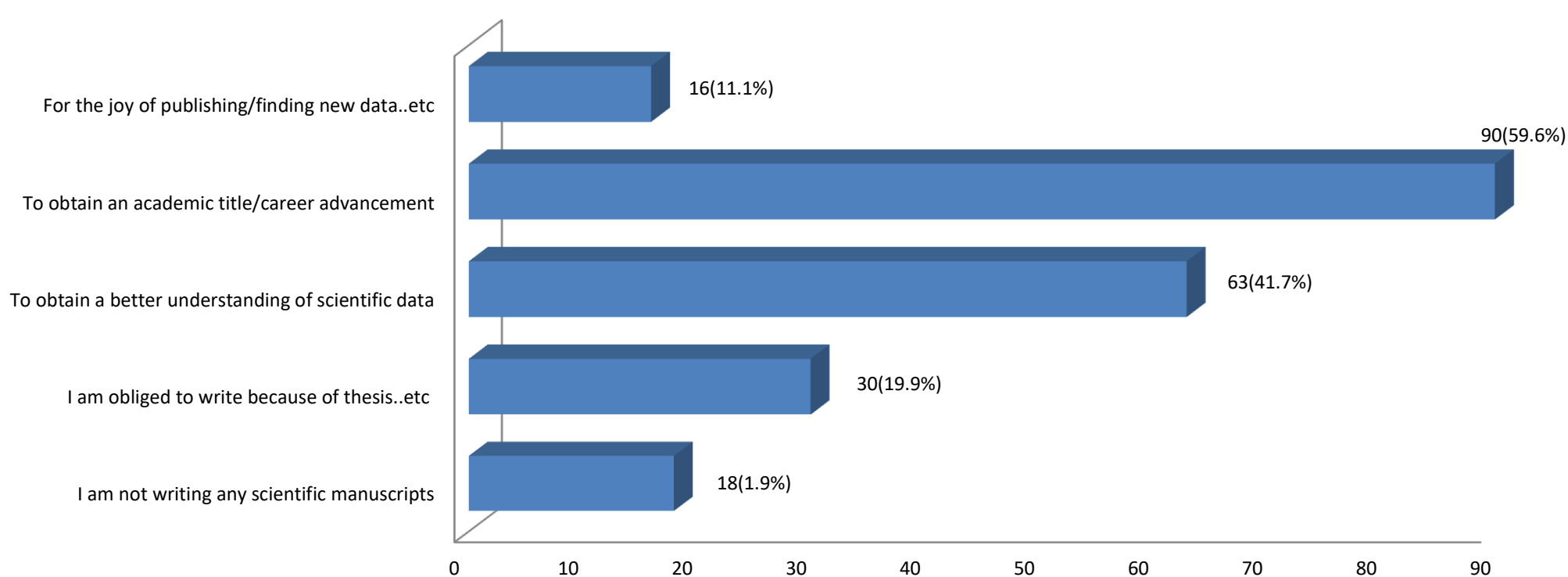


Figure 2: What are the physicians primary reasons for writing and publishing? (n:151)

Discussion: Many problems in academic publishing are similar internationally. Language was a common problem especially in countries whose native language is not English. In Turkey, many medical schools and residency programs do not have an organized academic publishing curriculum. For Turkish academician and physicians, language barrier for English can be a determinant of academic career. We think that university hospitals should develop standardized training programs on clinical research methodology and biostatistics; provide targeted support especially for English language and statistical abilities to overcome the barriers to scientific writing and publishing.