



# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE TURKISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY



**Do we need cruelty against animals to teach and advance medical science any more? Trainees working on a model**





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The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology is the double-blind peer-reviewed, open access, international publication organ of the Turkish Gastroenterology Society. The journal is a bimonthly publication, published on January, March, May, July, September, November and its publication language is English.

The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology aims to publish manuscripts at the highest clinical and scientific level on original issues of gastroenterology and hepatology at the international level. The journal publishes original papers, review articles, case reports and letters to the editor on clinical gastroenterology and hepatology.

Editorial and publication processes of the journal are shaped in accordance with the guidelines of the international organizations such as the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the Council of Science Editors (CSE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the European Association of Science Editors (EASE).

The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology is indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded and PubMed/MEDLINE.

The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology financial expenses of the journal are covered by the Turkish Gastroenterology Society.

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The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology discourages the submission of more than one article dealing with related aspects of the same study. Review articles on selected clinical and basic topics of interest will be solicited by the editors. In exceptional cases, non-invited reviews may be considered for publication.

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State if informed consent was obtained from each patient and that ethic committee approval was obtained.

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# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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Example: Mittal RK, Holloway RH, Penagini R, et al. Transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxation. *Gastroenterology* 1995; 109: 601-10.

## Books:

Chapter in a book: Sherry S. Detection of thrombi. In: Strauss HE, Pitt B, James AE, editors. *Cardiovascular Medicine*. St Louis: Mosby; 1974.p. 273-85.

Personal author(s): Cohn PF. Silent myocardial ischemia and infarction. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Marcel Dekker; 1993.

Editor (s), compiler(s) as author: Norman IJ, Redfern SJ, editors. *Mental health care for elderly people*. New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1996.

Conference paper: Bengissson S. Sothemin BG. Enforcement of data protection, privacy and security in medical informatics. In: Lun KC, Degoulet P, Piemme TE, Rienhoff O, editors. *MEDINFO 92. Proceedings of the 7th World Congress on Medical Informatics*; 1992 Sept 6-10; Geneva, Switzerland. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1992. P. 1561-5.

Scientific or technical report: Smith P, Golladay K. Payment for durable medical equipment billed during skilled nursing facility stays. Final report. Dallas (TX) Dept. of Health and Human Services (US). Office of Evaluation and Inspections: 1994 Oct. Report No: HHSIGOE 169200860.

Dissertation: Kaplan SI. Post-hospital home health care: the elderly access and utilization (dissertation). St. Louis (MO): Washington Univ. 1995.

Article in electronic format: Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. *Emerg Infect Dis* (serial online) 1995 Jan-Mar (cited 1996 June 5): 1(1): [24 screens]. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/cid.htm>.



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# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

## Review

- **447 Show Me Echo – Hepatitis C: A telemedicine mentoring program for patients with hepatitis C in underserved and rural areas in Missouri as a model in developing countries**  
*Veysel Tahan, Ashraf Almashhrawi, Rachel Mutrux, Jamal A. Ibdah*
- **450 Acute pancreatitis following adult liver transplantation: A systematic review**  
*Ahmet Danalıoğlu, Oscar J.L. Mitchell, Vikesh K. Singh, Ahmet Nasuh Danalıoğlu, Hakan Şentürk, Andrew M. Cameron, Ahmet Gürakar*

## Original Articles

- **456 Influence of vitamin C and E supplementation on the eradication rates of triple and quadruple eradication regimens for *Helicobacter pylori* infection**  
*Hakan Demirci, Sevil Uygun İlikhan, Kadir Öztürk, Yücel Üstündağ, Ömer Kurt, Muammer Bilici, Furuzan Köktürk, Ahmet Uygun*
- **461 Rare disorders can be an underlying cause of cyclic vomiting: Familial Mediterranean fever, *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis, and cavernous transformation of the portal vein**  
*Ödül Egritaş Gürkan, Aysel Ünlüsoy Aksu, Zeliha Demirtaş, Buket Dalgıç*
- **468 Relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and metabolic syndrome**  
*Emel Işıktaş Sayılar, Bülent Çelik, Şükrü Dumlu*
- **474 Impact of gender and age on the occurrence of gastric polyps: Data analysis of 69575 southeastern Chinese patients**  
*Endian Zheng, Shuangshuang Ni, Yingcong Yu, Ying Wang, Xuejian Weng, Liang Zheng*
- **480 DR-70 as a novel diagnostic biomarker for gastric cancer**  
*Mehmet Arhan, Hülya Yılmaz, İbrahim K. Önal, Murat Kocabıyık, Harun Erdal, Mehmet İbiş*
- **484 Is there any relationship between unrecognized Celiac disease and unexplained infertile couples?**  
*Nilay Karaca, Rabiye Yılmaz, Lebriz Hale Aktun, Gonca Batmaz, Çetin Karaca*
- **487 Serum matrix metalloproteinase-9 and tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-1 expression in patients with familial Mediterranean fever**  
*Mustafa Dinç, Alpaslan Tanoğlu, Yusuf Yazgan, Yavuz Beyazıt, Kemal Öncü, Yalçın Önem, Serdar Hıra, Mustafa Kaplan, İrfan Küçük, Yusuf Serdar Sakın, Levent Demirtürk*
- **492 Meat intake and risk of inflammatory bowel disease: A meta-analysis**  
*Jian Ge, Tian-Jie Han, Jin Liu, Jun-Shan Li, Xiao-Hua Zhang, Yu Wang, Qing-Yan Li, Qiang Zhu, Chong-Mei Yang*
- **498 Multidisciplinary decision making in the management of hepatocellular carcinoma: A hospital-based study**  
*Saad Zaky, Nahed A. Makhlouf, Mohamed O Abdel-Malek, Ahmed A. Bakheet, Hany M. A. Seif, Hesham M. Hamza, Abeer M. M. Sabry*
- **506 Mallory-Denk bodies: Correlation with steatosis, severity, zonal distribution, and identification with ubiquitin**  
*Serra Kayaçetin, Metin Başaranoğlu*





# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

■ **511 Evaluation of fluvastatin in combination with the standard of care therapy (PEG-IFN/Ribavirin) in Egyptian patients with Hepatitis C virus**

*Moataz S. Seyam, Haitham A. Gabr, Zakaria A. Salama, Mohammed A. Mokhles, Raghda N. Marzaban, Ahmed F. Soliman*

■ **517 Incidence, causes, and outcomes of renal failure among cirrhotic patients**

*Khairy H. Morsy, Mohamed A. Mekky, Mohamed O. Abdel-Malek, Wael A. Abbas*

■ **522 Cystic fluid chromogranin A levels in different pancreatic cystic lesions**

*Nevin Oruç, Ahmet Aydın, Burcu Barutcuoğlu, Çağdaş Aktan, Deniz Nart, Ali Veral*

## Letter to the Editor

■ **528 Plasma Chromogranin A levels: Consider the associated disease entities**

*Zeynep Gök Sargın, Nasser Alizadeh, İbrahim Koral Önal*

■ **529 REVIEWER LIST**



# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

## From the Editor

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to let you know that there is a significant rise in access to our articles through Pubmed from 2014 to 2015 indicating that the up-trend in impact factor, which rose 60% in 2014, will go on.

***There is a significant rise in access to our articles through Pubmed from 2014 to 2015***

Our last issue focusing on non-animal experimental methods attracted attention and I am very happy to receive the following letter from a medical student who was touched by our anti-animal experiment stance. Now, we are working together to found an organization entitled "Medical Students against Animal Experiments".

**Hakan Şentürk**  
Editor in Chief

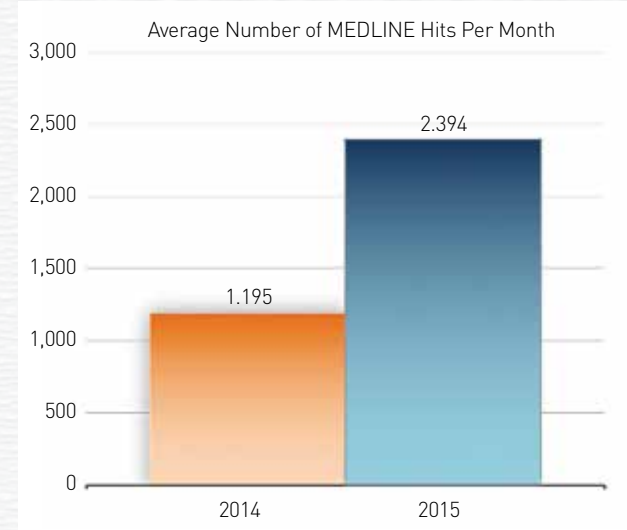
## A MEDICAL STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

When I started medical school I had the same dream as everyone else: to become a good physician. Our professors have always encouraged us to do scientific research, but there was one obstacle that I always came across: animal use in experiments. In my mind, animals are sentient beings and I could never distinguish and favor a cat over a cow or a dog over a rat. I love taking care of animals, and I didn't think I can use them for experiments.



This dilemma never left me, and as a result I was a medical student on her 4<sup>th</sup> grade who already gave up on medical research.

Fortunately shortly after, I saw our professor Hakan Şentürk's article on this very journal about "Moving Beyond Animal Models" (1). It got me thinking. Despite what many other professors think, it is actually possible to be a good researcher and a



physician without using animals for experiments. Never had I read so many rational reasons to not use animals for research.

We are quite excited and proud to announce that we are starting a student organization called Medical Students Against Animal Experiments at the Bezmialem Vakif University. We are against animal abuse and believe that science can be done without harming non-human animals. Such an association is a necessity because animal testing has proved itself to be not only cruel but also expensive and inapplicable to humans. Together, we can work on new ideas and alternatives on animal testing both locally and globally.

***We are starting a student organization called Medical Students Against Animal Experiments***

For the past few decades science has evolved tremendously and there is now plenty of room for different ideas. Looking through various of research articles, there are many non-animal research methods such as in vitro models (2), organs-on-chips (3), computer models that simulate



# THE TURKISH JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

human biology (4) and many more. For example, virtually every medical school in the United States and Canada no longer uses animals for training medical students, instead using virtual reality and other simulation methods (5). Why won't yours be one of those?

There is a need for motivated members in the society to advocate against animal use for experiments. I am sure that we will expand in no time with the participation of hardworking and responsible medical students in this association. Science deserves a conscientious modality. It is time.

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