

Still a first-line journal

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For the fourth year in succession¹⁻³, EMERGENCIAS ranks within the first quartile of our specialty, Emergency Medicine (EM), according to its 2013 impact factor (IF), published by Journal Citation Reports (JCR) at the end of July⁴. This is cause for great satisfaction for the Editorial Committee of the Journal, for the Spanish Society of Emergency Medicine (SEMES) and for all Spanish emergency physicians. I will be discussing in what follows some relevant aspects that emerge from the data published by JCR.

First, it is very creditable to be ranked in fourth position among the 25 journals indexed in the category of EM, especially considering that EMERGENCIAS (Table 1) is published in Spanish. In fact, the next non-English language journal is ranked 19th, in this case Unfallchirurg, which is published in German. By unanimous decision of the Editorial Committee and SEMES, the current editorial policy will be maintained, in line with other initiatives aimed at spreading the use of Spanish in the field of emergency medicine in the world^{5,6}. In fact, it has recently been shown that the benefit in terms of IF of including articles in English in the printed version of Spanish journals is scarce⁷. However, EMERGENCIAS will continue to provide the complete translation of the contents into English after a few months, which will remain available on the website, and which is also open-access and free.

Second, the number of journals indexed by JCR in the category of EM is very limited, only 25, and EM is one of the categories with least journals. This, in itself, implies a double challenge for researchers in emergency medicine: the limited availability of specialist journals in which to publish their work, and their lower IF than those of other specialties, partly because of the mere fact of this low number of journals included in the category⁸. Therefore, as far as possible, EMERGENCIAS will collaborate with any editorial initiatives

Table 1. Impact factor for 2013 of journals indexed by Journal Citation Reports in the section of Emergency Medicine

Order according to IF	Journal	IF	Quartile	Language	Self-citation (%)*
1	<i>Ann Emerg Med</i>	4.333	Q1	English	13
2	<i>Resuscitation</i>	3.960	Q1	English	33
3	<i>J Trauma</i>	2.961	Q1	English	0
4	EMERGENCIAS	2.583	Q1	Spanish	45
5	<i>Injury</i>	2.462	Q1	English	17
6	<i>Acad Emerg Med</i>	2.198	Q1	English	13
7	<i>Scand J Trauma Resus</i>	1.926	Q2	English	11
8	<i>Prehosp Emerg Care</i>	1.806	Q2	English	32
9	<i>Emerg Med J</i>	1.776	Q2	English	7
10	<i>Eur J Emerg Med</i>	1.500	Q2	English	27
11	<i>Emerg Med Australas</i>	1.220	Q2	English	27
12	<i>J Emerg Med</i>	1.175	Q2	English	9
13	<i>Am J Emerg Med</i>	1.152	Q3	English	13
14	<i>J Emerg Nurs</i>	1.131	Q3	English	17
15	<i>World J Emerg Surg</i>	1.062	Q3	English	16
16	<i>Pediatr Emerg Care</i>	0.923	Q3	English	8
17	<i>Emerg Med Clin N Am</i>	0.851	Q3	English	5
18	<i>Can J Emerg Med</i>	0.660	Q3	English	9
19	<i>Unfallchirurg</i>	0.608	Q4	German	22
20	<i>Notarzt</i>	0.438	Q4	German	23
21	<i>Eur J Trauma Emerg S</i>	0.380	Q4	English	11
22	<i>Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi</i>	0.379	Q4	Turkish	11
23	<i>Notfall Rettungsmed</i>	0.319	Q4	German	38
24	<i>Signa Vitae</i>	0.173	Q4	English	22
25	<i>Hong Kong J Emerg Med</i>	0.154	Q4	English	57

*Percentage of self-citation in the period used to calculate the IF. IF: impact factor.

in the field of EM, since the presence of other journals dealing with the same specialty should not be seen as a threat but as an opportunity for growth for all.

Third, it is a privilege to be in fourth place among the 72 scientific journals published in Spain and indexed by JCR (Table 2), in second place if we refer to those published in Spanish (EMERGENCIAS is only exceeded by the Spanish Journal of Cardiology), and to be the only Spanish journal in the top quartile of its specialty. This provides Spanish-speaking researchers with a great opportunity to disseminate the results of their work without having to resort to journals published in English. We believe EMERGENCIAS benefits

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Table 2. Impact factors for 2013 of journals published in Spain and indexed by Journal Citation Reports

Order according to IF	Journal	IF	Quartile*	Language	Self-citation (%)**	Order according to IF	Journal	IF	Quartile*	Language	Self-citation (%)**
1	Aids Rev	4.023	Q2-Q1	English	2	37	Aten Prim	0.894	Q3-Q3	Spanish	36
2	Rev Esp Cardiol	3.342	Q2	Spanish	43	38	Cir Espan	0.890	Q3	Spanish	21
3	J Invest Allerg Clin	2.642	Q3-Q3	English	8	39	J Iber Geol	0.875	Q3	Spanish	5
4	EMERGENCIAS	2.583	Q1	Spanish	45	40	World Rabbit Sci	0.860	Q2	English	51
5	Int J Dev Biol	2.567	Q3	English	2	41	Gastroent Hepat-Barc	0.832	Q4	Spanish	26
6	J Physiol Biochem	2.496	Q2-Q3	Multilingual	2	42	Ardeola	0.824	Q3	English	16
7	Histol Histopathol	2.236	Q2-Q3	English	3	43	Limnetica	0.776	Q4-Q4	Multilingual	11
8	Enferm Infect Micr Cl	1.881	Q3-Q4	Spanish	19	44	Top	0.766	Q3	English	4
9	Arch Bronconeumol	1.816	Q3	Multilingual	13	45	Actas Esp Psiquiatr	0.759	Q4-Q4	Spanish	19
10	Clin Transl Oncol	1.600	Q4	English	3	46	Mater Construcc	0.734	Q3-Q3	Spanish	27
11	Allergol Immunopath	1.580	Q4-Q4	Multilingual	8	47	An Pediatr	0.722	Q4	Multilingual	24
12	Geol Acta	1.483	Q2	English	2	48	Racsam Rev R Acad A	0.689	Q2	English	0
13	Nefrologia	1.442	Q3	Multilingual	33	49	Forest Syst	0.620	Q3	Multilingual	11
14	Neurologia	1.352	Q4	Spanish	19	50	Collect Math	0.609	Q2-Q3	English	3
15	Int Microbiol	1.341	Q3-Q4	English	8	51	Rev Mat Complut	0.585	Q2-Q3	English	9
16	Rev Esp Enferm Dig	1.317	Q4	Spanish	23	52	An Sist Sanit Navar	0.557	Q4	Spanish	48
17	Rev Clin Esp	1.314	Q3	Spanish	46	53	An Psicol-Spain	0.549	Q4	Spanish	45
18	Med Clin-Barcelona	1.252	Q3	Multilingual	31	54	Rev Mat Iberoam	0.535	Q3	Multilingual	4
19	Gac Sanit	1.250	Q3	Spanish	20	55	Anim Biodiv Conserv	0.519	Q4	Multilingual	2
19	Nutr Hosp	1.250	Q4	Spanish	52	56	Span J Agric Res	0.514	Q3	Multilingual	7
21	Sci Mar	1.247	Q3	Multilingual	7	57	Publ Mat	0.410	Q4	Multilingual	6
22	Med Intensiva	1.240	Q4	Multilingual	38	58	Rev Metal Madrid	0.355	Q4	Spanish	14
23	Thalassas	1.226	Q3-Q3	English	5	59	Bol Soc Esp Ceram V	0.343	Q4	Multilingual	47
24	Adicciones	1.167	Q4	Spanish	29	60	Neurocirugia	0.322	Q4-Q4	Spanish	27
25	Actas Urol Esp	1.148	Q4	Spanish	41	61	Shilap-Rev Lepidopt	0.304	Q4	Multilingual	76
26	Med Oral Patol Oral	1.095	Q3	English	10	62	Itea-Inf Tec Econ Ag	0.292	Q4-Q4	Spanish	35
27	Grasas Aceites	1.080	Q3-Q3	Multilingual	27	63	Inf Constr	0.254	Q4	Spanish	40
28	Estud Geol-Madrid	1.054	Q3	Spanish	13	64	Drug Future	0.253	Q4	English	0
29	Test-Spain	1.017	Q2	English	10	65	Rev Int Metod Numer	0.229	Q4-Q4	Spanish	18
30	Drug Today	1.000	Q4	English	0	66	Rev Int Androl	0.220	Q4	Spanish	66
31	Rev Iberoam Micol	0.971	Q4	Multilingual	8	67	Dyna-Bilbao	0.200	Q4	Spanish	45
32	Sort-Stat Oper Res T	0.962	Q2-Q3	English	0	68	Rev Int Med Cienc Ac	0.167	Q4	Spanish	50
33	Rev Esp Med Nucl Ima	0.938	Q4	Multilingual	40	69	Med Paliativa	0.162	Q4	Spanish	33
34	Rev Neurologia	0.926	Q4	Spanish	48	70	Dynamis	0.132	Q4	Spanish	0
35	An Jardin Bot Madrid	0.912	Q3	Multilingual	3	71	Afinidad	0.106	Q4	Multilingual	20
36	Rev Esp Quim	0.905	Q4-Q4	Spanish	24	72	Rev Iberoam Autom In	0.053	Q4-Q4	Spanish	0

*When more than one quartile appears it is because the journal is included in more than one category. ** Percentage of self-citation in the period used to calculate the IF. IF: impact factor.

from and contributes to the growth of research in emergency medicine in Spain in recent years^{9,11} and, in the medium term, this should lead to levels of research and production in accord with the weight that EM activity has in the health system. Thus the journal will continue to facilitate this growth in research.

Finally, it should be noted that the IF is a ratio of citations received and published articles. And that JCR penalizes self-citation i.e. citations of articles published by the same journal. Moreover, self-citation in general negatively affects the perceived quality of a magazine^{12,15}. It is well known that journals published in non-English languages have a higher self-citation index than those published in the English¹⁶. For example, among 72 journals published in Spain, 21 of them (29%) had a rate of self-citation higher than 33% (Table 2), which means that at least one in three citations was from its own pages. These include EMERGENCIAS, with a self-citation rate of 45%,

and the rate this year was the second highest among EM journals (Table 1).

We believe that this self-citation threshold of 33% is reasonable and this should be the target for EMERGENCIAS, although to this end the journal must appear in PubMed, which will be requested again next year. PubMed is still the most widely used search engine by researchers. Still, the quality of some articles published in the Journal has meant a remarkable number of citations. For example, among the articles published in the last 3 years, 7 have already received more than 10 citations^{9,17-22}. However, the qualitative and quantitative leap in external visibility of EMERGENCIAS will only come with inclusion in PubMed. This indicates that there is still a way to go and room for improvement.

Meanwhile, Spanish emergency physicians can enjoy another year of this privilege: having their journal superbly positioned thanks to high quality research. For another year, we continue to be at the forefront of our field.

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