

# Correlation between Quality of Evidence and Number of Citations in Top 100 Cited Articles on the Rotator Cuff

Vishank V Panchbhavi, Vinod Kumar Panchbhavi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Univ of Texas Medical Branch

## INTRODUCTION:

An article's scientific impact has often been measured by the number of citations it receives. A citation analysis can help determine impactful works in medical specialties. This study aims to describe the metrics and levels of evidence of articles on the rotator cuff.

**METHODS:** This study reviewed the top 100 most cited articles available when searching for articles in an electronic database using the keywords "rotator cuff." Each article was examined for the number of citations, publication type, journal specialty, authorship, country of origin, year of publication, level of evidence, and total sample size.

**RESULTS:** The number of citations ranged from 367 to 2,021. The 100 most cited articles were published in 28 journals, spanning from general to more specific subspecialty journals. In total, 39% of articles were published by *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. The most common level of evidence was IV (38 out of 100 articles), and most articles were case series (n = 40) and expert opinion (n = 22). The median sample size in experimental studies was 74. Out of 100 articles, only 3 were randomized controlled trials.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:** The median year of most cited publications, 2000, suggests a need for newer studies reviewing rotator cuff. The paucity of articles with an evidence level of 1 or 2 and a small median sample size suggests a lack of scientifically rigorous studies reviewing the rotator cuff. There is a weak positive correlation between the strength of evidence and the number of citations in the top 100 articles cited on Rotator cuff ( $r= 0.003$ ).

