

Are Posters at the OTA Meeting Second Rate?

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Purpose: To have a poster presentation may be thought of as less prestigious than a podium presentation. However, that may not be a reflection of the research quality. We sought to determine the publication rate of posters presented at the OTA annual meeting from 2011-2016.

Methods: All posters presented at the OTA annual meetings from 2011-2016 were identified from the OTA website and confirmed through review of the OTA official program for those years. The poster titles and their authors were catalogued in a database. This information was then used to direct a search to determine which of these presentations led to publications. If the presentation was associated with a publication, the publishing journal, date of publication, and the search engine used to find the publication were all entered into the database.

Results: Between the years 2011 and 2016 there were a total of 875 posters, and 458 were published (52%). The highest rate of publication was 64% of posters published in 2012 (see Table 1). The posters were published at an average of 19.4 months after presentation (range, 0-76). There were 32 posters presented prior to presentation at the OTA meeting. 150 posters were published in the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma (33%), which was the most common journal to publish. Posters were published in over 83 different journals.

Conclusion: The publication rates of podium presentations at national meetings have been published with results ranging from 46% at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) annual meeting, 52% at the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) annual meeting, and 66% at the OTA annual meeting. Our research demonstrated a 52% publication rate over a 6-year period of posters presented at the OTA annual meeting. This rate is higher than the AAOS and ASSH publication rate for podium presentations. The OTA poster publication rate validates the quality of a poster presentation at the OTA Annual Meeting.