



The AUA Annual Meeting: Do abstracts presented stand up to the scrutiny of peer review?

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Background

- ~1500 abstracts presented annually
- Ultimate publication rate unknown
- Presentation abstracts do not undergo same degree of critical peer review as publications
- Meeting widely attended (>10,000)
- Potentially large impact on clinical practice



Objectives

- To determine the publication rates of presented abstracts
- To provide a benchmark for meeting attendees to consider when attending such presentations
- To identify determinants of publication rates



Methods

- Search algorithm using Medline devised
- Abstracts from AUA 95th Annual Meeting (2000)
 - >90% published studies within 4 years of presentation (Carroll et al, 2003)
- Criteria for being deemed 'published'
 - At least one matching conclusion
 - At least one matching author



The Search Algorithm

- Presenting & other authors
- Keywords
 - From syllabus abstract title
- Limits:
 - Publication Date > Jan 1st, 2000
 - 'Human or animal'
- Search narrowed until <30 articles identified



Results

- 1584 abstracts presented
- Overall publication rate = 55.2% (875)
 - Podium abstracts = 59% (192/324)
 - Moderated posters = 55% (349/640)
 - Unmoderated posters = 55% (305/551)
 - Video presentations = 42% (29/69)*

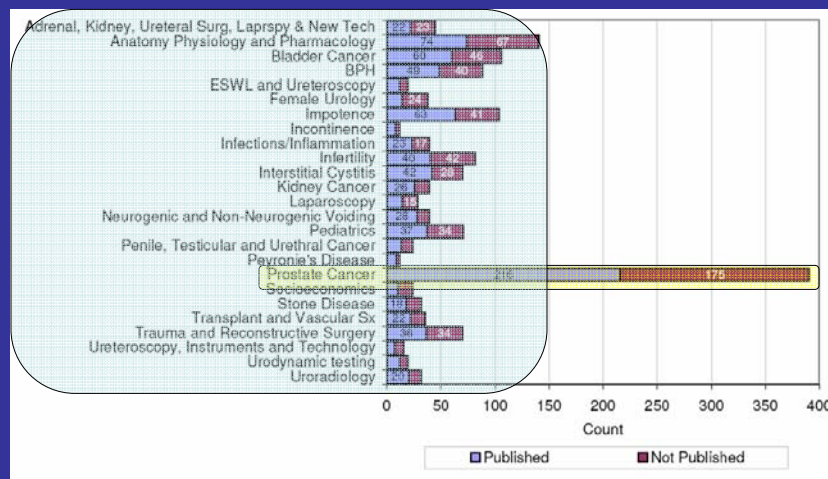


Time to Publication

- Mean = 16.4 months
- Standard deviation = 13.4 months
- 48 abstracts were published before the conference date (3% of all presented)



Publication Rates by Topic



Publication Rates by Topic

- Publication rate significantly lower than mean:
 - Female Urology
- Publication rate significantly greater than mean:
 - Kidney Cancer
 - Neurogenic and Non-neurogenic Voiding Dysfunction
 - Peyronie's Disease

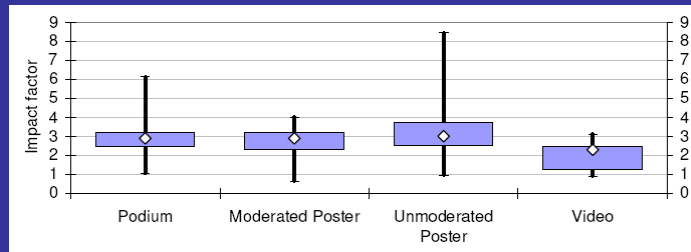


Impact Factor Analysis

- Journal Impact Factor = (number of times articles cited) / (number of articles published) for a given year
 - NEJM = 34.8
 - Lancet = 28.3
 - Cell = 26.6
 - J. Urology = 3.3
 - Urology = 2.8
 - BJU = 1.6
 - J. Endourology = 1.3
 - CJU = not listed



Impact Factor Analysis



- Overall = 3.2
- Podium = 3.0
- Moderated Poster = 2.9
- Unmoderated Poster = 3.7 (significantly higher)
- Video = 2.0 (significantly lower)



Impact Factor Analysis

(by abstract subject)

- Significantly greater impact factor:
 - Prostate Cancer (3.8)
- Significantly lower impact factor:
 - Adrenal, Kidney, & Ureteral surgery, Lap & New Technology (2.2)
 - BPH (2.3)
 - Laparoscopy (2.1)



Ongoing Investigations

- EMBASE search
- Positive vs. Negative outcome assessment



Conclusions

- Overall abstract publication rate = 55.2%
- Similar to publication rates at other major medical meetings
 - Carroll et al, 2003 – 614/1321 abstracts at 1998 & 1999 Pediatric Academic Society meetings
 - Overall 44.6% published



Conclusions

~45% presented abstracts never undergo or withstand the scrutiny of critical peer review required for publication



Conclusions

- Nothing on earth is more important than prostate cancer

Publication Rates by Topic

