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Regarding "The Top 50 Most-Cited Shoulder Arthroscopy Studies"



I was very interested in reading the article by Moore et al., "The Top 50 Most-Cited Arthroscopy Studies,"

published recently in your journal.¹ This article highlights that the majority of the most cited articles on shoulder arthroscopy are case series and descriptive studies originating from the United States. In addition, more than one half of the top 50 most cited studies were published after 2004, which suggests that article age may be less important in the accumulation of citations for a rapidly growing field like shoulder arthroscopy.

In the results section, the authors write that Boileau et al. and Burkhart and De Beer were responsible for the most publications, at five each. However, looking carefully at Table 1, it appears that Boileau was cited 6 times, in ranks 3, 4, 9, 12, 32, and 42.²⁻⁷ For this reason, Boileau et al. should be classified as the most cited author in this field of research. In particular, working with Pascal Boileau for thirty years now, I can attest that the paper cited in rank 9,⁴ dedicated to the instability severity index score (ISIS), is undoubtedly a French paper, written during the one-year shoulder fellowship of Frédéric Balg, coming from Canada to develop his practice of shoulder surgery with Pascal Boileau in Nice, France. When cited, it is cited as Balg and Boileau, as there are only two authors, and not as Balg et al.

This study takes into consideration the first author, the habitual practice of citations, but it should not be forgotten that the last author has as much importance as the first author, for he is the one who is the leader of the team and the one responsible for the quality of a given study. Understandably, when there are several authors, when cited, the first author is followed by "et al.", but readers may falsely associate the first author with someone having more importance.⁸ Maybe, in an article dealing with metrics, it would be more proportionate to take into consideration the first and the last authors.

Finally, taking into account the three papers from Lafosse et al., cited in ranks 16, 29, and 44⁹⁻¹¹ and the Walch et al. paper, cited in rank 13,¹² we observed that France was responsible for 10 papers and not 9, as shown in Figure 3 in Moore et al.¹ Therefore, 10 articles out of fifty (20 %) are the work of French authors, all written in English, the universal language of science nowadays.

In conclusion, this article puts in evidence that three surgeons, "the three Musketeers" (Pascal Boileau, Laurent Lafosse, and Gilles Walch) were able to raise a "small" country with a long history, "La France", to the second world position in the field of shoulder arthroscopy.

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