

## In Response to Comment on “A Comprehensive Overview of the Stellate Ganglion Block Throughout the Past Three Decades: A Bibliometric Analysis”

### To the Editor:

We appreciate Dr. Lipov's interest in our recently published study titled “A comprehensive overview of the stellate ganglion block throughout the past three decades: A bibliometric analysis” (1). We acknowledge your comments and have provided further clarification below.

The inclusion criteria for our study were limited to original publications and reviews in the English language. Dr. Lipov's case report (2), which was published in 2008, was excluded from the database due to its classification as a ‘Letter’ document category. Twelve papers authored by Dr. Lipov that met the inclusion criteria have been retrieved from the Web of Science Core Collection. This included the case report series (3) published in the *Journal of Women's Health* in 2005. Nevertheless, 2 documents were omitted from the final analysis, one (4) due to the lack of an abstract, and the other (5) due to the absence of a digital object identification (DOI) number. Hence, a total of 10 works authored by Dr. Lipov have reached the final stage of analysis.

We acknowledge that bibliometric analysis has inherent limitations. We obtained data just from a single database, perhaps overlooking noteworthy research from other sources. However, employing multiple databases in bibliometric research may not always be beneficial due to the potential for publication overlap or redundancy. Additionally, integrating large datasets from two distinct databases is not technically feasible

due to the different sequences and formats of the downloaded dataset files (6). Another limitation of our study is the potential bias introduced by selecting only two types of documents, e.g., articles and reviews, while disregarding other types of publications. For example, as Dr. Lipov mentioned, their case (3), published in the *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry* in 2008, reported that the initial attempt to use stellate ganglion block to treat post-traumatic stress disorder was not included in our analysis. In another article by Dr. Lipov et al. (5) published in *Pain Physician* in 2022, to the best of our knowledge, the largest cohort in this field currently was excluded due to the lack of a DOI number. We regret missing 2 important publications by Dr. Lipov, despite the fact that excluding letters and articles without a DOI number is a common practice in bibliometric analysis.

We hope we have adequately addressed all inquiries. Once again, we would like to express our respect for Dr. Lipov's outstanding contributions to the research on stellate ganglion block and offer our gratitude for his valuable comments.

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### REFERENCES

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