

Reflections of an Editor on the need for scientometric analysis in biomedical journals

Reflexiones de un editor sobre la necesidad de los análisis cienciométricos en las revistas biomédicas

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To the Editor:

I have read with great interest the work recently published in CorSalud, analyzing the Journal's scientific production between 2009 and 2017¹. This kind of analysis allows to know in more detail the development of the quality and quantity of the scientific research that is published, not only in the journal as such, but also in the scientific niche that the journal occupies, both in relation to its specialty (cardiology in the case of CorSalud) and in the scientific community in which it serves (in this case, Cuban researchers). It is comforting to see the way CorSalud has kept good scientometric indicators throughout this period.

In this sense, in my experience as editor of the Emergencias journal (dedicated to emergency medicine and emergencies, which primarily serves the Spanish scientific community), the verification of this good scientific health precedes the presentation and eventual acceptance of the journal in the Science Citation Index and Journal Citation Reports; and, therefore, to the achievement of an impact factor, which is very important both for the magazine and for the investigators that publish in it: such was the case of Emergencies. Thus, after the scientific production, the authors who contributed to it (also urgency personnel)^{2,3} and also that published in its own pages had enough quality^{4,5}, the process of indexation was presented and successfully surpassed the aforementioned highest international prestige

repertories⁶. Undoubtedly, in a near future, this will also be the case of CorSalud.

However, the process of scientometric analysis should not be limited to the achievement of indexing objectives, since it is also an extraordinary tool in itself to continue monitoring the quality of research^{7,8}. In this sense, the identification of the articles that have had greatest impact⁹, the analysis of the scientific content from the specialty national congresses¹⁰ or collaboration networks description¹¹, are elements accessible to scientometric analysis, which help for a better understanding about the relationships that are established between researchers and scientific journals. Only then could be achieved nonstop improvement in the quality of a scientific journal^{12,13}; that, in the end, claims to be the best vehicle for disseminating the advances of a given research community. And, undoubtedly, the technical advances go hand in hand with a better care and teaching activity of the doctors in practice¹⁴.

It is noteworthy, then, that the article by Dr. Naranco and Arman¹ contains many scientometric elements discussed above. The effort to collect this data is sometimes large, but necessary to know the strengths and weaknesses of a publishing project. And the results provided by the authors provide the best auguries for CorSalud. This is a source of joy not only for the readers of the aforementioned journal, but for the entire Spanish-speaking scientific community in general, as the scarce representation of science made and communicated in Spanish in

the international research scene is well known and recognized^{15,16}.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

None.

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