

Altmetrics

In [scholarly](#) and scientific [publishing](#), altmetrics are non-traditional [bibliometrics](#) proposed as an alternative or complement to more traditional [citation metrics](#) [impact](#), such as [impact factor](#) and [h-index](#).

[Neurosurgery guidelines](#) are developed based on evaluating the most [up-to-date evidence](#). However, the current approach incompletely considers or altogether avoids [cost-effectiveness](#) when formulating these [guidelines](#) ¹⁾.

Future efforts at measuring [guideline](#) impact will have to take this perspective into account. The limitations of [bibliometrics](#) have also motivated the study for new methods of quantifying impact. The rise of [social media](#) as a means of information dissemination has extended into the [scientific literature](#) and has led to the creation of an alternative system of analysis termed [Altmetrics](#) ²⁾.

The top 100 neurosurgical articles in [altmetrics](#) belonged primarily to those with active accounts, with [Journal of Neurosurgery](#) ranking the highest (33%), followed by [Neurosurgery](#) (29%) ³⁾.

The Altmetric analysis of “trending” neurosurgical [articles](#) by Wang et al ⁴⁾ demonstrates that what represents an impactful publication can change after considering [online resources](#). Prospective research that validates methods such as Altmetrics or [Google Search](#) query analysis will be necessary before widespread adoption is to take place ⁵⁾. Given that information dissemination will only continue moving in the direction of informal content sharing, we anticipate that these forms of citation analysis will increase in usage as well.

¹⁾
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³⁾
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