



Comments on: Yilmaz and Bas (2020) “A bibliometric analysis of pectoral nerve blocks,” *Indian J. Surg.*, 82: 147-150

Yuh-Shan Ho¹

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Yilmaz and Bas recently published a paper in the *Indian Journal of Surgery* entitled “A bibliometric analysis of pectoral nerve blocks” [1]. Authors mentioned in the section Materials and Methods that “This research was conducted on January 27, 2019, by using the WoS software to analyze the pectoral nerve block publications included in SCI-E. We searched all papers in the field of pectoral nerve block between 1975 and January 27, 2019, using the key words of “pectoral nerve block,” “PECS I,” “PECS II,” “pecs block,” “PECS block,” “Pecs I,” “Pecs II,” “PECS 1,” “PECS 2,” and “modified pecs I block” in the topic search section of the software.” Yilmaz and Bas also mentioned in section Results that “Overall, 72 papers were published in pectoral nerve block and were included in the Science Citation Index Expanded between 1975 and 2019.” It is impossible to know the total number of publications in 2019 on January 27, 2019.

Using the same searching keywords but “pecs block,” “Pecs I,” and “Pecs II” are not necessary for the original paper [1] with Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED) from 1975 to 2019 (data last updated: 05 January 2021) resulted in 98 documents. The result is different from 72 in the original paper [1]. It is clear that searching papers published in 2019 on January 27, 2019, is inappropriate for the study of Yilmaz and Bas [1].

In order to improve the bias of using the SCI-EXPANDED for bibliometric studies, the “front page” (including the document title, the abstract, and the author keywords) has been proposed by Ho’s group in 2012 [2]. According to 98 documents including 68 articles (69% of the 98 documents), “front

page” was applied as a filter. It results in 87 pectoral nerve block-related documents including 50 articles. As a result, 11 documents (11% of the 98 documents) did not include searching keywords in their “front page.” It was reported that documents with search words in their “front page” can improve the bibliometric studies [3]. It is not a good idea for researchers to duplicate the same problems and without improving their research [3].

Yilmaz and Bas published a bibliometric article [1] in the *Indian Journal of Surgery* using an inappropriate method. This may result in misleading the readers of the journal [3]. It is inappropriate to use such limited data to have a bibliometric study from a statistical point of view. It has been pointed out that authors have to use accurate methods in their publications, reviewers have the responsibility to point out the mistakes, and journal editors have to pay more attention to such problems in articles that are being accepted for publication [3]. Readers can also stop problems in a published paper.

Author contribution I am single author who did everything myself.

Data availability Yes, data are available.

Materials availability Materials are available.

Code availability Not applicable

Declarations

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

✉ Yuh-Shan Ho
ysho@asia.edu.tw

¹ Trend Research Centre, Asia University, No. 500, Lioufeng Road, Wufeng, Taichung 41354, Taiwan

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