

Letter to Editor

The believer is not stung from the same place twice: the monkeypox outbreak

Khaled Saad¹, Anas Elgenidy²

¹Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt

²Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

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Corresponding author:

Prof. Khaled Saad PhD

Department of Pediatrics

Faculty of Medicine

Assiut University

Assiut, Egypt

Phone: +201097075321

E-mail: khaled.ali@med.au.edu.eg

au.edu.eg

On 23 July 2022 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the current monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency. Since the first case was identified, the number of research articles discussing the monkeypox virus has been increasing. A search for “Monkeypox OR Monkey Pox” in the PubMed database by title and abstract revealed 536 publications between 1 January 2022, and 9 September 2022. However, it is crucial to ensure quality and ethical considerations.

In the 3 top-ranked scientific medical journals, Zdravkovic *et al.* [1] examined the quality of evidence of COVID-19 publications compared to non-COVID-19 publications and revealed that the quality of COVID-19 articles is below the quality average of these journals. A retraction watch has tracked the retractions of papers about COVID-19 and revealed more than 258 retracted papers. Following the studies assessing the quality of COVID-19 publications, we can see that the limitation lies in the potential conflicts of interest, lower quality on the level of evidence pyramid, weak association measure, missing data, under-reporting, nonblinding in the randomized trials, being repetitive, inaccurate, or biased [1, 2].

This pandemic of publications can be explained by the fact that the editorial boards and the authors are more occupied with any public health emergency-related publications. However, with the eagerness to publish trendy research, other irrelevant public health papers can be unintentionally affected [3].

In conclusion, we can only appeal to authors and editors to keep the responsibilities regarding the ethical standards and not to repeat the same mistakes in dealing with the smallpox outbreak as were made when dealing with COVID-19.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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