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# Foot and Ankle Surgery

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## Editorial

### First topic issue: Ankle



Foot and Ankle Surgery publishes different types of articles, such as original articles, review articles, case reports, technical tips and editorials. The sequence of the publication in the paper-print-journal is principally based on the date of acceptance resulting in a mixture of different type of articles and especially different topics per issue. This strategy is the fairest regarding the period respectively waiting time between acceptance and paper-print publication. Other journals inaugurated so-called topic issues in which articles dealing with a certain topic are clustered. The editors have also discussed this and concluded that a kind of “topic issue” could be valuable for the readers. Several options were discussed and finally the plan was to cluster publications that are already accepted in one topic issue, and to choose the topic for which enough articles are on the list of accepted and not yet published in paper print. When clustering accepted articles like that, some accepted articles would not wait for paper-print publication as long as other if they would be chosen for a topic issue before. Vice versa, other accepted articles would have to wait even longer for the paper-print publication. This potential inequity was considered to be acceptable as all eligible articles have already been published online including listing in the relevant databases such as PubMed. The option of defining the topic first and then waiting for the articles dealing with this topic was not considered to be optimal because not enough articles might be accepted and the topic issue needs to be postponed, possibly forever. The option of assigning a guest editor to take care for a topic issue with invited articles was also considered not optimal due to questionable time spent and quality of invited articles. After having defined the strategy, the accepted but not published in paper print articles

(n = 108) were clustered into different topics. Currently, a full issue contains 17–19 articles, and the clustered articles were reviewed if any topic at all reached the necessary number to fill full issue and this was by far not the case. As expected, the most common topic was “Hallux valgus” with 12 available articles but this was also far away from the desired number for a full topic issue. Consequently, the articles were further clustered into “foot regions”, and the ankle region resulted to be most eligible. Two articles were dealing with cartilage restoration surgery, 6 with ankle replacement (3 in comparison with ankle arthrodesis), 2 with ankle/tibio-talocalcaneal arthrodesis, and 8 with ankle ligaments reconstruction, resulting in 18 articles dealing with the topic ankle surgery. The article types were 4 review articles and 14 original articles. Among the original articles, 1 was a meta-analysis, 12 clinical studies and one anatomic cadaver study. We (the editors) feel that this combination of articles would give the reader a valuable overview of the actual evidence in ankle surgery in one topic issue. We are looking for the readers’ feedback if this path with topic issues should be followed in the future and how. And now enjoy this first ever topic issue of Foot and Ankle Surgery, “Ankle”.

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