

Bibliometrics

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Bibliometrics is defined as the [study](#) of statistical and mathematical methods used to quantitatively analyze scientific [literature](#). The application of bibliometrics in neurosurgery continues to evolve.

Bibliometric analysis is a widely used research method for detecting the state of the art for a particular field. The method is capable of utilizing quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publications within a given period or body of literature.

Interest in bibliometrics is growing throughout academic medicine ^{1) 2) 3) 4) 5)} and in academic neurosurgery ^{6) 7) 8) 9) 10) 11) 12) 13) 14) 15)}

Bibliometric tools can be used to identify the authors, topics and research institutions that have made the greatest impact in a field of medicine.

The application of bibliometrics in neurosurgery is in its infancy.

An example is the calculation of a number of publication productivity measures for almost all academic neurosurgeons.

Currently available [citation](#) databases.

Google Scholar

Scopus

Web of Science.

The top 5 programs for publication productivity are University of California, San Francisco; Barrow Neurological Institute; Johns Hopkins University; University of Pittsburgh; and University of California, Los Angeles.

The results for the metrics should be viewed as benchmarks for comparison purposes ¹⁶⁾.

Bibliometric indices

see [Bibliometric indices](#)

Woman

Medicine and the field of neurology are not immune to gender and racial disparities present more broadly in society. Even within academia there remains a persistent lack of representation of women and racial minorities, but with the recent spotlight on discrimination it is more necessary than ever that prevailing disparities are acknowledged by medical journals and reflected in their publication priorities. This bibliometric study assesses whether social justice trends have influenced the number of articles published that discuss gender and racial disparity in the past 5 years within the top three leading neurological journals.

Data suggest an inadequate publication priority for scholarly work on gender and racial disparity in the chosen journals, over the latest 5 years reviewed ¹⁷⁾.

Great Britain and Ireland

Bibliometrics were used to quantify the scientific output of neurosurgical departments throughout [Great Britain](#) and Ireland. **METHODS** A list of neurosurgical departments was obtained from the Society of British Neurological Surgeons website. Individual departments were contacted for an up-to-date list of consultant (attending) neurosurgeons practicing in these departments. Scopus was used to determine the h-index and m-quotient for each neurosurgeon. Indices were measured by surgeon and by departmental mean and total. Additional information was collected about the surgeon's sex, title, listed superspecialties, higher research degrees, and year of medical qualification. **RESULTS** Data were analyzed for 315 neurosurgeons (25 female). The median h-index and m-quotient were 6.00 and 0.41, respectively. These were significantly higher for professors (h-index 21.50; m-quotient 0.71) and for those with an additional MD or PhD (11.0; 0.57). There was no significant difference in h-index, m-quotient, or higher research degrees between the sexes. However, none of the 16 British neurosurgery professors were female. Neurosurgeons who specialized in functional/epilepsy surgery ranked highest in terms of publication productivity. The 5 top-scoring departments were those in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; St. George's Hospital, London; Great Ormond Street Hospital, London; National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London; and John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. **CONCLUSIONS** The h-index is a useful bibliometric marker, particularly when comparing between studies and individuals. The m-quotient reduces bias toward established researchers. British academic neurosurgeons face considerable challenges, and women remain underrepresented in both clinical and academic neurosurgery in Britain and Ireland.

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