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Background: The results of research projects have been disseminated more as abstracts at conferences than as articles in scientific journals. However, conference abstracts are aimed at scientific dissemination and peer feedback so that the manuscript can be refined and published in qualified scientific journals.

Objectives: To evaluate the publication rate of scientific abstracts presented within the scope of pulmonary rehabilitation at the European Respiratory Society International Congress (ERSc) and American Thoracic Society International Conference (ATSc).

Methods: Abstract searches were carried out in the electronic annals of these 2016 to 2018 conferences. The identified abstracts were categorized by type of presentation. The number of authors and country of origin of the corresponding author were recorded. The publication rate after three to five years of abstract submission was analyzed. After sorting the abstracts, the articles were searched in the Google Scholar and Medline databases. When the article was not found, three e-mails were sent to the authors to identify the publication status. When the article was not found and no response was obtained from the author, it was classified as "uncertain publication". Abstracts published as articles had the following data extracted: journal name, impact factor (IF), study design, affiliation, and whether the result was statistically significant or in a positive direction from their primary outcome analysis. Descriptive analyzes were performed, with categorical data presented as frequency and/or percentage and continuous data as median (interquartile range).

Results: A total of 964 potentially eligible abstracts were identified, of which 20.7% were excluded. 764 abstracts were analyzed, most of which were thematic posters (54.8%), followed by poster discussions (36.1%) and oral presentations (9.0%). The average number of authors was 6, and most were from the USA (18.7%). At the ERSc, the UK had the highest number of submissions (16.4%) while the US had the highest number at the ATSc. The authors responded to e-mails about the publication in 41.9% of the contacts. In 322 (42%) abstracts, no journal article related to the study was found and no response from the author was obtained. A total of 323 published articles related to pulmonary rehabilitation abstracts were found, resulting in a publication rate of 42.3%. Categorization by proportional mode of presentation showed that 66.7% of oral presentations, 46.4% of poster discussions and 35.5% of thematic posters were published as articles. The median IF of the journals was 3.4(2.6–6.4). Significant and positive results were reported in 78.4% of the identified articles.

Conclusion: Over half of the abstracts on pulmonary rehabilitation presented at the ERSc and ATSc between 2016 and 2018 remain unpublished.

Implications: This observation supports the idea of potential publication bias in the wider literature. The low publication rate may be due to the difficulty in obtaining funding for research, the lack of resources for authors to develop their research and the difficulty for authors to find a suitable journal to publish their work. Incentive strategies are needed to improve the conversion of submitted abstracts into journal articles.

Keywords: Pulmonary rehabilitation, Gray literature, Publication rate

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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QUALITY OF LIFE OF CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH CANCER

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Background: Children and adolescents with cancer have to deal with the adverse events of the disease and treatments, and low immunity predisposes them to the development of serious forms of infections, that can cause physical damage, negative repercussions on health care and on the quality of life of them and their caregivers.

Objectives: To evaluate the quality of life of caregivers of children and adolescents with cancer.

Methods: Observational, cross-sectional study, carried out from October to December 2022. We used social media, WhatsApp, and emails to invite caregivers of children and adolescents with cancer aged between 2 and 21 years. The survey was performed remotely, through the application of an online form that contained personal and sociodemographic data, the SF-36 questionnaire for assessing the quality of life of the caregivers.

Results: Thirty caregivers participated in the study, with a higher prevalence of females (86.7%). The caregiver's quality of life averaged 55.15 (SD=20.35), which represents a moderate to low quality of life. The worst quality of life scores of caregivers was observed in the domains "Vitality (45.17±XX)", "Emotional Aspects (45.55±XX)", and "Limitation due to Physical Aspects (48.33±XX)".

Conclusion: The quality of life of the caregivers of children and adolescents with cancer was moderate to low, related to impairment of vitality, emotional aspects, and limitation due to physical aspects. Strategies to improve the quality of life of caregivers of children and adolescents with cancer should be considered, therefore improving the integral care for this population and the caregivers.

Implications: Conducting further studies on quality of life in relation to other health conditions that may affect physically and mentally caregivers of individuals with childhood cancer may provide help to develop personalized rehabilitation programs for family's pediatric cancer patients.

Keywords: Childhood cancer, Health, Quality of life

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