Accepted Article
Spanish in international bibliography

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DOI: 10.17235/reed.2015.3662/2014
Link: PDF


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Dear Editor,

I have read with interest the review article about endoscopic percutaneous gastrostomies written by Lucendo et al. (1). There is no doubt that it is a good update. My only concern is that the authors have restricted their bibliographic search to articles written in English. This originates a paradox: There are articles from Saudi Arabia (2), Singapore (3), India (4) and Korea (5) but they miss the opportunity to check the 37 articles published about this subject in the Revista Española de Enfermedades Digestivas (REED) (http://apps.webofknowledge.com/summary.do?product=UA&search_mode=GeneralSearch&qid=1&SID=Y1dq8kS3hPTBdWgnBlj&page=) or the 18 articles, which appeared in Nutrición Hospitalaria (Nutr Hosp) (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=endoscopic+gastrostomy+and+nutricion+hospitalaria).

Throughout the 40 years of my career, I experienced three different fields of professional activity: Gastrointestinal surgery, dedication to artificial nutrition and editor of the journal Nutrición Hospitalaria. These aspects allow me to say that many of the articles published both in REED and in Nutr Hosp are written by prestigious experts in gastroenterology, nutrition and/or surgery.
We all had the temptation to publish our articles in English sometime during our life, as the gastroenterologists of Tomelloso (Ciudad Real, Spain) are doing in this occasion because, without doubt, any piece of work published in that language is cited more frequently in “impact factor journals” than what is published in our language. This was due to the imbalance between the amount of indexed Spanish vs. English journals in the web of science (in favor of English), representing a greater difference than what would be expected based solely on the scientific productivity.

Fortunately, this disadvantage of the Spanish language is improving. SciELO data base, which includes the most important Ibero Latin American journals, has been incorporated to the web of science. Even the web of science itself can now be consulted in Spanish. In basis of the aforementioned facts, I take the liberty to recommend not to exclude Spanish documents.

If you have the chance to publish your articles in English, please go ahead, but at the same time, upload the Spanish full text in the journal. This is one of the miracles offered by virtual publications: Owing to their limited occupation of physical space, the possibility of image, video or text dissemination is in theory unlimited.

Had the authors extended their bibliographic search in the web of science back to thirty years and not excluded Spanish language, they would have found that the oldest article, published in this journal in 1985, describes the first endoscopic gastrostomy inserted in Spain (6) and that the last five articles published in Nutrición hospitalaria regarding this subject have been published in 2014. In addition, one of these articles (7) describes the endoscopic support to gastrostomy placement, a technique not mentioned in the review of Lucendo et al. (1)

References


