LETTER:

Kiraz and Demir[1] recently published an article in **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** titled "A bibliometric analysis of publications on spinal cord injury during 1980—2018." The authors mentioned in the METHODS section that "The literature review was performed using the 'spinal cord injury' keyword in the Title search section. All publications on SCI with this search method were downloaded from the Web of Science (WoS) database (access date: 01.09.2019) using bibliometric methods."

The databases used are not appropriate. There is no SCI in Web of Science but SCI-EXPANDED. Web of Science platform includes the following https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/web-of-science/:

1. Web of Science Core Collection
2. Data Citation Index
3. Derwent Innovations Index
4. BIOSIS Previews
5. Biological Abstracts
6. BIOSIS Citation Index
7. Current Contents Connect
8. Zoological Record
9. Inspec
10. CABI: CAB Abstracts
11. CABI: Global Health
12. MEDLINE
13. FSTA—the food science resource
14. Russian Science Citation Index
15. Chinese Science Citation Index
16. KCI—Korean Journal Database
17. SciELO Citation Index
18. Arabic Citation Index

WEB OF SCIENCE CORE COLLECTION INCLUDES

Web of Science Core Collection: Citation Indexes

1. Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded) – 1900—present
2. Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) – 1900—present
3. Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) – 1975—present
4. Conference Proceedings Citation Index–Science (CPCI-S) – 1990—present
5. Conference Proceedings Citation Index–Social Sciences & Humanities (CPCI-SSH) – 1990—present
6. Book Citation Index—Science (BKCI-S) — 2005—present
7. Book Citation Index—Social Sciences & Humanities (BKCI-SSH) — 2005—present
8. Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) — 2015—present

Web of Science Core Collection: Chemical Indexes

1. Current Chemical Reactions (CCR-EXPANDED)
2. Index Chemicus (IC)

There are different types of databases in Web of Science. The Web of Science Core Collection lists databases of different levels. It is inappropriate to use all databases for bibliometric research.[2,3] For instance, as part of SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, and A&HCI rigorous journal selection process, ESCI complements the highly selective index by providing earlier visibility into the source being assessed.[4,5]

Kiraz and Demir[1] also mentioned in the RESULTS section that "The literature review retrieved 20,322 publications on SCI published between 1980 and 2018." Using the same method as in the original article,[1] 18,575 documents were found in SCI-EXPANDED. It was found to be different from 20,322 publications (accounting for 8.6% of 20,322 publications). The results cannot be repeated, this is the basis of scientific research.

Search keywords are inappropriate in the original article.[1] A total of 22,445 documents were found using search keywords "spinal injury" or "spinal injuries" or "spinal injured" or "spinal cord injury" or "spinal cord-injured" or "spinal cord injuries" or "spinal cord traumatized" or "spinal cord traumatic" or "spinal cord trauma" or "spinal trauma". A difference (10% of 20,322 publications) from 20,322 publications is found.

Search design is inappropriate in the original article.[1] A total of 14,088 documents without search keywords in their title but contain the search keywords in their abstract or author keywords were missed in the original article.[1] An accurate bibliometric method, based on searching words in the original article[1] ("spinal injury" or "spinal injuries" or "spinal injured" or "spinal cord injury" or "spinal cord-injured" or "spinal cord injuries" or "spinal cord traumatized" or "spinal cord traumatic" or "spinal cord trauma" or "spinal trauma") were searched in the title, abstract, or author keywords using

SCI-EXPANDED from 1980−2018 (data last updated: January 20, 2021). It resulted in 36,533 documents including 27,261 articles. Finally, 36,533 spinal cord injury documents containing search keywords on their "front page" including title, abstract, and author keywords[6] were search out from SCI-EXPANDED from 1980−2018.

The article by Kiraz and Demir[1] was published, however, inappropriate search keywords and research design were used. This may mislead readers of the journal.[2,7] It has been pointed out that authors have the responsibility to use accurate methods in publications, and reviewers have the responsibility to point out errors. Finally, journal editors must pay more attention to such issues in accepted articles.[8]

Yuh-Shan Ho

Trend Research Centre, Asia University, Wufeng, Taichung, Taiwan
To whom correspondence should be addressed: Yuh-Shan Ho, Ph.D.
[E-mail: ysho@asia.edu.tw]

REFERENCES

1. Kiraz M, Demir E. A bibliometric analysis of publications on spinal cord injury during 1980−2018. *World Neurosurg.* 2020;136:e504-e513.

2. Ho YS. Comment on: "A bibliometric analysis of cleft lip and palate-related publication trends from 2000 to 2017" by Zhang et al. (2019). *Cleft Palate-Cran J.* 2019;57:395-396.

3. Ho YS. Commentary: trends and development in enteral nutrition application for ventilator associated pneumonia: a scientometric research study (1996−2018). *Front Pharmacol.* 2019;10:1056.

4. Ho YS. Comments on the reply to the rebuttal to: Zhu, Jin, & He 'On evolutionary economic geography: a literature review using bibliometric analysis', *European Planning Studies* vol. 27, pp 639−660. *Eur Plan Stud.* 2019;27:1241-1243.

5. Somoza-Fernández M, Rodríguez-Gairín JM, Urbano C. Journal coverage of the emerging sources citation index. *Learn Publ.* 2018;31:199-204.

6. Fu HZ, Wang MH, Ho YS. The most frequently cited adsorption research articles in the Science Citation Index (Expanded). *J Colloid Interf Sci.* 2012;379:148-156.

7. Ho YS. Comment on: "A bibliometric analysis and visualization of medical big data research" Sustainability 2018, 10, 166. *Sustainability.* 2018;10:4851.

8. Ho YS. Some comments on using of Web of Science for bibliometric studies [Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res. Vol. 25]. *Environ Sci Pollut Res.* 2020;27:6711-6713.