

Komparativna analiza časopisa Opšta medicina i regionalnih naučnih publikacija: bibliometrijski pokazatelji, publikacioni trendovi i faktori uticaja (1995–2024)

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Comparative analysis of the journal General Medicine and regional scientific publications: bibliometric parameters, publication trends, and impact factors (1995–2024)

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Sažetak

Uvod. Časopis Opšta medicina, osnovan 1995. Godine kao zvanično glasilo Sekcije opšte medicine Srpskog lekarskog društva, posvećen je temama iz primarne zdravstvene zaštite (PZZ), kliničke prakse i preventivne medicine.

Cilj. Cilj ovog rada bio je da se, nakon analize structure i tematskih oblasti časopisa Opšta medicina, izvrši poređenje sa vodećim akademskim časopisima iz oblasti opšte/porodične medicine u zapadnoj i istočnoj Evropi i na Balkanu.

Metode. Primenjena je komparativna bibliometrijska analiza za upoređivanje bibliometrijskih pokazatelja, publikacionih trendova i faktora uticaja časopisa Opšta medicina sa časopisima British Journal of General Practice (BJGP), Family Medicine & Primary Care Review i Croatian Medical Journal (CMJ).

Rezultati. U strukturi radova časopisa Opšta medicina dominiraju originalni naučni članci (30%), pregledni radovi (25%), prikazi slučajeva (15%), dok edukativni članci, saopštenja, polemike i istorijski radovi učestvuju sa po 10%. Glavne tematske oblasti uključuju PZZ, kliničku medicinu, epidemiologiju, preventivnu medicinu i zdravstvenu politiku. Većina autora je iz Srbije sa malim udelom stranih autora (1,5%). Časopis nema zvanični Journal Citation Report (JCR) faktor uticaja, dok poređeni časopisi imaju JCR faktore 5,3 (BJGP), 0,5 (Family Medicine & PCR) i 1,3 (CMJ). Godišnji broj objavljenih radova je 15–20, što je niže u poređenju sa pomenutim časopisima.

Zaključak. Časopis Opšta medicina je pokazala kontinuirani razvoj, prateći savremene izazove u medicini, posebno u PZZ. Njegova raznolikost sadržaja i edukativni karakter čine ga značajnim izvorom za stručnjake u zdravstvenom sistemu.

Ključne reči: časopis, opšta medicina, primarna zdravstvena zaštita

Abstract

Introduction. The Journal General Practice (JGP), founded in 1995 as the official journal of Section of General Practice of Serbian Medical Society, is dedicated to topics from primary health care (PHC), clinical practice and preventive medicine.

Objective. The aim of this article was to, after analyzing the structure and thematic areas of the JGP, make a comparison with leading academic journals in the field of general/family medicine in Western and Eastern Europe and Balkans.

Method. Comparative bibliometrics was applied comparing bibliometric indicators, publicational trends and influencing factors of the JGP with the British Journal of General Practice (BJGP), Family Medicine & Primary Care Review and Croatian Medical Journal (CMJ).

Results. In the structure of articles in JGP dominates original scientific articles (30%), review papers (25%), case reports (15%), while educational articles, announcements, polemics and historical articles participate with 10% each. Major subject areas include PHC, clinical medicine, epidemiology, preventive medicine and health policy. Most of the authors are from Serbia with a small participation of foreign authors (1.5%). The journal does not have an official Journal Citation Report (JCR) impact factor, while compared journals have JCR factors 5.3 (BJGP), 0.5 (Family Medicine & PCR) and 1.3 (CMJ). The average number of published articles is 15–20, which is lower in comparison with the aforementioned journals.

Conclusion. The Journal General Practice showed a continued development, following modern challenges in medicine, especially in PHC. Its diversity of content and educational character make it an important resource for experts in the health system.

Keywords: journal, general medicine, primary health-care

Uvod

Opšta medicina je naučni i stručni časopis Sekcije opšte medicine Srpskog lekarskog društva, koji se bavi širokim spektrom tema iz oblasti medicine sa posebnim naglaskom na primarnu zdravstvenu zaštitu (PZZ), kliničku praksu i preventivnu medicinu. Cilj časopisa je da pruži platformu za razmenu znanja, iskustava i najnovijih naučnih saznanja među zdravstvenim radnicima, istraživačima i studentima medicine. Kao multidisciplinarni časopis, *Opšta medicina* pokriva različite aspekte medicine, uključujući promociju zdravlja, prevenciju bolesti, dijagnostiku, lečenje i rehabilitaciju. Misija časopisa *Opšta medicina* je unapređenje kvaliteta zdravstvene zaštite kroz objavljivanje visokokvalitetnih naučnih originalnih radova, preglednih članaka, studija slučaja i drugih vrsta publikacija. Časopis teži da podstakne saradnju između kliničara, istraživača i drugih stručnjaka u oblasti zdravstva, čime doprinosi razvoju medicinske struke i nauke, poboljšanju kvaliteta zdravstvene zaštite i zdravstvenih ishoda pacijenata^{1,2}.

Časopis *Opšta medicina* osnovan je 1995. godine kao publikacija Sekcije opšte medicine Srpskog lekarskog društva. Osnovna ideja bila je da se kroz časopis unapredi uloga i položaj opšte medicine u zdravstvenom sistemu Republike Srbije (RS), pružajući platformu za razmenu znanja i iskustava među lekarima i specijalistima opšte medicine i lekara drugih specijalističkih grana. Prvi glavni i odgovorni urednik od osnivanja do 2006. godine bio je prim. dr sc. med. Dane Žigić. On je imao ključnu ulogu u oblikovanju časopisa i njegovom usmeravanju ka visokim naučnim standardima. Časopis je upisan u Registar sredstava javnog informisanja 1995. godine, a već 1996. godine Ministarstvo za nauku i tehnologiju RS proglasilo ga je publikacijom od posebnog interesa za nauku^{1,2,3}.

U periodu od 2007. do 2016. godine časopis je prošao kroz značajne promene u uređivačkoj politici i formatu objavljivanja. Na čelu uredništva najpre je bio prim. dr Dejan Konstantinović (2007–2008), koji je nastavio tradiciju visokog kvaliteta publikacija. Od 2008. godine glavni urednik je prim. dr sc. med. Suzana Stanković, koja je časopis vodila do 2020. godine podržavajući savremene trendove u naučnom izdavaštvu. Tokom ovog perioda časopis je nastavio da izlazi u štampanom obliku sa dva broja godišnje (maj i oktobar), čime je omogućena redovna distribucija stručnih i naučnih radova široj akademskoj zajednici^{1,2}.

Od 2016. godine časopis *Opšta medicina* prelazi na elektronsko izdavaštvo, čime je omogućena veća dostupnost i vidljivost objavljenih radova. Ova promena bila je usklađena sa globalnim trendovima otvorenog pristupa (Open Access) u naučnom izdavaštvu, čime je časopis postao dostupniji široj akademskoj i stručnoj javnosti. Već 2017. godine časopis je indeksiran u DOAJ (*Directory of Open Access Journals*)⁴, što je značajno doprinelo njegovom međunarodnom ugledu

Introduction

General Medicine is a scientific and professional journal published by the Section of General Medicine of the Serbian Medical Society. It addresses a wide range of medical topics with a particular emphasis on Primary Healthcare (PHC), clinical practice, and preventive medicine. The journal aims to provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and the latest scientific information among healthcare workers, researchers, and medical students. As a multidisciplinary journal, *General Medicine* encompasses various aspects of medicine, including health promotion, disease prevention, diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation. The mission of *General Medicine* is to enhance healthcare quality by publishing high-quality, original scientific papers, reviews, case studies, and other relevant publications. The journal seeks to foster collaboration among clinicians, researchers, and other healthcare experts, thereby contributing to the advancement of the medical profession and science, as well as improving healthcare quality and patient health outcomes.^{1,2}

The journal *General Medicine* was established in 1995 as a publication of the Section of General Medicine within the Serbian Medical Society. Its primary aim is to enhance the role and status of general medicine in the health system of the Republic of Serbia by providing a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences among physicians, general medicine specialists, and experts from various medical fields. The first Editor-in-Chief, from the journal's founding until 2006, was Prim. Dane Zigic, MD, GP, PhD, who played a crucial role in shaping the journal and guiding it toward high scientific standards. The journal was registered in the Public Information Register in 1995, and by 1996, the Ministry of Science and Technology of the RS recognized it as a publication of special scientific interest^{1,2,3}.

From 2007 to 2016, the journal underwent significant changes in its editorial policies and publication format. Prim. Dejan Konstantinovic, MD, GP, served as the Head of the Editorial Board from 2007 to 2008, continuing the tradition of high-quality publications. In 2008, Prim. Suzana Stankovic, MD, GP, PhD, took over as Editor-in-Chief and led the journal until 2020. She actively supported contemporary trends in scientific publishing. During this period, the journal maintained a print format, publishing two issues each year (in May and October), which facilitated the regular distribution of professional and scientific papers to a broader academic community^{1,2}.

Since 2016, the journal *General Practice* has transitioned to electronic publishing, which has improved the availability and visibility of its published papers. This change aligns with global trends toward open access in scientific publishing, allowing the journal to reach a broader academic and professional audience. In 2017, the journal was indexed

i prepoznatljivosti. Ovaj model izdavaštva pokazao se kao ključan za povećanje citiranosti naučnih radova⁵. Od 2021. godine, vođenje časopisa preuzima prim. dr sc. med. Marina Fišeković Krečić, koja svojim uredničkim pristupom nastavlja da unapređuje njegov kvalitet i naučni prestiž^{1, 2, 6}. Kao dugogodišnji tehnički urednik časopisa (od 2008. godine), a potom i zamenik glavnog i odgovornog urednika (od 2013. godine), značajan doprinos radu časopisa ostvario je prim. dr Slavoljub Živanović. Značajan napredak u vidljivosti omogućilo je dvojezično (na srpskom i engleskom jeziku) izlaženje časopisa *Opšta medicina* od oktobra 2019. godine.

Struktura radova časopisa *Opšta medicina*

Časopis *Opšta medicina* objavljuje: originalne naučne radove, pregledne radove, prikaze slučajeva, edukativne članke, saopštenja i polemike, istorijske i bibliografske radove.

Tematski fokus i sadržaj

Tokom godina, časopis je zadržao svoj fokus na opštu medicinu, porodičnu medicinu i primarnu zdravstvenu zaštitu, ali se proširio i na druge srodne discipline. Ovakav multidisciplinarni pristup povećava njegovu relevantnost u akademskoj zajednici⁶.

Časopis *Opšta medicina* ostvario je značajne promene i dostignuća u proteklom godinama, čime je dodatno učvrstio svoj naučni i stručni ugled. Ministarstvo za nauku Republike Srbije svrstalo ga je u K52 kategoriju, čime je potvrđen njegov status naučnog časopisa od nacionalnog značaja. Iako većina autora dolazi iz Srbije, časopis je otvoren i za radove istraživača iz inostranstva, što doprinosi njegovoj globalnoj vidljivosti i razmeni znanja. Posebno značajan period bio je između 2020. i 2024. godine, kada je časopis posvetio veliku pažnju istraživanjima vezanim za COVID-19, pokrivajući teme prevencije, lečenja i uticaja pandemije na PZZ. Časopis obuhvata širok spektar tema, fokusirajući se na ključne aspekte medicine i zdravstvene zaštite. Poseban akcenat stavlja na PZZ, istražujući prevenciju, rano otkrivanje i lečenje bolesti na ovom nivou zdravstvene zaštite. Takođe, značajno mesto zauzimaju radovi iz oblasti kliničke medicine, uključujući studije slučaja, kliničke studije i analize savremenih dijagnostičkih i terapijskih metoda. Preventivna medicina je još jedno važno tematsko područje sa istraživanjima posvećenim promociji zdravlja i javnom zdravlju. Pored toga, časopis pokriva i epidemiološka istraživanja, analizirajući rasprostranjenost i uzroke različitih bolesti u populaciji. Konačno, značajan segment posvećen je zdravstvenoj politici i menadžmentu, kroz analize zdravstvenih sistema, politika i organizacije zdravstvene zaštite^{1, 2}.

in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)⁴, significantly enhancing its international prestige and recognition. This publishing model has been crucial in increasing the citation rates of the scientific papers published in the journal⁵. Since 2021, Marina Fišeković Krečić, MD, GP, PhD, has taken over the journal and continued to improve its quality and scientific prestige through her editorial approach^{1, 2, 6}. Since 2008, Prim. Slavoljub Zivanović, MD, a specialist in Emergency Medicine, has served as a Technical Editor for the journal. Since 2013, he has held the position of Deputy Editor-in-Chief, providing immense contributions to the publication. A significant advancement in the journal's visibility was achieved through bilingual publishing in Serbian and English, which began in October 2019.

The structure of articles published in the journal *General Practice*

The Journal *General Practice* publishes original scientific papers, review articles, case reports, educational articles, statements and debates, as well as historical and bibliographical papers.

Thematic focus and content

Over the years, the journal maintained its focus on General Medicine, Family Medicine, and primary healthcare, but it expanded to include other related disciplines. This multidisciplinary approach has increased its relevance in the academic community⁶.

The journal *General Medicine* has made significant changes and achievements in recent years, reinforcing its scientific and professional credibility. The Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia has classified it as a K52 category journal, thereby confirming its status as a scientific publication of national interest. While most authors are from Serbia, the journal is open access for authors from abroad, enhancing its global visibility and promoting knowledge exchange. A particularly noteworthy period was from 2020 to 2024, during which the journal focused extensively on research related to COVID-19, addressing topics such as prevention, treatment, and the pandemic's impact on primary healthcare. The journal covers a broad spectrum of topics, concentrating on key aspects of medicine and healthcare. The focus of this healthcare publication is on primary healthcare (PHC), emphasizing prevention research, early detection, and disease treatment at this level. Additionally, there is a significant emphasis on clinical medicine, including case studies, clinical research, and analyses of contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic methods. Preventive medicine is another important thematic area, with research dedicated to promoting health and public health. Furthermore, the journal covers epidemiological research, analyzing the prevalence and causes of vari-

Značaj časopisa, publikacije i citiranost

Opšta medicina igra ključnu ulogu u unapređenju medicinske prakse i obrazovanja, pružajući aktuelne informacije koje su od suštinskog značaja za donošenje odluka u kliničkoj praksi. Kroz objavljivanje naučnih radova, časopis doprinosi razvoju medicinske nauke, promovišući multidisciplinarni pristup i podstičući saradnju između različitih specijalnosti.

Njegova uloga u edukaciji zdravstvenih radnika ogleda se u stalnom praćenju najnovijih istraživanja i preporuka u oblasti PZZ. Časopis objavljuje radove na srpskom i engleskom jeziku, omogućavajući široku dostupnost i veću citiranost radova u međunarodnoj naučnoj zajednici. Svi objavljeni radovi prolaze rigorozan recenzentski postupak, čime se osigurava visok kvalitet publikacija. Pored toga, časopis je indeksiran u relevantnim naučnim bazama podataka, što dodatno povećava njegovu vidljivost, naučni uticaj i prepoznatljivost u medicinskim i akademskim krugovima^{1, 2, 3}.

Međunarodna vidljivost i indeksiranost

Ipak, iako je časopis priznat na nacionalnom nivou, međunarodni uticaj ostaje ograničen, jer nije indeksiran u Web of Science i Scopus-u⁷. Studije pokazuju da indeksiranost u ovim bazama značajno doprinosi povećanju faktora uticaja časopisa⁸.

Poređenje sa sličnim časopisima u Evropi pokazuje da zapadnoevropski časopisi poput *British Journal of General Practice* imaju faktor uticaja (IF) preko 6, dok časopisi iz Istočne Evrope, poput *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review*, imaju niži, ali prepoznatljiv faktor uticaja (~0,5)⁹. Nedostatak indeksiranosti u prestižnim bazama ograničava potencijal časopisa *Opšta medicina* za međunarodnu citiranost¹⁰.

Bibliometrijske studije pokazuju da časopisi koji su indeksirani u Scopus-u i Web of Science imaju veći broj citata, što im omogućava globalnu prepoznatljivost¹¹. Takođe, vizualizacija naučnih mreža pomoću bibliometrijskih alata može pomoći u identifikaciji ključnih oblasti za unapređenje citiranosti časopisa¹².

Uticaj Open Access modela

Prelazak na Open Access sistem u 2016. godini povećao je dostupnost časopisa, ali je pitanje koliko je to uticalo na njegovu citiranost. Istraživanja pokazuju da otvoreni pristup povećava čitanost i potencijalnu citiranost naučnih radova^{13, 14}. Pored toga, Open Access omogućava časopisima iz zemalja u razvoju da poboljšaju vidljivost svojih radova na globalnom nivou¹⁵.

ous diseases within the population. Finally, a substantial section is dedicated to health policy and management, featuring analyses of health systems, policies, and the organization of healthcare^{1, 2}.

The importance of the journal, publications and citation

General Medicine plays a vital role in advancing medical practice and education by providing essential information that aids decision-making in clinical settings. By publishing scientific papers, the journal contributes to the development of medical science, fosters a multidisciplinary approach, and encourages collaboration among various specialists.

The journal plays a significant role in the education of healthcare workers by consistently keeping up with the latest research and recommendations in primary health care (PHC). It publishes articles in both Serbian and English, which increases accessibility and allows for greater citation within the international scientific community. All submitted papers undergo a rigorous review process to ensure high publication quality. Additionally, the journal is indexed in relevant scientific databases, which further enhances its visibility, scientific impact, and recognition within medical and academic circles^{1, 2, 3}.

International visibility and indexing

Although the journal is recognized nationally, its international influence remains limited because it is not indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus⁷. Studies indicate that being indexed in these databases significantly contributes to enhancing a journal's impact factor⁸.

A comparison with similar journals in Europe reveals that journals from Western Europe, such as the *British Journal of General Practice*, have impact factors (IF) exceeding 6. In contrast, journals from Eastern Europe, such as *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review*, have lower but still notable impact factors of around 0.5⁹. The absence of indexing in prestigious databases limits the potential for the journal *General Medicine* to achieve international citations¹⁰.

Bibliometric studies indicate that journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science tend to have a higher number of citations, which contributes to their global recognition¹¹. Additionally, using bibliometric tools to visualize scientific networks can help identify key areas for enhancing the journal's citation index¹².

The influence of Open Access model

The transition to an Open Access model in 2016 increased the journal's availability, but it remains uncertain how much it has impacted citation rates. Research indicates

Cilj

Cilj ovog rada je da se nakon pregleda strukture i glavnih tematskih oblasti časopisa *Opšta medicina* izvrši poređenje časopisa sa vodećim akademskim časopisima iz oblasti opšte/porodične medicine u Zapadnoj Evropi, Istočnoj Evropi i na Balkanu.

Metod

U istraživanju se koristi komparativna bibliometrijska analiza kako bi se uporedili bibliometrijski pokazatelji, publikacioni trendovi i faktori uticaja časopisa *Opšta medicina* sa vodećim akademskim časopisima iz oblasti opšte i porodične medicine u Zapadnoj Evropi, Istočnoj Evropi i na Balkanu. U fokusu poređenja su njihov akademski uticaj (faktor uticaja), indeksiranost u međunarodnim bazama, obim objavljivanja i tematski profil. Analiza obuhvata period od 1995. do 2024. godine. Podaci su prikupljeni iz više izvora, uključujući službene arhive i baze podataka časopisa *Opšta medicina*, bibliografske i citatne baze podataka (SCIndeks, DOAJ, Web of Science, Scopus, PubMed Central, SCImago Journal & Country Rank), zvanične podatke o publikacijama i recenzentskom postupku, uporedne analize veb-stranica i izveštaja uredništava izabranih časopisa, kao i nacionalne baze podataka i informacije Ministarstva nauke Republike Srbije.

Analiza obuhvata više kriterijuma, uključujući faktor uticaja časopisa, indeksiranost u naučnim bazama, broj objavljenih radova godišnje, distribuciju vrsta radova, tematski profil, geografsku distribuciju autora, evoluciju časopisa kroz vremenske periode i uticaj prelaska na Open Access model od 2016. godine. Poređenje se vrši između *Opšte medicine* i odabranih evropskih časopisa kako bi se utvrdili trendovi u publikovanju i međunarodna prepoznatljivost. Za analizu publikacionih trendova i bibliometrijskih indikatora koriste se bibliometrijska analiza, analiza sadržaja, uporedna analiza i statistička analiza. Bibliometrijska analiza podrazumeva upotrebu bibliografskih baza za analizu citiranosti i vidljivosti radova, dok analiza sadržaja omogućava pregled tematskog fokusa i evolucije objavljenih radova u *Opštoj medicini*. Uporedna analiza služi za poređenje ključnih parametara sa vodećim akademskim časopisima u Evropi, dok se statistička analiza koristi za prikaz kvantitativnih podataka u vidu grafikona i tabela, uključujući distribuciju tipova radova, tematske oblasti i geografsku distribuciju autora.

that Open Access enhances both readership and the potential citation of scientific papers^{13,14}. Furthermore, Open Access allows journals from developing countries to improve the global visibility of their published research¹⁵.

Objective

We aimed to compare the journal *General Medicine* with other leading academic journals in the general and family medicine fields across Western, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans after previously reviewing the journal's structure and main thematic areas.

Method

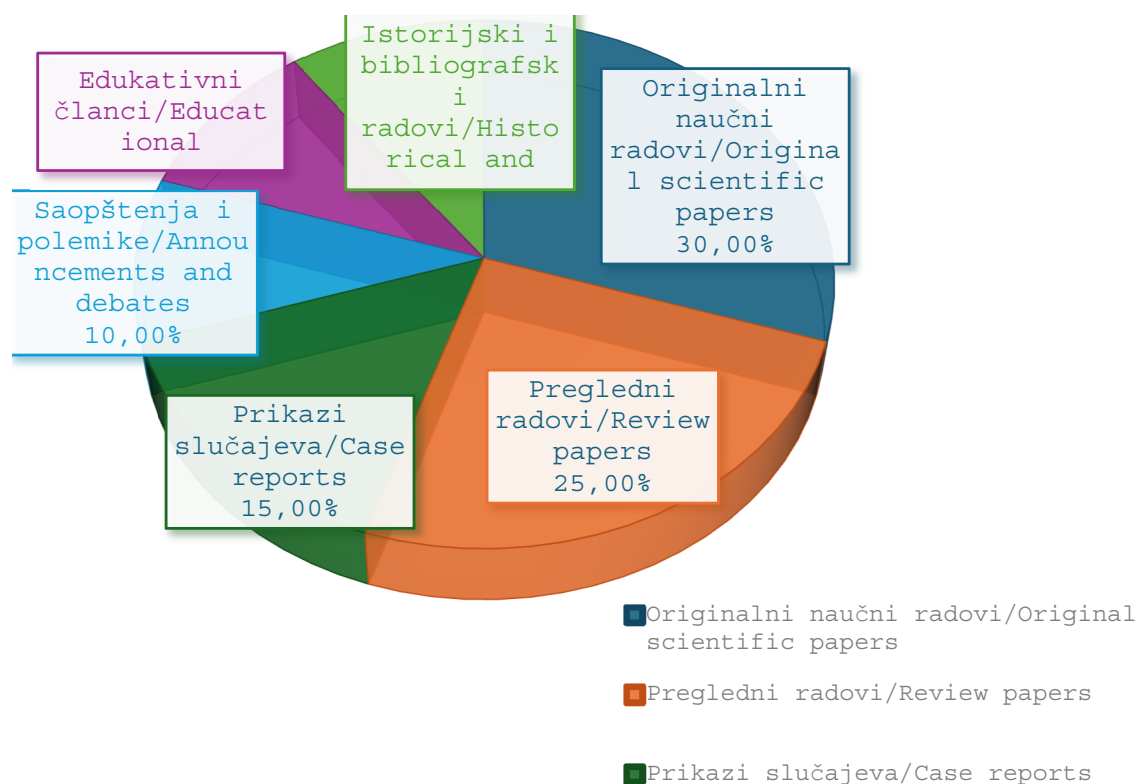
We conducted a comparative bibliometric analysis to evaluate various bibliometric parameters, publication trends, and impact factors of the journal "*General Medicine*." This analysis was contrasted with leading academic journals in general and family medicine across Western and Eastern Europe, as well as the Balkans. The primary focus was on their academic influence (impact factor), indexing in international databases, publishing scope, and thematic profiles. The analysis covers the period from 1995 to 2024. Data were collected from multiple sources, including official archives and databases of the journal "*General Medicine*," bibliographic and citation databases (such as SCIndeks, DOAJ, Web of Science, Scopus, PubMed Central, and SCImago Journal & Country Rank), along with official publication data and the reviewing process. Additionally, we conducted a comparative analysis of the websites and editorial reports of selected journals, as well as data from the National database and the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia.

The analysis encompasses several criteria, including the journal's impact factor, indexing in scientific databases, the number of articles published each year, the types of articles, the journal's thematic profile, the geographic distribution of authors, its evolution over time, and the effects of transitioning to an Open Access model since 2016. We compared the journal "*General Medicine*" with selected European journals to establish publication trends and assess international recognition. For this analysis, we employed bibliometric, content, comparative, and statistical methods. Bibliometric analysis utilized bibliographic databases to examine citation patterns and the visibility of articles. Content analysis allowed for a review of the thematic focus and evolution of articles published in "*General Medicine*." Comparative analysis was used to assess key parameters against those of leading European academic journals, while statistical analysis reviewed quantitative data presented in figures and tables, including the distribution of article types, thematic areas, and the geographic distribution of authors.

Rezultati

Struktura radova u časopisu

Analizirali smo strukturu radova u časopisu *Opšta medicina* u periodu od 2015. do 2024. godine. U grafikonu 1 je prikazana distribucija različitih tipova radova, objavljenih u ovom periodu.



Grafikon 1. Distribucija različitih tipova radova objavljenih u časopisu “Opšta medicina” u periodu 2015.-2024. godina
Figure 1. Distribution of various types of papers published in the journal “General practice” from 2015-2024.

Tematske oblasti za period 2015–2024.

Radovi u časopisu pokrivaju širok spektar tema vezanih za opštu medicinu, porodičnu medicinu i PZZ. Glavne tematske oblasti su:

- PZZ: Radovi o ulozi lekara opšte medicine u promociji zdravlja, prevenciji bolesti ranoj dijagnostici, terapiji i rehabilitaciji.

- Klinička medicina: Studije slučaja i originalni radovi o dijagnostici i lečenju različitih bolesti, uključujući kardiovaskularne bolesti, dijabetes i infekcije.

- Epidemiologija i javno zdravlje: Istraživanja o rasprostranjenosti bolesti, vakcinaciji i javnozdravstvenim izazovima (npr. COVID-19 pandemija).

- Preventivna medicina: Radovi o skriningu, zdravstvenom obrazovanju i promociji zdravih navika.

- Zdravstvena politika i menadžment: Analize efikasnosti zdravstvenih sistema, organizacije rada u domovima zdravlja i uloge lekara opšte medicine.

Distribucija radova po tematskim oblastima u časopisu *Opšta medicina* je prikazana u grafikonu 2.

Thematic areas for the period 2015–2024

The journal features a wide range of articles focused on general medicine, family medicine, and primary health care (PHC). The main thematic areas include:

- PHC: Articles discussing the role of general practitioners in health promotion, disease prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

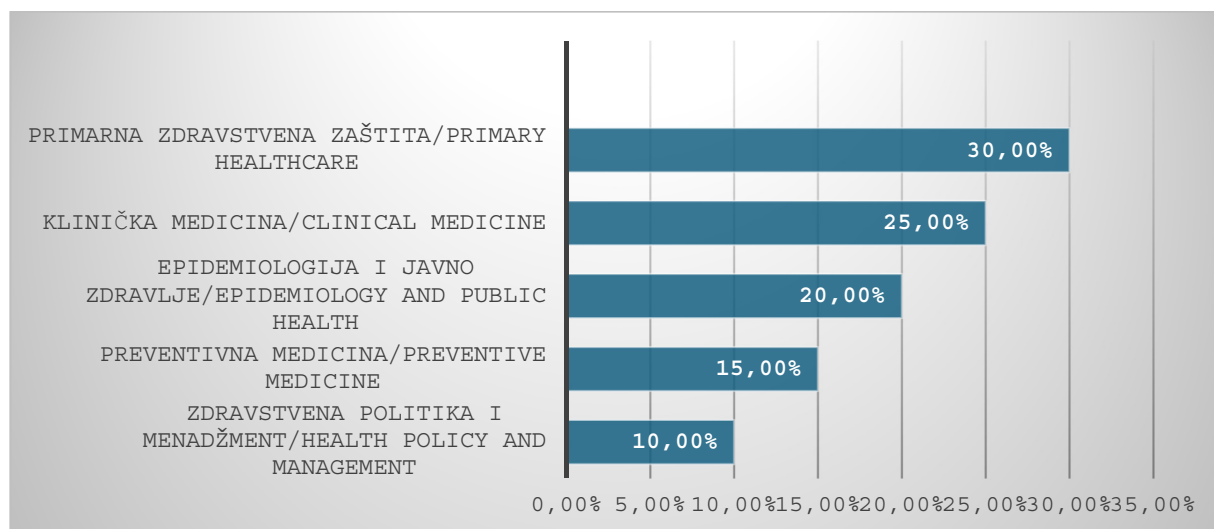
- Clinical medicine: Case reports and original articles about the diagnostics and treatment of various diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and infections.

- Epidemiology and public health: Research on disease prevalence, vaccination, and public health challenges (i.e. COVID-19 pandemic).

- Preventive medicine: Articles on screening, health education, and promotion of healthy habits.

- Health politics and management: Analysis of the effectiveness of health systems, organization of work in primary health care, and the role of the general physician.

The distribution of articles according to thematic areas in the journal *General Medicine* is illustrated in Figure 2.



Grafikon 2. Distribucija radova po tematskim oblastima u časopisu “Opšta medicina”

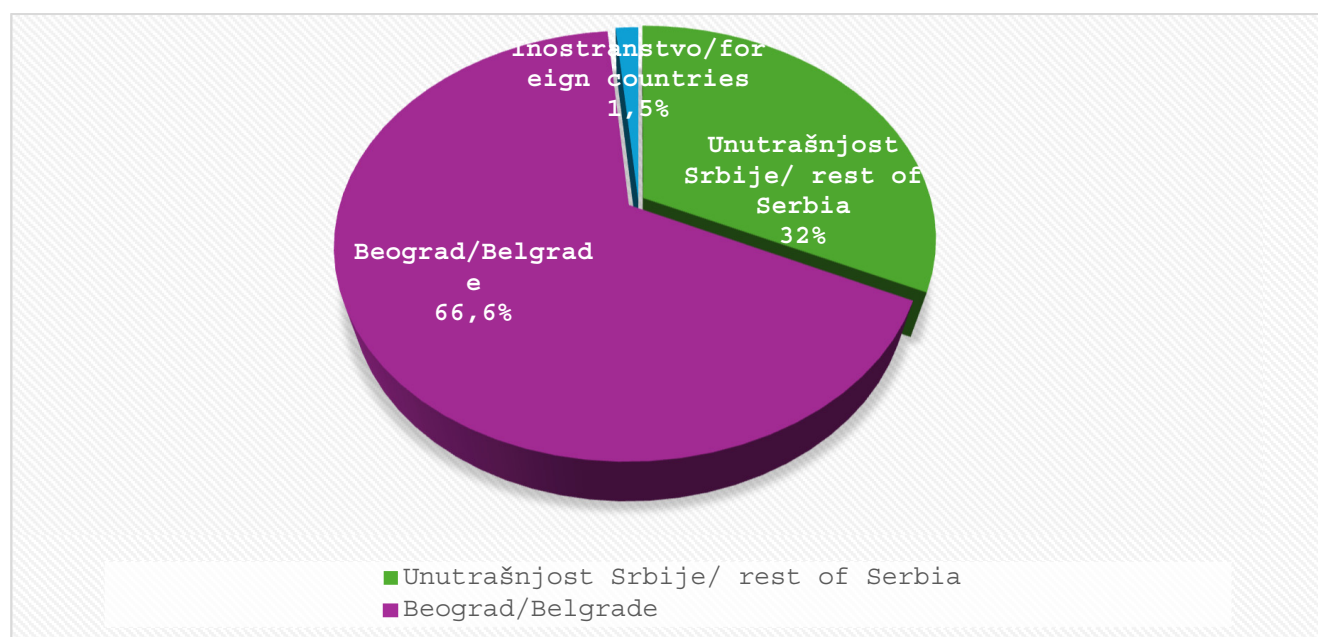
Figure 2. Distribution of articles by thematic areas in the journal “General practice”

Geografska raspodela autora

Većina radova potiče iz Srbije sa oko 2/3 autora iz Beograda i 1/3 iz unutrašnjosti Srbije, a 1,5% radova potiče od autora iz inostranstva (Grafikon 3).

Geographical distribution of the authors

The majority of the articles come from Serbia. Approximately two-thirds of the authors are from Belgrade, while one-third is from other regions of Serbia, and 1.5% are from authors based abroad (Figure 3).



Grafikon 3. Geografska raspodela autora u časopisu “Opšta medicina”

Figure 3. Geographical distribution of authors in the journal “General practice”

Aktuelne teme (2020–2024)

U poslednjih pet godina časopis se posebno fokusirao na teme vezane za COVID-19 pandemiju, uključujući:

- Post-COVID sindrom i njegovo upravljanje.
- Efikasnost i izazovi vakcinacije u primarnoj zdravstvenoj zaštiti.
- Upotreba antibiotika i antivirusa u lečenju COVID-19 pacijenata.

Pregled poređenja

Faktor uticaja i akademski ugled

Opšta medicina (Srbija): Nema zvanični *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) faktor uticaja (nije indeksiran u Web of Science Core Collection) - radi se pre svega o nacionalnom časopisu¹⁶.

Zapadnoevropski časopis (Ujedinjeno Kraljevstvo): *British Journal of General Practice* (BJGP) ima visok međunarodni ugled. Prema JCR, njegov faktor uticaja za 2021. iznosio je 6,302 (5,3 za 2023)¹⁷.

Istočnoevropski časopis (Poljska): *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* ima znatno niži faktor uticaja (~0,5 poslednjih godina), ali je značajan regionalno. Od 2021. uključen je u Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Web of Science i Scopus, te je nedavno dobio i svoj JCI (Journal Citation Indicator 0,29)¹⁸.

Current topics (2020–2024)

Over the past five years, the journal has primarily focused on topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Management of post-COVID syndrome.
- Efficacy and challenges of vaccination in primary health care.
- Use of antibiotics and antivirals in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Comparison review

Impact factors and academic reputation

General Medicine (Serbia): It does not have an official *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) impact factor because it is not indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection; it mainly serves as a national journal¹⁶.

Western European journal (United Kingdom): *British Journal of General Practice* (BJGP) has a high international prestige. According to the JCR, its impact factor for 2021 was 6,302 (5,3 in 2023)¹⁷.

Eastern European journal (Poland): *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* has a significantly lower impact factor of approximately 0.5 in recent years. However, it holds considerable regional importance. Since 2021, it has been included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Web of Science, and Scopus. Additionally, it recently received a Journal Citation Indicator (JCI) of 0.29.¹⁸

Balkanski časopis (Hrvatska): *Croatian Medical Journal* (CMJ) je ugledan opšti medicinski časopis iz regiona Balkana sa umerenim faktorom uticaja (~1,3–1,5) poslednjih godina (npr. IF 2020. iznosio je 1,351). Tokom poslednje decenije IF se kretao od ~1,3 do najviše 2,6 u posebnim izdanjima¹⁹.

Indeksiranost u bazama podataka

Opšta medicina: Indeksiran je u međunarodnoj bazi otvorenog pristupa DOAJ od 2017. godine. Nije indeksiran u Scopus/Web of Science ili Medline. Takođe je registrovan u domaćim bazama (npr. SCIndeks i planirano Biomedicina Serbica)¹⁶.

BJGP. Odlikuje se širokom indeksiranošću - nalazi se u Index Medicus/MEDLINE/PubMed, Science Citation Index Expanded i Current Contents/Clinical Medicine (Web of Science) još od 1990-ih. Takođe je uključen u Scopus i druge bibliografske baze^{10, 17}.

Fam. Med. Prim. Care Rev. Indeksiran je u nizu baza: Emerging Sources Citation Index (Web of Science), Scopus, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, EBSCO, DOAJ, itd.^{13, 18}.

CMJ. *Croatian Medical Journal* je indeksiran u svim glavnim naučnim bazama, uključujući Scopus (od 1992), Medline/PubMed (od 1998) i Science Citation Index Expanded (WoS) od 1999. Takođe je dostupan na PubMed Central i regionalnom portalu Hrčak, kao otvoreni pristup^{13, 18}.

Broj objavljenih radova godišnje

Opšta medicina. Manji obim, radovi se objavljuju u dva broja godišnje (maj i oktobar). U poslednjim godinama, prelaskom na elektronsko izdanje, zadržava isti ritam. To znači okvirno ~15–20 radova godišnje (procena s obzirom na dva broja)¹.

BJGP. Kao mesečnik, BJGP objavljuje veliki broj radova. Ukupno objavi oko 350–500 članaka godišnje (uključujući originalne radove, prikaze slučajeva, pisma uredniku itd.). Na primer, 2022. godine objavljen je 371 rad¹⁹.

Fam. Med. PCR. Izlazi kvartalno (4 broja godišnje) sa umerenim brojem radova. U poslednjih pet godina objavljivao je oko 60–80 radova godišnje. Na primer, 2021. je objavio 80 radova¹⁶.

CMJ. Izlazi dvomesečno (šest brojeva godišnje) i objavljuje ispod 100 radova godišnje. U skorije vreme taj broj je stabilan; npr. 2022. je objavljeno 77 radova. Ranijih godina broj radova je varirao (povećan kada je sa četiri prešao na šest brojeva godišnje oko 2001, dostizao ~130), ali od 2009. pa nadalje drži se ispod 100 godišnje¹⁷.

Balkan journal (Croatia): The *Croatian Medical Journal* (CMJ) is a reputable general medical journal from the Balkan region, with a moderate impact factor that has ranged from approximately 1.3 to 1.5 in recent years. For example, the impact factor in 2020 was 1.351. Over the previous decade, the impact factor varied between about 1.3 and a maximum of 2.6 for special editions.¹⁹

Indexing in databases

General Medicine: Indexed in the international open access database DOAJ since 2017. It is not indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, or Medline. Additionally, it is registered in domestic databases, such as SCIndeks, and is planned for Biomedicina Serbica.¹⁶

BJGP: It is characterized by extensive indexing, having been registered in Index Medicus/MEDLINE/PubMed, Science Citation Index Expanded, and Current Contents/Clinical Medicine (Web of Science) since 1990. Additionally, it is included in Scopus and various other bibliographic databases^{10, 17}.

Fam. Med. Prim. Care Rev: Indexed in various databases: Emerging Sources Citation Index (Web of Science), Scopus, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, EBSCO, DOAJ, and a few others.^{13, 18}.

CMJ: *The Croatian Medical Journal* is indexed in all major databases, including Scopus (since 1992), Medline/PubMed (since 1998), and Science Citation Index Expanded (WoS) since 1999. It is also available on PubMed Central and the regional portal Hrčak, as an open-access journal^{13, 18}.

The number of yearly published articles

General Medicine. Smaller scope, articles are published twice a year (May and October). In recent years, as it transitioned to electronic publishing, it maintained the same publishing rhythm. It publishes approximately 15–20 articles a year (assessment made based on two issues)¹.

BJGP. As a monthly journal, BJGP publishes a lot of articles. It publishes around 350–500 articles a year, in total (including original articles, case reports, letters to the editor...). For example, in 2022, it published 371 articles¹⁹.

Fam. Med. PCR. It is published quarterly (4 issues a year) with a moderate number of articles. In the last five years, it has published around 60–80 articles a year. For example, in 2021, it published around 80 articles¹⁶.

CMJ. It is published bimonthly (six issues a year) and publishes fewer than 100 articles a year. In recent years, that number was stable; for example, in 2022, 77 articles were published. Earlier, the number of articles varied (it increased when they started publishing six instead of four issues a year, around 2001, and it reached approximately 130 articles), but since 2009, there has been under 100 articles a year¹⁷.

Tematski fokus i glavne oblasti istraživanja

Časopis *Opšta medicina*. Fokusirana je na PZZ, opštu/porodičnu medicinu i javno zdravlje. Pokriva širok spektar tema relevantnih za lekare opšte medicine: od promocije zdravlja (značajan deo radova), prevencije, rane dijagnostike, preko kliničkih prikaza i studija različitih bolesti (kardiovaskularne, dijabetes, infekcije), do epidemiologije, vakcinacije, zdravstvene statistike i zdravstvene politike i menadžmenta PZZ. U periodu 2020–2024. poseban akcenat je bio na istraživanjima vezanim za COVID-19 pandemiju (post-COVID sindrom, efikasnost vakcinacije, uticaj na PZZ)¹.

BJGP. Obuhvata sve aspekte opšte medicine i PZZ. Naglasak je na originalnim istraživanjima kliničke prakse, zdravstvenim servisima u zajednici, preventivnoj medicini i zdravstvenoj politici relevantnoj za primarni nivo. Pored istraživačkih radova, BJGP objavljuje i uredničke komentare o zdravstvenoj politici, analize i prikaze koje oblikuju praksu porodične medicine. Tematski je vrlo širok, ali uvek sa perspektivom PZZ - od menadžmenta hroničnih bolesti u ambulantni, preko brige o mentalnom zdravlju, do inovacija u organizaciji rada u PZZ¹⁷.

Fam. Med. PCR. Namenjen je pre svega porodičnoj medicini i PZZ u Centralnoj i Istočnoj Evropi. Objavljuje istraživanja o kliničkim ishodima u porodičnoj medicini, javnom zdravlju u PZZ, obrazovanju lekara opšte medicine i epidemiološkim studijama relevantnim za PZZ. Misija mu je da omogući razmenu znanja i iskustava u okviru regiona koji do osnivanja ovog časopisa nije imao forum te vrste. Tako glavne teme uključuju poboljšanje kvaliteta PZZ, implementaciju preventivnih programa i komparativna istraživanja zdravstvenih sistema u regionu^{16, 19}.

CMJ. Kao opšti medicinski časopis, pokriva sve oblasti biomedicine i zdravlja, ali se posebno ističu dve grupe tema: globalno relevantni zdravstveni problemi i medicina u zemljama u razvoju. Dakle, osim što objavljuje radove iz kliničke medicine, molekularne biologije, javnog zdravlja, CMJ pridaje značaj istraživanjima koja imaju širi međunarodni značaj (npr. globalno opterećenje bolestima, javnozdravstvene intervencije) i onima koja dolaze iz manjih zemalja i mogu imati primenu u sličnim sredinama. Većina radova su originalni naučni članci (što uredništvo i podstiče) sa ciljem da budu platforma za istraživače iz Hrvatske i regiona kako bi se predstavili globalnoj zajednici¹⁷.

U tabeli 1 je prikazan pregled ključnih parametara poređenja odabranih časopisa u periodu 2020–2024. godina.

Thematic focus and main research areas

The journal *General Medicine*. Focused on PHC, general/family medicine, and public health. Covers a wide range of themes relevant for general physicians: from the promotion of health (a significant portion of articles), prevention, early diagnosis, to clinical cases and studies of different diseases (cardiovascular, diabetes, infections), to epidemiology, vaccination, health statistics, and politics, management in PHC. From 2020 to 2024, a special emphasis was on the research regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (post-COVID syndrome, efficacy of the vaccines, influence on PHC)¹.

BJGP. Includes all aspects of general medicine and PHC. The emphasis is on the original research from the clinical practice, health services in the community, preventive medicine, and health policy relevant to the primary health-care level. Besides research articles, BJGP publishes editorial comments on health policy, analyses, and cases that shape family medicine practice. Thematically, it's very broad but always with the perspective of PHC - from the management of chronic diseases in the office, to care for mental health, and innovations in the organization of PHC¹⁷.

Fam. Med. PCR. It is primarily intended for family medicine and PHC in Central and Eastern Europe. It publishes research on clinical outcomes in family medicine, public health in PHC, general physicians' education, and epidemiological studies relevant to PHC. Its mission is to enable knowledge and experience exchange within the region, which, until the foundation of the journal, didn't have a forum of this sort. The main topics include improving the quality of PHC, implementation of preventive programs, and comparative research of health systems in the region^{16, 19}.

CMJ. As a general medicine journal, it covers all the areas of biomedicine and health, but two thematic groups stand out: globally relevant health problems and medicine in the developing countries. Besides publishing articles from clinical medicine, molecular biology, public health, CMJ pays attention to the research with the broader international importance (i.e., global disease burden, and public health interventions) and those that come from smaller countries and may be applied in similar areas. The majority of the articles are original scientific articles (encouraged by the Editorial Board), and they aim to be the platform for researchers from Croatia and the region so they can present themselves to the global community¹⁷.

Table 1 shows the summary of key parameters concerning the comparison of the selected journals from 2020 to 2024.

Tabela 1: Ključni parametri poređenja odabranih časopisa u period 2020.-2024.godina**Table 1:** Key parameters for comparing selected journals from 2020-2024

Časopis/Journal (država/state)	Faktor uticaja/ Impact factor (IF)	Indeksiranost/ Indexing	Br. radova godišnje/ Number of papers per year	Tematski fokus/Thematic focus
<i>Opšta medicina/ General medicine</i> (Srbija/Serbia)	Nema/None (nije u JCR/not in the JCR) researchgate.net	DOAJ (od/since 2017) SCIndeks; nacionalne baze/national database	~15–20 (2 broja godišnje/editions per year) http://www.casopisopstamedicina.org/	Primarna zdravstvena zaštita, opšta medicina, javno zdravlje/Primary healthcare, General Medicine, Public health (nagl./mainly COVID-19 2020–24) http://www.casopisopstamedicina.org/
<i>Brit. J. of General Practice</i> (UK)	~6,3 (2021) en.wikipedia.org	WoS (SCI-Expanded) en.wikipedia.org ; Scopus en.wikipedia.org ; MEDLINE/PubMed en.wikipedia.org ; DOAJ (hibrid OA)	~370 (2022: 371) scimagojr.com	Širok spektar primarne nege/Broad spectrum of primary healthcare: klinička praksa u porodičnoj medicini /clinical practice in family medicine, prevencija/prevention, zdravstvena politika/health policy en.wikipedia.org
<i>Fam. Med. Prim. Care Rev.</i> (Poljska)	~0,5 (2022) termedia.pl	ESCI (WoS) termedia.pl ; Scopus termedia.pl ; EMBASE; EBSCO; DOAJ; itd. termedia.pl	~60–80 (2021: 80) scimagojr.com	Porodična medicina i primarna nega, posebno za Centralnu/Istočnu Evropu/Family medicine and primary healthcare, especially for Central/Eastern Europe scimagojr.com (klinička istraživanja/clinical research, javno zdravlje/public health, edukacija/education)
<i>Croatian Medical Journal</i> (HR)	~1,3 (2020: 1,351) isabs.hr	WoS (SCI-Exp) pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov ; Scopus pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov ; MEDLINE/PubMed pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov ; PMC (OA) pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	~70–100 (2022: 77) scimagojr.com	Medicina/medicine (opšti časopis/general journal); akcent na globalno zdravlje i istraživanja relevantna za zemlje u razvoju/accent on global health and research relevant for developing countries scimagojr.com (različite oblasti klinike, javnog zdravlja i dr./ different clinical fields, public health etc)

Izvor: Analiza uredničkih informacija i bibliometrijskih pokazatelja za navedene časopise (poslednjih 5 godina)16,17,18,19.

Diskusija

Objavlјivanje naučnoistraživačkih radova čini rad istraživača vidljivim u široj naučnoj javnosti i predstavlja svojevrsnu komunikaciju između istraživača i profesionalaca u određenoj naučnoj oblasti. Savremeni način prikaza rezultata sopstvenog istraživanja omogućava poređenje sa drugim autorima. Upoznavanje sa rezultatima različitih istraživanja predstavlja i značajan vid edukacije u datoj oblasti. Zato smo smatrali značajnim da u godini jubileja časopisa *Opšta medicina* (30 godina postojanja) istražimo određene karakteristike časopisa i njegovu poziciju u naučnoj javnosti.

Rezultati jasno prikazuju dominantne oblasti i tipove radova koje časopis obrađuje sa posebnim naglaskom na PZZ i kliničku medicinu. Časopis *Opšta medicina* sadržajno prati potrebe PZZ u Srbiji i regionu¹. Značajan broj (15%) radova

Discussion

The publishing of scientific research papers makes the researcher's work more visible in the broader scientific community and presents a kind of communication between a researcher and a professional in a certain scientific area. A modern way of presenting the results of one's research enables comparison with other authors. Acquainting oneself with the results of different research presents a significant form of education in the given area. Therefore, we found it very important to research certain characteristics of the journal *General Medicine* and its position in the scientific community in the year of its jubilee (30 years of existence).

Results clearly show dominant areas and types of articles that the journal processes, with emphasis on PHC and clinical medicine. The journal *General Medicine* follows, in

objavljenih u časopisu *Opšta medicina* su prikazi slučajeva. U nedavno objavljenom istraživanju o tome koji časopisi posvećeni porodičnoj medicini publikuju i prikaze slučajeva, utvrđeno je da njih oko jedne trećine (37,5%) publikuju²⁰. Časopisi koji prihvataju prikaze slučajeva su imali manju citiranost u odnosu na one koji ne prihvataju, ali bez statističke značajnosti.

Najveći broj autora radova objavljenih u časopisu *Opšta medicina* su iz Srbije i manji broj uglavnom iz zemalja u okruženju, što ukazuje na regionalni karakter časopisa, ali i na određenu međunarodnu saradnju. Razumevanje naučno-istraživačkog rada uopšte, objavljivanje rezultata sopstvenog istraživanja i tumačenje i korišćenje literature bi trebalo da budu obavezni deo edukacije specijalizanata opšte/porodične medicine²¹. U prilog tome su i rezultati istraživanja objavljeni 2021. godine, po kome su u časopisu *Chinese General Practice* objavljeni radovi vezano za porodičnu medicinu činili manje od polovine svih objavljenih radova (39,7%), a zaposleni u porodičnoj medicini su bili autori manje od petine ovih radova (16,3%)²². Slične rezultate pokazuje istraživanje o publikacijama posvećenim porodičnoj medicini u Tajlandu²³. Inače, najveći broj ovih članaka su pregledni radovi. Katedra opšte/porodične medicine ima ključnu ulogu u unapređenju i afirmaciji opšte/porodične medicine kao posebne akademske discipline. Od maja 1988. godine, kada je Evropsko udruženje opšte/porodične medicine (ESGP/FM) definisalo specifične ciljeve za Evropu, jasno je definisana izuzetna potreba za osnivanjem obaveznih akademskih odseka (katedri) za ovu oblast na medicinskim fakultetima²⁴. Ovi ciljevi podrazumevaju i promociju naučno-istraživačkog rada, jer objavljivanje stručnih istraživanja ima značajan uticaj na karijeru lekara, uključujući zaposlenje, unapređenje i finansijsku podršku za projekte. Kroz aktivnu saradnju, istraživanja i publikovanje možemo doprineti daljem razvoju opšte/porodične medicine i afirmaciji u akademskim i stručnim krugovima⁴. Istraživanje i publikovanje u opštoj/porodičnoj medicini doprinosi akademskom usavršavanju lekara i razvoju opšte/porodične medicine kao akademske discipline²⁵.

Rezultati našeg istraživanja ilustruju razlike u uticaju, indeksiranosti i profilu radova između našeg nacionalnog časopisa *Opšta medicina* i regionalnih/međunarodnih časopisa opšte i porodične medicine u Evropi. Poređenje sa odabranim časopisima u Evropi pokazuje da zapadnoevropski časopisi poput *British Journal of General Practice* imaju faktor uticaja (IF) preko 6, dok časopisi iz Istočne Evrope, poput *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review*, imaju niži, ali prepoznatljiv faktor uticaja (~0,5)⁷. Ipak, priznanje u domaćoj akademskoj zajednici potvrđeno je time što je časopis *Opšta medicina* kategorizovan kao naučni časopis od nacionalnog značaja (kategorija K52) od strane Ministarstva nauke RS. Ovo govori o njegovom ugledu unutar zemlje, iako međunarodni citatni uticaj ostaje ograničen⁷. Nedostatak indeksiranosti u prestižnim bazama ograničava potencijal časopisa *Opšta*

its content, the needs of PHC in Serbia and the region¹. A significant percentage (15%) of the articles published in the journal *General Medicine* are case reports. In the recently published research on which family medicine journals publish case reports, it was found that more than one third of them (37,5%) do²⁰. The journals that accept case reports had a lower citation compared to the ones that don't, but there was no statistical significance.

The majority of the authors who published their articles in the journal *General Medicine* are from Serbia, and a few are mostly from the regional countries, which reflects the regional character of the journal but also a certain dose of international cooperation. Understanding the scientific research, in general, publishing results of one's research, interpretation, and use of literature should be an obligatory part of the education of the residents in general/family medicine²¹. The results of the research published in 2021 show that in the journal *Chinese General Practice*, published articles concerning family medicine made less than half of the journal's articles (39,7%), and those working in family medicine were authors of less than a fifth of published articles (16,3%)²². Similar results are shown in the research of publications concerning family medicine from Thailand²³. The majority of these articles are review papers. The Department of General/Family Medicine has a key role in promoting and affirming general/family medicine as a separate academic discipline. Since May 1988, when the European Society of General Medicine/Family Medicine (ESGP/FM) defined specific aims for Europe, the need for the foundation of the mandatory academic departments for this specialty in medical universities was clearly defined²⁴. These aims also include the promotion of scientific research because publishing scientific articles has an important influence on the physician's career, including employment, promotion, and financial support for the projects. Through active cooperation, research, and publications we can contribute to the further development of general/family medicine, and affirmation in academic and professional circles⁴. Research and publication in general/family medicine contribute to the academic training of the physicians and development of general/family medicine, as an academic discipline²⁵.

The results of our research illustrate differences in impact, indexing, and profile of the articles between our national journal *General Medicine* and regional/international journals from the area of general/family medicine in Europe. The comparison with selected journals in Europe shows that Western European journals, such as the *British Journal of General Practice*, have impact factors (IF) over 6, while journals from Eastern Europe, such as *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review*, have lower, but recognizable impact factors (~0,5)⁷. Nevertheless, the recognition in the domestic academic community is confirmed by categorizing the journal *General Medicine* as a scientific journal of national

medicina za međunarodnu citiranost⁸. Nasuprot tome, visok IF čini BJGP jednim od najcitiranijih časopisa u PZZ. To odražava široku relevantnost u akademskim krugovima PZZ - BJGP je među najuticajnijim svetskim časopisima porodične medicine⁸. Relativno nizak IF časopisa *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* odražava činjenicu da je reč o časopisu koji prvenstveno služi akademskoj zajednici Centralne i Istočne Evrope sa rastućim međunarodnim prisustvom⁹. IF i citiranost časopisa CMJ svrstavaju ga među respektabilne časopise opšte medicine izvan engleskog govornog područja¹⁰. Iako časopis manjeg obima, može da konkuriše u međunarodnoj bibliometriji zahvaljujući kvalitetu radova.

U pogledu indeksiranosti u bazama podataka, s obzirom na to da časopis *Opšta medicina* nije indeksiran u Scopus/Web of Science ili Medline, ograničena je njegova globalna vidljivost. Međutim, prisustvo u DOAJ potvrđuje da je Open Access i dostupan široj publici. Pored toga, Open Access omogućava časopisima iz zemalja u razvoju da poboljšaju vidljivost svojih radova na globalnom nivou¹³. Zabeležen je i značajan porast u 2021. godini u odnosu na 2012. godinu u broju prvoimenovanih autora iz zemalja koje nisu dominantne po broju prvih i poslednjih imenovanih autora u vodećim medicinskim časopisima²⁶. Što se tiče odabranih časopisa za poređenje, BJGP je prisutan u svim relevantnim bazama što osigurava maksimalnu vidljivost i dostupnost u akademskim krugovima^{8,12}. Široka indeksiranost *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* (uključujući pojavljivanje u Medline kroz DOAJ i ICMJE listu) ukazuje da je časopis međunarodno dostupan i vidljiv, iako još uvek gradi svoj impakt^{9,11}. Radovi objavljeni u CMJ imaju globalnu vidljivost sličnu onoj u većim međunarodnim časopisima^{10,11}. I starija i novija istraživanja ukazuju na to da se međunarodni uticaj časopisa može povećati njegovim indeksiranjem u prestižnim naučnim bazama podataka i primenom savremenih bibliometrijskih strategija^{27, 28}.

Relativno mali broj radova u časopisu *Opšta medicina* odražava usko fokusiranu misiju i kapacitet časopisa¹. Obim objavljenih radova u BJGP oslikava njegovu ulogu centralnog časopisa za PZZ u kome izlazi mnogo istraživanja i stručnih priloga kontinuirano tokom godine¹⁰, dok je obim radova u Fam. Med. Prim. Care Rev. tipičan za regionalni naučni časopis - dovoljan da pokrije ključne teme iz porodične medicine uz održavanje kvaliteta recenzije⁷. CMJ svojim obimom radova uspeva da održi fokus na kvalitetnim originalnim istraživanjima uz kontrolisan obim publikacija⁸.

Svi poređeni časopisi su tematski vrlo raznoliki, od klinike i osnovnih nauka do zdravstvene politike, što odgovara ulogama opštih medicinskih časopisa⁸. Tematski ciljevi časopisa su slični, pre svega unapređenje PZZ, ali je domet i uticaj ovih časopisa različit, od lokalnog do globalnog.

interest (category K52) by the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia. This speaks of its reputation within the country, although international citation impact remains limited⁷. The lack of indexing in the prestigious databases limits the potential of the journal *General Medicine* for international citation⁸. On the other hand, high IF makes BJGP one of the most cited journals in the PHC. This reflects a wide relevance in the academic circles of PHC - BJGP is among the most influential world journals in family medicine⁸. Relatively low IF of the journal *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* highlights the fact that it's primarily a journal of the academic community of Central and Eastern Europe with a growing international presence⁹. IF and citation of the journal CMJ classify it as one of the respectable journals in the general medicine field, outside of the English-speaking area¹⁰. Although it's a journal of the lower scope, it is competitive in the international bibliography due to the quality of the articles.

As far as indexing in databases goes, since the journal *General Medicine* isn't indexed in Scopus/Web of Science or Medline, its global visibility is limited. On the other hand, its presence in DOAJ confirms it is Open Access and available to the wider audience. Besides, Open Access enables journals in developing countries to improve visibility of their articles on the global level¹³. The significant rise in the number of first-named authors from the countries that are not dominant by the number of the first and last named authors in the leading medical journals was noticed in 2021 compared to 2012²⁶. As for the selected comparative journals, BJGP is present in all relevant bases, which ensures maximal visibility and availability in academic circles^{8,12}. Wide indexing of *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review* (including appearance in Medline through DOAJ and ICMJE list) shows that the journal is internationally available and visible, although it is still building its impact^{9,11}. Articles published in the CMJ have global visibility, similar to that of the larger international journals^{10,11}. Both older and newer research show that the international impact of a journal could be increased by its indexing in prestigious scientific databases and application of the modern bibliometric strategies^{27, 28}.

A relatively low number of articles in the journal *General Medicine* reflects a narrowly focused mission and capacity of the journal¹. The scope of the published articles in the BJGP depicts its role as the central journal for PHC in which many research and scientific appendices are continuously published throughout the year¹⁰. The scope of the articles in Fam. Med. Prim. Care Rev. is typical for the regional scientific journal – enough to cover key topics from family medicine while retaining the quality of the reviewing⁷. CMJ, with its scope of articles, succeeds in keeping the focus on the quality original research with a controlled scope of publications⁸.

All compared journals are thematically very diversified, from clinical and basic sciences, to health politics, which depicts the roles of general medical journals⁸. The thematic aims of the journals are similar, most of all promote PHC, but their reach and impact are very different, from local to global.

Istraživači koji teže da istražujući sopstvenu praksu i publikujući rezultate svog istraživanja stave na uvid i sud stručnoj i naučnoj javnosti svoj rad, doprinose unapređenju kvaliteta zdravstvene zaštite i poboljšanju ishoda lečenja²⁹.

Zaključak

Časopis *Opšta medicina* tokom poslednje decenije pokazao je izuzetnu sposobnost da prati aktuelne izazove u medicini, posebno u oblasti PZZ. Njegova tematska i tipološka raznolikost, zajedno sa fokusom na edukaciju i prevenciju, čine ga važnim resursom za lekare opšte medicine, specijaliste drugih grana medicine i sve zdravstvene radnike. Dijagrami jasno prikazuju dominantne oblasti i tipove radova koje časopis obrađuje sa posebnim naglaskom na PZZ i kliničku medicinu.

Kroz aktivnu saradnju, istraživanja i publikovanje možemo doprineti njenom daljem razvoju i afirmaciji u akademskim i stručnim krugovima.

Časopis predstavlja važnu platformu za razmenu znanja i iskustava u oblasti medicine. Kroz svoje publikacije, časopis doprinosi unapređenju kliničke prakse, preventivne medicine i zdravstvene politike. Multidisciplinarni pristup i fokus na PZZ čine ga neophodnim resursom za sve istraživače.

Predlog mera za dalje unapređenje rada časopisa Opšta medicina

1. Iniciranje saradnje sa najvišim predstavnicima ustanova od najvećeg značaja za autorsku, recenzentsku i čitačaku bazu časopisa: medicinskih fakulteta u Srbiji, zdravstvenih ustanova na primarnom, sekundarnom i tercijarnom nivou, te sa najistaknutijim domaćim i inostranim istraživačima i publicistima iz domena medicinske struke i nauke radi njihovog autorskog, recenzentskog, pa i uredničkog doprinosa časopisu.

2. Animirati menadžment ustanova PZZ da omoguće i podrže istraživačku delatnost izabranih lekara.

3. Motivisati kolege iz PZZ, kao i sa drugih nivoa ZZ da objavljuju, pre svega originalne radove, u časopisu *Opšta medicina*.

4. Naučni odbor Sekcije opšte medicine SLD-a i članovi Katedre opšte medicine na medicinskim fakultetima u RS treba povremeno da ponavljaju edukaciju lekara PZZ za istraživanje i publikovanje sa posebnim osvrtnom na značaj originalnih radova, pravilnog citiranja literature u korist časopisa *Opšta medicina* (citirati radove autora sa visokim citatnim indeksom objavljene u časopisima sa visokim IF, uz citiranje i radova iz časopisa *Opšta medicina*).

The researchers who tend to research their own practice and publish their results are subject to the judgment of the professional and scientific public, which greatly contributes to the quality improvement in healthcare and treatment outcomes²⁹.

Conclusion

During the previous decade, the journal *General Medicine* showed an exceptional ability to follow current challenges in medicine, especially in the area of PHC. Its thematic and typical diversity, together with its focus on education and prevention, make it an invaluable resource for general medicine physicians, specialists from other medical fields, and all healthcare workers. Diagrams clearly show dominant areas and types of articles that the journal processes, with a special emphasis on PHC and clinical medicine.

Through active cooperation, research, and publishing, we can contribute to its future development and affirmation in the academic and professional circles.

The journal represents an important platform for knowledge and experience exchange in the medical area. Through its publications, the journal contributes to promotion of clinical practice, preventive medicine, and health politics. Multidisciplinary approach and focus on PHC make it an invaluable resource for all researchers.

Proposed measures for further improvement of the journal General Medicine

1. Initiation of the cooperation with the highest representatives of the institutions of the highest importance for author, review, and reading base of the journal: Medical Faculties in Serbia, health institutions on primary, secondary, and tertiary level, but also with the most prominent domestic and foreign researchers and publicists from the area of medical profession and science for the sake of their author, reviewing, and even editorial contribution to the journal.

2. Animate the management of the PHC institutions to enable and support research work of the general physicians.

3. Motivate colleagues from PHC, as well as, other levels of health care, to publish primarily original articles, in the journal *General Medicine*.

4. Scientific Board of the Section of General Medicine of the Serbian Medical Society and the members the Department of General Medicine at Medical Faculties in RS should repeat sometime the education for research and publication for physicians in PHC, with special interest in the significance of the original articles, adequate citing of the literature, in favour of the journal *General Medicine* (citing articles of the authors with high citation index published in the journals with high IF, while also citing the articles from the journal *General Medicine*).

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