

Short communication

How far reaching is our research? An analysis of the journals in which oral and maxillofacial surgery research is cited

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Abstract

In this study we investigate the five most cited articles in the British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (BJOMS). Articles cited were usually published in other OMFS journals (40%) or dentistry journals (32%). The mean (SD) SCImago Journal and Country Rank, (SJR) (an interface to access the bibliometric database of journals) for cited papers was 0.64 (SD = 0.56). Nearly one third of citations were of research in OMFS and dentistry, suggesting its relevance to the wider academic community.

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Introduction

A citation is an alphanumeric expression contained within the body of work that recognises the contributions of others to the topic of discussion.¹ Analysis of who cites a paper sheds light on the dissemination and relevance of research through the wider academic community. In this study we explore the origins of OMFS research.

Methods

The five most cited papers in the British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (BJOMS) were identified from the SCOPUS database. Papers in which these were cited were identified and analysed. We also recorded the scope of BJOMS and the SCImago Journal and Country Rank (SJR) indicator.

Results

The five most cited papers are shown in [Table 1](#);^{2–6} they were cited 708 times between 1987 and 2015. The types of paper are shown in [Table 2](#). Institutions that cited them were mainly in Europe (n = 282, 40%), the USA (n = 152, 21%), and Asia (n = 134, 19%), together with the Middle East (n = 69, 10%), South America (n = 45, 6%), Africa (n = 15, 2%), and the Antipodes (n = 11, 2%).

Papers in which they were cited were usually published in other OMFS journals (n = 272, 40%) or dentistry journals (n = 222, 32%) ([Table 3](#)). The mean (range) SJR of these journals was 0.64 (0.10 - 12.16).

Discussion

Academic work, audit, and clinical research form the evidence-base on which modern OMFS is practiced. It is essential to broadcast our research through surgery and medicine as a whole, to show the high standards within the specialty, maintain and develop our specialty's identity, and

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Table 1

The five most cited articles in The British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

No.	Paper
1	Rood JP, Shehab BA. The radiological prediction of inferior alveolar nerve injury during third molar surgery. <i>Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg</i> 1990;28:20-5. ²
2	Scully C, Carrozzo M. Oral mucosal disease: Lichen planus. <i>Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg</i> 2008;46:15-21. ³
3	van der Waal RI, Buter J, van der Waal I. Oral metastases: report of 24 cases. <i>Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg</i> 2003;41:3-6. ⁴
4	Cawood JI. Small plate osteosynthesis of mandibular fractures. <i>Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg</i> 1985;23:77-91. ⁵
5	Guerrero CA, Bell WH, Contasti GI, et al. Mandibular widening by intraoral distraction osteogenesis. <i>Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg</i> 1997;35:383-92. ⁶

Table 2

Type of citation.

Type of paper	No.
Original article	575
Review	83
Books	18
Conference paper	4
Editorial	7
Short survey	2
Letter	13
Note	5

Table 3

Type of citing journal.

Field of journal	No.
ENT	24
Plastic surgery	18
Other surgical specialties	18
General medicine	27
Dermatology	29
Oncology	18
Medical specialty	14
Radiology	20
Medical science	15
Pathology	13
Other medical	14
Non-medical	4

increase our relevance. Study of those papers that cite OMFS research can provide insight into how our work is read, perceived, and used among other specialties.

Our findings are encouraging. First, the top-cited articles span the breadth of the specialty (trauma; oncology; dentoalveolar and oral medicine; and orthognathic surgery). Secondly, they are cited in various formats all over the world. Thirdly, the analysis of SJR, which takes into account the impact of the journal, provides insight into their quality. It is reassuring to see that our research is cited in high-scoring journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine (SJR

12.16) and Oncology (SJR 2.08). However, the mean (SD) score of citing journals, which was 0.64 (0.56), was slightly lower than that of BJOMS or the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (SJR 0.89 and 0.85, respectively).

Unsurprisingly, papers are most commonly cited in other OMFS research. However, it is heartening to see that just under a third of citations were published in research that was completely outside the field of OMFS and dentistry, suggesting a widespread relevance. Such findings highlight the impact that OMFS research can have in fields outside its own, and the role it can have in the wider academic community.

Conflict of interest

We have no conflicts of interest.

Ethics statement/confirmation of patients' permission

N/A.

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