

BALKAN HEALTH SCIENCE JOURNAL (BHSJ)
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Author(s) hereby declares that;

1. This study is original, has not been previously published, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; all stages of preparation, data collection, analysis, and presentation were conducted in accordance with the principles of scientific integrity, quality, and transparency; all data and information included in the study have been properly cited, no data has been altered; copyright and ethical standards have been respected; copyright-protected materials (tables, figures, quotations) have been used with necessary permissions and acknowledgments; and unethical practices (plagiarism, ghost authorship, salami publication, etc.) have been avoided.
2. The study process complied with the rules of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (<https://publicationethics.org/>).
3. The research team and participants were informed about the purpose, methods, potential uses, participation requirements, and any risks of the study; participation was voluntary and free from coercion; participants' autonomy, dignity, and confidentiality were protected; necessary precautions were taken to prevent harm; the independence of the research was ensured, and any conflicts of interest were disclosed.
4. The study was conducted in accordance with the standards of the World Medical Association (WMA) Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects and the WMA Statement on the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research, as accepted by the journal, and these ethical standards were adopted as guiding principles.
5. For studies involving human participants, written informed consent was obtained; for children, individuals under guardianship, or those with certified mental illness, consent was obtained from legal guardians; if the study was conducted within an institution or organization, permission was obtained from the relevant institution; and the Materials and Methods section includes details of institutional and ethics committee approvals.
6. For studies involving animals, measures taken to prevent pain, suffering, and discomfort were clearly stated in the manuscript.
7. The anonymity and confidentiality of participants and patients were protected; written consent was obtained for photographs that could reveal identities, and such documents can be submitted to the journal upon request.
8. If any violation of this declaration is identified at any time, the authors accept all resulting ethical and legal consequences.

For all authors

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