

Comments on “A Comprehensive Overview of the Stellate Ganglion Block Throughout the Past Three Decades: A Bibliometric Analysis”

TO THE EDITOR:

Dr. Ying Ren has published a bibliometric analysis of stellate ganglion block (SGB) publications from the last 30 years (1). The analysis aimed to identify the collaboration and impact of countries, institutions, journals, and authors, evaluate the knowledge base, trace trends in hot spots, and explore emerging topics relevant to the field. Methods used in assessing publications associated with the SGB and published between 1993 and 2022 were retrieval of articles from the Web of Science Core Collection on September 21st, 2023. CiteSpace 6.1.R6 and VOS viewer 1.6.18 were used to perform bibliometric and knowledge-map analyses. The results showed a total of 837 publications originating from 51 countries and 1006 institutions. These articles were published in 393 journals. The United States was the country that produced the most articles focused on SGB, and the University of California, Los Angeles, was the institution associated with the greatest number of publications. The study found that the anesthesiology and cardiology journals had the highest number of published articles and received the most citations. Among the authors examined, Kitajima T had the highest number of published articles, and Lipov E was the most frequently cited co-author. I wanted to clarify this definition, “that is Co-Cited Authors by Number of Co-Citations total of 191” (1). One limitation of the study was that the data were only retrieved from the WoSCC, so publications in other databases may have been missed. Considering the above, I would like to identify 2 articles that were not included in the above analysis.

In Cluster 2: “Breast Cancer and Climacteric Medicine. SGBs have multiple benefits for breast cancer patients. In 2008, a pilot study by Lipov et al published in *Lancet Oncology* demonstrated that SGBs could relieve breast cancer survivors’ hot flashes and sleep disturbances with few side effects within 12 weeks”. I believe it is important to include my case report series published in the *Journal of Women's Health* (2005) (2), predating *Lancet Oncology* 2008 publication by 3 years and was the original article in Cluster 2.

In Cluster 3: “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) In 2010, Mulvaney et al reported that 2 patients who had PTSD experienced immediate, significant, and durable relief after their SGBs”. Similarly to Cluster 2, I think it's important to include my case report published in 2008 (3), predating Dr. Mulvaney's 2010 publication and is listed as reference number 10 in Dr. Mulvaney's article.

When the 2 articles are considered, Dr. Toshimitsu Kitajima's article count of 11 becomes second to Dr. Eugene Lipov's 12 articles in Table 3, labeled “The top 5 authors for SGB research from 1993 to 2022.”

Of course, medicine is not a competition, yet accuracy and credit where credit is due are still important.

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