



AOTT

ACTA ORTHOPAEDICA et TRAUMATOLOGICA TURCICA

Volume 53 • Number 5 • September 2019

Acta Orthop Traumatol Turc ISSN 1017-995x

ACTA ORTHOPAEDICA et TRAUMATOLOGICA TURCICA

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Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Turcica (AOTT) is a peer-reviewed journal published six times a year by the Turkish Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (TOTDER).

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Included and indexed in the **Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE)**, **Index Medicus-Medline**, **Index Copernicus**, and the **Turkish Medical Index**.



This publication is printed on paper that meets the international standard ISO 9706: 1994.
National Library of Medicine recommends the use of permanent, acid-free paper in the production of biomedical literature.

Aims and Scope

Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Turcica (AOTT) publishes diagnostic, treatment, and prevention methods related to orthopedics and traumatology and original studies in related disciplines. Contributions may be in the form of clinical and basic research articles, case reports, personal clinical and technical notes, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and letters to the Editor. The Journal also publishes brief reports on original studies or evaluations, book reviews, and proceedings of scientific meetings. Opinions presented in published articles by no means represent the official endorsement of the Turkish Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. Articles and illustrations become the property of the Journal after publication.

The official language of the Journal is English. Electronic versions of all printed articles are presented in both English and Turkish at the official web site (<http://www.aott.org.tr>).

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Peer review under responsibility of Turkish Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology

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FROM THE EDITOR

Open Access Publishing, Article Processing Charges and the Near Future of AOTT Journal

Dear AOTT Readers,

About two decades ago, in 2001, AOTT Journal made major improvements in its website to include PDF versions of all published articles and declared itself as a “free access online journal”, where all costs of the journal were covered by its owner, the Turkish Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (TOTDER). This was a revolutionary change in the philosophy of publishing for the early 2000’s, when the world medical society was still hesitant about the quality of “free” information.

In December 2001, Open Society Institute (currently Open Society Foundations), a non-governmental organization founded by George Soros, called a meeting in Budapest for leading proponents of open access of the scientific and scholarly journal literature. On February 14, 2002, the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI), a statement of principles relating to open access for research literature, was released (1). The declaration focused on two main recommendations:

1: *“Self-Archiving: First, scholars need the tools and assistance to deposit their refereed journal articles in open electronic archives, a practice commonly called, self-archiving.*

2: *Open-Access Journals: Second, scholars need the means to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access, and to help existing journals that elect to make the transition to open access. Because journal articles should be disseminated as widely as possible, these new journals will no longer invoke copyright to restrict access to and use of the material they publish.”*

After only a decade, benefiting from the giant steps taken by the internet network, almost all journals were available online and standard formats like PDF were accepted universally. Open access was still not a common preference in the academic publishing world. Resistance from high-profit publishing companies was only one of the possible reasons. Nevertheless, increasing pressure from new, online and free journals forced top publishers

to join the open access journal model, inventing an alternative to the subscription model where typically a publication fee is paid by the author. This payment is called as “article production charge (APC)” and is obligatory in some journals, while some journals allow the authors to make a choice between an open access article with APC payment or a regular article with limited access for subscribers (hybrid access journal model). As of January 21, 2018, of the 11,001 journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), 7,766 (71%) were not charging an APC for publication and 3,131 (28%) were asking for a payment. In addition, 2% of the listed journals were requesting an article submission fee, while some journals were asking for both (2). The average author fees for Elsevier’s journals that charge APC stand at €1,637. This is far below the average charge in PLoS (€2,212) and in Wiley’s open access journals (€2,112), as well as BioMed’s (€1,771), but still higher than that of Springer and Taylor & Francis (3).

Since the first date of open access announcement of AOTT in 2001, all production costs of the journal has been sponsored by the two Turkish orthopedic societies, TOTDER and TOTBID. Currently, APC’s for all AOTT articles are paid by these societies on behalf of the authors, reaching a very high annual cost. With the changing economic climate, The Executive Board of TOTDER has recently decided to ask authors for a contribution in APC payment, starting with the submissions in 2020. There will be a fixed price of €200 for research articles and €150 for case reports and technical notes, which is a relatively low level of payment when compared to other journals with APC.

Transition from being a “free to publish” journal to an “APC paid” journal brings a new set of concerns. Tendency to accept a relatively higher percentage of submissions for publication is one such concern, which would result in a decline in scientific quality of the journal. However, this is not a concern for the AOTT Journal since the article selection process is conducted not by the publishing company, but by the editorial team authorized by TOTDER. In addition, the true APC costs

are much higher than what the authors are asked to pay. Another concern is the possibility of APCs to exclude authors from developing countries from submitting their articles to AOTT Journal. I hereby declare that author APC of high quality articles of Level of Evidence I or II will be covered by TOTDER upon request of authors.

I will be pleased to have your comments and contributions about this change in publishing philosophy of the journal.

Best regards,

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3. Markin P. How much do top publishers charge for open Access? <https://openscience.com/how-much-do-top-publishers-charge-for-open-access/> (accessed 11.9.2019)

After nearly two decades, this type of scientific publication is now named as “platinum” or “diamond” type open access.

ACTA ORTHOPAEDICA et TRAUMATOLOGICA TURCICA

Vol. 53 - No. 5 – September 2019

ISSN 1017-995X

The Official Journal of the Turkish Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology
and the Turkish Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology

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