

BIOMEDICAL PUBLICATIONS PRODUCTIVITY OF ORAL AND DENTAL MEDICINE FROM LIBYA (PUBMED 2003-2013)

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this short communication study was to investigate the trends of biomedical publications productivity of oral and dentistry field from Libya using the most popular biomedical search engine PubMed with focus on Libyan academic institutions. This search was performed on articles that were related to dentistry and oral medicine using the affiliation of Libya for the period 2003-2013. A total of 358 biomedical published articles were retrieved of which only 40 were related to oral and dentistry medicine. In conclusion, this investigation shows a very low productivity and weak distribution of biomedical research in oral and dentistry medicine productivity throughout Libya.

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الملخص العربي

إنتاجية المنشورات الطبية لطب الفم والأسنان من ليبيا (PupMed 2013-2003)

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كان الغرض من هذه الدراسة القصيرة هو التحقيق في اتجاهات المنشورات الطبية في مجال طب الفم والأسنان من ليبيا باستخدام محرك البحث الطبي الحيوي الأكثر شعبية PubMed مع التركيز على المؤسسات الأكاديمية الليبية. تم إجراء هذا البحث على المقالات المتعلقة بطب الأسنان وطب الفم باستخدام الانتساب الليبي للفترة 2003-2013. تم مراجعة ما مجموعه 358 من المقالات المنشورة في المجال الطبي، منها 40 فقط تتعلق بطب الفم والأسنان. في الختام، يظهر هذا التحقيق إنتاجية منخفضة للغاية وتوزيع ضعيف للأبحاث الطبية في مجال طب الفم والأسنان في جميع أنحاء ليبيا.

INTRODUCTION

Biomedical research productivity from under developed regions and low income countries are generally inadequate and their global contribution is limited.^{1,2} This is largely attributed to various financial and socioeconomical factors, regional instabilities, as well as undeveloped infrastructures.³ Libya is an Arab and North African country with fast natural resources but has been documented with a very low biomedical research productivity among Arab and African nations.⁴⁻⁷ Although many studies have investigated and analyzed the biomedical research productivity and trends from Libya, limited information is available on the oral and dentistry field or other professional medical disciplines.⁸ Therefore the purpose of this brief study was to investigate the trends of biomedical publications productivity of oral and dentistry field from Libya using the most popular biomedical search engine PubMed with focus on Libyan academic institutions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The search was performed using the affiliation of Libya for the period 2003-2013. Only articles that were related to dentistry and oral medicine were selected and introduced into an excel data sheet for further descriptive analysis. Articles were further categorized and analyzed according to a number of criteria as following: publication year, affiliated Libyan cities, type of article, corresponding Libyan institution, and open access option of both article and the publishing journal.

RESULTS

A total of 358 biomedical published articles were retrieved of which only 40 were related to oral and dentistry medicine and further investigated. The trend which only started in 2007 was as following: 2007 (n=1; 2.5%), 2008 (n=4; 10%), 2009 (n=7; 17.5%), 2010 (n=5; 12.5%), 2011 (n=2; 5%), 2012 (n=6; 15%) and 2013 (n=15; 37.5%) (Fig 1).

In total, 8 Libyan universities representing 5 cities were identified and respectively were; Al-Arab MedicalSciences University (Benghazi) (n=17; 42.5%), University of Tripoli (including former alfateh university) (Tripoli) (n=6; 15%), University of Benghazi (Benghazi) (n=6; 15%), University of Garyounis (Benghazi) (n=5; 12.5%), Al Jabal Al Gharbi University

(Al-Zawiya) (n=3; 7.5%), University of Sabha (Sabha) (n=3; 7.5%) Libyan International Medical University (Benghazi) (n=1; 2.5%), University of Al-Marghib (Al-Khoms) (n=1; 2.5%). Table1.

Further analysis revealed that 25/40 articles (62.5%) were research and original article and 9/40 (22.5%) were case reports. Other types of articles such as review, journal article and short articles were only represented/each by 2.5% (i.e. 1 article). Also 30 articles (75%) were affiliated to Libyan academic and health care institutions, 5 articles (12.5%) were in open access journals and 18 articles (45%) were an open access articles.

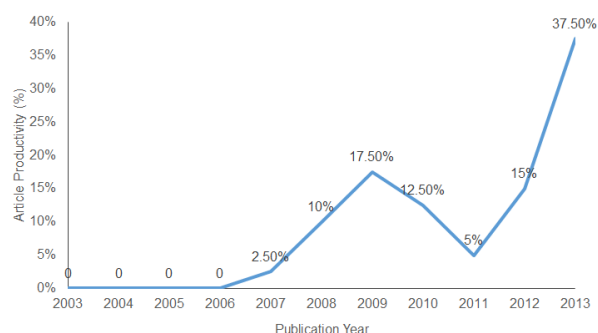


Fig1: Rate and frequency of biomedical publication of oral and dentistry medicine.

DISCUSSION

This short descriptive analysis show that Libyan biomedical publications affiliated to oral and dentistry science has only started in 2007 with one article and gradually increased to ward 2013 (Fig 1). This is a surprising results considering that the first biomedical publication from Libya was dated back in the 1952 and related to infectious disease.^{5,7} This data also show a dramatic decrease in 2011 which is probably attributed to the dramatic changes that affected the North African region during that year. Most of the analyzed published articles were affiliated to Benghazi universities which alone have published 29/40 articles (72.5%) whereas other universities in the other cities have only contributed to less to 30% over 10 years period.

Table1. Distribution of biomedical published article of oral and dentistry medicine.

University name	City	Number and proportion of produced articles
Al-Arab Medical Sciences University	Benghazi	17; 42.5%
University of Tripoli (including former alfateh university)	Tripoli	6; 15%
University of Benghazi	Benghazi	6; 15%
University of Garyounis	Benghazi	5; 12.5%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi University	Al-Zawiya	3; 7.5%
University of Sabha	Sabha	3; 7.5%
Libyan International Medical University	Benghazi	1; 2.5%
University of Al-Marghib	Al-Khoms	1; 2.5%

Most of these papers were either original research articles or case reports and almost half of them were accessed articles but fewer in open access journals. A recent study by Peeran et al. have investigated the status of oral health care in Libya and investigated the related publication research productivity from Libya for the period November 2003- November 2013.⁸ This study has similarly concluded that Benghazi University (which currently include Al-Arab Medical Sciences and Garyounis University) was the highest publishing institutes, however they mentioned that thier study indicate that Tripoli University and Al Jabal Al Gharbi University scored the second highest productive rate.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this investigation shows a very low productivity and weak distribution of biomedical research productivity throughout the fast landscape of Libya. In Libya, there are 12 public and 5 private universities⁹ and this data show a very limited research and publications productivity of Libyan academic institutions from oral and dentistry schools.

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