

# NORTHERN CLINICS OF ISTANBUL VOL 10 • NO 4 • YEAR 2023



P ISSN 2148-4902 E ISSN 2536-4553

### Journal Abbreviation: North Clin Istanb

- Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with chronic diseases
- Deficiency of adenosine deaminase 2 as an unrecognized cause of early-onset stroke and cranial nerve palsy
- Cost of diabetes mellitus and related macrovascular complications in Turkiye
- Antibiotic preferences and treatment
  durations in community-acquired infections
- Relationship between symptom burden and dialysis adequacy in patients with chronic kidney disease undergoing hemodialysis
- Evaluation of factors affecting the length of stay of geriatric patients in the emergency department
- Clinical features, functional status, and quality of life in patients with late-onset familial Mediterranean fever
- Acute complications observed during intensive chemotherapy in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia: Single-center experience
- Evaluation of babies with retinopathy of prematurity following intravitreal bevacizumab administration
- Morphologic evaluation of megakaryocytes in immune thrombocytopenia patients older than 80 years

INDEXED IN WEB OF SCIENCE, EMERGING SOURCES CITATION INDEX, PUBMED, PUBMED CENTRAL, EUROPE PMC, EBSCO, DOAJ, ProQuest, TUBITAK TR INDEX, AND TURKIYE CITATION INDEX.



## NORTHERN CLINICS OF ISTANBUL ISTANBUL KUZEY KLINIKLERI

### Editor-In-Chief

Berna Terzioglu Bebitoglu, MD.

### **EDITORS**\*

Mustafa Aldag, MD. Baris Murat Ayvaci, MD. Sema Basat, MD. Neslihan Buyukmurat, MD. Tolga Canbak, MD. Azize Esra Gursoy, MD. Betul Sozeri, MD. Kemal Tekesin, MD. Ilkin Zindanci, MD.

### **MANAGING EDITOR**

STATISTICAL EDITOR

Kemal Tekesin, MD.

Nurdan Colakoglu

### PUBLICATION COORDINATOR

Ahmet Keskin

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE\*

Didem Tuba Akcali, MD. Ilknur Aktas, MD. Mustafa Aldag, MD. Mustafa Aldemir, MD. Orhan Alimoglu, MD. Nuri Aydin, MD. Ozlem Baysal, MD. Basak Bilir Kaya, MD. Hasan Bombaci, MD. Derya Buyukkayhan, MD. Mustafa Caliskan, MD. Kazim Capaci, MD. Turhan Caskurlu, MD. Ali Riza Cenk Celebi, MD. Beyhan Cengiz Ozyurt, MD. Tongabay Cumurcu, MD. Seema Dayal, MD. Gizem Dinler Doganay, MD. Sibel Dogan, MD. Mehmet Doganay, MD.

Dilek Erdogan Ari, MD. Yuksel Ersoy, MD. Duygu Geler Kulcu, MD. Kaan Gideroglu, MD. Ahmet Gocmen, MD. Mehmet Zafer Goren, MD. Aysegul Gunduz, MD. Ozlem Guneysel, MD. Melek Gura Celik, MD. Melih Atahan Guven, MD. Mert Ilker Hayiroglu, MD. Mine Hekimgil, MD. Seyhan Hidiroglu, MD. Afitap Icagasioglu, MD. Ates Kadioglu, MD. Atila Karaalp, MD. Ayse Serap Karadag, MD. Ihsan Muhammet Karaman, MD. Semra Kayatas Eser, MD. Umut Kefeli, MD.

Zeid J. Khitan, MD. Tayfun Kirazli, MD. Gurkan Kiran, MD. Cemal Kocaaslan, MD. O. Emek Kocaturk Goncu, MD. Cevdet Ugur Kocogullari, MD. Sukran Kose, MD. Turkan Kudsioglu, MD. Carlo A. Mallio, MD. Kemal Memisoglu, MD. Aysel Milanlioglu, MD. Murat Muhcu, MD. Sait Naderi, MD. Kemal Nas, MD. Cagatay Nuhoglu, MD. Tamer Okay, MD. Muhammed Fatih Onsuz, MD. Melike Ozcelik, MD. Kamil Ozdil, MD. H. Isin Ozisik Karaman, MD.

Necdet Saglam, MD. Abdurrahman Sahin, MD. Ilhan Sanverdi, MD. Tarik Sapci, MD. Ayse Banu Sarifakioglu, MD. Fatih Saygili, MD. Mehmet Selcuki, MD. Ozlem Tanriover, MD. Sait Terzi, MD. Gulnur Tokuc, MD. Filiz Topaloglu Demir, MD. Ismail Turkmen, MD. Sezgin Vatansever, MD. Ayhan Verit, MD. Destina Yalcin, MD. Tuba Yavuzsen, MD. Sema Yilmaz, MD. Ebru Zemheri, MD.

\*The editorial board list is sorted alphabetically by surname.



## NORTHERN CLINICS OF ISTANBUL ISTANBUL KUZEY KLINIKLERI

## YEAR 2023 VOLUME 10 NUMBER 4

P ISSN 2148 - 4902 E ISSN 2536 - 4553

Ownership and Accountability for Contents on Behalf of The Istanbul Health Directorate Kemal Memisoglu, MD.

(Istanbul Provincial Health Director)

### MANAGING EDITOR

Kemal Tekesin, MD.

### PUBLICATION COORDINATOR

Ahmet Keskin

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Umraniye Teaching and Research Hospital Elmalikent Mah., Adem Yavuz Cad. No: 1, 34764 Umraniye, Istanbul-Turkiye Phone: +90 216 632 18 18 Fax: +90 216 632 71 24 https://northclinist.com e-mail: bilgi@kuzeyklinikleri.com

Indexed in Web of Science, Emerging Sources Citation Index, PubMed, PubMed Central, Europe PMC, DOAJ, ProQuest, TUBITAK TR Index, CLIO, CINAHL and Turkiye Citation Index.

English Editing by

Sinjore Technologies

#### PUBLISHER

KARE PUBLISHING Goztepe Mahallesi, Fahrettin Kerim Gokay Caddesi, No: 200, Daire: 2, Kadikoy, Istanbul, Turkiye Tel: +90 216 550 61 11 Fax: +90 216 550 61 12 http://www.karepb.com e-mail: kare@karepb.com

#### DESIGN

Neslihan Cakir neslihan.cakir@karepb.com

#### Press

YILDIRIM PRINTING HOUSE Yuzyil Mah., Massit Matbaacılar Sitesi, 1. Cad. No: 101, Bagcilar, İstanbul, Turkiye Tel: +90 212 629 80 37 Fax: +90 212 629 80 39

### INFO

Press date: August 2023 Circulation: 50 Type of publication: Periodical

Northern Clinics of Istanbul (NCI) is a peer-reviewed journal published 6 issues in a year. Materials published in the Journal is covered by copyright ©2023 NCI. All rights reserved. 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.













IV	Instructions for the authors
	ORIGINAL ARTICLES
401–410	Clinical outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with chronic diseases
	Sertbas Y, Elci Solak E, Dagci S, Kizilay V, Yazici Z, Elarslan S, Ozdil K
411–417	Deficiency of adenosine deaminase 2 as an unrecognized cause of early-onset stroke and cranial nerve palsy
	Celikel E, Aydin F, Ekici Tekin Z, Kurt T, Sezer M, Tekgoz N, Karagol C, Coskun S, Kaplan MM, Citak Kurt AN, Celikel Acar B
418–427	Cost of diabetes mellitus and related macrovascular complications in Turkiye Birinci S, Sur H
428–434	Antibiotic preferences and treatment durations in community-acquired infections Ertunc B, Yilmaz G
435–443	Relationship between symptom burden and dialysis adequacy in patients with chronic kidney disease undergoing hemodialysis Karaaslan T, Pembegul I
444–450	Evaluation of factors affecting the length of stay of geriatric patients in the emergency department
	Solakoglu GA, Aciksari K, Nuhoglu C, Doker KO
451–457	Clinical features, functional status, and quality of life in patients with late-onset familial Mediterranean fever
	Gursoy DE, Gezer HH, Oz N, Ozer A, Kasman SA, Duruoz MT
458–469	Acute complications observed during intensive chemotherapy in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia: Single-center experience
	Yildirim UM, Tekkesin F, Koc BS, Aydogdu S, Asarcikli F, Caki Kilic S
470–476	Evaluation of babies with retinopathy of prematurity following intravitreal bevacizumab administration
	Sahin O, Boga A, Karakus Hacioglu G, Sozen HG, Karadeniz Bilgin L
477–483	Morphologic evaluation of megakaryocytes in immune thrombocytopenia patients older than 80 years
	Demirci U, Umit EG, Baysal M, Demir AM
484–489	Radiological measurement parameters of distal radius and wrist measured on X-rays in the Turkish population
	Bilgin Y, Ekinci M, Ozmen Z, Birisik F
490–500	Assessment of <i>Epstein–Barr virus, Candida albicans,</i> and some periodontal pathogens in rheumatoid arthritis patients with periodontitis
	Paksoy T, Ustaoglu G, Tasci M, Demirci M, Unlu O, Yasar MF

CONTENTS

Vol. 10 • No. 4 • YEAR 2023

501–506	Exploring the landscape of CA-125 testing: A comprehensive analysis of Ministry of Health data
	Ulgu MM, Birinci S
507–513	Systemic inflammatory markers for distinguishing uncomplicated and complicated acute appendicitis in adult patients
	Yesilalioglu S, Az A, Sogut O, Ergenc H, Demirel I
514–520	Examination of the change in sexual functions and anxiety as the pregnancy progresses and the effect of nulliparity on this change
	Demir O, Sal H, Ozalp M, Bulut Adas M, Aran T, Osmanagaoglu MA
	CASE REPORTS
521–523	An atypical presentation of COVID-19: Hidden risk for seniors to misdiagnose
	Ates Bulut E, Ozden G, Isik AT
524–526	A rare benign tumor of the liver mimicking angiosarcoma: Anastomosing hemangioma
	Ismayilov R, Babaoglu B, Keskin O
527–530	From open wound treatment to primary soft-tissue non-Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosis;
	a challenging case report
	Askar A
	REVIEW
531–539	Molecular epidemiology of carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii isolates in Turkiye:
	Systematic review
	Kahraman Kilbas EP, Kilbas I, Ciftci IH
540	ERRATUM

NORTHERN CLINICS OF ISTANBUL - NCI is a peer-reviewed, open-access, international journal published by the Istanbul Provincial Health Directorate, Health Services Presidency (IHD). The NCI is printed 6 times a year. Free full-text articles in English are available at www. kuzeyklinikleri.com. The NCI is indexed in the Web of Science, Emerging Sources Citation Index, PubMed, PubMed Central, Europe PMC, DOAJ, ProQuest, CINAHL, ULAKBIM TR Index and Turkive Citation Index. The journal publishes research, interesting case reports, letters to the editor, review articles, editorial comments, medical news, and guidelines. The NCI accepts manuscripts written in English. Opinions presented in published articles do not represent official endorsement of the IHD.

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, which is regularly updated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and available at http://www.icmje.org.

### **ARTICLE TYPES**

The NCI publishes the kinds of articles briefly described below.

*Research Articles:* These are articles on original clinical (conducted with healthy subjects or patients) or experimental (human, animal or in-vitro trials) research performed in all fields.

*Case Reports:* This section contains reports on interesting, instructive or rarely seen cases.

*Review Articles:* Reviews are usually written at the invitation of the editors. The NCI publishes clinical review articles related to the natural course of diseases, updated diagnostic and therapeutic approaches of concern to clinicians and specialists in basic sciences that encompass genetic, physiological, and pharmacological aspects of the underlying mechanisms of diseases, and reviews about state-of-the art treatment strategies, technological advancements, and newly approved drugs.

*Editorial Comments:* This section contains editors' comments, reviews, and other relevant items. Letters to the Editor: These are comments, criticism and contributions in response to a paper published in the NCI. The author(s) of a criticized article has the right to reply. The article that is the subject of the comments should be listed in the references section. Letters must be sent to the editor within 4 weeks following publication of the subject article in the NCI.

#### PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT

General Format: All manuscripts should be typewritten on A4 white paper, and 2.5 cm-wide margins should be left on all sides. The references should be numbered consecutively in the order of their first mention in the text. All text material, including references, footnotes, and table and figure legends, should be typed using double-spacing in an 11 point font with left alignment and without hyphenated line breaks. The fonts Times New Roman or Arial should be used in the text, for symbols, and all other special characters. Please use the editing features of your word processing program to type bold or italic letters, mathematical symbols, Greek letters, subscript and superscript characters. Please take care not to confuse the letters O and I with the numerals 0 and 1. To set a left indent for a paragraph, click the TAB button once. Only the International System of Units (SI) should be used for units of measurement. Abbreviations and acronyms should be written in parentheses following the full name or an explanation of the usage should be provided just after the first appearance in the text. Please review the final version of the manuscript very carefully, especially for formatting and editing errors.

All pages of the manuscript should be consecutively numbered starting from the title page (page 1, title page; page 2, Turkish abstract; page 3, English abstract, etc.). Page numbers should be indicated on the upper right-hand corner of each page. Final version of the manuscript should be in ".doc" or ".rtf" format. Manuscripts submitted in ".pdf" format will not be accepted.

*Manuscript Sections:* All research articles must contain the following sections: (1) Title page, (2) Abstract with keywords, (3) Introduction, (4) Methods, (5) Results, (6) Discussion, (7) Acknowledgements, (8) Conflict of interest, (9) Funding resources, (10) References, (11) Legends of the figures, (12) Tables, (13) Figures. In case of need, presentation of Methods, Results, and Discussion sections under subheadings is preferred. Case reports should be presented following abstract section, under headings of introduction, case presentation, and discussion. In review articles, appropriate headings can be used in accordance with the development of the manuscript. Sections of the manuscript in order of their appearance in the text with relevant explanations are listed below.

*Title Page:* The title page should contain the following information: (1) article title, (2) full name and academic title of all participating authors, (3) department and institution of all authors, including the city and country, (4) name, full mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the corresponding author, and (5) word count (including title page, abstracts, explanatory notes for figures and tables). If the study was presented elsewhere, those details should be indicated on the title page.

Authors should disclose whether they used artificial intelligence (AI)– assisted technologies (such as Large Language Models [LLMs], chatbots, or image creators) in the production of submitted work. Authors should assert that there is no plagiarism in their paper, including in text and images produced by the AI -if any- and must ensure there is appropriate attribution of all quoted material, including full citations.

Abstract: The abstract should be written on a separate page. It should contain at most 250 words, and be structured as follows: (1) Objective, (2) Methods, (3) Results, and (4) Conclusion. Under these headings, briefly describe the subject of the article, methods used for the study, basic findings, and author's conclusion. No subtitles may be used in the abstract of a case report. A minimal number of abbreviations and/or acronyms should be used. Abstracts should not contain any references. A maximum of 5 key-

words should be included at the end of the abstract. The Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) prepared by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) may be used as a reference for keywords.

Introduction: State the specific purpose and available data relevant to the study.

Methods: All methods used to select participants and conduct the study should be described in detail. Known methods should be cited. Novel or modified methods used should be described in detail. Doses, concentrations, routes, and duration of administration of drugs and chemical agents should be indicated. A concise report of all statistical methods used for summarizing available data and for testing the proposed hypothesis should be provided under a subtitle, including the p value criteria determined for statistically significant difference. Statistical evaluation conducted should be explained in detail. Standard statistical methods should be used as much as possible. If rarely employed or novel statistical methods were used, then the relevant references should be cited. When necessary, more detailed explanations about unusual, complex or new statistical methods can be provided in separate files for readers as online supplementary data. The commercial name and version number of any statistical software package program used should be provided. For statistical evaluation, the recommendations in the statistics section of the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication" (http://www.ICMJE.org) should be taken into consideration.

*Results:* The study results should be presented in logical sequence and in detail. The findings should be supported by figures and tables. Information given in figures and tables should not be repeated in the text unless absolutely required.

*Discussion:* Data relevant to the study subject matter should be examined, evaluated, and substantiated with references from domestic and international sources. General information irrelevant or superfluous to the report should not be included. Acknowledgement: The names of individuals who contributed to the study but who fail to meet the criteria of authorship should be mentioned in this section. The written consent of all individuals mentioned should be obtained.

*Conflict of Interest:* All potential conflicts of interest should be declared under this heading. All affiliations with pharmaceutical firms, biomedical device manufacturers, and other service or product procurers relevant to the subject matter of the study should be explicitly indicated. If no conflict of interest exists, this should be stated as "none declared." Declarations related to conflicts of interest should be placed at the bottom of a separate page after the acknowledgements and before the references. A Conflict of Interest Form will be sent to the authors of accepted papers.

*Funding sources:* The full name of any sponsoring foundation or institution should be provided.

References: References should be listed consecutively in the order of their first appearance in the text. All sources the authors made direct use of should be included as references, excluding unpublished results and personal communications. During the preparation of the manuscript for publication, additional information regarding any unconfirmed references will be requested from the authors. Titles of journals should be abbreviated as indicated in the Index Medicus. If that is not possible, then the full name of the journal should be provided. In the references, a maximum of 6 authors should be cited for any 1 article with their full surname, and then the initial(s) of their first name. If more than 6 authors contributed to the cited article, then after the name of the sixth author, the abbreviation "et al." should be added to indicate that there are additional authors. The notation and listing of references should comply with the following sample reference citations:

1. Journal: Balci NC, Sirvanci M, Tufek I, Onat L, Duran C. Spontaneous retroperitoneal hemorrhage secondary to subcapsular renal hematoma: MRI findings. Magn Reson Imaging 2001;19:1145-8.

- Articles in press: Roten L, Derval N, Sacher F, Pascale P, Wilton SB, Scherr D, et al. Ajmaline attenuates electrocardiogram characteristics of inferolateral early repolarization. Heart Rhythm 2011 Sep 19 [E-pub ahead of print], doi:10.1016/j. hrthm.2011.09.013.
- Book: Brown AM. Physiology of the liver. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003.
- Chapter in book: Anderson JL, Muhlestein JB. The role of infection. In: Theroux P, editor. Acute coronary syndromes: a companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders; 2003. p. 88-107.
- 5. Web page: Nainggolan L. New salt paper causes controversy. Heartwire. May 3, 2011. Available at: http:// www.theheart.org/article/1220043. do. Accessed: June 12, 2011.

*Figure Legends:* Explanatory notes for each figure should be submitted on a separate page in order of their appearance in the text immediately after the references section under the heading "figure legends." All abbreviations and symbols used in the figure should be defined in alphabetical order.

Figures: The manuscript will not be evaluated until all figures cited in the text are submitted. The number of figures provided should be in accordance with the content and data presented in the text, and table data should not be repeated in figures. All figures should be sent in individual electronic file format ready for publication with maximum dimensions of 125 cm x 180 cm. Illustrations in color should be in CMYK format and have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI suitable for publication. Figures depicted in gray scale should have a minimum resolution of 600 DPI, and the minimum resolution required for black and white illustrations is 1200 DPI. All figures should be in TIFF format. Figures must not disclose or imply the identity of a specific individual without the written consent of the individual in question.

*Tables:* Each table should be typed or printed with double-spacing on a separate sheet of paper. Tables should be numbered consecutively in the order

of their first citation in the text. The number and title of the table should be placed just above the table. Do not use vertical lines between columns. Horizontal lines should be used only above and below the headings of the columns, and at the bottom of the table. If required, explanatory notes regarding table data should be written in footnotes. All abbreviations and acronyms used in the table should also be explained in alphabetical order in footnotes.

### **ETHICAL POLICY**

NCI follows the ethics flowcharts developed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for dealing with cases of possible scientific misconduct and breaches of publication ethics. For detailed information please visit www. publicationethics.org.

All submitted manuscripts are screened with plagiarism software (iThenticate) to detect instances of overlapping and similar text during the evaluation process.

All manuscripts presenting data obtained from research involving human subjects must include a statement that the written informed consent of the participants was obtained and that the study was approved by an institutional review board or an equivalent body. This institutional approval should be submitted with the manuscript. Authors of case reports must submit the written informed consent of the subject(s) of the report or of the patient's legal representative. Manuscripts with human and animal studies should describe the steps taken to eliminate pain and suffering.

### AUTHORSHIP

All individuals listed as "author" in the submitted manuscript must make an adequate contribution to the study, meet the criteria of authorship, and take responsibility for their part of the manuscript. For the sake of the outcomes and the integrity of the study, at least one author should be responsible for each section of the manuscript. All authors mentioned in the cover letter must meet all of the following criteria: (1) substantial contribution to conception, design of the study, analysis, and interpretation of data, or all of these criteria; (2) significant contribution to the drafting of the article or revision of its scientific content; (3) approval of the final version of the article to be published.

In multicentered studies, all individuals who are named as authors under the title of the article should meet all the above-mentioned requirements of authorship. Seeking or providing financial support for the study, and/or data collection do not satisfy the criteria of authorship per se, nor does general support or guidance provided to the study investigators. Individuals who contributed to the study in various ways but who fail to meet the criteria of authorship may be included in the acknowledgements with their written consent. Please refer to the ICMJE website for more information about authorship. Increasing the number of authors unnecessarily is not ethical conduct and to prevent any attempt to seek undue academic prestige or other unethical advantages, the editor may request a declaration from the authors of their individual contributions to the article and publish this information, if deemed appropriate. The sequence of authors' names should be based on a consensus reached by all the participating authors. Due to different specifications for the sequencing of authors, the order provided will be used unless otherwise stated. Authors may explain the rationale for a different sequence in a footnote.

### DECLARATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING

At submission, authors should disclose whether they used artificial intelligence (AI)– assisted technologies (such as Large Language Models [LLMs], chatbots, or image creators) in the production of submitted work. Authors who use such technology should describe, in both the Title Page and the submitted work, how they used it. Chatbots (such as ChatGPT) and AI assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author nor cited because they cannot be responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work, and these responsibilities are required for authorship. Therefore, humans are responsible for any submitted material that included the use of AI-assisted technologies. Authors should carefully review and edit the result because AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased. Authors should be able to assert that there is no plagiarism in their paper, including in text and images produced by the AI. Humans must ensure there is appropriate attribution of all quoted material, including full citations.

#### **COVER LETTER**

Each manuscript should be sent with a cover letter that must contain the following explicit declarations: (1) all authors meet the criteria of authorship; (2) the submitted manuscript was not simultaneously sent to another journal and it is not presently being evaluated by another journal; (3) no part of the content of the manuscript has been previously published elsewhere; and (4) the manuscript has been read and approved of by all authors. The name, full address, phone and fax number(s), and e-mail address of the corresponding author to whom all editorial correspondence will be directed must be provided. A brief paragraph describing the scientific significance of the manuscript may also be included.

### SUBMISSION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

All manuscripts should be submitted to the NCI via the online submission system. All authors' ORCID numbers need to be submitted when creating an account for correspondence. To obtain an ORCID number, please visit: https://orcid.org/ For questions or requests related to the submission and evaluation process of manuscripts, the editorial office may be contacted by e-mail at bilgi@kuzeyklinikleri.com. In compliance with the journal's publication rules, the current status of the manuscript will not be discussed on the phone prior to acceptance for publication. First-time users of the online submission system will need to register. A user name and a code specific to the user will be sent by e-mail. For further details please consult the online manuscript submission page.

### **REVIEW OF MANUSCRIPTS**

In order for an article to be published in the journal it should not be published elsewhere, and must be deemed suitable for publication by the editorial board selected by the NCI Executive Committee. All responsibility for the manuscript belongs to the author(s). The evaluation process of the submitted manuscript will not begin until a document with the signed approval of all authors has been received. During typesetting and other preparation of the manuscript for publication, a Copyright Transfer Form will be sent to the primary author(s) ("guarantors") who will assume responsibility for the manuscript. All submitted manuscripts are first evaluated by the editorial board. At this stage, manuscripts not deemed suitable for publication in NCI, including those not complying with the requirements or without adequate scientific content, will be returned to the authors. Manuscripts found suitable for publication will be sent to reviewers for more detailed evaluation. Acceptability of manuscripts is dependent on originality, scientific content, and the subject of the study, in accordance with the publication protocol of the journal. All research articles deemed suitable for publication are subjected to a detailed statistical evaluation. The authors are informed of the editors' decision on the acceptability of the manuscript via e-mail, usually within 6 weeks of its submission. The editors do not discuss their decision on the phone. All objections and requests should be communicated to the editors in a written format. If deemed necessary, the editorial board has the right to make modifications to the text without altering the main concept of the manuscript. An offprint of the manuscript will not be sent to the author(s).

#### **OPEN ACCESS**

NCI is a fully open access journal. All articles published in NCI are available on the internet to all users immediately upon publication. Non-commercial use and distribution in any medium is permitted, provided the author and the journal are properly credited.

#### EDITORIAL PROCESSING CHARGE

This journal assesses NO submission fees, publication fees (article processing charges), or page charges.

### ADDRESS OF CORRESPONDENCE

KARE PUBLISHING Goztepe Mahallesi, Fahrettin Kerim Gokay Caddesi, No: 200, Daire: 2, Kadikoy, Istanbul, Turkiye Tel: 0216 550 61 11 Fax: 0216 550 61 12 E-mail: kare@karepb.com