

EDITORIAL

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Frontiers in Emergency Medicine: A work overview for 2021

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In 2021, **Frontiers in Emergency Medicine** published 47 papers on four distinct issues which all are indexed by SCOPUS, Web of Sciences, and some other databases. More than one hundred authors from various nationalities, including the UAE, Egypt, India, Turkey, Yemen, the USA, Palestine, Belgium, and Iran were involved. As is customary, we decided to review our work for the last year and evaluate our strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, we performed a brief appraisal of our published papers. This review may help the authors who are interested in publishing with us to become more familiar with the journal's aims and scopes, and also the editorial's priorities and preferences.

The year 2021 came to an end with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as the hottest topic of research worldwide. We also tried to play our part to overcome the pandemic by publishing relevant and useful papers that we believed could help health systems and bring valuable findings from Iran as one of the most affected countries in the world, followed by neighboring countries and the Middle East region.

Some of the papers are published as "Letter to the Editor" (1-5). The Publishing of such articles must not be considered as proof of approval for the author's theory by the editorial board of the journal, because these are approved, published, or rejected solely by the editor-in-chief (or his deputy) without peer reviews. There were two papers about the possible role of Magnesium Sulfate (1) and Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) (4) as adjuvant treatment options in patients with COVID-19. Two other papers were about the possible role of Fampridine (3) and Interferon β -1a (2) for the management of COVID-19 in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). We believe that publishing such papers can help raise good hypotheses for further research by our audiences in the same era. Nonetheless, there was one letter which was about the possibility of reinfection with COVID-19 that was clearly replied to in literature later (6), which seems to have somewhat accelerated the selection of this article for publication. We also published a commentary (7) from one of the journal's readers on a previously published paper which correctly raised a statistical objection.

There were 28 published papers in 2021 that fulfilled the criteria of an original article. Of these, 12 were focused on

COVID-19 (8-19) as the most prevalent topic of interest for authors and editors alike, as expected. Some of these papers were published to present valuable epidemiological features and findings in considerable samples of adult patients with COVID-19 (9, 10, 13), pregnant patients with COVID-19 (19), and pediatric patients with COVID-19 (18).

Authors also chose to present works in this journal in which they tried to find possible risk factors on the outcome of patients with COVID-19 using neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (8), results of coagulation profile (15), electrocardiographic findings (11), echocardiographic findings (16), and lung ultrasound findings (12). There were also two papers in which two scoring systems were suggested (14, 17) that require further investigation to establish their accuracy. We believe that these can be proper topics for further research.

Of course, we did not ignore other areas in addition to COVID-19 related issues; there are also published papers on experimental studies (20-25), critical care (26), clinical features of newly admitted emergency psychiatric patients (27), epidemiology of fatal injuries (28), patient safety (29), cardiovascular emergencies (30, 31), management of patients with limb soft tissue defects (32), and a qualitative study on triage standards (33). There are also two prognostic studies, one on liver transplant patients admitted to the emergency department with a suspected infection (34), and another on patients with acute intracranial hemorrhage (35) that needs further investigation to assess the mentioned predictive values. Besides original articles, there were also a number of submissions which did not fulfill the criteria of an original article despite valuable data for presentation and were published as brief reports (36-38). These articles mainly lacked adequate sample size/data that prevented high quality analysis. There is definitely a need for another study on the same topic with proper methodology and sample size.

The paper titled "Accuracy of SARS-CoV-2 Detection in Saliva for COVID-19 Diagnosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" (39) was the editorial selection for 2021. This paper was submitted by a team from Egypt, in which the authors have dealt with a very important recent topic in a timely manner. The results showed that the saliva has a high accuracy in the detection of SARS-CoV-2 and can replace the

bothersome technique of nasopharyngeal swab (39).

The evaluation of mother and fetus after suffering a traumatic event (40), and also the incidence of COVID-19 in patients with diabetes (41) were the main topics of two narrative reviews published by the journal in 2021, in which some recommendations were reviewed by related experts.

Case presentation is an indelible section of our journal, which is always very popular and welcomed by authors with various levels of experience in medical research and medical writing, from medical students to well-known professors. Some authors presented and shared the challenges they faced in managing their cases with our journal's audiences, as each one may raise so many questions and new ideas to start a proposal (42-47).

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