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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Map of Clinical Dermatology Research Centers in Spain: Results of the MaIND Study[☆]

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Abstract

Background and objective: Bibliometric indicators and analyses of clinical research articles can help to quantify the scientific production of hospitals and institutions and identify their main areas of research. The aim of this study was to draw up a bibliometric map of clinical research in dermatology by Spanish hospitals and institutions through an analysis of quantitative, qualitative, and topic-based variables.

Material and method: Bibliometric study of clinical research articles that met the inclusion criteria and had a definitive publication date between 2005 and 2014 in PubMed or Embase in which the corresponding author's affiliation was a Spanish dermatology department or institution.

Results: Barcelona and Madrid were the provinces with the highest number of articles and citations. The centers with the most articles and citations were Hospital Clínic and Instituto Valenciano de Oncología. Those 2 hospitals also produced the highest number of articles on the most common research topic identified: melanoma. Because the articles were selected on the basis of the affiliation of the corresponding author to a Spanish dermatology center, this analysis does not include collaborative studies or clinical research studies led by nondermatology centers.

Conclusions: We have created a bibliometric map of clinical dermatology research in Spain that shows the distribution of scientific production and the main areas of research by province and hospital/institution. This map could be useful for education and research purposes.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

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Dermatología;
Española;
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Mapa de centros de investigación clínica dermatológica española: resultados del estudio MaIND**Resumen**

Antecedentes y objetivo: Los artículos de investigación clínica y los indicadores bibliométricos que de ellos derivan pueden ser útiles para cuantificar la productividad científica de centros e instituciones e identificar las líneas o temas de investigación de estos centros. El objetivo de este estudio es realizar un mapa bibliométrico de investigación clínica de centros e instituciones de dermatología españolas analizando variables cuantitativas, cualitativas y temáticas.

Material y método: Estudio bibliométrico de los artículos de investigación clínica con fecha definitiva de publicación entre el año 2005 a 2014, ambos inclusive, en las bases de datos Pubmed o Embase, en cuya dirección de autor de correspondencia figure un centro o institución de dermatología española y que cumplan los criterios de investigación clínica en dermatología.

Resultados: Las provincias que presentaron un mayor número de artículos y de citas acumuladas fueron Barcelona y Madrid. Los centros que presentaron un mayor número de artículos y citas acumuladas fueron el Hospital Clinic y el Instituto Valenciano de Oncología. Estos centros fueron también los que presentaron más publicaciones sobre el tema de investigación más frecuente, el melanoma. El criterio para atribuir una publicación científica a una institución dermatológica española en función de la dirección del autor de correspondencia hace que estudios dirigidos por instituciones no dermatológicas o estudios colaborativos no sean incluidos.

Conclusiones: Los resultados de este estudio permiten trazar un mapa tanto provincial e institucional de investigación clínica en dermatología que puede ser de utilidad con fines docentes y de investigación.

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Introduction

Bibliometric studies analyze indicators derived from statistics for journal articles and cites; examples are the raw number of articles, their subject matter, or their impact.¹ The point of reference for indicators can be subjects, research centers, provinces, or countries. They can also be analyzed by specialty or subspecialty to identify trends that describe topics of interest, researchers, or leading research centers. The knowledge generated through bibliometric studies can help researchers share information about highly complex clinical problems and identify potential partners for research collaboration.

The scientific output of Spanish researchers overall has been analyzed by such groups as Camí et al.² and Mendez-Vasquez et al.³ Research on specific specialties, diseases, and techniques has also been done. For example, Ramos et al.⁴ analyzed output on infectious diseases and microbiology; Iñigo et al.⁵ studied the specialties of gastroenterology and hepatology; Miguel-Dasit et al.,⁶ publications on magnetic resonance imaging in radiology; and Alonso-Arroyo et al.,⁷ pediatrics. Dermatology has been looked at from several perspectives. Some bibliometricians have described work from different research centers published in Spanish journals⁸ or in a single journal such as *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*.⁹⁻¹¹ Others have analyzed papers published in international journals by authors affiliated with Spanish dermatology centers¹² or the level of scientific evidence in articles from Spain in specific journals in comparison with papers from other countries.^{13,14}

The strengths of our study in comparison with the literature to date include 1) our identification and inclusion of

only research articles in clinical medicine, excluding papers providing only a low level of evidence and those not focused on clinical problems; 2) the inclusion of all journals indexed in MEDLINE and Embase; 3) coverage of an extended time period; 4) topic analysis; and 5) the use of results to map the scientific output of Spanish dermatology.

Our aim was to use quantitative variables and data reflecting article quality and topic to map the research output of hospitals with dermatology departments and other clinical research centers in our specialty.

Materials and Methods**Design**

This bibliometric study covered publications from 2005 through 2014.

Article Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Three inclusion criteria were stipulated. First, articles had to be indexed in MEDLINE or Embase, and the field for the corresponding author had to include mention of a Spanish hospital or other research center with specialists in dermatology or venereology. The affiliations of coauthors were not taken into account given that this information was not consistently included by the databases we used or by all journals during the study period. Second, articles had to have a publication date between 2005 and 2014, inclusive. This time frame was chosen to coincide with the full-year indexing of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*, which publishes a

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