



# The progress of "Our Journal" in anticipation of the centennial anniversary of neurosurgery in Serbia

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1. Neurohirurgija – The Serbian Journal of Neurosurgery

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This is the third year of *Neurohirurgija – The Serbian Journal of Neurosurgery*, which we usually informally refer to as "Our Journal". It was officially announced on October 31st, 2021, on the very date that marks the foundation of neurosurgery in Serbia. Our dedicated efforts towards establishing "Our Journal" had taken many years before its official launching, and we firmly believe that it was the right time to go ahead with it in anticipation of the centennial anniversary of neurosurgery in Serbia in 2023.

The first two years of "Our Journal" were marked by our struggle to attract papers, which we believed was the difficult part until we stumbled upon getting ignored by reviewers as our emails ended up in junk or spam folders, before ultimately having our website targeted by hackers and malware. We learned a lot through this experience and finally managed to achieve what could be considered the consolidated functioning of the Journal. We hope to keep up the pace and develop further into a reputable international journal in the field of neurosurgery and related borderline disciplines and subdisciplines.

So far, sixteen peer-reviewed papers were accepted and published (including this issue), by authors from Serbia and around the world, mainly from Europe. After the initial struggle, this year, we managed to publish most papers within a single issue, while significantly improving the time of accepting or declining decisions and acceptance/declining rates (*Table 1*).

**Table 1.** Editorial activity trends of Neurohirurgija – The Serbian Journal of Neurosurgery

	2023	2022	2021	Total
<b>Submissions Received</b>	4	14	5	23 (14/year)
<b>Submissions Accepted</b>	8	8	1	18 (8/year)
<b>Submissions Declined</b>	4	1	0	5
<b>Submissions Declined (Desk Reject)</b>	1	0	0	1 (0/year)
<b>Submissions Declined (After Review)</b>	3	1	0	4
<b>Submissions Published</b>	8	9	1	18 (9/year)
<b>Days to First Editorial Decision</b>	5	31	3	31
<b>Days to Accept</b>	32	165	88	160
<b>Days to Reject</b>	33	342	394	342
<b>Acceptance Rate</b>	75%	79%	80%	78%
<b>Rejection Rate</b>	25%	21%	20%	22%
<b>Desk Reject Rate</b>	0%	7%	0	4%
<b>After Review Reject Rate</b>	25%	14%	20%	17%

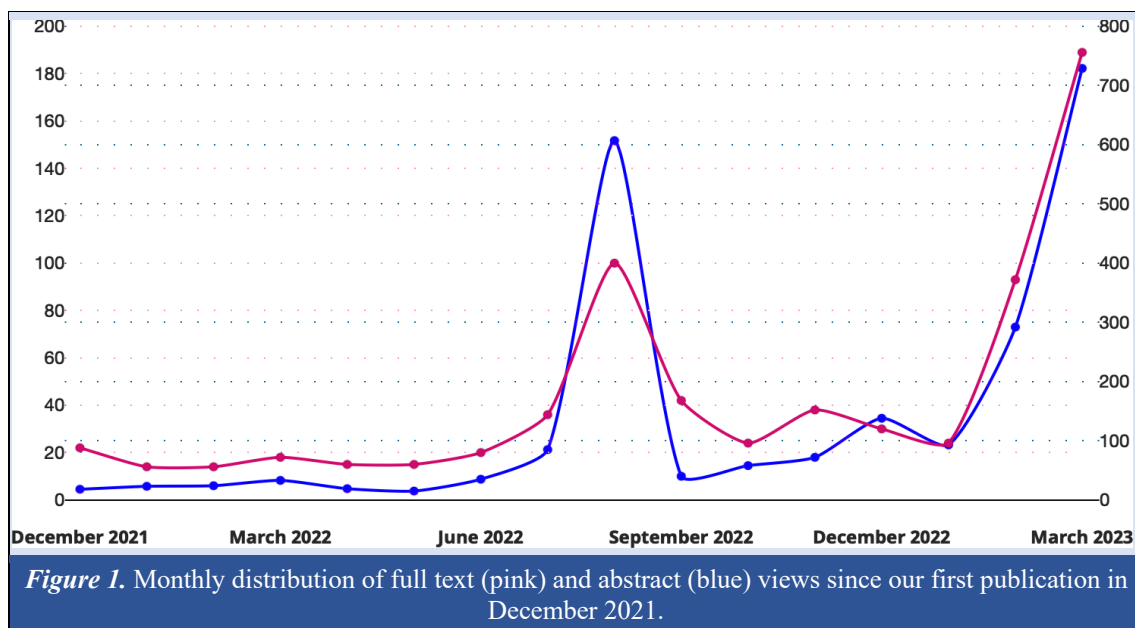
The latest issue encompasses three original research articles, one technical note within the Special Topic: "Neurosonology X Neurosurgery", one review of the literature with a series of cases and 3 reports of cases. Furthermore, all articles came from foreign authors, from Asia, Europe, and South America, with the special emphasize on two contributions from Ukraine and Russian Federation.

*Our Journal* has attracted attention from the readers' community as well, with many of the individual papers seen over 100 times, but also from other researchers, with 5 citations of 9 peer-reviewed articles published in the first two issues, which is already remarkable (*Table 2*).

**Table 2.** Abstract, full text views and citations of the papers published within the first two issues.

Article title	Abstract views	Full text views	Citations
Microsurgical management of complex middle cerebral artery aneurysms	314	124	1
Temporalis muscle reattachment by using transosseus running suture along superior temporal line: technical note	377	84	0
Motor nerve transfers for restoration of upper arm function in adult brachial plexus injuries	179	70	3
Why another journal? Well, why not? (Editorial)	130	66	-
Intraoperative ultrasound use in cranial neurosurgery	157	65	0
A state of art management of a bilateral basal ganglia germinoma: case report	110	54	0
Risk factors for postoperative infection after combat related head injuries	323	49	0
Delayed cerebral vasospasm following traumatic acute subdural hematoma: case report	119	40	0
Traumatic intracranial aneurysms associated with traffic accidents and endovascular management options	192	36	1
A warm Serbian welcome! (Editorial)	239	31	-
Dorsal hemangioblastoma with holocord syringomyelia: case report	88	29	0

There were two spikes in views, in August 2022 and March 2023, related to the announcements in the international mailing lists (**Figure 1**). Learning from this experience, we will persistently improve the spread in social media, with regular monthly updates.



In the forthcoming period, we will apply for the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) listing as a journal that follows the ICMJE's Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, as well as for inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and once we reach the required number of published peer-reviewed articles, we will apply for indexing in PubMed Central and MEDLINE databases.

This October, Serbian neurosurgery will mark its Centennial Anniversary together with 85 years of the Clinic for Neurosurgery at the University Clinical Center of Serbia with the biggest neurosurgical gathering ever in Serbia, during the Neurosurgical Week from October 30th-November 3rd, 2023. The global theme of the meeting, *"Focus. Dedication. Specialization"*, sublimates the history of Serbian neurosurgery, as well as all our contemporary professional and academic activities and efforts in providing the best possible service and treatment standards to our patients and academic community.

We are looking forward to complementing this anniversary with the success of our very own Journal, *Neurohirurgija – The Serbian Journal of Neurosurgery*, as one of the landmark achievements of the Serbian Neurosurgical Society and Serbian neurosurgical community for the future generations.