

Discussion**A Scientometric Analysis of 20 Years of Research on Breast Reconstruction Surgery: A Guide to Research Design and Journal Selection**

Tai Suk Roh

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

The authors have conducted a scientometric analysis of publications, breast reconstruction being the sole parameter based on a bibliographic search obtained from Institute for Scientific Information. The results showed a constant increase in the number of papers, and in the citation rate reflecting a general trend toward an increase in interest in or the frequency of actual practice of this special field of medical science.

Of note is what has been described as the time categorized four main clusters of articles: autologous flaps (1990 to 1996), donor site benefit and vascularity of deep inferior epigastric perforator flaps (1996 to 2002), skin sparing mastectomy (2002), and computed tomography imaging in flap harvest (2006–). This finding not only guides the readers on the contemporary evolution of breast reconstruction, but also poses questions regarding the future with regards to the same frame of context.

It is not surprising that the United States was the leading

publication source for this subject considering the large number of cases and the leading role it has played in the development of medical expertise in this field of plastic surgery. Upon considering such data, this discussant finds it curious that a comparative analysis of publications between Occidental and Oriental literature may show some chronological or content-related differences.

I disagree with the author's assumption that the technical aspect of surgery would draw higher publication rates since the trend has been such. It would be more rational to suppose that subjects addressed with less frequency may be advantageous for future publication. Actually such areas of opportunity for publication have been listed well in the author's analysis on citation rates, where epidemiological-, molecular-, basic science-, and biomaterials-related topics showed the lowest citation rates.

In all, this article offers readers more insight and valuable information than could have been expected from glancing at the title. The authors' ingenious effort is well congratulated.

Correspondence: Tai Suk Roh

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, 211 Eonju-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul 135-720, Korea
Tel: +82-2-2019-3421, Fax: +82-2-3463-4914, E-mail: rohts@yuhs.ac

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