

## Peer Review File

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### Review Comments

**Comment 1:** Most North American and European researchers use Pubmed, Ovid Medline or Google Scholar for literature review. I, for one, never used Web of Science and am not aware of its advantages. Does the literature review include only English-written publications, or other languages as well? The distinction is important and could explain in part your results with respect to lower impact factors and citations compared to US publications.

**Reply 1:** 35 journals were analyzed in our review, 33 of them were English-written, one was published in German (Handchirurgie, Mikrochirurgie, plastische Chirurgie) and one was published in English and French (Annales de Chirurgie Plastique Esthétique). So the literature review includes mostly English-written publications and a few German and French-written publications.

**Comment 2:** Line 122: total number of publications increased. Did the proportion also increase by the same factor? Total number of publications also increased – how much of this increase is due to this increase in overall articles by journals? You only mention that total number of publications remained similar between 2019 and 2020, but how about 2010 to 2020?

**Reply 2:** We appreciate your comment. The R coefficient and p value of proportion have been added to our review.

**Comment 3:** Lines 196-198: I don't understand the sentence/grammar. Please reformulate.

**Reply 3:** The sentence has been reformulated.

**Comment 4:** Line 205: can the authors comment if similar funding proportions are available in other specialties as well (other than plastic surgery)? Are there other studies that published how much obstetrics, radiology etc. papers are funded in China? Or the government selectively chose to fund plastic surgery research, and why?

**Reply 4:** According to the study by Surita Aodeng & Zhiqiang Gao entitled "Otorhinolaryngology publication from Chinese authors: a 11-year survey of the literature", the numbers and percentages of otorhinolaryngology articles from China supported by all kinds of funding gradually increased between 2006 and 2016; from 2013, the percentage of funding support in China passed 50%. We believe most medical specialties are supported by Chinese government besides plastic surgery.

**Comment 5:** Lines 209-215: I would remove this paragraph. It does not give us new information, it is unnecessary to hypothesize the effect that covid had on publication rates, and your data does not support this statement.

**Reply 5:** The paragraph has been removed.

**Comment 6:** Line 221-222: Please correct grammar, missing a verb.

**Reply 6:** The grammar is corrected.

**Comment 7:** Figure 2: is the increase in proportion of Chinese articles significant compared to others? (please report p value for proportion or R coefficient in the figure)

**Reply 7:** The p value and R Coefficient for proportion have been added.

**Comment 8:** Figure 3 and 4: Even though the esthetics of the figures are interesting, it is difficult for the reader to understand what he/she is looking at. I would remove these figures, as there are too many figures and tables in my opinion anyways.

**Reply 8:** These two figures have been removed.

**Comment 9:** Table 1: Are these impact factors published by the journal or calculated by the authors? Why do you think the impact differs? (example: PRS journal reports 4.763 vs you report 4.209). Please specify in the table if it's a 1-year, 2-year or 5-year impact factor.

**Reply 9:** The journal impact factor was released by JCR in 2020, it was a 2-year impact factor calculated by dividing the number of citations in 2019 for articles published in 2017 and 2018 by the number of substantive articles and reviews in 2017 and 2018.