



# AB116. SOH22ABS017. The 50 most influential papers pertaining to the Ilizarov method: a bibliometric analysis

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**Background:** The Ilizarov method has become a widely recognised form of limb salvage surgery worldwide. The published literature that we have on this technique allows us to make informed decisions regarding its clinical application.

**Methods:** We carried out a bibliometric analysis of the 50 most frequently cited publications relating to the Ilizarov method to find the most influential papers.

**Results:** The cumulative number of citations of these 50 publications is 4,918. The mean number of citations per paper was 98 and they have a h-index of 50. The 1990s saw the highest number of papers published (n=27). These 50 papers were published in 20 unique journals from 10 unique countries. The impact factor of these journals ranged from 0.5–5.082. The language of publication in all instances was English. The earliest paper was published in 1988 by Gavril Ilizarov himself and the most recent by Papakostidis *et al.* in 2013.

**Conclusions:** The measure of influence of a paper, as per our study, was thought to be related to its citation number. Our thought process is not without limitations, but what it does allow for is to gauge peer-recognition and the readership of a paper. Impact factor (IF), a measure of citations, plays a vital role in how we interpret research, hence our study's focus on citations. Our study would suggest that for a paper on the Ilizarov method to be

highly cited and influential, it likely originated from an American journal with a high IF and was published in the 1990s/2000s. Citation analysis does not directly measure scientific quality, but it does allow us to examine a paper's effect on the field in question. Our compilation of the 50 most influential papers on the Ilizarov method will prove invaluable to those in training and those involved in the further advancement of the Ilizarov method as a surgical technique.

**Keywords:** Bibliometric analysis; citation; distraction osteogenesis; Ilizarov method; orthopaedic surgery

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## Footnote

*Conflicts of Interest:* The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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