

How does scientific literature approach to Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)” and “tobacco use” in pandemic days?

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Introduction

Since the early days of Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, tobacco use and COVID-19 relationship has been one of the major concerns of the scientific research.

Nevertheless, there are still many unknown issues.

Aim

In this paper, it was aimed to investigate how “recent” scientific literature approached to “COVID-19” and “tobacco use”.

Materials and method

- ✓ Keywords were given in (Novel Coronavirus Disease) OR (COVID-19)) AND ((tobacco smoke) OR (tobacco) OR (smoking)) configuration and 161 manuscripts were accessed via online *Pubmed* search on July 14, 2020 (6pm, Turkish Local Time).
- ✓ Among 161, 16 articles were not specifically on COVID-19, 12 were not on tobacco. Finally, 133 articles were included in the study.
- ✓ Survey Monkey[®] platform was used for data entry.
- ✓ IBM Statistics Package for Social Sciences (SPSS ver. 23.0) was used for data analysis.

Findings

Findings-1

The first article was published in March.

The number of the published articles increased in the following months (n=53, June 2020).

Findings-2

Impact factors of the journals in which the articles were published varied between 0.240 and 74.699.

Articles by manuscript category (*Pubmed search, June 2020*) (n=133)

Category	Number
Original research	64
Letter to the editor	14
Review	14
Perspective/view	10
Systematic review	8
Short report	7
Editorial	7
Correspondence	3
Experimental study	3
Case series	1
Meta analysis	1
Report	1

Findings-4

**Articles by first author's affiliation according to WHO Regions
(*Pubmed search, June 2020*) (n=133)**

WHO Region	Number	Percent
Europe	54	40.6
Americas	35	26.3
Western Pacific	29	21.8
South-East Asia	9	6.8
Eastern Mediterranean	6	4.5
Total	133	100.0

Manuscripts by 'type of the study' (*Pubmed search, June 2020*) (n=133)

Type of the study	Number	Percent
Not research article	51	38.3
Research article	82	61.7
<i>Cross-sectional</i>	35	42.6
<i>Meta-analysis</i>	9	10.9
<i>Experimental study</i>	9	10,9
<i>Cohort</i>	7	8.5
<i>Case-control</i>	6	7.3
<i>Systematic review</i>	6	7.3
<i>Descriptive, case series</i>	4	4.8
<i>Descriptive, correlation (ecologic)</i>	3	3.6
<i>Descriptive, case</i>	1	1.2
<i>Intervention</i>	1	1.2
<i>Report</i>	1	1.2
Total	133	100,0

Manuscripts by their emphasize on COVID-19 and tobacco/tobacco control (*Pubmed search, June 2020*) (n=133)

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Main theme of the article is on COVID-19 and tobacco control		
Yes	41	30.8
No	92	69.2
Emphasize on COVID-19 and tobacco relation in the content		
Yes	106	79.7
No	27	20.3
Active/passive smoking emphasize in the content		
Active smoking	118	88.7
Passive smoking	13	9.8
None	2	1.5
Total	133	100,0

Findings-7

- ✓ Chronic diseases were issued in 81 articles (60.9%).
- ✓ Tobacco control measurements were recommended in only 27 articles (20.3%).
- ✓ The general recommendations of the articles were basically on quitting.
- ✓ Tobacco industry struggle was recommended in only two articles.

Conclusion

- ✓ Articles investigated in this paper issued different aspects of tobacco use and COVID-19 relationship.
- ✓ Nevertheless, tobacco control measures were not sufficiently tackled in a comprehensive approach in the manuscripts.

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