

## Bibliometric Indicators of the Status of Clinical Research in Dermatology in Spain: Implications for the Future<sup>☆</sup>



### La bibliometría como herramienta de conocimiento de la situación de la investigación clínica española en dermatología y sus implicaciones futuras

Bibliometrics is the study of publications generated by scientific research. Despite its known limitations, bibliometrics can be of great use in the assessment of health sciences, ultimately contributing to better research planning.

More than 30 years ago now, López Piñero and Terrada<sup>1</sup> introduced the first bibliometric studies in Spain. Since then, interesting analyses have been conducted of Spanish scientific output in biomedicine and dermatology in particular, providing a reflection of the national scientific situation.

In the present bibliometric study, the authors provide an adept and well-written analysis of scientific output, the topics, and the level of scientific evidence of research in Spanish dermatology centers and institutions between 2005 and 2014 using PubMed and Embase.

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Molina-Leyva et al.<sup>2</sup> found a notable scientific output, although the quality of this output still appears to lag behind that of other countries. This leads the authors to reflect on what is necessary for better planning of scientific activity and to improve the quality of scientific output of Spanish dermatologists.

The journal with the most number of articles is *Actas Dermosifiliográficas*, probably because this journal is published in Spanish under the auspices of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

In summary, the study highlights the need for improved planning of research in order to increase the quality of scientific output.

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## Contact Dermatitis to Topical Antiseptics: The Position of Mercromina Film<sup>®</sup>☆



### Dermatitis de contacto a antisépticos tópicos. ¿Qué posición ocupa la Mercromina Film<sup>®</sup>?

The authors of this article present an interesting, prospective, single-center, observational study of 105 patients. The allergenic capacity of Mercromina Film (Spanish tradename) was compared with other topical antiseptics used in clinical practice in dermatology clinics. Allergic contact eczema is of particular interest in dermatology patients, and suspicion of this condition is essential for appropriate study and diagnosis. Antiseptics do not form part of the standard Spanish Contact Dermatitis and Skin Allergy Research Group (GEIDAC) battery because of the irritant properties of these agents. They are therefore difficult to use in patch tests

and, as a result, accurate diagnosis of allergic contact dermatitis is hindered. In terms of the results observed, povidone-iodine has a higher positivity rate compared with other antiseptics, probably because it is used more frequently, although we should remember that it can also cause irritation, and skin patch tests should be read with care. Merbromin has a lower positivity rate in the skin patch test compared with povidone-iodine, while no patient tested positive for chlorhexidine or eosin. Recently, it has been suggested in a prestigious dermatology journal that chlorhexidine should be used with precaution, or even not recommended, in head and scalp surgery.

The use of mercury-based antiseptics has fallen into disuse given the publication of multiple cases of sensitization to these products, including systemic conditions such as the so-called baboon syndrome. In the article, the authors suggest the use of merbromin as a topical antiseptic, and highlight the low rate of cross-reactions with 2 other mercury-based preparations, thiomersal and mercury metal.<sup>1</sup> Although the decision of which antiseptic to use depends on the availability in the hospital, as well as the preferences of the dermatologists according to their experience, this interesting article opens the door to merbromin as an alternative antiseptic.

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