

How Much COVID-19 Will Change the World

The world is experiencing extraordinary days since December 2019. COVID-19 virus ignited in Wuhan (China) aggressively took over all continents. Currently, the otologic manifestations of the virus are not yet known. Still, the precautions come with the use of steroids as it is the primary treatment modality in many otologic conditions.

In an effort to reduce exposure to the virus, most of us are now only partly involved with the clinical work in our hospitals, and the downtime can be an opportunity to catch-up on the recent publications. Additionally, as the time available to complete scientific studies and make them ready for publication increases due to the pandemic, journals may see a rise in submission numbers.

While every measure is being taken against the pandemic, discussions began on the kind of changes the world can expect to see in the aftermath. These extraordinary times once more validated our need for equal, fast, and easy access to scientific information. Easy online access to recent studies on COVID-19 has created great awareness on the pandemic very quickly, and the dynamics to limit the spread, control the clinical progress, and treatment of the infection have been remarkable even when there have been only a few months since the disease initiated. Currently, more than 1500 articles are listed in PubMed on the topic, and many of them are open access.

Open access publishing will be prominent following the pandemics regarding financial, social, and political impacts. We will be able to assess its importance better once this is over. I also think easy online access will only speed up the decline of print publication going forward.

Stay healthy,

Nuri Özgirgin
Editor in Chief