

Bibliometric Analysis of Research Status and Trends of Schizophrenia in Türkiye

Türkiye'de Şizofreni Araştırmalarının Durumu ve Eğilimlerinin Bibliyometrik Analizi

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The number of studies conducted on schizophrenia in Türkiye has begun to increase, particularly since the 2000s, in line with global trends. This bibliometric study aims to shed light on the development of schizophrenia studies conducted in Türkiye and the country's contribution to global medical data presentation over the last 20 years, as well as to guide clinicians. **Method:** Publications published between 2005 and 2024 with at least one author from a Turkish institution were included in the study by selecting the keyword 'schizophrenia' in the SCI-E (Science Citation Index Expanded) index in the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection database. Database analysis and visualisations were performed using the VOSviewer programme. **Results:** A total of 604 articles were identified through the search. Although the number of publications has generally increased, with a few exceptions, 2020 and 2021 were the most productive years, with 49 and 53 articles, respectively. The total number of citations is 10276, the average citation frequency per article is 17.01, and the h-index is 51. The three most active Turkish authors in the field of schizophrenia are Alp Üçok, Köksal Alptekin, and Emre Bora. The Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology is the journal that has contributed the most, with 92 articles. The most productive Turkish institution in this field is the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, with 44 publications. **Conclusion:** This study provides an opportunity to summarise a broad field such as schizophrenia, serving as a guide for researchers to plan their studies in the right areas with the right people by keeping abreast of developments in the field and contributing to the literature. **Keywords:** Schizophrenia, research trends, Türkiye, bibliometric analysis, VOSviewer, publication

ÖZ

Amaç: Türkiye'de şizofreni ile ilgili yapılan çalışmaların sayısı, küresel eğilime paralel olarak özellikle 2000'lerden itibaren artmaya başlamıştır. Bu bibliyometrik çalışma, Türkiye'de yürütülmüş şizofreni çalışmalarının ve ülkenin global tıbbi veri sunumuna katkısının son 20 yıllık gelişimine ışık tutmayı ve klinisyenlere yol göstermeyi amaçlamaktadır. **Yöntem:** Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection veri tabanında SCI-E (Science Citation Index Expanded) dizininde 'şizofreni' anahtar sözcüğü seçilerek 2005-2024 arasında yayınlanmış en az bir yazarın Türk bir kurumdan olduğu yayınlar çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Veri tabanı analizi ve veri tabanlı görselleştirmeler VOSviewer programı ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. **Bulgular:** Arama sonucunda toplam 604 makaleye ulaşılmıştır. Yayın sayısının birkaç istisna yıl dışında genel olarak artmakta olduğu gözlenmekle birlikte 2020 ve 2021, sırasıyla 49 ve 53 makale ile en üretken yıllar olmuştur. Toplam atıf sayısı 10276, her bir makalenin ortalama atıf sıklığı 17,01 ve h-indeksi 51'dir. 'Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology' 92 makale ile en çok katkıda bulunan dergidir. Bu alanda en üretken Türk kurum 44 yayınlı İstanbul Üniversitesi İstanbul Tıp Fakültesi olmuştur. **Sonuç:** Bu çalışma şizofreni gibi geniş bir alanı özetleme olanağı sağlayarak çalışmacıların kendi çalışmalarını alanın nabzını tutarak doğru kişilerle doğru alanlarda planlamalarına ve literatüre katkıda bulunmaları için bir rehber olma niteliği taşıyabilir. **Anahtar sözcükler:** Şizofreni, araştırma eğilimleri, Türkiye, bibliyometrik analiz, VOSviewer, yayın

Introduction

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), schizophrenia is a mental illness that affects approximately 24 million people worldwide, or one in every 300 people, and is among the leading causes of disability. Schizophrenia is often characterised by impairments in personal, family, social, and occupational functioning (WHO 2022). Despite its low prevalence, the health, social, and economic burden is enormous not only for patients but also for caregivers and even national health systems (Chong et al. 2016, Velligan and Rao 2023). Although the estimated heritability of schizophrenia is ~80%, many environmental factors, such as migration and urban living, are also thought to contribute to the development of this disorder (Merikangas et al. 2022). In studies, scientists have observed that individuals who relocate to join new communities and become minorities have an increased risk of psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia (Henssler et al. 2020).

The lifetime prevalence of schizophrenia in Türkiye has been reported to be 8.9 per 1,000 individuals, which is higher than the global average (Binbay et al. 2011, WHO 2022). Previous bibliometric analyses have shown an

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increasing trend in schizophrenia research publications worldwide (Nuryana et al. 2021, Kiraz and Demir 2021, Uy and Tantengco 2022). A global literature review conducted between 1975 and 2020 identified 103,992 publications on schizophrenia (Kiraz and Demir 2021). In Türkiye, the number of studies on schizophrenia has also begun to increase, particularly since the 2000s, in line with the global trend (PubMed 2025).

Such a high number of publications makes it difficult to examine the relevant literature as a whole. Therefore, bibliometric studies that reveal the general structure of the studies and publication trends are needed (Uçar et al. 2023). Bibliometric methods and data visualisation technology can be used to evaluate research trends on both a national and international scale (Agarwal et al. 2016, Hafeez et al. 2019). Previously, bibliometric analyses of publications on schizophrenia have been conducted globally and specifically for the South Asian region (Chien et al. 2019, Kiraz and Demir 2021, Uy and Tantengco 2022).

A review of the literature revealed no bibliometric analysis examining schizophrenia publications in Türkiye. This bibliometric study aims to shed light on the changes and developments over the last 20 years in schizophrenia studies conducted in Türkiye and the country's contribution to global medical data presentation. It also aims to guide researchers and clinicians wishing to work in this field by providing a comprehensive analysis of the field, informing them about its current state and future trends.

Methods

Data Collection and Procedure

This study was approved by the Pamukkale University Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee on 07.01.2025 with decision number E-60116787-020-641483. The WoS Core Collection has been selected as the database. The choice of WoS was influenced by its inclusion of four main citation indexes [SCI-E, Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)] and over 20,000 reputable international scientific journals with high impact factors (Web of Science 2019). In this way, it was assumed that we would have a high-quality and rich data set for our analysis, enabling us to identify the research that has shaped the field of schizophrenia without missing any important academic advances made in this area.

Using the advanced search function in the WoS Core Collection database, publications classified under the psychiatry category were searched for by including the title section and selecting the keyword “schizophrenia”, with a time range of 20 years between 2005 and 2024 selected. Research articles were selected as the document type, and studies indexed in SCI-E were included. Türkiye was selected from the Countries/Regions field, and studies with at least one author from a Turkish institution were included in the research. As the WoS database is updated daily, data collection was completed on 25 March 2025.

Data Analysis

The search yielded a total of 604 articles, the titles and abstracts of which were individually reviewed by the researchers and included in the study. Database analysis and database visualisations were performed using the VOSViewer v1.6.20 programme. VOSViewer is a popular open-source software tool developed in 2010 to visualise bibliometric data such as co-authorship networks, keyword co-occurrence, and citation networks, and it can process large datasets (van Eck and Waltman 2010). Total citations and h-index are fundamental indicators of the impact of research articles and authors. An increase in citations for a specific topic may signal the emergence of new areas of interest in academia. Researchers can use this information to stay up to date with developments in their field and adapt their research interests accordingly. Administrative bodies can also use this information to develop policy and allocate funding (Hassan and Duarte 2024).

The distribution of publications and citations in the literature by year and author; the distribution of publications by institution, publisher, and journal; and an analysis of current topics in the schizophrenia literature were conducted. Co-author and co-country analysis was used to examine the connections between studies in the field of schizophrenia in Türkiye. The distribution of publications by year was examined to determine publication trends in the field of schizophrenia.

The analysis of international collaboration networks can highlight the commitment of researchers in the country to the global research community and their ability to attract foreign researchers. Another fundamental component of bibliometric research is co-authorship analysis, which provides valuable insights into the dynamics of collaboration between authors, institutions, and countries. Co-word analysis enables us to identify

dominant research topics in a field, construct conceptual structures, and visualise the relationships between these structures (Abdelwahab et al. 2025).

The results of co-author, co-country, co-institution, and co-word analyses were visualised using the VOSViewer programme and presented in the form of network analysis. The methods used for data collection, analysis, and visualisation are summarised in Figure 1.

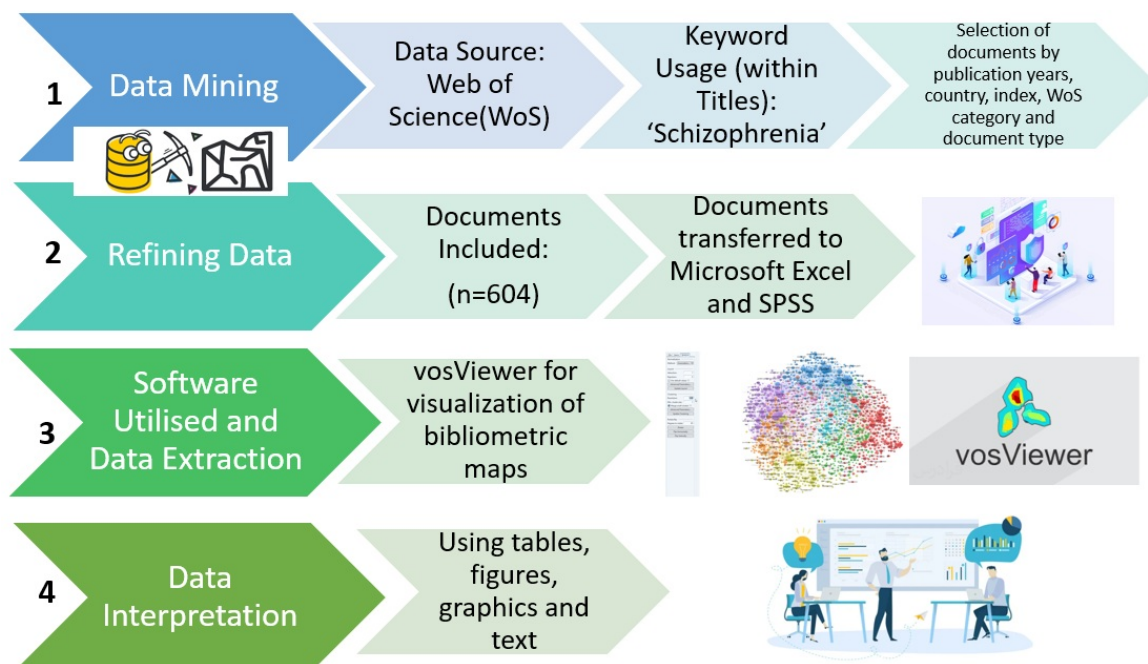


Figure 1. Summary of methods used for data collection, analysis and visualisation

Statistical Analysis

Information regarding the articles was entered into a customised dataset in Microsoft Office Excel (Microsoft Corp., WA, USA) and transferred to SPSS V22.0 for analysis. Data analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 22 [Armonk, NY, USA: IBM Corp.]. Descriptive analyses were used to summarise the data. Continuous variables are expressed as mean $\pm$ standard deviation, while categorical variables are expressed as counts.

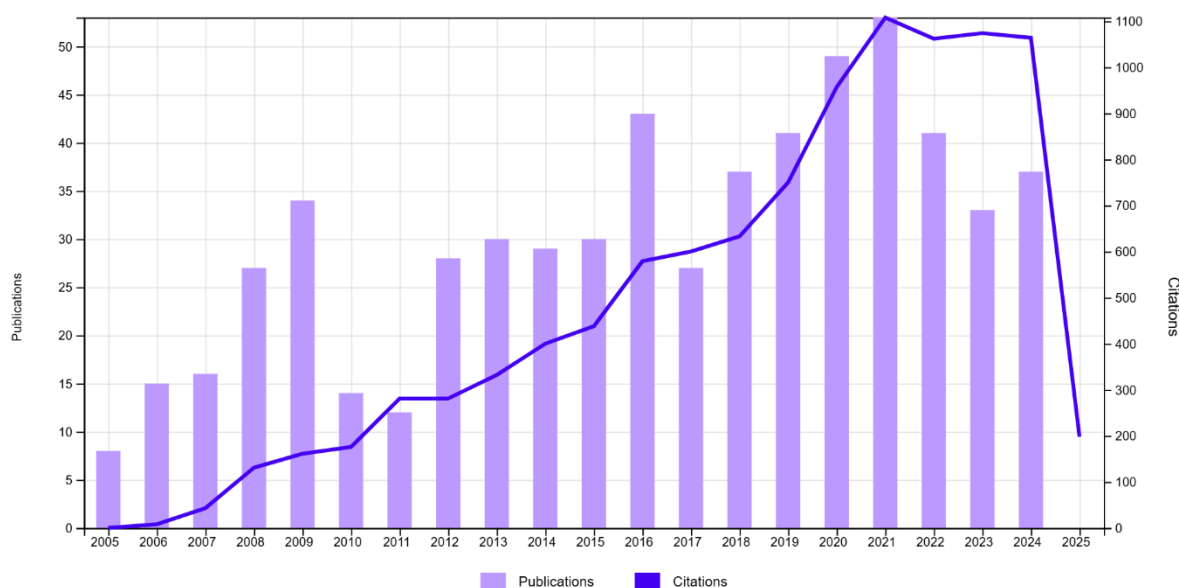


Figure 2. Distribution of publications and citations related to schizophrenia in Türkiye by year

Results

Citations and Publication Years

A total of 604 articles related to schizophrenia in the field of psychiatry, published in Türkiye between 2005 and 2024 and indexed in SCI-E, were identified. Figure 2 shows the distribution of publication and citation numbers by year. Although the number of publications generally increased, with a few exceptions, 2020 and 2021 were the most productive years, with 49 and 53 articles, respectively. The total number of citations is 10276, the average citation frequency is 17.01, and the h-index is 51. The top 10 most cited articles are shown in Table 1. The total number of different references given in 604 articles is 8439. It was determined that 540 of the articles were in English, 63 were in Turkish, and 1 was in French.

Rank	Article title	Journal	Year	Total number of citations	Annual number of citations
1	Social functioning, theory of mind and neurocognition in outpatients with schizophrenia; mental state decoding may be a better predictor of social functioning than mental state reasoning	Psychiatry Research	2006	273	14.36
2	Identifying gene-environment interactions in schizophrenia: Contemporary challenges for integrated, large-scale investigations	Schizophrenia Bulletin	2014	216	22.30
3	The effects of childhood trauma in patients with first-episode schizophrenia	Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica	2007	178	9.88
4	Differential working memory impairment in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia: effects of lifetime history of psychosis	Bipolar Disorders	2006	165	8.68
5	Examining the independent and joint effects of molecular genetic liability and environmental exposures in schizophrenia: Results from the EUGEI study	World Psychiatry	2019	132	22
6	Paliperidone palmitate versus oral antipsychotics in recently diagnosed schizophrenia	Schizophrenia Research	2015	123	12.30
7	A randomized, double-blind comparison of clozapine and high-dose olanzapine in treatment-resistant patients with schizophrenia	Journal of Clinical Psychiatry	2008	116	6.82
8	One year outcome in first episode schizophrenia: Predictors of relapse	European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience	2006	127	6.68
9	The effects of physical exercises to mental state and quality of life in patients with schizophrenia	Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	2008	133	7.82
10	White matter abnormalities across the lifespan of schizophrenia: a harmonized multi-site diffusion MRI study	Molecular Psychiatry	2020	107	21.40

The Top Three Most Cited Articles

The most cited article is “Social functioning, theory of mind and neurocognition in outpatients with schizophrenia; mental state decoding may be a better predictor of social functioning than mental state reasoning”, published by Bora and colleagues in 2006 in the journal Psychiatry Research, which has received 273 citations. This study investigated the relationship between theory of mind deficits and social functioning in patients with schizophrenia (Bora et al. 2006). The second most cited article is the study titled “Identifying gene-

environment interactions in schizophrenia: contemporary challenges for integrated, large-scale investigations”, published by van Os J and colleagues in 2014 in the Schizophrenia Bulletin journal and cited 216 times. This study aimed to review recent advances in molecular genetic candidate gene-environment interactions and to define gene-environment interactions in schizophrenia, based on an international, multicentre study (van Os et al. 2014). The third most cited article, with 178 citations, is the 2007 study by Üçok and colleagues, “The effects of childhood trauma in patients with first-episode schizophrenia”, published in the journal Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica. This study aimed to evaluate the effects of childhood traumas on psychopathology in patients diagnosed with first-episode schizophrenia (Uçok ve Bıkmaz 2007).

Table 2: The top 10 most active authors from Türkiye in the field of schizophrenia listed in the SCI-E (Science Citation Index Expanded) index

Rank	Author	Number of publications	Total Number of Citations *	H index*
1	Alp Üçok	55	7844	43
2	Köksal Alptekin	31	7848	42
3	Emre Bora	18	19780	72
4	Mustafa Yıldız	18	2535	24
5	Yakup Albayrak	15	1062	-**
6	Erol Göka	15	4870	33
7	Meram Can Saka	15	3670	23
8	Cumhur Taş	15	2012	25
9	Halis Ulaş	14	1717	22
10	Aygün Ertuğrul	13	2.035	-**

*Data on authors was retrieved from ResearchGate and Google Scholar on 30 March 2025.

**Sufficient and accurate information could not be obtained from the resources analysed.

Authors, Journals, Institutions, Countries and Collaborations

A total of 2462 authors were found in the articles. Table 2 shows the 10 most active authors in this field from 2005 to 2024, the number of publications in the SCI-E index on the subject, the total number of citations received by the author, and the h-index (Research Gate 2025, Google Scholar 2025). The three most active Turkish authors in the field of schizophrenia are Alp Üçok, Köksal Alptekin, and Emre Bora. A visualisation of the authors' co-authorship map is provided in Figure 3. It was determined that the articles were published in a total of 80 different journals.

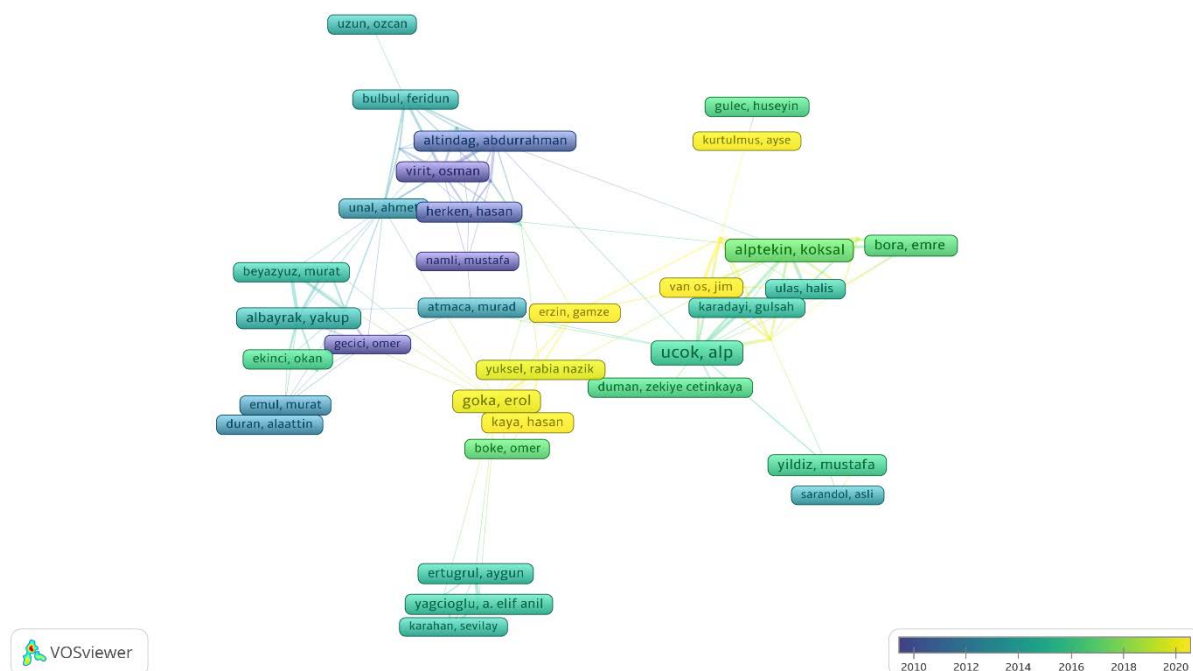


Figure 3. A visualisation of the authors' co-authorship map

(The size of the circle indicates the number of publications, and the thickness of the lines indicates the strength of the relationship.)

The “Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology” was the journal that contributed the most, with 92 articles,

followed by the “Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry” and “Psychiatry Research” with 61 and 42 articles, respectively. The Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology is a quarterly journal published in English since 1990 (as of 2017, the journal's name has been changed to Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology). It is listed in the SCI-E index in the psychiatry category and is of Turkish origin. The Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry, since 2000 (as of 2021, the journal's name has been changed to Alpha Psychiatry), is a journal published in English every two months with six issues per year. It is listed in the SCI-E index in the psychiatry category and is of Turkish origin. “Psychiatry Research” is a journal published monthly in English with 12 issues per year since 1988. It is listed in the SCI-E and SSCI indexes in the psychiatry category and is of foreign origin (Web of Science 2022). The 10 most frequently selected psychiatry journals for articles with at least one author from Türkiye in the field of schizophrenia are listed in Table 3. The majority of these articles were published by Elsevier (n=167), followed by Taylor & Francis (n=64) and Wiley (n=57). The top three most productive Turkish institutions in this field are Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, with 44 publications, Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Medicine, with 36 publications, and Hacettepe University, Faculty of Medicine, with 25 publications.

Table 3. The top 10 most frequently selected psychiatry journals for articles with at least one author from Türkiye in the field of schizophrenia (Total n= 80)

Rank	Journal	Number of publications (n)
1	Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology (Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology)	92
2	Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry (Alpha Psychiatry)	61
3	Psychiatry Research	42
4	Schizophrenia Research	30
5	Archives of Psychiatric Nursing	24
6	Perspectives in Psychiatric Care	23
7	Nordic Journal of Psychiatry	17
8	Comprehensive Psychiatry	14
9	International Clinical Psychopharmacology	13
10	International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical Practice	13

According to the VOSviewer analysis, authors from Türkiye have collaborated with researchers from more than 50 different countries. The United States ranks first in these collaborations with 78 publications, followed by the Netherlands with 36 publications and the United Kingdom and Germany with 35 publications each. Network visualisation maps for international and domestic institutional collaborations in articles related to schizophrenia, with at least one author from Türkiye, are provided in Figures 4 and 5, respectively.

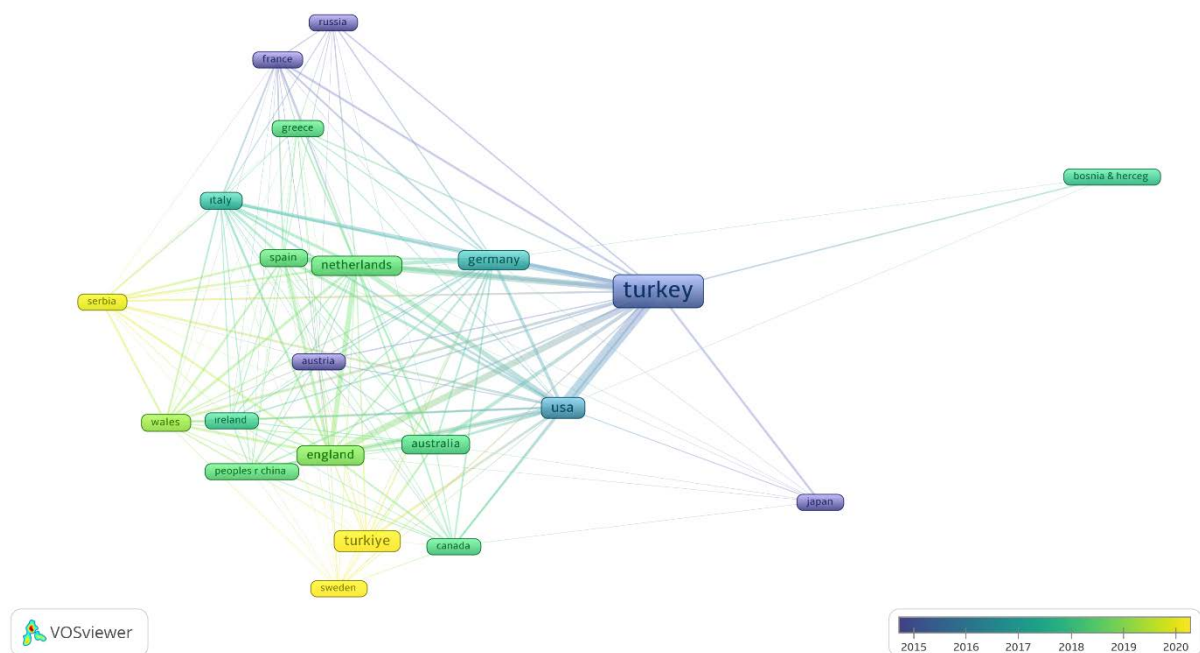


Figure 4. Network visualisation map of international collaborations in articles related to schizophrenia with at least one author from Türkiye.

(The size of the circle indicates the number of publications, and the thickness of the lines indicates the strength of the relationship.)

Keywords and Analysis

The most popular keywords, comprising a total of 9 clusters and 63 keywords, are listed in order as follows: schizophrenia (n=495), bipolar disorder (n=132), psychosis (n=30), clozapine (n=29), and social cognition (n=13). Co-word analysis is an analytical technique that typically uses words found in documents to create a conceptual structure and establish relationships. The frequency of keywords in the literature is analysed, and their relationships are grouped into different clusters according to basic research areas (Demirci and Yardibi 2024). Figure 6 shows a network visualisation map of the most frequently used keywords and their relationships in articles on schizophrenia with at least one author from Türkiye.

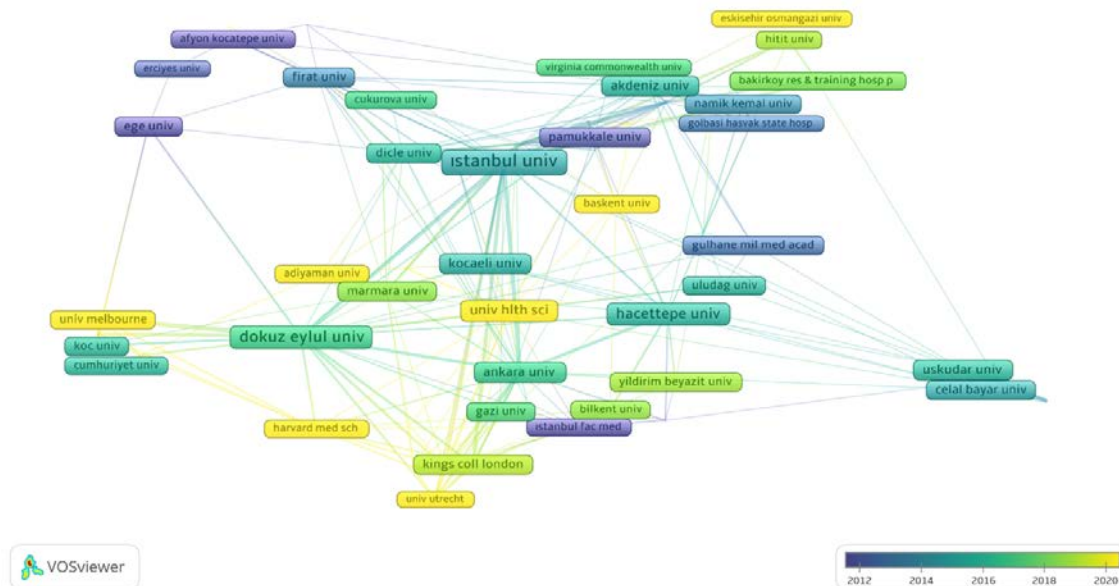


Figure 5. Institutional collaborations in articles related to schizophrenia with at least one author from Türkiye

(The size of the circle indicates the number of publications, and the thickness of the lines indicates the strength of the relationship.)

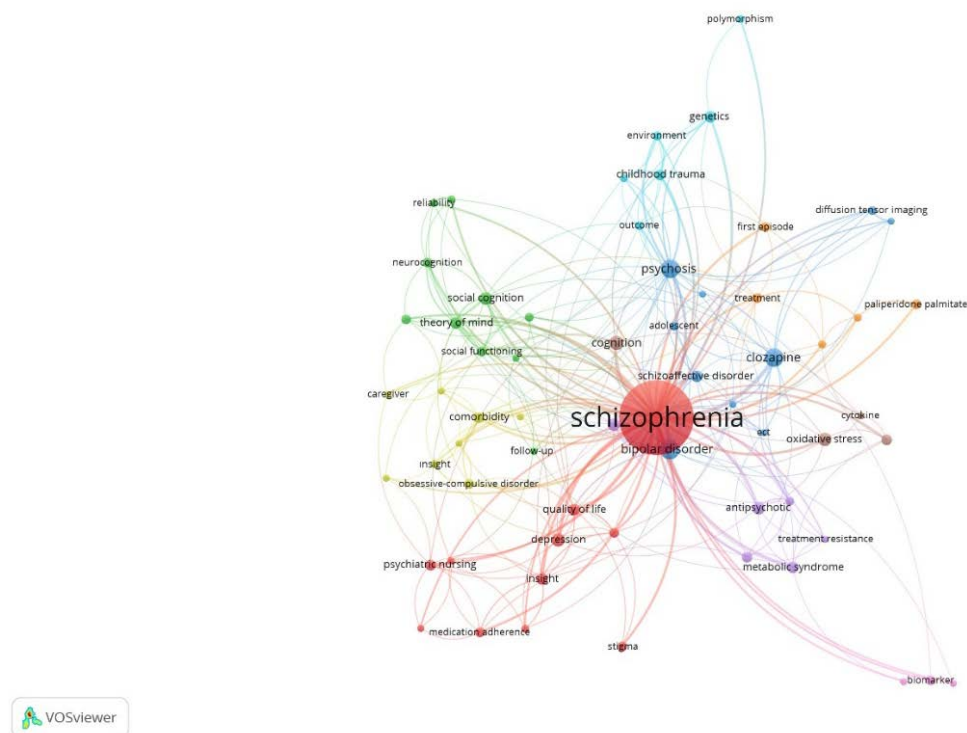


Figure 6: Network visualisation map showing the most frequently used keywords in articles on schizophrenia with at least one author from Türkiye and the relationships between them

(Nine different colours indicate clustering between keywords. The size of the circles indicates the frequency of that keyword.)

Discussion

This bibliometric analysis study provides researchers in the field of psychiatry with a literature review on schizophrenia studies conducted in Türkiye and our country's contribution to global academia over the last 20 years. The value of bibliometric studies is increasing because they enable the summarisation of broad fields such as schizophrenia, which produce a large number of publications annually, thereby helping researchers track key research areas and trends. Previous bibliometric analyses have shown an upward trend in schizophrenia publications worldwide, particularly since the 2010s (Kiraz and Demir 2021, Uy and Tantengco 2022). A similar result is observed in Türkiye. This situation may be related to the relatively high prevalence of schizophrenia in our country, which has a low socioeconomic level, and its strong negative impact on the social and economic fields of our country (Binbay et al. 2011). Considering that the increase in the number of SCI-E publications indicates an increase in internationally recognised journals, Türkiye is developing in terms of both the number of high-impact publications and publication quality (Kiraz and Demir 2021).

In our study, the average number of citations per article is 17.01. While it is reported that articles originating from the USA receive the highest number of citations (avg. 11.5), the average number of citations in our study appears to be higher than that of the USA. Türkiye's publication and citation numbers in the field of psychiatry have been reported to be lower in the past. It is known that the number of citations varies depending on factors such as scientific quality, informative titles and abstracts, number of references, and open access publications (Topal et al. 2020). The high average number of citations in our study may be due to the screening of a series containing higher quality international publications and the diversity of journals. The inadequacy of financial and infrastructure resources provided for scientific research in Türkiye, the small number of Türkiye-based journals included in international indexes, and their low accessibility can be cited as reasons for the decrease in citation counts and scientific quality (Ak et al. 2011). To increase citations to Turkish studies and visibility in the scientific field, these factors must be taken into account and emphasis must be placed on international collaborations.

It is noteworthy that the three most cited articles in the field of schizophrenia are groundbreaking and instructive articles in the field of clinical psychiatry, such as social functioning and cognition, schizophrenia genetics, and the effect of childhood trauma on schizophrenia. Considering that these topics are highly cited, it seems logical for researchers to focus their studies on these areas.

In the author analysis, Alp Üçok, Köksal Alptekin and Emre Bora ranking high in terms of number of publications demonstrates the importance of these three authors' contributions to the field of schizophrenia. Looking at the institutions to which the authors are affiliated, the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine ranks first as the most productive institution. It can be said that this institution has been a pioneer in the development of clinical psychiatry and particularly in the field of schizophrenia. The most productive authors came from Istanbul, Dokuz Eylül and Hacettepe Universities. The fact that these institutions are located in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara, Türkiye's three major cities, and that these cities are the country's most important service, health, communication and technology centres may have increased the number of publications. The fact that the most active institutions are university hospitals can be explained by the requirement for psychiatrists to publish to obtain academic titles and the greater availability of academic research opportunities in these institutions (Ak et al. 2011, Topal et al. 2020).

Our study found that authors from Türkiye collaborate with researchers from many different countries in the field of schizophrenia. The requirement to publish in internationally indexed journals for academic promotion and the recent financial support for international collaborations by institutions such as the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye may have contributed to this. The country with which the most collaboration took place was the United States, which is a scientific leader with its technological and economic power, followed by developed European countries such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Germany. As in many fields of science, similar countries maintain their leadership in psychiatry (Topal et al. 2020, Demirci and Yardibi 2024).

Despite this increase in scientific output in the international arena, one study has indicated that Türkiye receives fewer citations than the global average for mental health publications and, considering the volume of its total publication output, has fewer mental health publications than expected. It has also been reported that Türkiye exhibits significantly less international collaboration compared to its scientific output (Larivière and Grant 2011). Another study reported that despite the increase in international collaborations, Turkish authors prefer their domestic colleagues in scientific publishing (Topal et al. 2020). Based on these analyses, it is thought that Turkish authors need to strengthen their international collaboration and communication in the field of

psychiatry. There are many journals that publish articles on schizophrenia. In international publishing, the journals 'Schizophrenia Research', 'Psychiatry Research' and 'Schizophrenia Bulletin' have been identified as the most influential journals on schizophrenia (Kiraz and Demir 2021). In our study, among Turkish publications, the "Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology" (now called "Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology") was the journal with the most publications in the field of schizophrenia, followed by the "Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry" (now called "Alpha Psychiatry") and "Psychiatry Research". It may be reasonable for researchers wishing to conduct research and publish in the field of schizophrenia to first consider these journals. The frequent preference for the first two journals can be explained by their success in being included in both national indexes and SCI-E index.

Keyword analysis conducted to shed light on research points within a discipline identifies important current topics in this field for researchers (Demirci and Yardibi 2024). The most frequently used keywords in international publications on schizophrenia include areas such as neurotrophic factors, functionality, and cognition (Kiraz and Demir 2021). The most common keywords for the studies evaluated in our research were 'schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychosis, clozapine, and social cognition.' This shows us that research in our country is conducted on the effect of schizophrenia on cognition and its treatment and that it involves collaboration with studies on bipolar disorder and the psychosis spectrum. A study examining the focus areas of schizophrenia research in Southeast Asian countries showed that the most common areas of research were the treatment of schizophrenia and its psychological and social aspects, which is similar to the results of our study (Uy and Tantengco 2022).

In terms of the limitations of the study, it should be noted that the literature database used was only the WoS Core Collection-SCI-E index. Although this was done to prevent the same article from being included in the analysis more than once through different databases, and despite WoS being the most widely used database in the bibliometric field, it is possible that information from other databases such as PubMed has been omitted. Furthermore, the non-use of national databases such as TR-Dizin may have prevented the retrieval of accurate numbers related to Türkiye in the search results. Nevertheless, it is believed that a significant portion of the universe was reached for the purpose of evaluating the impact and contribution of psychiatric studies in Türkiye to the international literature. Secondly, as older publications are more likely to receive more citations, annual citation rates were included in the study to address this potential disadvantage. Furthermore, another limitation is that publications in the field of psychiatry may also be published in journals indexed in the social sciences or neuroscience categories, outside the psychiatry category. Finally, the use of the keyword "schizophrenia" to obtain clearer results in the database, without searching for terms such as "psychosis" or "psychotic disorder", may have led to some studies being overlooked and narrowed the scope of the literature reviewed.

Conclusion

The increase in Turkish publishers' international scientific publication output and international collaboration in the field of schizophrenia is noteworthy. By summarising a field as broad as schizophrenia, which produces a large number of publications annually, this study can serve as a guide for Turkish researchers to plan their own work in the right areas with the right people at the right institutions, keeping abreast of current developments in the field, and to target the right journals.

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