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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does 'Turkish ophthalmology' need clarification? What truly constitutes our field?

 **Aslan Aykut**

Department of Ophthalmology, Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkiye

Dear Editor,

I read the article "The 100 most-cited articles in Turkish ophthalmology: A bibliometric analysis of research trends and scientific impact" with great interest.^[1] By limiting their search to the seven ophthalmology journals published in Turkey, the authors provide a clear picture of our national journals, their citation performance, and their most active subspecialties. This journal-centered approach usefully shows how domestic periodicals collect citations, build professional networks, and uphold editorial standards. Nevertheless, the phrase "Turkish ophthalmology" in the title can be understood in several different ways. It may refer to the physical location of a journal, the institutional address of the authors, the language of the paper, or the eye-health problems that matter most to Turkish patients. Focusing on only one of these meanings may leave aside the large body of high-quality work that Turkish researchers publish in international journals. In our own bibliometric review of uveal-melanoma papers, we traced Turkish-affiliated authors across the global literature. We observed strong cross-border collaboration along with citation patterns that differ from those reported for Turkish journals.^[2] Viewed together, the two studies suggest that place of publication, author affiliation, article language, and public-health relevance each answer a different policy

question, and merging them under one label can blur the real contribution of Turkish ophthalmology.

For this reason, I kindly propose that future bibliometric studies state their working definition of "Turkish ophthalmology" directly in the title or subtitle, for example, "ophthalmology journals published in Turkey" or "ophthalmic papers from Turkish institutions." When possible, combining more than one of these angles in the same analysis would give a fuller and more balanced view of our scientific output.

I thank Reyhan *et al.*^[1] for their careful work and hope that this short note will encourage clearer terms in future studies.

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2. Aykut A, Sarigul Sezenoz A. Turkish uveal melanoma research: A bibliometric analysis (1987–2024). *Eur Eye Res* 2024;4:141–9. [\[CrossRef\]](#)



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Correspondence: Aslan Aykut, M.D. Department of Ophthalmology, Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkiye

E-mail: aslanaykut81@gmail.com

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