INTERNATIONALIZATION OF RESEARCH ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN RECTAL CANCER

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Background: In the recent years, an increasing attention is currently paid to the improvement of individual patients’ quality of life. Rectum cancer incidence rate continuously increases and this serious challenge requires united efforts by scientists from all over the world. In this scientometric investigation we aimed at analyzing the structure and annual dynamics of the international scientific communications in the field of quality of life in rectal cancer.

Methods: We performed a problem-oriented search for the period 1993-2012 in two data-bases such as Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus. A complex method for analysis of the international scientific communications was applied in order to reveal some essential features of world publication activity in this socially significant field.

Results: There was a continuous growth of the number of the abstracted publications, journals, institutions and countries of authors. There were 1069 abstracted publications in 8 languages by authors from 51 countries in WoS and 1341 publications in 22 languages by authors from 59 countries in Scopus. ‘Core’ journals included ‘Dis. Colon Rectum’, ‘Colorect. Dis.’, ‘Int. J. Colorect. Dis.’, ‘Ann. Surg. Oncol.’ and ‘Br. J. Surg.’. In WoS, in 1993 there were only five publications in two languages in four journals by 22 authors from six institutions in six countries while in 2012 there were already 118 publications in two languages in 72 journals by 543 authors from 260 institutions in 39 countries. In Scopus, in 1993 there were 14 publications in two languages in 12 journals by 47 authors from 12 institutions in eight countries while in 2012 there were 100 publications in four languages in 69 journals by 155 authors from 129 institutions in 40 countries.

Conclusion: These results convincingly demonstrate the dramatic growth of world publication output in this interdisciplinary field of applied medical oncology. International research collaboration could further contribute to the improvement of rectal cancer patient’s quality of life.