



GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

# CLINICAL IMPACT SCORE, A NOVEL AND CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF JOURNAL INFLUENCE DERIVED FROM COMMONLY USED MEDICAL REFERENCE CITATIONS

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**Introduction:** The Impact factor (IF) of a journal is defined as follows: The number of times an article in a particular journal published in the previous two years is cited in a given year, divided by the number of articles published in that journal during those same two years. While IF measures the scientific importance of an author's work, it is not a clinically relevant measurement.

**Objective:** To create a more clinically relevant measurement of a journal's clinical importance than IF by counting citations in select, leading medical reference texts rather than a much higher number of academic journals.

**Materials and Methods:** In August 2018, we examined citations in the two commonly used dermatology textbooks (Bologna's Textbook of Dermatology 4th edition and Andrews' Diseases of the Skin 12th edition), and in the most frequently used online medical reference, UpToDate, which when used, has been associated with improved clinical outcomes. The authors reviewed five dermatologic diseases: acne, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, melanoma, and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. The number references from each journal were summed for each chapter. The Clinical Impact Score (CIS) equaled the percentage of citations from each journal averaged across the five diseases. The CIS is the average among all 5 subjects in both textbooks and in UpToDate.

**Results:** 691 different academic journals were cited. Journal of American Academy of Dermatology, British Journal of Dermatology, JAMA Dermatology, Journal of Investigative Dermatology, and New England Journal of Medicine possessed highest CIS (13.5%, 6.9%, 5.2%, 3.3%, 2.5%, respectively).





Conclusions: CIS is a more clinically relevant measure of journal influence than the IF and provides a measure that medical journals can use to monitor their influence on clinical practice and decision making. CIS also measures impact over a longer time frame (1890-2018), so may not change quickly to short term changes in readership.

