

## Response to Letter to the Editor: “Analysis of incorrect referrals to the cardiovascular surgery outpatient clinic”

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We would like to thank the author for their interest in our article titled “*Analysis of Incorrect Referrals to the Cardiovascular Surgery Outpatient Clinic.*”<sup>[1]</sup> We find the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) data shared by the author, highlighting the insufficiency of the number of physicians, to be noteworthy. As emphasized in our article, ensuring accurate patient referrals to the appropriate outpatient clinics is of critical importance, particularly considering the increasing number of admissions and the growing workload on healthcare professionals. We believe that the recent increase in residency positions in medical specialization in Türkiye may help address the shortage of physicians in the coming years. However, we believe that an increase in the number of physicians alone will not be sufficient to prevent incorrect outpatient clinic referrals.

As we stated in the limitations of our article, we believe that studies investigating the reasons for incorrect patient presentations to the cardiovascular surgery outpatient clinic could provide important contributions to addressing the issue. For this reason, we have recently completed a new study evaluating the causes of incorrect outpatient clinic referrals. We believe that the results of our new study will provide significant insights for identifying key areas to target to prevent incorrect referrals.

**Data Sharing Statement:** The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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