Journal Citation Report 2022 and Impact Factor of *Journal of Korean Neurosurgical Society*

Hee-Jin Yang

Editor in Chief, Journal of Korean Neurosurgical Society; Department of Neurosurgery, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, Seoul, Korea

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Address for correspondence : **Hee-Jin Yang**

Department of Neurosurgery, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, 20 Boramae-ro 5-gil, Dongjak-gu, Seoul 07061, Korea

Tel : +82-2-870-2303, Fax : +82-2-870-3863, E-mail : nsyangdr@gmail.com, ORCID : http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6413-1363

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Brief Overview of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

It is estimated that there are about 30,000 medical journals published in the world. However, only a few of them have considerable influence. In this situation, all academic journals are making constant efforts to increase their influence, and in that sense, they pay a lot of attention to the impact factor and are trying to improve it. There is a negative view of overemphasizing the impact index, and it is reported that the impact factor is influenced by relatively small portion papers published in academic journals. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the citation quota index is the most widely used quantifiable indicator at the present time.

Status of Journal of Korean Neurosurgical Society (JKNS) in 2022 JCR

The 2022 Impact Factor (IF) of the JKNS was 1.6, which is a 29% decrease from last year (2.249), similar to that of 2020 (1.729) (Fig. 1). This decrease in IF is a reversal of recent trend of continuous increase. It is disappointing, and it is required to look for the cause and to find the way to improve IF again.

It is known that IF is determined by the number of citations and number of articles published. The changes of citations and citable items in recent 4 years are summarized in Table 1. It is notable that the number of citable items is least in 2021 whereas the number of citations is highest, when the IF is highest. The low IF of 2022 can be easily inferred from the increase in citable items whereas decrease in citations. The other factors to be noted are peak citation and percent of articles without citation, the former is beneficial to increase in IF, the latter is detrimental. It is not easy to filter out papers that will not get citations during the process of review before publication. It might be desirable for papers are assessed not to be of high scientific value, one way is to revise them to make up for the shortcomings, the other is to reject if they are assessed to be difficult in improvement even after appropriate revision.

It is also notable that there is difference in citations in type of articles. Review articles got more
citations than original articles, whereas the case reports got least citations (Table 2). However, the articles of highest citation is usually original articles. Considering this profile of citation, it is necessary to select a good topic and request a review article to maintain the IF and encourage the members of Korean Neurosurgical Society to submit good original articles. With respect to case report, it is desirable to select only a small portion of submitted manuscript which have high probability of citation.

The recent development of JKNS is paid off from combination of efforts of the KNS members, authors and editorial board of the JKNS\(^4\). The IF of JKNS is in transitional state. We do not know whether it will increase, decrease or remain at present state in the following years. It has been confirmed that continuous interest and effort made the progress of JKNS in recent years. Therefore, we need to put in more effort than ever before for the development of JKNS.

**AUTHORS’ DECLARATION**

**Conflicts of interest**

Hee-Jin Yang has been editorial board of JKNS since May 2020. He was not involved in the review process of this original article. No other potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

**Data sharing**

None

**Preprint**

None
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Legend for figure

**Fig. 1.** Trends in years of the journal impact factor and its percentile rank in category of the Journal of Korean Neurosurgical Society (adapted from the 2022 Journal Citation Reports)³)
Legend for Tables

Table 1. Change of citations, citable items, peak citation, articles without citations of JKNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Citable items</th>
<th>Peak Citation</th>
<th>Articles w/o citations (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>71 (36.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56 (32.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>38 (22.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>59 (31.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Citations according to type of articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Article</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Citations per articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original article</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case report</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>