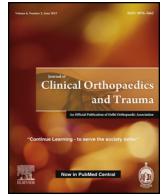




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Review article

The top 10 arthroplasty articles published in last 10 years by Indian authors

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ABSTRACT

Joint replacement surgery is becoming increasingly popular globally and recently, in India. The phenomenon of medical tourism has also contributed to increasing number of arthroplasty surgeries being done every year in our country. The surgeons who work in this highly specialized field of orthopedic surgery, have been publishing their research work in reputed journals. In this paper, we have discussed the most cited Indian papers in the field of arthroplasty. It was observed that publications in high impact and reputed journals attract more citations and therefore it is recommended that the 'good' scientific research work should preferably be submitted to these journals to create greater impact and awareness about ones' research.

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1. Introduction

Citation frequency of a paper indicates the influence it exerts in any area of research. Several articles have been written recently on the most influential papers in the field of science in general,¹ various medical specialties, and orthopedic surgery in particular.^{2–17} Researchers have also attempted to find the most cited papers in the different subspecialties of orthopedic surgery^{18–34}; and also, popular papers related to some specific disorders, like distal radial fractures and anterior cruciate ligament injuries,^{35,36} or from a particular region.^{37–44}

In this bibliometric analysis, we attempted to find the top 10 most cited Indian papers in the field of arthroplasty and joint replacement surgery; using Web of Science and SCOPUS databases, besides PubMed and general Internet search (including Google scholar). The papers presented in this study may serve as a list of Indian articles useful for orthopedic surgery postgraduate residents and fellows in arthroplasty. This list inspires us about how and what kind of research work can be carried out in the area of joint replacement surgery, working within relatively constrained socio-economic, cultural and managerial scenario which is unique to one's country and to achieve excellence with limited resources.

Focused study of these papers may also give some insights on what makes a paper important to global peers, and also help in writing such articles in future.

2. Methods

Citation databases, including Web of Science and SCOPUS, were searched using the following key terms and search strategy: India* AND (arthroplasty OR hip replacement OR knee replacement OR ankle replacement OR shoulder replacement OR elbow replacement OR wrist replacement); in the month of April 2017. The search was further refined to include only papers published in the English language from India in the years 2006 till date. We ranked and arranged the papers according to the number of citations received during this period. The top 10 papers in the field of joint replacement, which were based on research conducted entirely in India, were manually selected and the full texts were retrieved. The final ranking of top 10 papers was done according to the number of citations mentioned in SCOPUS, as this citation database has broader coverage as compared to Web of Science.^{45–49} We have also checked the search strategy and the number of citations received by these papers in Google Scholar, which is a free citation database with very broad coverage; but did not use it for finding influential papers because of inadequate quality control. Several inaccuracies reported in Google Scholar- like content gaps, incorrect citation counts, duplication and manipulation of citation

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numbers' make its reliability questionable.^{48,49} Finally, we have also checked citations in the free full-text database Pubmed Central, but despite consistency, it has little utility as it covers only journals, which provide free full texts for it. The methodology of paper selection adopted by us has been explained comprehensively in Fig. 1.

3. Results

The search was done, as described earlier, in the Web of Science and in SCOPUS databases in the month of April 2017. From the Web of Science, 714 papers and from SCOPUS, 1591 papers were collected. (Fig. 1) There is a growing trend in the number of papers published in the field of arthroplasty from India over the past several years (Fig. 2). We also analyzed the number of papers by different authors and papers coming from various institutions on the SCOPUS citation database. These papers were then arranged according to the quantum of citations received during this period, in both the databases and then we manually selected top 10 articles, which were based on research conducted in India and relevant to the field of arthroplasty (Table 1). We preferred SCOPUS for final ranking as it has relatively broader coverage. Out of these papers, ten most cited, Indian papers were selected, as already explained.

Most papers (8) were from private institutes, though some (2) were from government institutions in this group (Fig. 3A). All of these papers were published in high impact journals in arthroplasty and related fields. One paper each was published in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research; International Orthopaedics; Knee Surgery, Sports Traumatology, and Arthroscopy; and Best Practice and Research: Clinical Rheumatology; two in Journal of

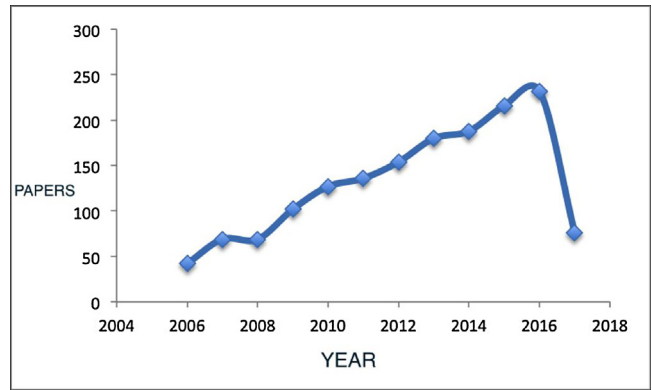


Fig. 2. Trend line showing number of arthroscopy papers published from India in the last 10 years as analysed in SCOPUS.

Bone and Joint surgery (British volume, now renamed as the Bone and Joint Journal); and four papers in Journal of Arthroplasty. (Fig. 3B). All of these articles have been widely cited by authors from many different countries and in high impact orthopedic journals, including several citing papers which have themselves received many citations in this short time span; reflecting the world wide influence of these papers on the subject of arthroplasty.

The top ten Indian arthroplasty articles were based on studies at different levels of evidence in the hierarchy, including Randomised controlled trial (level 1- four papers), Therapeutic study (level 2-one paper), Prospective comparative study (level 2-one paper), Observational study or case series (level 4- three papers), Broad narrative review (level 5-one paper). Citations received by these

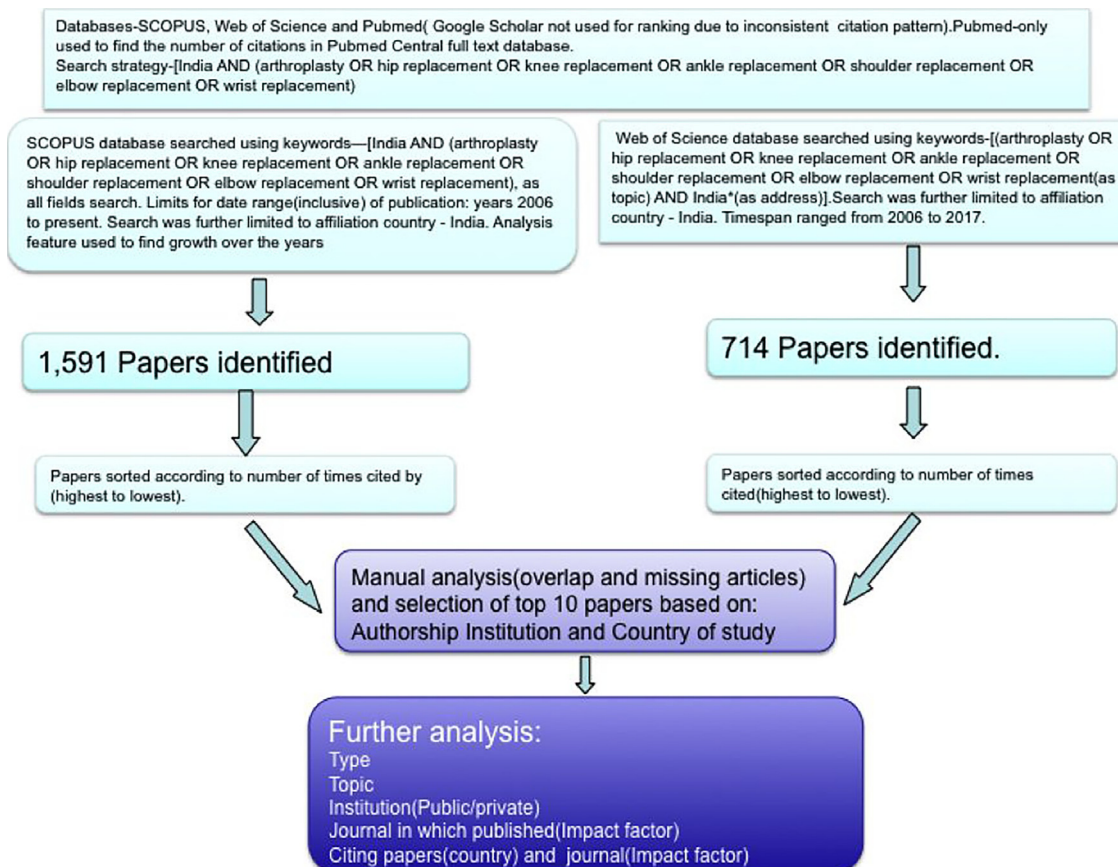


Fig. 1. Chart showing the methodology of selecting papers.

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