

Evaluation of 2006

When I was appointed as Editor of the *Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences*, I implemented various changes and explained our future targets (1). The *Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences* is now covered in the Turkish Medical Index (Türk Tıp Dizini) and is distributed to libraries of every University and Teaching Hospital in Turkey. The journal is available online, with efforts underway to establish an on-line submission and evaluation process this year. We submitted applications for Index Medicus and Current Contents in January of this year, and the journal will be evaluated for inclusion in these most prestigious indexes. Whatever the result, we will move forward with our work to raise even higher the scientific quality of the journal.

During 2006, the *Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences* published 70 articles, including 2 reviews, 46 original articles on either clinical or experimental studies, 21 case reports and 1 Letter to the Editor. Although the majority of the published articles originated from Turkey, we are pleased to report valuable contributions from Algeria, Egypt, India, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan and Palestine. I would like to thank everyone who submitted their studies to our journal, all reviewers, the Editorial Board members and especially the staff of the journal offices at TÜBİTAK for their efforts to make all our targets attainable.

Antioxidants in Chronic Pancreatitis

The present issue contains a review article by Pezzilli and Fantini (2) on the feasibility of antioxidants in pain control in chronic pancreatitis patients. It is generally accepted that the pain of chronic pancreatitis is extremely difficult to treat, as it is always multifactorial and patients present widely varying changes. Pain in chronic pancreatitis may occur as a result of the persistent inflammation and/or pancreatic duct obstruction. Increased intraductal pressure, interstitial hypertension, ischemia and neuronal inflammation may all result in pain (3). The management of pain should involve the management of the disease as well as traditional pain management interventions. Pezzilli et al. in their article address the current approaches and future hopes for the treatment of pain in chronic pancreatitis such as antioxidants. As the oxidative stress is one of the main determinants of pain, the supplementation of antioxidants such as vitamin C may result in control of both the disease and the pain. The control of pain in these patients will also result in a better life quality. Although the number of evidences are not yet sufficient to draw a definitive conclusion, this review article brings hope that a solution for patients with chronic pancreatitis is not far from our grasp.

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References

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3. Pitchumoni CS. Pathogenesis and management of pain in chronic pancreatitis. World J Gastroenterol 2000; 6(4): 490-496.