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Peer Review Report

Peer review report 2 on “The 100 most influential manuscripts in emergency abdominal surgery: A bibliometric analysis”

1. Original submission

1.1. Recommendation

Minor Revision.

1.2. Comments to the author

Review of The 100 Most Influential Manuscripts in Emergency Abdominal Surgery: A Bibliometric Analysis.

Summary: This manuscript focused on the increasingly popular field of bibliometric analysis to determine the most influential manuscripts in emergency abdominal surgery. They use a citation rate which is clever and appropriate to account for the different years of publication for the various manuscripts. Although not a novel concept and results aren't surprising, this paper is of particular interest to Emergency General Surgeons in the UK and Acute Care Surgeons in the US. It offers a concise reference for the key works in their field. Additionally, the authors provide a good explanation about the disparity between the high number of citations for each top 100 paper in other subspecialty analyses vs the low number in emergency surgery. With a few minor adjustments, this paper warrants publication.

Major Criticisms: In the abstract is unclear to the reader why exactly this paper is relevant or interesting. The authors should put it in the context of the creation of the specialty of EGS. To

further this, a line or 2 should be copied from the first paragraph of the introduction into the abstract.

It is not surprising that the 2 most popular topics are vascular and gastrointestinal surgery. These topics should be further explored and divided (ie do the GI surgery papers feature solid or hollow organ injury, blunt or penetrating injury etc).

Minor Criticisms: Table 2 reveals that the impact factors are from 2015. This should be mentioned in the methods. Also a brief description of what impact factor is should be included.

Is there any correlation between the years that EGS and ACS emerged as specialities?

The impact factor of the NEJM is provided twice. One should be removed.

The multiple table format can be improved with the use of a graph. Replace table 4 with a graph.

The methods mention that abstracts were evaluated. The title is 'The 100 Most Influential Manuscripts ...'

It's not particularly interesting or unexpected that only 3 manuscripts featured GI cancers as these infrequently present requiring emergency surgery. Please elaborate or remove this comment.

How many manuscripts were guidelines?

Anonymous reviewer.

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