

Letter to the Editor Regarding “Global Research Trends in Radiotherapy for Gliomas: A Systematic Bibliometric Analysis”



Zhang et al.¹ recently published an article in **WORLD NEUROSURGERY** entitled “Global Research Trends in Radiotherapy for Gliomas: A Systematic Bibliometric Analysis.” In the section Data Source, the authors mentioned that “Data were obtained from the Web of Science Core Collection Database” and “The retrieval formula was TS = (“glioma” OR “gliomas”) AND (“radiotherapy” OR “radiation therapy”). The language was limited to English, the document type was article, and the retrieval time was August 31, 2021.”

By using the same search strategies in the original article,¹ 5225 English articles were found in the Web of Science Core collection. It has been pointed out that the documents searched out only by Keywords Plus were likely to be irrelevant to searched topic,² for example, highly cited English articles entitled “Effect of Tumor-Treating Fields Plus Maintenance Temozolomide vs Maintenance Temozolomide Alone on Survival in Patients with Glioblastoma: A Randomized Clinical Trial”³ and “Rindopepimut with Temozolomide for Patients with Newly Diagnosed, EGFRvIII-Expressing Glioblastoma (ACT IV): A Randomised, Double-Blind, International Phase 3 Trial.”⁴ Due to the bias of using the Web of Science Core Collection directly, Ho’s research group proposed a front page including the article title, the abstract, and the author keywords as a filter to improve the bibliometric studies.^{5,6} A total of 2876 English articles (55% of 5225 articles) and 1693 English articles (32% of 5225 articles) did not contain search keywords (“glioma” or “gliomas”) and (“radiotherapy” or “radiation therapy”) in their front page, respectively. Finally, only 2349 English articles (45% of 5225 English articles) contained search keywords in their front page. Furthermore, the search keywords were inappropriate. The authors missed other related articles, for example, highly cited articles: “Neural Stem Cell-Mediated Enzyme-Prodrug Therapy for Glioma: Preclinical Studies”⁷ and “Therapeutic and Prognostic Implications of BRAF V600E in Pediatric Low-Grade Gliomas”⁸ were missed.

Understanding of the databases used and appropriate data treatment are needed for bibliometric studies. It is inappropriate to

download data from the Web of Science Core Collection directly to software for bibliometric study. Zhang et al.¹ used the wrong search strategies to publish “Global Research Trends in Radiotherapy for Gliomas: A Systematic Bibliometric Analysis” in **WORLD NEUROSURGERY**, and this may result in misleading readers of the journal.

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