Turkish Pediatric Glaucoma Research: A Bibliometric Analysis Based on the Web of Science Core Collection

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Pediatric glaucoma is a rare but serious group of disorders that may lead to permanent visual impairment if not diagnosed and treated early. Bibliometric analyses are commonly used to evaluate research activity in medical fields; however, studies focusing on pediatric glaucoma within the Turkish ophthalmology literature are scarce.

Methods: A bibliometric analysis was performed using the Web of Science Core Collection. Publications related to pediatric glaucoma with at least one author affiliated with an institution in Türkiye were included. No restrictions were applied regarding publication year or language. Data were analyzed for publication output, document types, institutional distribution, citation characteristics, collaboration patterns, and research topics. Visual network analyses were conducted using VOSviewer.

Results: A total of 195 publications were identified. The number of publications increased over time, with original research articles constituting the majority. Research output was mainly produced by a limited number of academic centers. Publications involving international collaboration received higher citation counts. The most frequent research topics were congenital glaucoma and surgical treatment approaches, while genetic and molecular studies were less common in recent years.

Conclusions: This study presents a bibliometric overview of pediatric glaucoma research conducted in Türkiye. The findings describe publication trends, research concentration, and collaboration patterns, and may contribute to a better understanding of the national research landscape in this field.

Keywords: pediatric glaucoma, bibliometric analysis, Türkiye, Web of Science, ophthalmology

INTRODUCTION

Childhood glaucoma represents a spectrum of rare but vision threatening disorders characterized by elevated intraocular pressure and developmental abnormalities of the ocular drainage system, with primary congenital glaucoma being the most common subtype presenting in early infancy. Juvenile and secondary forms are less frequent but remain clinically significant due to their impact on lifelong visual outcomes [1]. In contrast to adult glaucoma, childhood glaucoma often requires prompt surgical intervention to prevent irreversible vision loss [2, 3]. If inadequately treated, childhood glaucoma carries a substantial risk of lifelong visual impairment and requires long-term follow-up. Because its clinical signs and symptoms may be subtle or easily overlooked, early recognition is essential not only for ophthalmologists but also for pediatricians and neonatology specialists. A high index of suspicion and prompt referral to an ophthalmologist in suspected cases are crucial for timely diagnosis and appropriate management [4].

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The use of bibliometric analysis in the Turkish ophthalmology literature appears to be limited. Only a small number of publications have addressed the contributions of Turkish ophthalmologists to bibliometric studies conducted at the international level, and no bibliometric study has been identified that specifically examines pediatric glaucoma within the context of Türkiye. The existing literature largely consists of general overview or broad scope analyses. This situation suggests that bibliometric approaches have not been sufficiently utilized to characterize the structure, productivity, and developmental trends of national ophthalmology research. However, bibliometric analyses have the potential to provide valuable insights into publication trends, leading researchers and institutions, focal research areas, collaboration patterns, and strategic opportunities for future development, thereby serving as an important guide for Turkish researchers and institutions [5, 6].

This study aims to address a gap in bibliometric research within the Turkish ophthalmology literature, with a particular focus on pediatric glaucoma. Given the absence of previous bibliometric analyses in this specific field, a comprehensive literature search was conducted using the Web of Science (WoS) database, encompassing publications across a broad time span.

METHODS

International Database Search Strategy

A systematic and comprehensive literature search was performed using the WoS Core Collection. This database was selected because journals indexed in the WoS are subject to a rigorous evaluation process, ensuring higher standards of editorial quality, methodological robustness, and citation impact. In addition, publications indexed in this database tend to receive greater visibility and citation rates within the scientific community. The WoS Core Collection provides detailed and standardized bibliographic records, enabling reliable bibliometric and citation analyses, including the assessment of publication trends, authorship patterns, institutional contributions, and citation relationships across disciplines. These characteristics make it a suitable and reliable data source for the objectives of the present study [7].

Web of Science Search

The literature search was performed using the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection database. The following search terms were used: “pediatric glaucoma,” “paediatric glaucoma,” “childhood glaucoma,” “congenital glaucoma,” and “juvenile glaucoma.” These terms were combined using the Boolean operator “OR” and searched within the “All Fields” category to ensure comprehensive retrieval of relevant publications. To identify studies originating from Türkiye, the results were further refined using the Countries/Regions filter by selecting both “Turkey” and “Türkiye.”

The search strategy was as follows: TS=(“pediatric glaucoma” OR “paediatric glaucoma” OR “childhood glaucoma” OR “congenital glaucoma” OR “juvenile glaucoma”) AND CU=(“Turkey” OR “Türkiye”)

No restrictions were applied regarding language or publication year in order to capture the full scope of the available literature. The search was conducted on January 9, 2026. A total of 245 records were initially identified. After removal of 32 duplicate records and exclusion of 18 publications that were not directly related to pediatric glaucoma or did not meet the inclusion criteria, 195 publications were included in the final bibliometric analysis. All retrieved records were exported in tab-delimited file format, including full records and cited references, for subsequent bibliometric and network analyses performed using VOSviewer software.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The retrieved records were screened according to predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Publications addressing pediatric glaucoma in individuals younger than 18 years of age, including primary congenital glaucoma, juvenile glaucoma, and secondary pediatric glaucomas, were considered eligible for inclusion. Studies involving mixed adult and pediatric populations were included only if pediatric glaucoma represented a primary focus of the study or if pediatric data were analyzed separately. Original articles, reviews, editorials, letters, conference papers, meeting abstracts, and case reports were included in the bibliometric evaluation. Publications unrelated to pediatric glaucoma, studies without at least one author affiliated with an institution in Türkiye, duplicate records, and studies conducted entirely outside Türkiye despite Turkish co-authorship were excluded. All retrieved records were independently evaluated by two investigators according

to the predefined eligibility criteria, and any discrepancies regarding study selection were resolved through discussion and consensus. Because the present study was designed as a descriptive bibliometric analysis rather than a systematic review or meta-analysis, inter-rater reliability analyses such as Cohen's kappa were not performed.

Data Analysis

Information on publication years, document types, authorship, author affiliations, WoS categories, index coverage, publication languages, and journal titles was extracted using the WoS "Analyze" function. Because some records were assigned to more than one WoS category, a full counting approach was applied; therefore, cumulative percentages across categories exceeded 100%. Although the primary focus of this study was pediatric glaucoma research in ophthalmology, the contribution of pediatric departments was also specifically evaluated. For this purpose, publications authored exclusively by pediatric departments without collaboration with ophthalmology clinics were identified and analyzed separately.

VOSviewer software (version 1.6.20, http://www.vosviewer.com) was used to visualize and analyze bibliometric networks derived from the WoS data. Full counting was applied during network construction. For author collaboration analyses, the minimum number of documents per author was set at two. For keyword co-occurrence analyses, a minimum keyword occurrence threshold of three was applied. Clustering and normalization were performed using the default parameters of VOSviewer. This tool enabled the construction of network maps illustrating relationships among authors, institutions, keywords, and citations based on co-occurrence and co-authorship patterns. The visual representations facilitated the identification of prominent research clusters, collaboration structures, and thematic trends within the pediatric glaucoma literature.

Research ethics

The primary dataset was obtained from WOS. The subsequent analysis aimed to generate secondary data based on this existing dataset. Since the study did not involve any interaction with human or animal subjects, approval from an ethics committee was not required.

RESULTS

A total of 195 publications were retrieved from the WoS Core Collection (Figure 1). The majority of the documents were original research articles (n = 169, 86.66%). Other

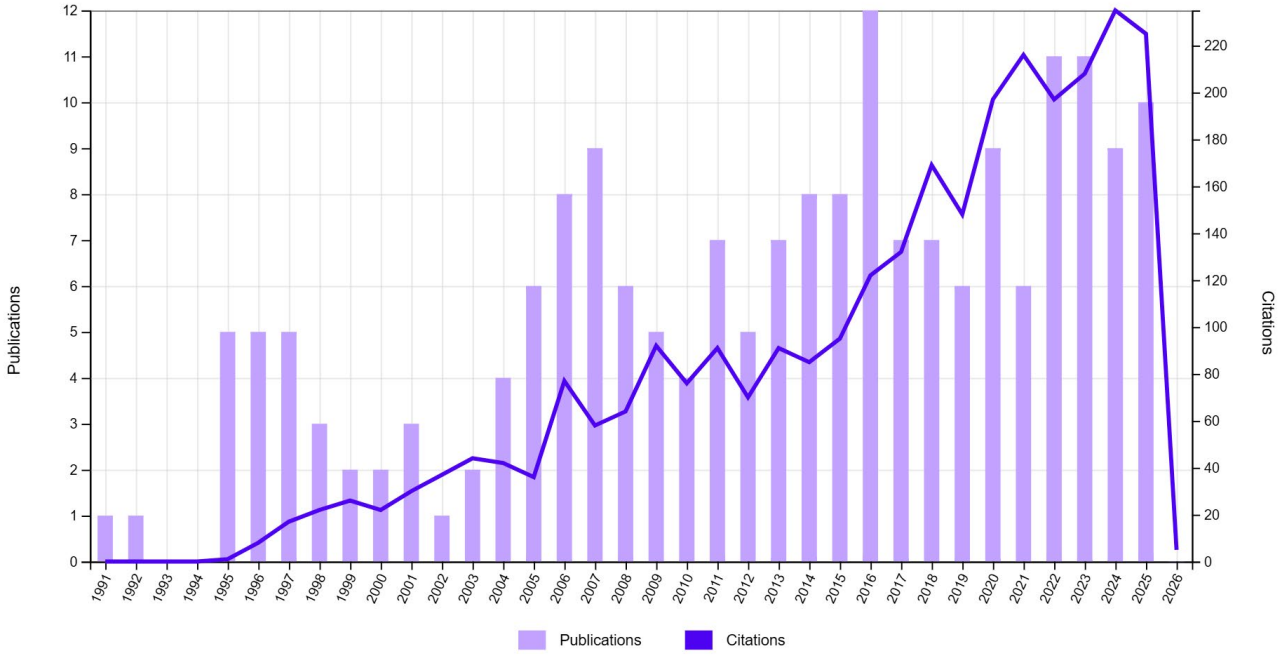

Figure 1: *Annual distribution of publications and citations related to pediatric glaucoma produced by Turkish researchers between 1991 and 2026. Bars represent the number of publications per year, while the line indicates the annual citation counts, illustrating temporal trends in research output and citation impact.*

publication types included meeting abstracts (n = 9, 4.61%), reviews (n = 9, 4.61%), editorial materials (n = 6, 3.07%), conference papers (n = 4, 2.05%), letters (n = 2, 1.02%), book chapters (n = 2, 1.02%), and early access articles (n = 2, 1.02%).

An analysis of the three most common publication types in pediatric glaucoma research in Türkiye, namely research articles, meeting abstracts, and reviews, revealed distinct temporal trends across different decades. Between 1991 and 2002, research articles were the predominant publication type (n = 22, 78.57%), accompanied by six meeting abstracts (21.42%), while no review articles were published during this period. During the period from 2003 to 2012, the number of research articles increased (n = 49, 87.50%), together with an increase in editorial materials (n = 4, 7.14%), a decrease in meeting abstracts (n = 3, 5.35%), and the emergence of review articles (n = 2, 3.57%). From 2013 to 2022, the upward trend in research articles continued (n = 73, 90.12%), while the proportion of review articles further increased (n = 4, 4.93%) and meeting abstracts declined (n = 2, 2.46%). In the most recent period from 2023 to 2026, a proportional decrease in research articles was observed (n = 25, 83.30%), whereas the relative contribution of review articles increased (n = 3, 10%), and no meeting abstracts were published.

A total of 64 distinct institutions were represented in the dataset. The most productive institutions were Ankara University (33 publications, 16.92%), Istanbul University (22 publications, 11.28%), Istanbul University Cerrahpasa (18 publications, 9.23%), Gazi University (13 publications, 6.66%), and Hacettepe University (13 publications, 6.66%). Collectively, these five institutions accounted for approximately half of all institutional contributions within the dataset (50.76%).

The publications were written in two languages, English and Turkish. English was the dominant language, accounting for 180 publications (92.30%), while Turkish represented 15 publications (7.69%).

The three most frequently represented WoS categories were Ophthalmology (122 publications, 62.56%), Pediatrics (30 publications, 15.38%), and Genetics and Heredity (24 publications, 12.30%). Only three publications (1.53%) were authored exclusively by one or more pediatric clinics without any contribution from an ophthalmology department.

Regarding WoS index coverage, the majority of publications were indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded, comprising 158 publications (81.02%). This was followed by the Emerging Sources Citation Index with 36 publications (18.46%), the Conference Proceedings Citation Index Science with four publications (2.05%), the Book Citation Index Science with two publications (1.02%), and the Social Sciences Citation Index with one publication (0.51%).

The five most productive journals accounted for a substantial proportion of the total publication output. These journals were Turkish Journal of Ophthalmology (20 publications, 10.25%), International Ophthalmology (14 publications, 7.17%), Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (13 publications, 6.66%), European Journal of Ophthalmology (8 publications, 4.10%), and Journal of Glaucoma (7 publications, 3.58%). Collectively, these five journals published 62 articles, corresponding to approximately one third of all publications in the dataset (31.79%).

Citation Report

Citation analysis of the 195 documents indexed in the WoS revealed a total of 2,480 citations, with a mean citation count of 15.07 per publication. The overall h index of the dataset was 24. Because citation counts may be influenced by publication age, citations per year were additionally calculated for the most cited publications to allow a more balanced comparison of citation impact over time. Among the three most highly cited articles, as well as eight of the ten most cited publications, international collaboration was present.

When the eight publications involving international collaboration were excluded from the analysis, the total number of citations decreased to 789 and the h index declined to 15. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of publications and citations over time. Table 1 presents the ten most cited articles after excluding publications involving international collaboration, together with their citations per year values.

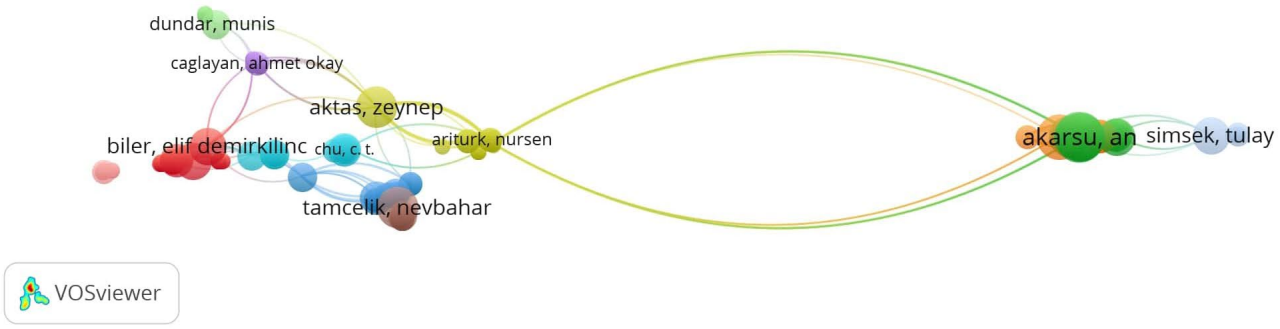

Figure 2: *Temporal distribution of publications and citations after exclusion of studies involving international collaboration. The figure demonstrates changes in national research output and citation patterns over time.*

Table 1. *The top 10 most cited articles excluding international collaborated publications.*

Title	Corresponding author	Journal	Year	Citations Per year	Total
Success of trabeculotomy in patients with congenital glaucoma operated on within 3 months of birth [16]	Yalvac, Ilgaz Sagdic	108th Annual Meeting of the American-Academy-of-Ophthalmology	2007	2.70	54
Demographic features of subjects with congenital glaucoma [17]	Tamcelik, Nevbahar	Indian Journal of Ophthalmology	2014	3.08	40
Therapeutic and Genetic Aspects of Congenital Glaucomas [18]	Turacli, Mustafa Erol	International Ophthalmology	1992	1.06	37
Long-term results of viscotrabeculotomy in congenital glaucoma: comparison to classical trabeculotomy [19]	Tamcelik, Nevbahar	British Journal of Ophthalmology	2008	1.58	30
The aetiology in paediatric aphakic glaucoma [20]	Koc, Feray	Eye	2006	1.38	29
Diode laser cyclophotocoagulation in refractory glaucoma: Comparison between pediatric and adult glaucomas [21]	Izgi, Berna Bali	Ophthalmic Surgery and Lasers	2001	1.04	27
Penetrating keratoplasty for endothelial decompensation in eyes with buphthalmos [22]	Toker, Ebru	Cornea	2003	0.78	21
A DIDMOAD syndrome family with juvenile glaucoma and myopia findings [23]	Bekir, Necdet	Acta Ophthalmologica Scandinavica	2000	0.63	17
Efficacy and Safety of Gonioscopy-Assisted Transluminal Trabeculotomy for Primary Congenital Glaucoma [3]	Aktas, Zeynep	Journal of Glaucoma	2023	3.25	13
Beta 2-adrenergic receptor polymorphism and susceptibility to primary congenital and primary open angle glaucoma [24]	Gungor, Kivanc	European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology	2003	0.50	12

Author Collaboration Analysis

Figure 3 presents studies without international collaboration, whereas Figure 4 illustrates publications involving international collaboration. Among the authors, Zeynep Aktas demonstrated the highest total link strength, with six documents, forty four citations, and a total link strength of twenty seven. She is currently affiliated with the University of Texas Health, Department of Ophthalmology, San Antonio, Texas, United States.

Citation Analysis of Authors

When publications without international collaboration were evaluated, Necdet Bekir from Gaziantep University emerged as the most highly cited author, receiving a total of eighty four citations from two publications. In contrast, among studies involving international collaboration, S. Gulderen Aktan from Hacettepe University was the most highly cited author, with six hundred seventy seven citations across eight publications.

Keyword Network Analysis

The five most strongly associated keywords related to the topic were congenital glaucoma, glaucoma, primary congenital glaucoma, trabeculectomy, and congenital cataract, listed in descending order of relevance (Figure 5).

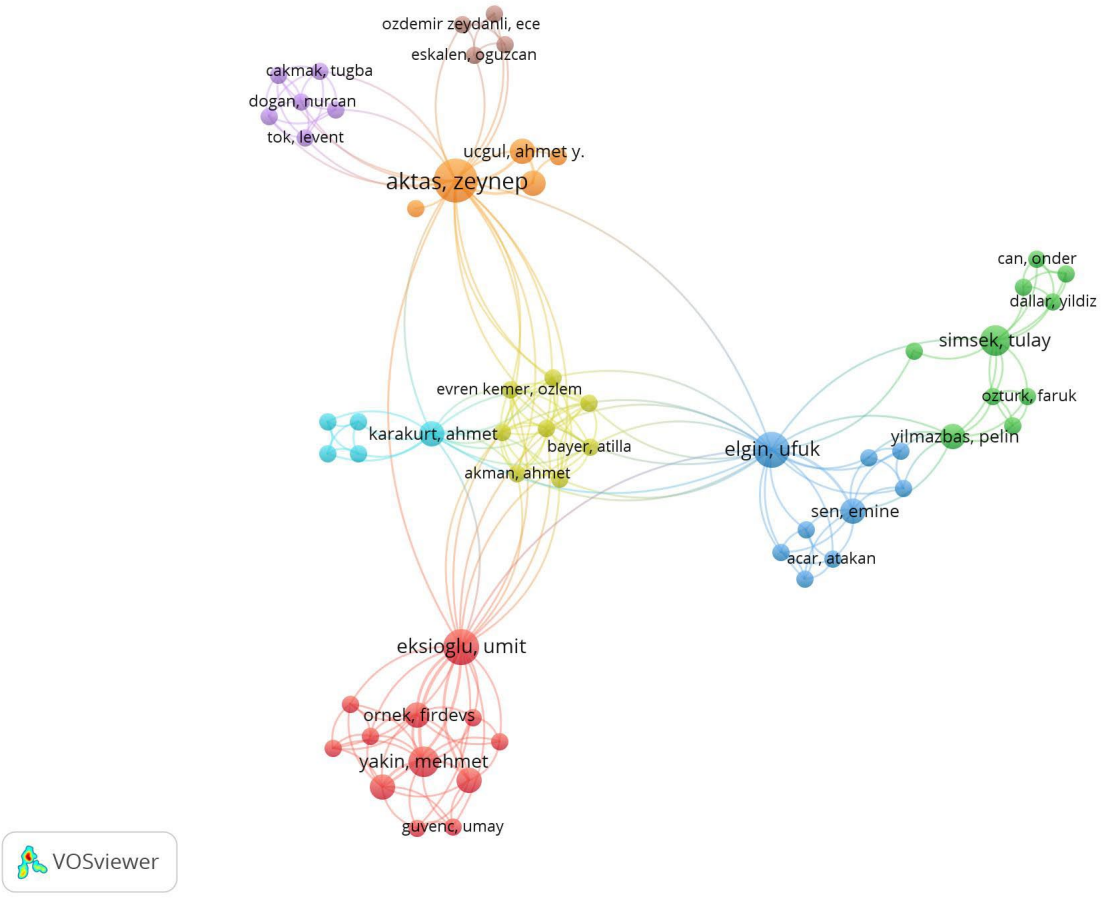

Figure 3: *Author collaboration network of pediatric glaucoma publications without international collaboration. The map visualizes co-authorship relationships among researchers affiliated with institutions in Türkiye. Node size reflects the number of publications, and link thickness represents the strength of collaboration between authors.*

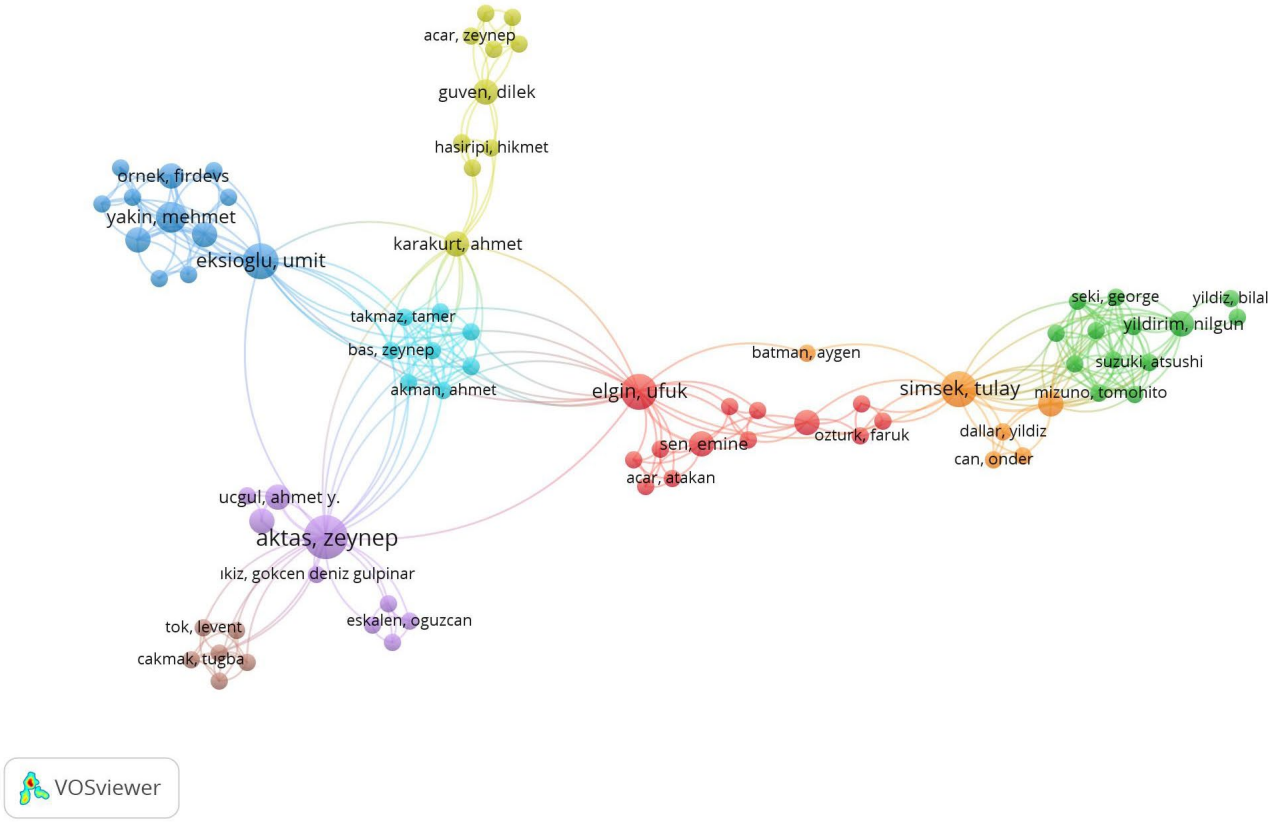

Figure 4: *Author collaboration network of pediatric glaucoma publications involving international collaboration. This visualization highlights co-authorship patterns between Turkish researchers and international collaborators, with node size corresponding to publication volume and link strength indicating the intensity of collaborative relationships.*

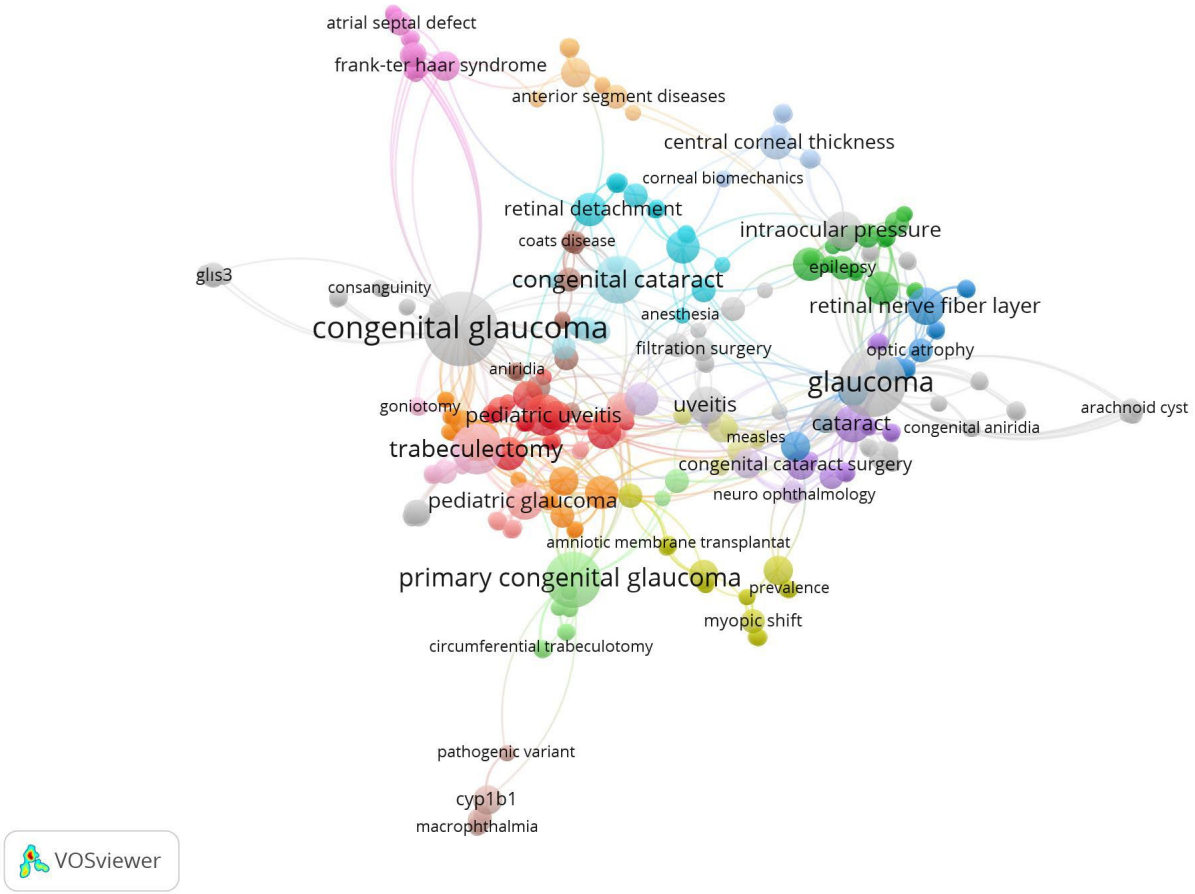

Figure 5: *Keyword co-occurrence network of pediatric glaucoma research publications. The figure illustrates the most frequently used and strongly connected keywords within the dataset, reflecting major research themes and topical clusters in the literature.*

DISCUSSION

This bibliometric analysis systematically evaluated the pediatric glaucoma literature originating from Türkiye over an extended period using the WoS Core Collection. The study provides an integrated overview of publication patterns, institutional involvement, citation performance, collaboration structures, and prevailing research themes within the national scientific output. In this context, the analysis addresses an evident gap in the literature, as bibliometric studies focusing specifically on Turkish ophthalmology research remain limited. In a bibliometric study examining Turkish retinoblastoma research, a similar lack of field-specific bibliometric evaluations was also noted, suggesting that this limitation may extend to other areas of pediatric ophthalmology [8]. Within this framework, the present analysis contributes additional insight into the research landscape of pediatric glaucoma in Türkiye and complements the existing bibliometric literature.

One of the main findings of this study is the steady increase in the number of publications on pediatric glaucoma over time, particularly during the last two decades. This trend likely reflects growing recognition of pediatric glaucoma as a distinct clinical entity, along with advances in diagnostic methods, surgical techniques, and increasing academic interest in childhood eye diseases. The predominance of original research articles across all time periods indicates a sustained emphasis on clinical and observational studies rather than secondary analyses. Moreover, the relative rise in review articles in recent years may suggest a maturation of the field and a growing effort to synthesize accumulated clinical experience. Interestingly, no publications related to pediatric glaucoma indexed in the WoS were identified during the period from 1993 to 1994, highlighting the limited research output in the early years of the field.

Our findings can be interpreted in the context of the existing bibliometric literature on pediatric glaucoma. Jain and Dhua analyzed the global pediatric glaucoma output using the WoS database and visualized collaboration networks with VOSviewer, reporting 1269 publications produced between 1955 and 2022 across 78 countries, with the United States identified as the leading contributor in terms of research output [9]. In contrast to this global overview, the present study focuses specifically on Türkiye, allowing a more detailed evaluation of national publication characteristics, institutional distribution, and the citation impact of international collaboration. While the global analysis demonstrated a pronounced and sustained increase in publication volume since the 1990s, our findings indicate that the contribution of Turkish researchers has followed a more fluctuating trajectory over time. This pattern suggests that, although overall interest in pediatric glaucoma research in Türkiye has increased, periods of reduced research activity have also occurred. Similar to the global literature, our results further highlight a concentration of research output within major academic centers and a clear citation advantage associated with internationally collaborative publications.

In a bibliometric study focusing on adult glaucoma research conducted between 2009 and 2018, the United States was similarly reported as the leading contributor in terms of publication output, and a rapid increase in the number of publications was observed particularly during the period from 2014 to 2018 [10]. In our analysis of Turkish pediatric glaucoma research spanning from 1991 to 2026, the highest annual publication output was recorded in 2016, with twelve publications. This temporal overlap suggests that interest in glaucoma research, including pediatric forms, may have intensified during these years. Although the populations and research scopes differ, the parallel increase in publication activity supports the notion of a broader period of heightened scientific attention to glaucoma research.

Only three publications in the dataset were authored without the involvement of an ophthalmologist. One of these studies reported a case associated with a GLIS3 mutation, in which neonatal diabetes, congenital hypothyroidism, and congenital glaucoma were observed concurrently [11]. Another publication described a newly identified syndrome characterized by dysmorphic facial features, oculocutaneous albinism, cryptorchidism, intellectual disability, and accompanying glaucoma [12]. The third study addressed Donckerwolcke Winsnes syndrome, in which childhood glaucoma was reported as an associated clinical feature [13]. These findings indicate that childhood glaucoma may occur in association with a variety of systemic and genetic syndromes. Awareness of such associations is important not only for supporting the diagnostic process but also for facilitating early recognition of childhood glaucoma. In this context, familiarity with relevant signs and symptoms by pediatricians is essential to ensure timely referral to ophthalmology and appropriate multidisciplinary management.

In a bibliometric analysis of glaucoma research published in 2016, an increasing tendency toward genomic studies and molecular translational research was reported during the period from 2013 to 2016 [6]. Similarly, our analysis showed that genetic and molecular investigations related to pediatric glaucoma in Türkiye were more commonly published between 2007 and 2016. In contrast, fewer publications focusing on the genetic and molecular aspects of pediatric glaucoma were identified after 2018 within the analyzed dataset. However, given the relatively limited number of studies in this specific field, these findings should be interpreted cautiously and may reflect temporal fluctuations in publication activity rather than a definitive decline. Nevertheless, genetic and molecular research may continue to represent a potentially important area for future investigation in pediatric glaucoma research.

This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. Citation counts represent a dynamic metric and therefore reflect only a snapshot of an evolving body of literature at the time of analysis. In addition, citation based measures do not account for the context in which citations are made and do not distinguish between positive and negative citations [14]. Citation based metrics may also favor older publications because of their longer exposure time within the scientific literature and their greater likelihood of accumulating citations over time. To partially reduce this effect, citations per year were additionally presented for the most cited publications. It is also reasonable to assume that citation frequency may vary according to publication type, as certain document types such as systematic reviews and

meta-analyses tend to receive more citations than original research articles [15].

Another limitation of this study is the exclusive use of the WoS Core Collection database. This preference was primarily related to the bibliometric methodology of the study, as the analyses and network visualizations were performed using VOSviewer, which provides more compatible and standardized integration with WoS data. Although this approach enabled consistent evaluation of citation characteristics, collaboration networks, and institutional productivity, it may have resulted in the exclusion of publications indexed only in other databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, TR Dizin, and ULAKBIM. In particular, some nationally published ophthalmology journals from Türkiye are not indexed in WoS, which may have led to an underrepresentation of the overall national scientific output on pediatric glaucoma. Nevertheless, the present study was designed as an initial bibliometric overview based on internationally indexed literature, and future studies incorporating both international and national databases may provide a more comprehensive representation of pediatric glaucoma research in Türkiye and further expand upon the findings presented here.

In summary, bibliometric analyses serve as valuable tools for evaluating a country's research performance within a specific field by offering insights into past achievements and emerging research directions. This study represents a comprehensive bibliometric assessment of pediatric glaucoma research conducted by Turkish researchers using the WoS Core Collection. The findings demonstrate a concentration of scientific output within a limited number of academic centers, highlight the substantial contribution of international collaboration to research visibility and citation impact, and reveal thematic emphasis on congenital forms of glaucoma and surgical management. Comparison with global trends suggests that, although pediatric glaucoma research in Türkiye has shown overall growth, further expansion is possible through strengthened interdisciplinary and international collaborations, particularly in underrepresented areas such as genetics and long term outcomes. By outlining publication patterns, institutional dynamics, and research priorities, the present study provides a reference framework for future bibliometric evaluations and may support strategic planning aimed at enhancing the impact and sustainability of pediatric glaucoma research within the Turkish ophthalmology literature.

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