

Comment on: Bibliometric analysis of glaucoma-related literature based on SCIE database: a 10-year literature analysis from 2009 to 2018

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Dear Editor,

Sun *et al*^[1] recently published a bibliometric paper in the *International Journal of Ophthalmology* entitled “Bibliometric analysis of glaucoma-related literature based on SCIE database: a 10-year literature analysis from 2009 to 2018”. The authors mentioned in section MATERIALS AND METHODS that “SCIE database established by Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) was used for the purpose of this study.” and “The search strategy was as follows: theme = (glaucoma OR ocular hypertension), and the ‘theme’ field contains: title, abstract, author keywords, and keywords plus. Document type=(article), and other types of articles, such as case reports, reviews, letters to the editors, and so on, were excluded. The time period of publications was focused on the latest 10y from 2009 to 2018. And the search date was 2019-3-29.”

SCIE is designed mainly for researchers to find published literature, but not for bibliometric studies^[2]. It is not appropriate to use the database directly without bibliometric treatment. The authors used search keywords: (glaucoma OR ocular hypertension) that means glaucoma OR (ocular AND hypertension). These search keywords are inappropriate.

Based on the search keywords in the original paper^[1], search keywords: “glaucoma”, “glaucomas”, and “ocular hypertension” were searched in terms of topic (title, abstract, author keywords, and KeyWords Plus). A total of 19 139 articles were found in the SCIE within the publication years of 2009 to 2018. Only 15 619 articles (82% of 19 139 articles) contain search keywords: “glaucoma”, “glaucomas”, or “ocular

hypertension” in their “front page” including title, abstract, and author keywords^[3]. These articles were irrelevant to the search topic^[4]. A total 3520 articles without search keywords in their “front page” are inappropriate to be included in the study^[1], for example highly cited articles entitled “The ubiquitin kinase PINK1 recruits autophagy receptors to induce mitophagy”^[5]; “Retinal vascular layers imaged by fluorescein angiography and optical coherence tomography angiography”^[6]; and “Clinical classification of age-related macular degeneration”^[7]. Sun *et al*^[1] published “Bibliometric analysis of glaucoma-related literature based on SCIE database: a 10-year literature analysis from 2009 to 2018” in the *International Journal of Ophthalmology* using inappropriate search strategy and search keywords. This may lead to misleading readers of the journal^[8].

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