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Editorial

Editor's perspectives – January 2017



I would like to start off by sending my New Year Greetings to all of you for a Happy and Prosperous Year 2017.

In the Editor's Perspectives of the December 2016 issue, I talked about a combination of the various methods in Bibliometrics should be used in assessment of a scientific researcher, and the impact factor is not a reliable instrument to be used alone. It is also important to remember that any measure used in bibliometrics does not necessarily measure the quality of research output but instead focuses on the impact of research, i.e. how often the work is being cited. Just because a research output is highly cited does not necessarily mean that the work is of good quality. A paper may be cited in a negative rather than a positive way yet the citation would still be counted. This is why it is important to use bibliometrics in conjunction with other data such as funding received, number of patents, awards granted and qualitative measures such as peer review [1]. I shall talk more about the bibliometric measures that are commonly used by scientific researchers in the coming perspectives. Needless to say there are also bibliometric measures which are mainly used by editors and publishers of scientific journals but are rarely used by scientific researchers.

In this January issue, there are three meta-analyses. The first one is entitled "Efficacy and safety of vitamin C for atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery: A meta-analysis with trial sequential analysis of randomized controlled trials". This article should be of interest to cardiac surgeons. Good news to orthopaedic surgeons as there are two meta-analyses on arthroplasty. The first one is entitled "Effect of different postoperative limb positions on blood loss and range of motion in total knee arthroplasty: An updated meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials"; while the second one is entitled "The efficacy and safety of fibrin sealant for reducing blood loss in primary total hip arthroplasty: A systematic review and meta-analysis". Interesting, all these three articles come from three different centers in three different provinces in China. There is one very important randomized controlled trial coming from Georgia – "Open retromuscular mesh repair versus onlay technique of incisional hernia". This should be of interest to many general surgeons.

There is a very interesting paper coming from the United Kingdom on "The 100 most cited manuscripts in emergency abdominal surgery: A bibliometric analysis". This article should be of interest to emergency, vascular and general surgeons.

There are four retrospective comparative studies which I would like to recommend to you. The first article uses a propensity score matching to study the effects of serum gamma-glutamyl transferase levels on the prognosis of patients with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma who received postoperative adjuvant transcatheter

arterial chemoembolization. The second article is on laparoscopic gastric bypass versus laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy, using retrospective multicenter data to compare between early- and long-term postoperative outcomes. The third article studies the risk factors of complications in laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy and laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass. The fourth article analyzes the surgical outcomes of total thyroidectomy in 2000 patients using either the LigaSure™ Small Jaw versus LigaSure Precise™.

There are two studies which should be of interest to colorectal surgeons. The first article is a cross-sectional study on prospectively collected data on 167 patients to study "The relationship between systemic inflammation and stoma formation following anterior resection for rectal cancer". The second study is a retrospective study on 158,777 patients to study the association between lymphovascular and perineural invasion with poor prognostic features and outcomes in colorectal cancer. For the thoracic surgeons, there is a retrospective study on 245 consecutive elderly patients (>65 years) who underwent either subtotal or lobectomy for stage 1 non-small cell lung cancer.

Last but not the least, there is a very interesting letter to the Editor with an Editorial comment to the article "Ileal versus sigmoid neobladder as bladder substitute after radical cystectomy for bladder cancer: A meta-analysis" published in the International Journal of Surgery 2016; 27:39–45. As I have emphasized before, we encourage more letters to the Editor to discuss on articles which have been published in our Journal.

There are less articles in this January issue when compared with our previous issues. However, there are so many good articles which I hope you will enjoy reading through them.

Reference

- [1] Bibliometrics: an overview – Library – University of Leeds (<https://library.leeds.ac.uk/downloads/18/download/26/bibliometrics>).

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